

# POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

## IDENTITY THEFT, IDENTITY THEFT, IDENTITY THEFT!

Seems like we just talked about this, but here we are again approaching the holidays. Here's the scenario: You are checking your email and you get a message from a prominent bank stating your account has some discrepancies that need to be addressed immediately. Although you don't have an account with that bank, you think maybe one of your credit cards was transferred or you forgot to shut an account down; so you open the email and start reading. The email seems legitimate so you start giving up personal information, including your social security number and your current bank account.

Fast forward to May of next year and you are waiting for your tax return. Instead of getting a much needed check, you get a letter from the IRS stating you filled out two tax forms and

they cannot send you your return. Your online identity was stolen back during the holidays and you have no idea how it happened. Theft of tax returns is a multi-billion dollar scam and it is growing every year. Typically, the thieves, who may not even be on U.S. soil, get your information online and fill out a tax return long before you do. They create a new banking account and get the funds from the government electronically deposited. They withdraw all of the funds before anyone knows what has transpired.

If you get an email or phone call that seems odd, perhaps too many questions, or perhaps old information on your financial history, STOP RIGHT THERE! Don't give anyone your information if you are not completely convinced they are reputable. If anyone asks for your SSN or bank account number either online or over the phone, you must be very cautious

in releasing that information. Often times the person on the other side is trying to steal your hard earned money. Stop it before it starts!

If you suspect identity theft or have any questions regarding identify theft, please contact the police department. We have to combat this growing crime at every turn. Let's have a great Thanksgiving and Christmas and work together in keeping Vinita Park the best City in St. Louis County!

The next Police Explorers meetings will be on December 3rd, 2015 from 6:00pm- 8:00pm at St. Ann City Hall located at 10405 St. Charles Rock Road St. Ann, MO 63074 and also on December 10th, 2015 from 6:00pm-8:00pm at City Hall 8374 Midland. For more information please call the Police Department at 314-428-7373.

Regards, **Tim Swope**  
Chief of Police



Leading The Way In St. Louis County

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2015 VOLUME 2015:12 NEWS WORTH KNOWING

## WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

I would like to say Happy Holidays to all of our residents. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. There's something about Thanksgiving that sets the day apart; it brings to mind those things in life that are held closest to the heart. That's why this day will always bring the warmest thoughts to all of our residents.

Our Annual Breakfast with Santa and Santa Coming to Town will be Saturday December 12, 2015. Breakfast will be served from 9:00am to 11:00am at City Hall and Santa Coming to Town starts at 12:00 noon.

The Vinita Park cheerleading squad won second place in their competition. Vinita Park Police Department started a Youth Police Cadet Program on November 19th, 2015. The Vinita Park Police Department also has five basketball teams. The football team had a wonderful year. They will have a banquet dinner on December 5th, 2015.

I am asking all of our residents to help take a stand for the City of Vinita Park, which is one of the municipalities filing a lawsuit against Senate Bill 5 (SB5). In an extraordinary act of overt discrimination, the bill states that any City within St. Louis County cannot exceed 12.5% of their annual general operating revenues from minor traffic violations, a reduction by nearly 60%, while 113 counties outside of St. Louis County cannot exceed 20% of their

general operation from minor traffic violations, a reduction by 33%. In addition to this discrimination St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger wants to introduce an ordinance that states all Municipal Police Departments have to report to the St. Louis County Government. What is the purpose of reporting to St. Louis County on who has worked for the agency when that data is accessible through the Post Commission? Many complaints have been made about municipal redundancy yet this is redundancy on a county government level. How is this fair, equitable or wise use of the taxpayer's money? It is readily apparent that our County Executive and his Police Department are not waiting for agencies to gain State compliance, but rather dictate their own standards, conveniently their own, and have them conducted by their own staff. We do not want minimum standards for Vinita Park; we want the very best standards for the Vinita Park Police Department because our residents deserve the very best. I would like to thank all of the Elected Officials, residents, employees, and businesses who went out to the St. Louis County Council meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, in opposition and standing up against this ordinance that will take away our Police Department.

The City of Vinita Park is working with the Normandy School District. We passed a multijurisdictional parental ordinance to help our children improve their attendance, academics, and behavior. I am proud to say

# CITY HALL NEWS

## Payments to City Hall

The forms of payments to the City of Vinita Park must be cash, money orders, or a business check. No personal checks will be accepted for payment. We apologize for any inconvenience

## Ward 1, Ward 2, and Ward 3

Hello Vinita Park, if you are a resident of the Vinita Park Municipality and have the qualifications to run for office as an Alderperson, you may declare your candidacy at Vinita Park City Hall on December 15, 2015 at 8:00am till 5:00 and the closing date will be January 19th, 2016 at 5:00pm. Please see the enclosed Notice of Election for more information.

## Code Adoption

Ordinance No. 1247, Adoption of the National Electrical Code/2008, NFPA 70 and Ordinance No. 1248, Adoption of the International Code Council (ICC) Codes were passed at the March 16, 2015 Board Meeting. The following code books will be on file at the City Hall for public to view 2009 ICC Code Book and 2008 National Electrical Code Book (NEC).

## BASIC EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of nonperishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit

- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger

Once you have gathered the supplies for a basic emergency kit, you may want to consider adding the following items:

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container. You can use the Emergency Financial First Aid Kit - EFFAK (PDF - 977Kb) developed by Operation Hope, FEMA and Citizen Corps to help you organize your information.
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or free information from this web site. (See Publications)
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a coldweather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a coldweather climate.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper

- When diluted, nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Alternatively, in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

For more information, go to <http://www.ready.gov/kit#> or call (800) 621-FEMA (3362).

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- December 1- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- December 2-Municipal Court 10:00am
- December 4-Yard Waste Pickup
- December 8- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- December 11- Holiday Lighting Contest/Pet Tag Registration Begins/Yard Waste Pickup
- December 12-Breakfast with Santa/ Santa Comes To Town
- December 15- Trash & Recycle Pickup/Opening of Filing for April 5, 2016 Municipal Election 8:00am-5:00pm
- December 16- Municipal Court 10:00am
- December 17- Senior Holiday Luncheon
- December 18- Yard Waste Pickup
- December 21-Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:00pm
- December 22- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- December 25- Christmas Day/ City Hall Closed
- December 29- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- December 31- New Year's Eve



that Normandy is improving toward accreditation so that property values will not be affected.

The new Indian Trails Branch Library has now reopened. Stop by to see the new and improved branch. There is an expanded children's area, a new teen space with new computers, community meeting rooms, a business center, and

private study rooms. We have received a \$200,000.00 grant for home improvements. There will be more information regarding this grant in next month's newsletter.

All of our elected officials and employees believe in building a stronger community, engaging in families, and success in children.

**James W. McGee**  
Mayor/City Administrator

## YOUR ALDERMEN'S CORNER



### Happy Holidays

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. The City of Vinita Park will be having its Annual Breakfast with Santa program for the Vinita Park residents and children ages 0-12 years old (ONLY). Breakfast will begin promptly from 9:00am to 11:00am on December 12, 2015 at City Hall 8374 Midland Blvd. There will also be a toy and bike give away for Vinita Park resident's children and grandchildren who live in Vinita Park (ONLY). In order to qualify you must show proof of residency. For more information call City Hall 314-428-7373.

Following Breakfast with Santa, Santa Coming to Town will begin at 12:00pm noon at 8525 Page Blvd (Yellow Keys parking lot). Santa will be coming through out Vinita Park in a white carriage and horse giving out candy and listening to your request in what you want for Christmas. The Public Workers will be putting out Santa Stop Here signs one week before the event. Please stand by the Santa Stop Here sign.

### Lighting Contest

The deadline for our Annual Vinita Park Christmas Light Contest will be December 11th, 2015 at 5:00pm. In order for your home to be judged you must sign up or call City Hall to put your name on the list.

### Contest Rules

1. Your home must be neat and clean of debris
2. Your home must be free of preexisting decoration for example:

NO, 4th of July, Halloween, or Thanksgiving decorations will not be judged. For more information call City Hall.

### Save This Date

**What:** Job Fair

**When:** January 14, 2016

**Where:** Doubletree Hotel St. Louis at Westport 1973 Craigshire Rd, St. Louis, MO 63146

**Time:** 9:00am-12:30pm

As we approach the end of 2015, I would like to take this time out and thank the residents of our great City. I would like to thank our wonderful Mayor James W. McGee for having the spirit of giving and helping people, our awesome Chief Tim Swope, and the Vinita Park Police Department for keeping us safe. In addition, I would like to thank Gerald French, Mary, Jeff, and Public Works for helping to keep our City clean and also to our supportive Elected Officials for working together. When you work and stand together you can move a mountain together.

From my home to yours, may the spirit of Christmas put kindness and humanity in your heart, blessings in your home, bring you hope and faith, surrounding you with love and happiness throughout the year

"Peace on earth and goodwill to all men May God bless America."

"Working hard for progress and stable leadership in our community."

**Alderwoman Celeste McGee**  
Ward III

### Hello Ward 2



I would like to say Happy Holidays to you all, as we celebrate with families and friends.

To all Seniors, we will be celebrating our Christmas and final Senior Luncheon for this year on December 17th at 12:00pm noon at City Hall. I look forward to seeing you all. We will have lots of fun and games for your enjoyment. Please call City Hall and provide your birthday. We will be celebrating October, November, and December birthdays. I must say it has been such a pleasure working with you all and I look forward to many more years to come. Seniors you have been selected to fill candy boxes for the Christmas Holiday. The date will be Monday December 7th, 2015 10:00am at City Hall. Someone will contact you by phone on Friday December 4th, 2015 as a reminder.

I would like to thank everyone who went apple picking in October and also to our driver Alderwoman Fairley. We had a great time.

I would also like to thank everyone for coming out to the meeting and supporting The City of Vinita Park in Clayton on November 10, 2015. The Mayor encouraged all of us to come out and the turn-out was astronomical. We are fighting to save our City and the Police Department. We love our City and Police Department and don't want to see it any other way.

### Remember:

"Wishing all a bless safe and Happy Holiday with all the blessings that is in store for you, and tell someone you love them today".

"Leadership with integrity, accessible, committed, and honesty"

**Alderwoman Ora Mae Stokes,**  
Ward 2

### Hello Ward 2



I hope you and your family had a Happy Thanksgiving.

If you know of anyone needing assistance with utility bills please contact Step at (314) 863-0015.

If you're looking for part-time work, please go online and apply for Christmas Help.

Don't forget to attend the Board Meeting at City Hall on every third Monday of the month to voice your opinion.

Please be aware of the temperature as Winter begins to approach.

If you are going shopping don't forget to leave packages in the trunk of your car to prevent a break in. When you leave your home, always keep a light on for safety reasons.

I would like to thank the North County Police Cooperative for doing a wonderful job in our City.

**Alderwoman Wanda Fairley**  
Ward II

### Hello Neighbors,



Happy Holidays to all citizens and businesses in the Vinita Park neighborhood.

I would like to take the time to thank everyone in the community for giving me the opportunity of serving and to

help bring forth some of the concerns and great ideas to Vinita Park. I know I have been delayed in personally greeting our Ward 3 residents and going door to door to ask of the concerns and ideas of improvements. However, if you are able to come out and join us every third Monday of each month, please do so. Your input is very important to us.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming events for the holiday, Breakfast with Santa and Santa Coming to Town. Let's keep our fingers crossed for great weather.

Our Public Works Director Mr. Gerald French has submitted the application for the 2016 Park Grant to update our parks. Last month, I spoke of a dog park being

added for our family companions. It would also be a great addition in our community for our four-legged family members who are often forgotten. I see citizens walking their pets for daily exercise, keeping them strong and healthy and I feel a park for them would be great. We will discuss more about the dog park at next month's Board Meeting. We have decided on the look for the new park pavilion We will be able to serve snacks and drinks. If the grant is approved the construction will possibly take place in the upcoming year of 2016.

I would like to thank the Chief and his officers for doing a great job in keeping our communities safe. May the Lord continue to keep them in his graces and guide them to safe return to their families.

**Alderwoman, Veronica Conner**  
Ward III

## 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.

### Trees Trimming

In their continuing effort to provide our community with safe, reliable power, crews working for Ameren Missouri will be in the area for the next several months trimming trees that could possibly interfere with electric service. So that everyone is aware of the important work that will be performed, all Ameren Missouri customers who receive service from sub-

station 47- Vinita, 382 Allen will receive a letter, even though some residents may be served by underground power lines. We expect crews to work professionally and with minimal distraction to the community. We appreciate your patience.

### Street Sweeper

The street sweeper will operate from April 1st through November 1st. Please be mindful of the No Parking signs located at the beginning of each street to avoid received a parking citation on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Please complete the survey concerning street sweeping and return to City Hall before December 15, 2015 at 5:00p.m

### Snow-Snow-Snow

As we strive to keep our city Clean & Beautiful please do not place trash/yard waste/recycle receptacles on the curb before dusk of the evening before pick-up. Once the trash/yard waste/recycle receptacles have been emptied they should be removed from the curb the same day it was picked up. Failure to comply with the above could result in the resident receiving a summons to appear in court.

### Reminder

As we strive to keep our city Clean & Beautiful please do not place trash/yard waste/recycle receptacles on the curb before dusk of the evening before pick-up. Once the trash/yard waste/recycle receptacles have been emptied they should be removed from the curb the same day it was picked up. Failure to comply with the above could result in the resident receiving a summons to appear in court.

**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.

**Gerald B. French**  
Public Works Director