



VINITA PARK
 CITIZEN NEWSLETTER
 & PUBLISHED BY &



VINITA PARK CITY HALL

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2025

VOLUME 2025:1

NEWS WORTH KNOWING

**VINITA PARK
 CITY HALL**

8374 Midland Blvd.
 Vinita Park, MO
 63114
 (314) 428-7373
 FAX: (314) 428-7379
 8:30 A.M. – 5:00
 P.M.

MAYOR

James W. McGee

COLLECTOR

Jeanette Carridine

**BOARD OF
 ALDERMEN**

WARD 1

Brian Gremaud
 Richard Redel

WARD 2

Wanda Fairley
 Richard G. Fairley

WARD 3

Celeste McGee
 Marcietta D. Reed

WARD 4

Dianne Bryant-Miller
 John Phillips

Hello everyone!

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and I hope that you have a wonderful 2025.

Phase 2 of the North and South Sidewalk project which will include new sidewalks on North and South Road all the way to Midland to the St. Louis County Library will begin soon. This project will improve safety along the North and South corridor for our residents. We are also working with the Missouri Department of Transportation on new sidewalks along Page Avenue to improve the safety of our residents. We will also start on our street repair program in 2025.

As a reminder, please park in driveways during snow events to make room for the snowplows. The City of Vinita Park will not clear entrances to private driveways.

The City of Vinita Park and the 24:1 Municipalities are working on establishing a Transportation Development District (TDD). This district will allow us to receive funds for improvements to our roads and sidewalks without a tax increase to the residents. It will allow us not only to improve our streets and sidewalks but also fund other projects we may have planned.

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

James W. McGee
 Mayor

ALDERMEN'S CORNER

Hello residents of Vinita Park



Thank you everyone for coming out to support our annual Breakfast with Santa. Our children and parents had a wonderful time with one another while enjoying a hot meal with Santa. The children were served eggs, bacon, sausage, hashbrowns, donuts, cookies and juice. Each child from 0-12 a toy and talked with Santa and took pictures. The turnout was overwhelming. We also had a bike and tablet giveaway.

Here are the winners of the bike give-away.

Ages 0-3

1. Ace Davis – 3 years
2. Allison Free – 2 years

Ages 5-8

1. Neko Wallace – 5 years
2. Cherysen Caldwell – 6 years
3. Lotus Miller – 6 years

Ages 9-12

1. Lionell Chatman
2. Lelond Chatman
3. Christopher Miller
4. Leya Neal

Here are the winners of the tablet give-away.

1. Cairo Miller – 3 years
2. Chersey Caldwell – 6 years
3. Max Blassingame – 9 years
4. Tanija Caldwell – 12 years

Encouraging Words

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
Alderman Celeste McGee
Ward 3



Hello, Vinita Park residents!

Hope all is well! Winter is here! The Spring season will bring the planting of new trees, flowers and bushes. I will keep you posted. I want to thank Mayor McGee, our Alderman, Public Works, the administration and of course Our Police Department, supervised by our chief, Chief Buchannan, for all the help! Meanwhile, Have a very Merry Christmas and a Beautiful New Year!

Alderman Marcieta D. Reed
Ward 3
314-428-7373

Christmas Tree fact: The tallest tree ever displayed was in Seattle, Washington in 1950. It was 221 feet tall!

Hello Neighbors!

It won't be long before we're saying **bye** to **January** (the snow and ice) and **hello** to **February** which is primarily known for Valentine's Day (Feb 14) the annual festival to celebrate romantic love, friendship and admiration. Every year people celebrate this day by sending messages of love and affection to partners, family and friends.

And Black History month. The 2025 theme is "African Americans and Labor" with a focus on the various and profound ways that work of all kinds intersects with the collective experiences of Black people.

March brings in St. Patrick's Day (Mar 17), which remembers one of Ireland's patron saints, St. Patrick. It largely celebrates Irish-American culture in the United States.

March is also Women's History Month which offers the chance to learn about and celebrate the contributions of women today and throughout history.

While I'm remembering the January snow and ice, let's give a shout-out to Mary and the Public Works folks who were out getting the roads cleared for the residents of Vinita Park.

Finally, I always like to hear from our citizens, if you have a problem, or just want to meet, leave a message at City Hall.

Sincerely,
Alderman Rich Redel, Ward I

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

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 and 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 of at least 60 mile per hour winds or greater, and placed on the curb within **48 hours** after the storm.

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.

Street Sweeping

Please be advised, street sweeping days have been changed to the first Tuesday and Wednesday of the Month from April-November. Please obey the **NO PARKING** on street sweeping day signs that are posting on each street. Trash, recycling and yard waste collection days have **NOT CHANGED**.

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. Parks rental will close October 31st for the season.

Thank you for helping to keep OUR City Clean & Beautiful.

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.

Public Works Director

Frank Gooden

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Financial penalties went into effect January 1st for drivers convicted of violating a distracted-driving law that took effect in August 2023.

The Siddens Bening hands-free law prohibits drivers from holding mobile phones or touching their screens while operating a vehicle. Drivers are still allowed to use their phones for hands-free calls while on the road and to handle their devices when stopped at red lights.

Police may issue citations that carry a \$150 fine for the first offense, \$250 for a second offense within two years and higher amounts for additional offenses or for driving while distracted in a work or school zone, if the driver is convicted. Authorities may not stop drivers expressly to enforce the law but can issue tickets if they stop drivers for another offense and observe them breaking the hands-free law.

SAFETY TIPS FOR WINTERTIME!!

- Never leave a car running to warm it up, or while stopping for a quick cup of coffee. It only takes a moment for an opportunistic thief to jump inside and drive off.
 - Never leave valuables in your vehicle – this includes purses, wallets, shopping bags, etc.
- Remove snow from driveways, paths, and porches. If you are away, arrange for snow removal (neighbor, contract) from your driveway, walkway, etc., after each snowstorm.

**Police Department Contact Info for registering
for
Vacation Checks
314-499-6090**

NCPC contact information, Emergency 911, Non-Emergency Dispatch: 314-428-6868,

NCPC Headquarters: 314-499-6090, and NCPC Chief's Office: 314-499-6099.

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

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**. **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
- <https://www.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 Court 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>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 1 – New Year’s Day/City Hall Closed
- January 3 – 1st Friday with Alderman Richard Fairley 6:00 p.m., City Hall Board Room/Recycle Pick-up
- January 4 – Trash Pick-up
- January 6 – Yard Waste Pick-up
- January 9 – Recycle Pick-up
- January 10 – Trash Pick-up
- January 13 –Yard Waste Pick-up
- January 15 – Housing Court 9:30 a.m./Municipal Court 10:00 a.m./Consolidated Municipal Courts City of St. Ann
- January 16 – Recycle Pick-up
- January 17 – Trash Pick-up
- January 20 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day/City Hall Closed/Yard Waste Pick-up
- January 21 – Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- January 22 – Municipal Court 10:00 a.m./Consolidated Municipal Courts City of St. Ann
- January 23 – Recycle Pick Up
- January 24 – Trash Pick-up
- January 27 – Yard Waste Pick-up
- January 30 – Recycle Pick-up
- January 31 – Trash Pick-up
- February 2 – Groundhog Day
- February 3 – Yard Waste Pick-up
- February 5 – Municipal Court 10:00 a.m./Consolidated Municipal Courts City of St. Ann
- February 6 – Recycle Pick-up
- February 7 – 1st Friday with Alderman Richard Fairley 6:00 p.m., City Hall Board Room/Pet Tag Deadline/Pavilion/Ball Diamond Reservations Begins/Trash Pick-up
- February 10 – Lincoln’s Birthday/Yard Waste Pick-up
- February 11 – Neighborhood Watch Party – Beyond Housing 6:00 p.m.
- February 12 – Senior Valentine Bingo Luncheon Noon – 2:00 p.m. City Hall
- February 13 – Recycle Pick-up
- February 14 – Valentine’s Day/Trash Pick-up
- February 17 – President’s Day/City Hall Closed/Yard Waste Pick-up
- February 18 – Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- February 19 – Housing Court 9:30 a.m./Municipal Court 10:00 a.m./Consolidated Municipal Courts City of St. Ann
- February 20 – Recycle Pick-up
- February 21 – Trash Pick-up
- February 24 – Yard Waste Pick-up
- February 27 – Recycle Pick-up
- February 28 – Trash Pick-up
- March 3 - Yard Waste Pick-up
- March 5 – Ash Wednesday/Housing Court 9:30 a.m./Municipal Court 10:00 a.m./Consolidated Municipal Courts City of St. Ann
- March 6 – Business Watch 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. City Hall/Recycle Pick-up
- March 7 – 1st Friday with Alderman Richard Fairley 6:00 p.m., City Hall Board Room/Trash Pick-up
- March 9 – Daylight Saving Time Begins

- March 10 - Yard Waste Pick-up
- March 13 – Recycle Pick-up
- March 14 – Trash Pick-up
- March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day/Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:30 p.m./Yard Waste Pick-up
- March 19 - Housing Court 9:30 a.m./Municipal Court 10:00 a.m./Consolidated Municipal Courts City of St. Ann
- March 20 – Spring Begins/Recycle Pick-up
- March 21 – Trash Pick-up
- March 24 – Yard Waste Pick-up
- March 25 – Neighborhood Watch Meeting 6:00 p.m. Vinita Park
- March 27 – Recycle Pick-up
- March 28 – Trash Pick-up
- March 31 – Yard Waste Pick-up