

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 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).

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

- May 3- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- May 4 –Street Sweeping
- May 5- Street Sweeping
- May 6- Yard Waste Pickup
- May 10- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- May 11-Street Sweeping
- May 12- Senior Luncheon City Hall 12:00 Noon/Street Sweeping
- May 13- Yard Waste Pickup
- May 14- Citywide Garage Sale
- May 16- Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:30pm
- May 17-Trash & Recycle Pickup
- May 18- Street Sweeping
- May 19- Street Sweeping
- May 20-Yard Waste Pickup
- May 24-Trash & Recycle
- May 25- Street Sweeping
- May 26-Street Sweeping
- May 27- Yard Waste Pickup
- May 30-Memorial Day City Hall Closed
- May 31-Trash & Recycle Pickup



Leading The Way In St. Louis County

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016

VOLUME 2016:05

NEWS WORTH KNOWING

WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

I would like to inform everyone that Alderwoman Stokes is recovering in St. Mary's Hospital, and she is doing well in rehab. We pray that she has a speedy recovery.

This is an update on Senate Bill 5: The Cole County Circuit Court struck down portions of Senate Bill 5 that place restrictions of 12.5% on St. Louis County only. The court ruled that the singling out of municipalities in St. Louis County was an unconstitutional special law. The Senate Bill 5 ruling, also held the sections of the law requiring municipalities throughout the state to report additional information to the State Auditor and unique compliance requirements on municipalities in St. Louis County as unconstitutional, unfunded mandates, and struck down those provisions of the law. We will continue to fight so that all of our residents can be treated fairly.

Here's an update on the proposed consolidation of Vinita Park and Vinita Terrace, with the passage of Senate Bill 5, it was apparent that the Missouri General Assembly wanted smaller communities in St. Louis County to consolidate to better provide essential services. The proposal has the unanimous support of our respective boards and many citizens. The municipalities to be consolidated are next to each other and Vinita Terrace already contracts with Vinita Park for police services. This consolidation will have no impact on existing neighborhoods as the age and architectural style of the homes are similar as is the demographic makeup of the communities. I would like to thank all of our residents who supported all of our Elected Officials with the lawsuit against Senate Bill 5.

Code Enforcement & Building Permits: The City of Vinita Park uses code enforcement to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our residents and businesses. We help residents who cannot afford basic home repairs or maintenance to apply for grants. The City of Vinita Park

has received \$200,000 with Beyond Housing to assist low income homeowners with repairs. Contact Michele Chapel at 314-932-1079 or 314-581-2950. Our goal is to abate any nuisances so that we can maintain property values and a healthy standard of living for everyone.

Due to the recent court reform the City of Vinita Park has moved their courts to St. Ann. With the recent change courts can be held more efficiently, effectively, and most important professionally. This new change will save the City of Vinita Park about \$70,000.00 annually.

We have negotiated a deal with Bi-State to have a bus route in Vinita Park. The bus will start at the St. Charles Rock Road Metrolink Station, make a left on North & South to Midland and go west on Midland.

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 Mother's Day

Happy Mother's Day to all of the Mothers out there whether you are a past, present or soon to be a Mother. May your day be filled with peace, love, and happiness.

Words are never enough to thank your Mother for all she has done for you, her encouragement, support, and love.

Election Day

I would like to take this time out to thank all of you for your support on April 5, 2016 Election Day. Word can't express how I feel about you the residents of the great city. Thanks again and may God bless Vinita Park.

Youth Day

Save this date: Attention All youth the City of Vinita Park will be having its Annual Youth Day right after the 4th of July parade, Time 11:30am- 1:00pm behind Vinita Park City Hall. Games Prizes, Basketball, Clown, Face painting, Pony rides and Refreshment

Busting in Blooming Garden Contest

The City of Vinita Park will be having its Busting in Blooming Garden Contest on Saturday June 25, 2016. The last day to register is on Friday June 24, 2016.

Contest Rule

The Judges will be judging on neatest, style, creativity and color combination.

- (1) Your home must be neat and clean of debris;
- (2) Any shape, size, and style of color flowers;
- (3) Rock garden is acceptable.
- (4) Your home must be free of preexisting decoration. (No Christmas Light, Halloween, Easter, 4th of July are any other decoration will not be judged).

For more information call City Hall.

Remember Vinita Park is where you live so let us keep it clean.

Encouraging Words

"A good life is when you smile, dream big, laugh a lot and realize how blessed you are for what you have." Best Tumblr 24

Don't change so people will like you. Be yourself and the right people will LOVE THE REAL YOU. Best Tumblr

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

**Alderwoman Celeste McGee
Ward III**

Hello Vinita Park residents



I would like to thank everyone who completed the survey for the Dog Park. We have a long process ahead for getting this project done.

I would like for more people to participate so please go to City Hall and ask the clerk for a survey. The more surveys we have increases our chances of donors funding for the Dog Park.

As of April 1, 2016 the park has reopened for the spring and summer season. Our pavilion is now available for rental. Please contact City Hall for available dates and fees.

On January 11, 2016 the park committee held a meeting to discuss the safety and improvements of our parks. One of the safety concerns is our officers will be performing random routine checks to keep our community free of unwanted activities that may bring harm to our community.

On Monday April 18th, 2016 at the Town Hall Meeting the Mayor discussed a possible Sports Complex in Vinita Park. I would like to add if you are available to attend the Town Hall Meeting please join us, your ideas and input on improvements on moving forward is important to this community.

**Alderwoman Veronica Conner
Ward III**

Hello Ward II



I would like to thank everyone who came out to The Annual Easter Egg Hunt we had a wonderful time.

I would also like to thank everyone who came out to vote on April 5th, 2016. I want to say congratulations to Alderwoman Stokes, Alderwoman McGee, and Alderman Redel on your victories. We have a lot of great things planned for our community this year.

I would like for everyone to continue to pray for Alderwoman Stokes while she is recovering in rehab.

In case you haven't noticed we have a bus route that will come up and down Midland. Please check out the Metro Bus website.

The Senior Luncheon will be on May 12, 2016 at 12:00pm at City Hall. Don't forget to call City Hall and inform the clerk that you will be attending.

Happy Mother's Day to all of the mothers in the City of Vinita Park.

**Alderwoman Wanda Fairley
Ward II**

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

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**