

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

Beyond Housing Home Repair Program

Beyond Housing, Inc. has been awarded a \$200,000 grant by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines and the St. Louis Office of Community Development to administer a home improvement program in Vinita Park. Grant funds will be used to assist low-income homeowners, seniors, and veterans in correcting code issues, safety and health related concerns, and make other needed home repairs. Income qualified households will receive a grant for home repair work that will be forgiven after five years. All work will be performed by licensed and insured contractors and inspected by Beyond Housing and the St. Louis County Department of Public Works. To find out more about the program and whether you qualify please call Beyond Housing at 932-1079 and ask for Michele Chapel.

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 non-perishable 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
- 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 cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather 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).

Non-Emergency Dispatch

If there are any non-emergencies which require a police officer, please contact dispatch at 314-427-8000.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- July 1- Yard Waste Pickup
- July 4 – 4th of July Parade-10:00am/ Annual Youth Day at Vinita Park/ Independence Day City Hall Closed
- July 5- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- July 6- Street Sweeping
- July 7- Street Sweeping
- July 8- Senior Citizen Utility Tax Refund Begins/Yard Waste Pickup
- July 12- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- July 13- Street Sweeping
- July 14- Senior Luncheon/Street Sweeping
- July 15- Yard Waste Pickup
- July 18- Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:30pm
- July 19- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- July 20- Street Sweeping
- July 21-Street Sweeping
- July 22- Yard Waste Pickup
- July 26- Trash & Recycle
- July 27-Street Sweeping
- July 28- Street Sweeping
- July 29- Yard Waste Pickup



VINITA PARK

Leading The Way In St. Louis County

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2016

VOLUME 2016:07

NEWS WORTH KNOWING

WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

I would like to thank all of our Elected Officials, employees, residents, and businesses for supporting our mission which is to develop, facilitate, and deploy comprehensive and integrated strategies to help the City of Vinita Park become a better place to live.

We can make a difference. We will work with partners to increase our capacity, expertise, and capital. We understand that in order to have a real impact we must focus on all the areas that make up a strong community which is, quality education, housing, health, employment readiness, and economic development.

What is the expected outcome from the activities and efforts? The short-term outcomes are knowledge, attitude, and skills. The residents have the knowledge, skills, and motivation to improve their circumstances. The intermediate outcomes are behavioral change, residents having access to and utilizing comprehensive support and services allowing them to make choices that will improve their lives and the City of Vinita Park. The long term outcomes are, changes in the condition as a result of the short and intermediate outcomes. The City of Vinita Park can attract and retain residents and businesses by providing quality housing, education, work, and other amenities to support a healthy and productive quality of life.

Our ultimate vision is that our residents will have the support and services they need to create and sustain a strong community in which to live, work, and feel safe.

Our Police Department, Public Works, and all our employees have given themselves to this community without hesitation. I am very proud to work with employees who care about making this city a better place for our residents.

I would like to thank Alderman Redel from Ward I, Alderwoman McGee, and Alderwoman Conner from Ward III for attending the Missouri Municipal League Elected Officials Training Conference with me last month in Columbia, MO. The conference was an overview of Municipal Government, Conducting City Business, Budgeting, Ethics, Building Better Cities, Strategy Mass Influence, Local Revenue Sources, Missouri Municipal League Services, Planning and Zoning, Public Works Contracting, and the Sunshine Law. The conference was very resourceful in providing ways to merge our communities together.

I would like to say congratulations to St. Rita's Church on its 100th Anniversary. When the church and the community come together great things are

accomplished. Once again congratulations to St. Rita's Church.

The City of Vinita Park Annual 4th of July Festivities will be held on Monday July 4th, 2016 and will begin with a parade starting at 10:00am sharp. The Parade will begin at 8525 Page Ave to North & South, left turn onto North & South, left turn onto Midland Blvd, then left turn onto Yeoman into Vinita Park. Come join us for some fun, games, prizes, pony ride, face painting, and much, much, more. Lunch will be served and everyone is invited to join us for a great Red, White & Blue Celebration!!

The City of Vinita Park has teamed up with the St. Louis County Library Indian Trails Branch to offer free lunch during the summer break. Lunches will be available on the dates and times below free of charge for all children.

St. Louis County Library- Indian Trails Branch
8400 Delport Drive Vinita Park, MO 63114
Dates: June 6th, 2016 thru August 12th, 2016
Time: Noon-1PM (Monday –Friday)
Ages: 1 to 18 years old
* No lunches will be served on Monday July 4th, 2016 due to Independence Day Holiday

For your information the City has a balanced budget for the 6th consecutive year with Reserves.

The City's Annual Business Luncheon was held on June 22nd, 2016 and it was a huge success. I would like to thank all of the Vinita Park businesses that attended the event. Our City's success depends upon the relationships and collaboration that we share with our businesses and I would also like to thank them for their dedication to our community.

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



Hello Vinita Park residents

Happy 4th of July

In honor of our Independence Day I would like to thank the men and women of our country for helping us stay free. I'm proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free. I will not forget about the men and women who died and gave that right to me. May God bless the United States of America?

Youth Day

Save the Date: Attention All youth the City of Vinita Park will be having its Annual Youth Day right after the 4th of July Parade beginning at 10:00am behind Vinita Park City Hall. There will be games prizes, basketball, clown, face painting, pony rides, and refreshments.

Happy Father's Day to all of the fathers. I hope all of you had a wonderful day. The role of a father is to contribute to the growth and development of a child. A father's role is to make sure that his child is safe and does not lack any of the little things that are necessities of life.

Anyone can be a Father but it takes someone very special to be a DAD.

It's Hot outside Remember to stay cool and bring your pets inside.

The Busting in Blooming Garden Contest winners are:

- 1st place** James Ulett
- 2nd place** Evelyn Daniels
- 3rd place** Kenneth Conley

I would like to say thank you and congratulation to all winners.

Encouraging Words

Smile "A warm smile is the universal lan-

guage of kindness". William A. Ward

PS. Please keep Alderwoman Ora Mae Strokes in your prayers.

**Alderwoman Celeste McGee
Ward III**

Hello Vinita Park residents



Summer is here and we would like for everyone to enjoy the usage of our park areas. I would like to thank Mary, Jeff, and Gerald for doing a wonderful job in our parks. Let's all give them praise for the work that they do. I would like to announce that the City of Vinita Park will be receiving assistance from the Summer Job League Program to help us out this summer. We're always looking for grants to improve our city and add amenities for your use while visiting our parks. I wish everyone a happy and safe summer. Also, we would like to ask our citizens please be considerate of our guests that rent out our pavilions. We want our guests to enjoy them without any interruptions. The playgrounds are open to our citizens, but the rented space of the pavilions are private.

**Alderwoman Veronica Conner
Ward III**

Greetings Neighbors.



I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the voters of Ward 1 for re-electing me as Alderman of the City of Vinita Park. I very much appreciate all the support

I have received and the confidence our voters have entrusted in me to keep Vinita Park moving forward.

On another note, I would like to encourage all of you to take advantage of the services afforded to all of the residents of the City of Vinita Park to keep our City beautiful. Some of these services include weekly trash and recycling collection services.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

**Alderman Richard P. Redel Sr.
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.

Street Sweeper

Street sweeping will be the first Wednesday and Thursday of each month. Street sweeper will operate from April 1st through November 1st.

Tall Weeds & Grass Prohibited

Chapter 215. Nuisances Article III. Weeds, High Grass, Noxious Plants, Rank Weeds, Thickets or Other Vegetation

Section 215.110. Weeds, High Grass, Noxious Plants, Rank Weeds, Thickets or Other Vegetation

Failure To Keep Weeds, High Grass, Noxious Plants, Rank Weeds, Thickets And Other Vegetation Cut And Removed, A Nuisance. All persons owning or occupying any lot or tract of land in the City shall keep the weeds, high grass and other vegetation growing on such property 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.

It is important to keep front and rear yards

cut because tall grass and weeds:

- Reduce adjacent property values and prevent neighbors from having full enjoyment of their property during spring and summer months.
- Attract vermin and insects creating a potential health hazard.
- Cause hay fever and other allergy problems.
- Create a potential fire hazard.
- Detract from the overall beauty and desirability of the City.

The City is authorized enter upon property to cut tall grass and weeds on property and charge the owner for the cost of cutting as well as an escalating fine.

The inspector will only send one notice; all subsequent notices will lead to the city to cut without further notice.

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.

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.

Grass Cutting

Please remember to clean up after cutting grass. Do NOT leave grass in the street.

**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**