**NEWS FROM CITY HALL**

**Employees**
Let’s all welcome Carman Brown, who has been hired as Deputy City Clerk. Welcome Carman!

**Utility Bills**
Many of you have picked up your Utility Rebate Check. For those of you that do not, please bring picture identification and a current telephone number to reach you.

Vinita Park Home Repair Program through Beyond Housing
The City of Vinita Park has received grant money to improve the quality of our homes and help bring them up to city code. Repairs which could be performed include tree removal, roof repair, windows, gutters, driveways, A/C, siding, waterproofing, electrical, plumbing, or flooring. For more information, please contact Nicole Wiseman with Beyond Housing at (314) 932-1079.

**Women Living Whole Monthly Event**
*“Walking in Financial Freedom”*
Jeanine Williams
This is a financial educational explosion! Do you want to take charge of your finances? This meeting will help you start to do just that. You may be thinking I don’t know how or can I get started? Well, stop thinking about it and come hear about it; so you can put some steps together to make it happen.

**NEWS FROM CITY HALL**

**Some Important Dates**
- **April 12**: Women Living Whole Program
- **May 10**: Women Living Whole Program
- **May 23**: Women Living Whole Program

**Important Dated to Remember**
- **October 1**: Street Sweeping
- **October 1**: Municipal Court, 10:00 a.m., City Hall Court Room
- **October 3**: Yard Waste Pickup
- **October 7**: Trash & Recycle Pickup
- **October 10**: Yard Waste Pickup
- **October 14**: Trash & Recycle Pickup
- **October 15**: Municipal Court, 10:00 a.m., City Hall Court Room
- **October 17**: Yard Waste Pickup
- **October 20**: Board of Aldermen meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Hall
- **October 21**: Trash & Recycle Pickup
- **October 24**: Yard Waste Pickup
- **October 28**: Trash & Recycle Pickup
- **October 31**: Halloween Event, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- **October 31**: Yard Waste Pickup

**AM/FM radio to listen to traffic reports and emergency messages**
**Cat litter or sand for better tire rotation**
**Shovel/ice scraper**
**Warm clothes, gloves, hats, sturdy boots, jackets, and an extra change of clothes.**
**Blankets or sleeping bags**
**Alcohol, first aid kit or medicine chest, dry food, and water**
**Flares or reflective triangles**
**Baby formula and diapers if you have a small child**

Be prepared for an emergency by keeping your gas tank full and if you find yourself stranded, be safe and stay in your car, put on your flashers, call for help and wait until it arrives.

**VINO PARK**
8374 MIDLAND
(314) 428-7373
FAX: (314) 428-7379
MONDAY – FRIDAY
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

**MAYOR**
James W. McGee
426-5529

**COLLECTOR**
Jeanette Carridine
428-7373

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**WARD 1**
Brian Grenda
922-0885
Richard Redel
368-3239

**WARD 2**
Wanda Fairley
395-7028
Ora Stokes
429-6863

**WARD 3**
Celeste McGee
426-5529
Dennis Hayden
276-6188

**I would like to thank the residents of Vinita Park for cleaning up, painting and repairing their properties and bringing our homes up to city code which increases property value. I have received several calls from residents to thank the City of Vinita Park for bringing qualified code enforcement officers that treat everyone fairly. Thank you once again for working on your homes and bringing them up to city code. If you have more questions, please contact our Public Works Director, Mr. Gerald French at (314) 428-7373.**

**ViniTa Park is planning on being a part of bringing Scouting to our Boys and Girls Club. We are also looking at taking our Boys and Girls Club to the local circus. You will be notified of the date.**

**Our football team is doing a fantastic job and keeping our young people out of trouble. They did a fantastic job this weekend and have only 3 games left. We are also very proud of our cheerleaders. They are doing a fantastic job in cheerleading. We want to thank all of our residents that have supported the football team and our cheerleading team. We also have soccer - so, if you want your children to participate in soccer, contact Tony at 429-7373.**

**This year the City of Vinita Park was one of 12 of the 241 Area Municipalities to receive an award of up to $10,000 from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) through its Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) cost share program. Beyond Housing wrote grants in coordination with 10 of the 12 municipalities. As a result up to $70,000 is available to be invested in these communities – Belleville Acres, Cool Valley, Glen Echo Park, Hanley Hills, Pagedale, Pine Lawn, Upland Park, Vinita Village, Vinita Park and Vineta Terrace. MDC funds are matched with recipient funds to improve trees in the community, resulting in a total investment of close to $100,000. This is a competitive grant that helps communities provide safe and healthy trees. Investments in trees provide lasting improvements in cleaning the air, soil and water.**

**This is the second year that these 10 municipalities have received such a grant. Last year, Beyond Housing received a Collaborative Tree TRIM grant of $25,000 that has paid for professional tree inventories for all 10 of these municipalities. By contracting the work together, the group**

**estimated close to 40% in savings compared to what similar municipalities paid in recent years. The participation from municipalities and the county bidding the work to make their dollars go farther.**

**I would like to thank the Aldermen that attended the MML Conference, Alderman Redel – Ward 1, Alderwoman Stokes and Alderwoman Fairley – Ward 2, Alderman Hayden and Alderwoman Mcgee – Ward 3. I want to thank them for taking from their busy schedule and work to attend the conference to self-improve and move our city forward. Some things that I have learned was: Overcoming the 5 Dysfunctions of a Team, Build-It Method, Public Service is a Noble Calling, Municipal Government 102, Council Procedures, Missouri Open Meetings and Records, Cultural Diversity in Your Municipality: Asset or Liability, Critical Court Cases Every Missouri Municipal Official Must Know, Doing Much More with Less, Human Resources. Making the Best Decision, Legal Issues, Permitted Investments for Local Governments, Affordable Care Act, Basics of Planning and Zoning, Public Policy, Dynamics of Jefferson City Today, Understanding your Municipal Court, and The Power of a Purchasing Card.**

**We will be coming up with an ordinance that every Alderman must attend at least one conference per year. It’s only fair to the residents to expect all Aldermen to attend at least a few to attend conferences when all receive a paycheck.**

**I want to thank all that was in attendance at the City Council Meeting on September 30. We had a great turn-out, it was a good menu, and the food was wonderful! Thanks go out to Ms. Stokes and the committee for all of their hard work.**

**We ask that you continue to work together to make Vinita Park a strong community by engaging our families, and successful and wonderful. Our mission is building stronger communities, engaging families and success for children.**

James W. McGee
Mayor/City Administrator

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**COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2014**

**WORDS FROM THE MAYOR**

**NEWS FROM CITY HALL**

**ViniTa Park**
Leading The Way In St. Louis County
Happy Halloween
Residents of Vinita Park

The spirit of Halloween and the energy that comes with it will be here before you know it. The City of Vinita Park will give out Trick or Treat Candy on Friday, October 31, 2014 at City Hall, 8374 Midland Dr. from 5pm – 7pm. For more information, call City Hall.

September 3 – 5, 2014, I attended the Missouri Feel Like Home Governor Conference on Economic Development in Tan-Tar-A Resort, Lake of the Ozarks. This conference was on how to help local businesses and cities.

Make Project Decision
Training Strategies
What Makes Successful Communities Successful
Powering the Future
Financing Local Infrastructure

These classes help me to know what does work, and what doesn’t, in recruiting new companies to our region, plus help me to learn from successful projects.

Also, I attended the annual MML 2014 Conference 9:30am – 12:30pm at the Embassy Suites Hotel. 2 Convention Center Plaza, St. Charles, Mo. 63301. Come meet with briging agents from local, national, and Fortune 500 companies at no cost to you.

Hello Ward II

Summer has come and gone. Fall is here; let’s get our home ready for the cold weather. Please don’t forget to shut up and sign up for the Citizen’s Police Academy held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 2 Convention Center Plaza, St. Charles, Mo. 63301 Monday of each month at 6:30pm to 7:30pm. We have decided to stick with the same time.

National Nite Out went great. The weather cooperated and the rain shut off 15 minutes before the event started.

The members of Vinita Park PD thank the Vinita Park residents, Board and Mayor for allowing the very special get-together. Numerous kids received prizes during the events and Ms. Stokes handed out several tablets for students. We look forward to having an even better event next year.

The PD just went through our first ever biannual MULES Audit by the State. All determined records and statistics were deemed in good order.

We will be having a dual Citizen’s Police Academy with the City of Beverly Hills. Everyone is invited to sign up. The academy will begin on Tuesday, October 7th and continue for eight weeks. Classes will be every Tuesday evening from 6-8pm. Transportation will be provided to and from Beverly Hills and Vinita Park City Halls. This is a great opportunity for the citizens to better understand how the police department functions on a day to day basis. Hope to see everyone there.

We appreciate everyone’s attention to the parking regulations during street sweeping days. We have also seen a very good response to no parking on sidewalks in the City. Keeping the City safe and clean is our number one effort.

Keep a close eye out for our next movie night. We are really dependent on the weather and have had to cancel 2 this year already. We will send out information on the next movie night, which should be at the end of October.

Col. Tim Swope
Chief of Police
Vinita Park Police Department

Your Aldermen’s Corner

Wanda Fairley
Alderman, Ward II

Hello Residents

Recently we have all been disappointed by the low test scores and bad publicity from the Normandy School District. You cannot, however, let this setback deter you from pushing for a quality education for your children. Even though the test score averages were low system wide, you can still expect to have improvements within your household. By utilizing the free resources at your disposal i.e.: library, internet tutorials, homework counselors, etc. You can have an expectation for your children to do better and increase their learning. As a parent, you have to be involved in your children’s education. You can’t leave that responsibility solely to other people. Set a standard at home for grades, for homework, and for Candor. You will be amazed at what this can accomplish. Remember your children live up to or down to your expectations. Let’s get those scores up!

Alderman
Dennis Hayden

Tips for Success
- Dress Professional
- Bring Multiple Resumes
- Keep an Open Mind

Words of Encouragement

People spend too much time finding other people to blame instead of finding the good in others; they take too much time and energy finding excuses for not being what they are capable of, and not taking the time to put energy putting themselves on the line, growing out of the past, and getting on with their lives constantly working hard for progress and stable leadership in our community.

J. Michael Straczynski

Alderman
Ora Stokes

Code Enforcement- A Division Of Public Works 2014 Annual Code Enforcement Survey

began on August 9, 2014. We have inspectors walking street by street looking at every home for compliance. The inspectors are looking at the condition of chesneys, walkways, fences, roofs, trees, exteriors walls, gutters, porches, decks, handrails, doors, address numbers, flaking, and peeling paint in rear yards, making sure they are in good condition. The inspectors are citing all overgrown vegetation, vacant properties, and those properties that are unfil for oc- cupancy and that should be demolished. An advisory notice has been or will be posted on your door. You have 30-days to work to bring your home into code compliance. Some of the corrections will take longer due to the nature, or the violation.

The City is willing to work with each proper owner as you make repairs to your home. Those failing to make repairs will receive citations/summons to appear in Vinita Park Municipal Court. We are focusing on the health, safety, and welfare of our beautiful community. We need your cooperation as we move forward in remedying our city property values. Property maintenance increases your property value.

Trash Containers
Please remember to remove your trash/ rePlease remember to remove your trash/ rePlease remember to remove your trash/ rePlease remember to remove your trash/ rePlease remember to remove your trash/ re

Grass/Yard Waste
Yard waste pickup will be EVERY FRIDAY. Please use the yard waste container or brown yard waste bags.

Tall Grass and Weeds
Failure to keep weeds, high, rough grass, poxious plants, trees, and vegetation cut and removed is a nuisance. All person owning or occupying any lot or tract of land in the City shall keep the weeds, high grass and other vegetation cut and removed. Whenever such weeds, high

grass or other vegetation shall attain the height of seven (7) inches, it shall be deemed a public nuisance (Section 215.110).

Trees & Limbs
Please call Ameren UE (1-800-552-7583) if any limbs on your property are on electrical lines.

Occupancy Inspection and Permit Requirements
It shall be unlawful for any person or family to occupy or for any owner or agent thereof to permit the occupancy of any building or dwelling, unit or addition until inspection is complete and an occupancy permit has been issued. The occupancy permit shall not be issued until all violations have been brought into code compliance.

Gerald B. French, Sr.
Public Works Director