

# CITY HALL NEWS

## Payments to City Hall

The forms of payments to the City of Vinita Park must be cash, money orders, credit/debit card, or a business check. **We can now also take credit/debit cards over the telephone as well.** No personal checks will be accepted for payment. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

**Low Income, Elderly, and Disabled Customer Utility Programs offered by Community Organizations and Utility Companies**

## Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) • 314-863-0015

- Helps to pay for gas in the wintertime and electric in the summer.
- Both tenants and homeowners can apply.
- Available through local community agencies.

<http://www.caastlc.org/programs-page/energy-services/>

## CAASTLC Home Weatherization • 314-863-0015

- Seals air drafts, install insulation, ensure furnace, and water heater are running efficiently.
- Income Requirements are based off the Federal Eligibility Guidelines which is included in the application.
- Both tenants and homeowners can apply.
- Utilities Assistance for heating and cooling is also available.

<http://www.caastlc.org/programs-page/>

## MSD Customer Assistance Program • 866-281-5737

- 50% rate reduction to qualified low-income, elderly, and disabled customers.
- Homeowners under the age of 62 must have liquid assets and real estate valued at less than \$10,000 including residence and automobiles.
- Must own and/or reside as tenant in property that receives rate reduction

[stlmsd.com/customer-service/rate-information/customer-assistance-program](http://stlmsd.com/customer-service/rate-information/customer-assistance-program)

## Non-Emergency Dispatch

If there are any non-emergencies which require a police officer, please contact dispatch at 314-428-6868.

## Consolidated Municipal Courts - City of St. Ann

For Municipal Courts matters, please call 314-428-6811.

Currently Serving: Beverly Hills, Vinita Park, Wellston

**Customer Utility Programs offered by Community Organizations and Utility Companies for all Residents**

## Ameren Upgrade Rebates • 800-552-7583

- Get cash back for updating heating and cooling systems

<https://www.ameren.com/missouri/energy-efficiency/residential>

## Spire High Efficiency Rebate Program • 800-887-4173

- Residential Customers can receive rebate checks on energy-efficient HVAC, integrated systems, and programmable thermostats.
- Work must be performed by a licensed HVAC or plumbing contractor

<https://www.spireenergy.com/rebates-offers-home>

**For more information please visit our webpage at [www.vinitapark.org](http://www.vinitapark.org) or scan the QR Code below.**



**For Questions about trash, recycling or yard waste pick-up contact Waste Connections at: (636) 321-2100**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 1 – New Year's Day/City Hall Closed
- January 3 – Municipal Court 10:00am /Consolidated Municipal Courts City of St. Ann
- January 5 – Recycle Pick-up
- January 6 – Trash & Yard Waste Pick-up
- January 11 - Recycle Pick-up
- January 12– Trash & Yard Waste Pick-up
- January 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day/City Hall Closed
- January 16 – Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:30pm
- January 17 - Housing Court 9:30am/Municipal Court 10:00am/Consolidated Municipal Courts City of St. Ann
- January 18 – Recycle Pick- up
- January 19 - Trash & Yard Waste Pick-up
- January 25 – Recycle Pickup
- January 26 – Trash & Yard Waste Pick-up
- February 1 – Recycle Pick-up
- February 2 – Trash &Yard Waste Pick-up/Pet Tag Deadline/ Pavilion & Ball Diamond Reservation Begins

- February 7 – Municipal Court 10 am/Consolidated Municipal Courts City of St. Ann
- February 8 – Recycle Pick-up
- February 9 – Trash &Yard Waste Pick-up
- February 12 – Lincoln's Birthday
- February 14 – Valentine's Day
- February 15 – Recycle Pick-up
- February 16 – Trash & Yard Waste Pick-up
- February 19 – President's Day City Hall Closed
- February 20 – Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:30pm
- February 21 - Housing Court 9:30am/ Municipal 10:00am/Consolidated Municipal Courts City of St. Ann
- February 22 – Recycle Pickup
- February 23 Trash & Yard Waste Pick-up
- February 27 – Neighborhood Watch Holiday Party 6pm Beyond Housing
- February 29 – Recycle Pick-up

- Please Be Advised That Dates, Times, & Events Are Subject To Change -

## VINITA PARK CITY HALL

8374 MIDLAND  
VINITA PARK, MO 63114  
(314) 428-7373  
FAX: (314) 428-7379  
MONDAY - FRIDAY  
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

### MAYOR

**James W. McGee**  
428-7373

### COLLECTOR

**Jeanette Carridine**  
428-7373

### BOARD OF ALDERMEN

#### WARD 1

**Brian Gremaud**  
922-0885

**Richard Redel**  
368-2329

#### WARD 2

**Wanda Fairley**  
428-7373

**Richard G. Fairley**  
428-7373

#### WARD 3

**Celeste McGee**  
428-7373

**Marcieta Reed**  
428-7373

#### WARD 4

**Dianne Bryant - Miller**  
428-7373

**John Phillips**  
750-9403



**City Of Vinita Park**



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024 VOLUME 2024:1 NEWS WORTH KNOWING

## WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

Hello everyone!

I would like to thank everyone for the phone calls, cards, flowers and prayers. I greatly appreciate all of you and I am on the road to a speedy recovery. A big thank you goes out to Board President Celeste McGee for running the City. She is doing a fantastic job!

As we continue working together to make our community safe to live, work and play, I would like to thank our elected officials, police department, public works, administration and Vinita Park residents who work extremely hard to keep our city clean, beautiful, and a safer place to live.

I believe that it's crucial to our city's success, because we believe in building stronger communities, engaging families, and successful children.

City of Vinita Park General Fund as of November 30, 2023 Y-T-D - Funds available \$3,386,290, Personnel Service \$2,011,179, Supplies \$83,036, other services and charges \$732,886,Total:Operatingexp.--\$2,287,101,Non-Operating Activity \$62,335, OPERATING RESERVE:--\$621,524. City of Vinita Park Financial Status as of November 30, 2023: General Fund \$621,523.75,, Cap Improvement Fund \$467,477.85, Storm Water/Parks Fund \$164,445.84, Road Fund \$35,676.68, Sewer Lateral Fund \$357,866.34, Prop P fund \$1,067.36, Accts Receivable \$6,854.03. Total Reserves & Accounts Receivable \$1,654,911.85.

**James W. McGee - Mayor**



## YOUR ALDERMEN'S CORNER



Happy New Year Residents

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday, and I would like to wish you a prosperous New Year.

Our Mayor James W. McGee, how can I acknowledge him? Mayor James W. McGee is a man who wears many hats, a man whose involvement with a love for his community is more than life itself. He is someone who works around the clock 24-7 to make our lives better. He supports all City events and works with all the residents for the enhancement of the community. Mayor James W. McGee cares about the future of our children's education and the well-being of our senior citizens. WOW! What an awesome Mayor.

Also, please keep Mayor McGee in your prayers.

Thanks for everyone for coming out in support of our annual Christmas Breakfast with Santa. Our children and parents had a wonderful and uplifting time fellowshiping with one another while enjoying a hot meal with Santa. The children were served, bacon, sausage, pancakes, eggs with cheese, hash browns, donuts, chips, fruit cups, orange juice, apple juice, and chocolate milk. Each child from ages 0-12 received a toy, movie ticket/ McDonalds gift card and talked to Santa and took pictures. The turnout was overwhelming. PS we also had a bike giveaway for ages 0-6. Children ages 7-12 received McDonalds gift cards.

I would like to express my gratitude to Mayor McGee, the Board of Aldermen, Public Works, Tax Collector, my co-Chair, and the Chief of the NCPC for their tremendous support.

**Here are the winners of the bicycle give-away:**

Ages 0-3

1. Nyla Boling – 3 years
2. Benjamin Souders – 1 year

Ages 4-6

1. Jaira Stokes – 6 years
2. Lotus Miller – 5 years
3. Zauria Thomas – 6 years
4. Robert Lagos – 5 years
5. Matias Lopez – 4 years

### Christmas Lighting Contest

Congratulations to the winners of the Christmas Lighting Contest.

- 1st Place - Steven Price  
2nd Place – Ken Conley  
3rd Place – Denise Martin

All of the above-mentioned people are what it takes to accomplish awesome things and make our community a better place to live.

### Motivational

Being humble means recognizing that we are not on this earth to see how important we can become, but to see how much difference we can make in the lives of others. (G. Hinckley)

Constantly working hard for our community.

Board President  
Celeste McGee  
3rd Ward Alderwoman



Dear Residents:

Another year is upon us. Hope your Christmas was safe and peaceful. It will be a couple of months before

Spring arrives. I like to think of the trees, grass and bushes sleeping until Spring. More information about the spring events that are going to happen in April 2024 will be coming soon.

I would like to thank our Mayor, Aldermen, Police Department, Administration and Public Works. You the residents, I thank each of you as always, because you matter most!

**Fun Fact:** Trees begin to prepare for the winter in late summer as daylight hours decline.

Thank You  
Alderman Marcieta D. Reed  
Ward 3



Hello Ward II

I Hope you had a wonderful holiday. The Christmas party was a success. I would like to thank everyone

who came out. We have a lot of things planned to do this year.

Remember to come out on the 3rd Monday of the month to voice your opinion.

Have a Happy New Year!

Thank You  
Wanda Fairley  
Ward II



Happy New year wishes to our Vinita Park Neighbors!

Here's hoping that you were surrounded by friends and family during the Holiday

Season, those folks who would be ready to be by your side through thick and thin.

Remember, the Vinita Park Community Newsletter is full of information for the months ahead, so please take the time to read the newsletter which spotlights our community and keeps our residents informed. It is used to provide updates on municipal projects and issues; provide information and resources, events and news and to spotlight individuals or businesses.

Additionally, the water company is replacing pipes around the neighborhood, so please slow down so as not to cause any injuries to the

## ALDERMAN'S CORNER

construction crew and walking community.

Peace, Joy and Prosperity to you and your family in 2024.

Rich Redel  
Ward 1 Alderman



The older I get, the faster time flies... Two thousand twenty-three has flown by, and 2024 is right in front of us! Everyone has an opportunity to establish new goals, aspire to be a better

person, and leave the disappointments and stress of 2023 behind.

Last year was very productive for Vinita Park, and the 24:1 community. We continue to lead by supporting the Normandy Schools Collaborative, working with other municipalities to reduce operational costs for everyone, and by providing effective, community-oriented police service that keeps us all safe. VP has also been influential in advocating for the interests of all small cities in North County who are consistently threatened by the "powers that be" in Jefferson City.

This year, our country will participate in THE most important presidential election in the last 100 years. The November election will determine what America will look like, and stand for, for the foreseeable future. Please register to vote, if you haven't already, and trust the system. The United States has held free and fair elections since the beginning of this country and the fact remains. Do not let one person, or a small group of people tell you that we cannot trust each other, or our Democratic Republic.

Continue to look after each other and keep our Mayor in your prayers regarding his recent health challenges.

Peace, Love, and much Prosperity.

John Phillips II  
4th Ward Alderman

## PUBLIC WORKS

### Permits

Please come to City Hall to secure the proper permits PRIOR to having any work done to your property. Doing so will prevent unnecessary delays and fines. If you are not sure if you need a permit, PLEASE call City Hall at 314-428-7373 to inquire.

### Occupancy Inspection & Permit Required

It shall be unlawful for any person or family to occupy or for any owner or agent to permit the occupant of any building or dwelling of a unit, until the inspection is complete, and an occupancy permit has been issued. The occupancy permit shall not be issued until all violations on the property have been brought into compliance.

### Yard Waste

All Yard Waste should be placed in a designated yard waste can or brown yard bags for pickup. Yard Waste in plastic bags will NOT be picked up. Public Works will only pick up limbs that are knocked down during a storm, and placed on the curb within 5 days after the storm.

### Snow Plowing

We are in the snow plowing season so please be mindful of the Snow Routes in the City. Also, when snowplows are out, please move your vehicle off the street so the plows can make it through.

### Bulk Items

Bulk pick-up is available once a month. Furniture and other items may be disposed of by contacting Waste Connections (636) 321-2100. Please DO NOT put bulky items out before trash collection day or prior to contacting Waste Connections.

### Littering

Please help us keep the City of Vinita Park clean. Please do not litter in our parks, streets, and bike/walk trail. The City of Vinita Park has asked that you report any littering to City Hall/Police Department.

### Reminder

As we strive to keep our city Clean & Beautiful, trash containers should be placed curbside after 6:00 p.m. prior to the collection day and must be removed before 8 p.m. the day of collection. Failure to comply with the above could result in the resident receiving a summons to appear in court. Please Do Not allow your dog to defecate on your neighbor's yard.

*Thank you for helping to keep OUR City Clean & Beautiful*  
**Public Works**  
**Frank Gooden**

## POLICE DEPT. NEWS

### A LETTER FROM CHIEF OF POLICE, JOHN BUCHANNAN

#### New Years Safety Tips

- Plan your travel options ahead of time, arranging for a designated driver, a hotel stay, public transportation, and have secondary options before your night out.
- Do not leave your car somewhere if possible.
- Take only what you need (I.D., cash, credit card, phone), leave everything else at home.
- Consider local sober ride (soberrides.org) programs and have their information before your night out.
- Over 50% of accidents on New Years Day involve high blood alcohol concentration. New Years Eve and Day are one of the deadliest days for being out on to road in our nation. Both days are also extremely dangerous for pedestrians out walking.
- If possible, avoid driving between 8pm and 2am.
- Keep your phones charged so you are prepared in the event of an emergency.
- Travel in groups, if you are walking be sure to use main roads.
- Do not shoot guns to celebrate the New Year. It is illegal and can be deadly; falling bullets can be fatal; deaths have resulted in bullets being fired into the air over a mile away. Keep all firearms safely locked inside.
- If you are planning on drinking alcohol, please mind your limits and eat a meal before you leave if you are not planning on eating while out. If you are at a party, always keep your drink with you and do not accept a drink from a stranger.
- Do not shoot off fireworks, they are illegal in St. Louis County and can cause house fires and severe injury (especially when alcohol is involved).

#### General Holiday Safety Tips

- Do not leave valuables in your vehicles. Criminals do not take holidays; New Years Day is one of the hottest days for car thefts and break-ins.
- Do your shopping during the day, however, if you shop in the evening/nighttime park in a well-lit area of the parking lot, make sure your vehicle is locked and take everything of value inside with you.
- Never leave your vehicle running or children in the vehicle, even when running into a store for just a minute.
- Do not leave packages or valuables in the seats of your car.
- If you are carrying a purse, handbag, do not put them down or on top of the car to open the doors, this is just temptation for criminals.
- Make a note in your phone of where you park in the parking lot and be aware of your surroundings when you are approaching or leaving your vehicle.
- If you feel uneasy or see suspicious activity, find security and ask them to walk you to your vehicle.

*Sincerely,*  
**John E. Buchanan**  
**Chief of Police**  
**North County Cooperative**  
**314-499-6099**

**Serving: Beverly Hills, Dellwood, Hanley Hills, Pine Lawn, Uplands Park, Velda Village Hills, Vinita Park, Wellston.**

### NCPC Contact Information:

**NCPC contact information, Emergency 911, Non-Emergency Dispatch: 314-428-6868, NCPC Headquarters: 314-499-6090, and NCPC Chief's Office: 314-499-6099.**