

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.

Public Forum
St. Louis County Municipal Park Grant

As the City of Vinita Park prepares to apply for 2015-2016 Park Grant, we would like to hear from the residents of Vinita Park. PLEASE come to the public forum and let us hear your great ideas to improve our city parks. The next meeting will be held on October 19,2015 at 6:00pm (prior to the Board Meeting)at City Hall. Contact the Public Works Director Gerald French if you have any questions at 314-428-7373.

Gerald B. French
Public Works Director



Leading The Way In St. Louis County

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2015 VOLUME 2015:10 NEWS WORTH KNOWING

WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

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.

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 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

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. Or 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

- October 1- Public Forum for Municipal Park Grant, 6:00pm, Council/Courtroom /Street Sweeping
- October 2- Yard Waste Pickup
- October 6- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- October 7- Street Sweeping/Municipal Court 10:00am
- October 8- Street Sweeping
- October 9- Yard Waste Pickup
- October 13- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- October 14- Street Sweeping
- October 15- Street Sweeping
- October 16- Yard Waste Pickup
- October 19- Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:30pm
- October 20- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- October 21- Street Sweeping/Municipal Court 10:00am
- October 22- Street Sweeping
- October 23- Yard Waste Pickup
- October 27- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- October 28- Street Sweeping
- October 29- Street Sweeping
- October 30- Yard Waste Pickup
- October 31- Halloween Event 5:00pm-7:00pm
- November 4- Municipal Court/Housing Court 10:00am

VINITA PARK CITY HALL

8374 MIDLAND
(314)428-7373
FAX: (314)428-7379
MONDAY – FRIDAY
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

MAYOR

James W. McGee
426-5529

COLLECTOR

Jeanette Carridine
428-7373

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

WARD 1

Brian Gremaud
922-0885

Richard Redel
368-2329

WARD 2

Wanda Fairley
395-7028

Ora Stokes
429-6863

WARD 3

Celeste McGee
426-5529

Veronica Conner
684-9336

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Town Hall Meeting on September 17, 2015. It was very informative. Another informative Town Hall meeting will be held on November 2, 2015. We will provide an overview of the topics from the first Town Hall meeting for those of you that were unable to attend on September 17th.

Dear Residents, did you see the editorial in the Post- Dispatch subject (Building a New St. Louis, Starting over to make the City great again. This is the latest example of the political campaign being waged against municipalities in St. Louis County. Political organizations such as Better Together and Arch City Defenders have taken last year's tragedy in Ferguson and subsequent events in the surrounding communities to further their political agenda; forced consolidation and elimination of the municipal structure of St. Louis County and ultimately the merger St. Louis City and St. Louis County.

Built on deep pocket campaign contributions in a major part by Rex Sinquefeld, these organizations used their political influence to shape Senate Bill 5 so that it would primarily impact municipalities in St. Louis County. The communities hit the hardest are primarily our smaller, African American communities in North St. Louis County.

How do you force consolidation or disincorporation? Take away a community's financial ability to provide services to

their residents by increasing their cost of operation while at the same time taking away revenue. Senate Bill 5 is an unfunded mandate; it requires only St. Louis County municipal police departments to be certified while at the same time limiting municipal general revenue from traffic tickets to 12.5%. In outstate Missouri municipalities the percentage is 20% of general revenue and their police departments are not required to be certified.

Why did Ach City Defenders help draft this legislation that will ultimately cause the consolidation or elimination of our African American communities? Today, more so than ever, we need to be supportive of our smaller communities and the African American leaders.

We, the St. Louis County Municipal League, need to work together to maintain and retain local control. We need to support all our members, especially those that are most affected by Senate Bill 5. There does need to be some change, which is why the League adopted 10 Best Practices over 3 years ago. The League Executive Board, staff and I are here to help. We need to be unified in our campaign to modify Senate Bill 5 so that it doesn't create a financial hardship for the municipalities, is applied evenly throughout the state and is clarified as to how to implement and administer the new regulations

The Municipal League has helped establish a new organization called, "My Town Our County". This group of primarily for-

Continued on inside page

ties, is applied evenly throughout the state and is clarified as to how to implement and administer the new regulations.

The Municipal League has helped establish a new organization called, "My Town Our County". This group of primarily former elected officials will be working to promote the benefit and strengths of our communities and neighborhoods while challenging the negative and misleading arguments from merger supporters and the local media while we focus on making effective changes in Jefferson City.

Please feel free to contact me if you can help in any way at 314-428-7373.

I would also like to thank all the Elected Officials and staff that attended the 2015 Missouri Municipal League Annual Conference. It was very educational and informative. The topics discussed were Municipal Government 101 Council Procedures, Bicycling, Walking, and Trails in Missouri Cities Progress, Promise, and How to, Health Care Reform, Preparing for 2016 and Beyond, Debt Management Polices, Establishing Setting a Path towards Recovery, Municipal Government 102 Legal

Issues, Funding Parks and Recreation Projects, Getting the Most out of your City Attorney, Cyber Crime Awareness, Planning and Zoning Basics, Municipal Risk Management, Getting Real About Generation Gaps, Effects of Cyber Activism on Municipal Operations, Collective Bargaining The Latest Challenge to Local Government, Cultural Diversity in your Municipality An Asset or Liability, What can Professional Management do for your Community, Facilitating the Installation of Solar Energy, Clean Water vs Affordability, Innovation Award Showcase, Communicating for Success, Pitfalls for Construction Contracting in Missouri, Violence Prevention through Verbal De-escalation, Missouri Ethics Commission, Up Mack's Creek without a Paddle and Other New Laws, and Safeguards and Performance Standards for Economic Development Projects.

If you know of anyone in need of a job, The City of Vinita Park has teamed up with Schnucks Recruitment. This event is held weekly on Tuesdays from 9:00am to 12:00pm at The American Job Center-Saint Louis County 26 North Oaks Plaza 63121. Schnucks is looking to employ

candidates for part time and full time store associates positions and production/distribution positions. Prior to attending this event, applicants MUST do the following: must have active registration with the career center prior to attending this event, limited space is available; applicants must pre-register by contacting a Skills or Job Team Representative at the American Job Center (no walk-ins), must bring a copy of your resume and/or job history to the recruitment.

If you have any questions please contact 314-381-6700

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

I attended the 2015 Missouri Municipal League Annual Conference in Kansas City on September 20th through September 23rd. This conference was a training conference; it was to help me and the entire City Officials to run our city, government, and community effectively.

One of my classes, "Mack's Creek", it discussed Senate Bill 5 (SB5), Courts Procedures, Ticketing Racial Profiling, and Revenue. The House Bills 517 & 754 discussed sales tax, back to school, holiday changes for calculators and computers.

Here are some of the laws:

Minor Traffic Violations-not speeding by more than 19mph over the limit or in construction or school zone.

Minor Traffic Violations- fine and cost cannot exceed \$300.00

Some of these new laws will become effective in January 1, 2016 20% of general operating revenue and 12.5% in St. Louis County.

Save the Dates

What: Job Fair
When: October 17, 2015
Where: Forest Park Community College. For more information call 314-644-9100

What: St. Louis Career Fair
When: November 10, 2015
Where: Doubletree Hotel St. Louis at Westport 1973 Craigshire Rd St. Louis, MO 63146
Time: 11:00-2:00pm

What: St. Louis Job Fair
When: November 12, 2015
Where: Embassy Suites Hotel 2 Convention Center Plaza St. Charles, MO 63303

Halloween Event

Attention all trick or treaters are you ready for Halloween? The City of Vinita Park will be giving out Halloween candy October 31, 2015 at City Hall from 5pm-7pm.

Words of Encouragement

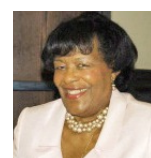
"Spirituality is not theology. It is simply a way of life, pure, and original as was given by the Most High of Creation.

Spirituality is a network linking us to the Most High, the universe, and each other". (Emperor Haile Selassie)

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

Celeste McGee
3rd Ward Alderwoman

Hello Citizens of Vinita Park



On September 20th through 23rd I along with Mayor James McGee and other Elected Officials attended the Missouri Municipal League 81st Annual Con-

ference in Kansas City, Missouri. I must say training is the key in whatever you do. I learned so much from all the classes I attended. There are so many changes in Healthcare Reforms Preparing for 2016 and Beyond. I also learned about Cyber Crime Awareness regarding current threats, attacks, and consequences of cyber-attacks.

There is so much information about Senate Bill 5. I would advise all of our citizens to please get a copy and get educated on what's involved because you need to know what they are trying to do in the smaller communities.

On November 2nd 2015 come out to our next Town Hall meeting at 6:00pm at City Hall 8374 Midland Blvd 314-428-7373. We need everyone to get involved.

The Senior Annual Picnic was a huge success. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and the many homemade dishes. I would like to thank Alderwoman Fairley for barbequing. I would also like to thank Aldermen Redel, Gerald French, and the Public Works Department for doing a wonderful job. That was our last Senior Luncheon for 2015 until we do our Christmas Holiday Party. We will let you know the time at a later date.

Remember:

"The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra."

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

Alderwoman Ora Mae Stokes,
Ward 2

Hello Ward 2



On September 20th through September 23rd the Elected Officials attended the Missouri Municipal League Conference in Kansas City and Missouri Ethics Commission.

The classes I attended were, Bicycling, Walking, and Trails in Missouri Cities Progress,

Promise, and How to, Municipal Government 102: Legal Issues, Getting Real About Generation Gaps, Facilitating the Installation of Solar Energy, Communicating for Success, and Missouri Ethics Commission. The meeting was very informative. The rules are changing every day and we have to stay educated so we can inform our community.

There will be a Job Fair held at Forest Park Community College on October 17, 2015. If you know of anyone looking for a job please let me know.

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

I would like to thank the Police Department and Public Works for doing a wonderful job in our City

Alderwoman Wanda Fairley,
Ward II



October is Health Literacy Month....

Many people begin hunting in October...

Dear Neighbors,

I attended the Missouri Municipal League Annual Conference in Kansas City, Missouri with Mayor James McGee and my fellow Elected Officials. The classes I attended were, Healthcare Reform-Preparing for 2016 and Beyond, Municipal Government 102: Legal Issues, Planning & Zoning Basics, Cultural Diversity in your Municipality: An Asset or Liability, Communicating for Success, and Up Mack's Creek without a Paddle and Other New Laws. I learned a lot from each class.

I wanted to share a few thoughts of why I love our community.

Not all neighborhoods are created equal, but we in Vinita Park take pride in our community. Because of low crime rates, we have a sense of ease and calm. Our beautiful tree-lined streets give our neighborhood a charming, older established feel.

Alderman Richard Redel
Ward I

Hello Vinita Park Residents

I hope everyone is enjoying the cool weather. I attended the Missouri Municipal League Annual Conference in Kansas City, Missouri with Mayor James McGee and my fellow elected officials. The classes I attended were Municipal Government 101: Council Procedures, Funding Parks and Recreational Projects, Municipal Risk Management, Facilitating the Installation of Solar Energy, Communicating for Success, and Missouri Ethics Commission. They were all very educational; I learned a ton of useful information.

On October 1, 2015 at 6:00pm, I attended the Public Hearing on the 2015-16 St. Louis County Municipal Park Grant fund usage. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the use of the funds we will be receiving from St. Louis County to improve our parks. We discussed the possibility of tearing down the old pavilion in Vinita Park and replacing it with a concession stand which will be attached to the bathrooms. We also discussed adding a dog park behind the Conoco gas station on Page Ave and using the current benches on the bike trail in the dog park since the current bike trail benches will be replaced with new ones during the bike trail expansion.

Please, don't forget to attend our monthly board meetings and the special meetings we occasionally hold. They are filled with useful information about your local government for the resident's knowledge and opinion.

Thank you.

Alderwoman Veronica Conner
Ward III

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

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 & Limbs

Due to the weather we are behind schedule in our seasonal tree trimming. Please be patient as we make our way through the city block by block.

Street Sweeper

The street sweeper will operate from April 1st through December 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.