

NEWS FROM CITY HALL

Operation Excel Basketball League

Once again, Vinita Park will be participating in the annual Operation Excel Basketball League. Recruiting for the basketball league began in January and we will begin playing by April 15th. There will be five divisions with children and teenagers ages 8-10, 11-12, 13-15, 16-18, and 19 plus. Each team will play 10 games, not including the playoffs. There will also be a 3-on-3 tournament before the league starts which will be a fundraiser at Viking Hall.

**Indian Trails Library
April Events
8400 Delport Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63114
994-3300**

**www.slcl.org
Thursday, April 17, 7:00 p.m.**
Discovery Club

There's a whole world of wonder to explore. Through projects, experiments and activities, we will navigate through the sciences to figure out the whys and hows of this big, beautiful universe we live in. Ages 7-11.
Registration requested.

Friday, April 18, 10:00 a.m.
Budding Artists

Join us for a preschool art program where the focus is on the process of making art rather than the finished product. Art activities will be open-ended and explorative in nature. Dress to be messy. Ages 3-6.
Registration required.

Tuesday, April 22, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Device Advice @ Indian Trails: App Basics
This class will explain what an app is, how to install or uninstall apps, and how to find some fun and useful apps like the St. Louis County Library Mobile App and more. Students may observe or bring their own (fully charged) iPad, tablet, iPhone or Smartphone, as well as any required passwords or logins.
Registration required.

Thursday, April 24, 2:00 p.m.
Bingo

Join us for an hour of bingo and refreshments. Registration recommended.

Tuesday, April 29, 7:00 p.m.

Cross-out Poetry

Old Book + Markers = Poetry.
Create poetry and art by crossing out all but a few select words from the page of an old book. Ages 10-18. Registration recommended.

Women Living Whole Monthly Event

“Physically Fit and Loving It”

Learning to workout can be difficult. Women Living Whole wants to help you get started on living a healthy life. Come talk with Lieutenant Clay Farmer of Vinita Park Police Department and learn how to kick start your workout regimen. He will give you some tips on eating better and how to do some basic moves that can help you get started at home. No expensive gym fees should discourage you because you can get started in your own living room, bedroom, or basement. Come out and join us!

Date: **April 12, 2014 2pm to 5 pm**

Place: **Vinita Park City Hall,
Meeting Room
8374 Midland Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63114**

Vinita Park Home Repair Program through Beyond Housing

The City of Vinita Park has received grant money to improve the quality of our homes and help bring them up to city code. Repairs which could be performed include tree removal, roof, windows, gutters, driveways, A/C, siding, waterproofing, electrical, plumbing, or flooring. For more information, please contact Nicole Wiseman with Better Family Life at 932-1079.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- **April 1 – Easter Egg Hunt Raffle Sign Up Begins**
- **April 2 – Municipal Court, 10:00 am, City Hall Court Room**
- **April 4 – Yard Waste Pickup Begins**
- **April 4 – Spring Cleaning Day**
- **April 8 – Municipal Elections, City Hall**
- **April 11 - Easter Egg Hunt Raffle Sign Up Ends**
- **April 12 – Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 am, Charles Forrester Park**
- **April 12 – Women Living Whole Event, 2 pm – 5 pm, City Hall**
- **April 16 – Municipal Court, 10:00 am, City Hall Court Room**
- **April 18 – Yard Waste Pickup**
- **April 20 – Easter Sunday**
- **April 21 – Board of Aldermen Meeting, 6:30 pm, City Hall**



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

Dennis Hayden
276-6188



Leading The Way In St. Louis County

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2014

VOLUME 2014:04

NEWS WORTH KNOWING

WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Residents:

Vinita Park is moving in the right direction and I am leading the way. Residents are getting jobs, businesses are expanding, homes are being repaired, and children are successful regardless of their income.

The truth is Vinita Park is moving forward and with the board's help, we are leading the way.

We've come a long way, but there is still work left to do. We need to stand together as a community to keep moving Vinita Park forward. I believe we have a regional recognized blueprint for the future of Vinita Park that focus on people, places, and opportunities. I believe that economic development means gainful employment for all people from entry level to high tech. I believe that every child in every zip code deserves the best education that prepares them to be successful adults.

I believe with the talent that is in Vinita Park and the business that we can attract, we can compete with any place in St. Louis County and in the world. I believe by keeping our budget balanced and having a financial savings of \$1.096 million and a \$200,000.00 CD in reserves, I have made sure Vinita Park has the resources to invest in building a stronger community for families and children.

The board voted in good faith to install

a speed camera for the safety of our children. In February 2014, with the approval of the board, due to the courts' uncertainty on how to handle the decision, I ordered the Chief to discontinue the speed camera.

Being a strong and steady leader, as mayor and city administrator, we've made significant progress but we can't stop now. We need your help to make sure we continue moving Vinita Park forward.

Thank you for your continued support.

James W. McGee
Mayor/City Administrator



YOUR ALDERMEN'S CORNER

Happy Easter Ward 1, 2, 3 Residents

Spring is here. Now more than ever, this is the time to get involved in your community by helping your neighbor and checking on your families, friends, and the senior citizens. Even if it is a little thing, do something for those in need, not for the pay but for the privilege of helping others. Take a moment, and in your mind's eye, review how you live your typical day. Where do you go? What do you do? Who do you see? The world is moving at such a frantic pace, we are often overwhelmed just trying to keep up.

Now look back. How much of your time and energy was used to reach out and help someone?

Remember, you don't live in a world that is all your own.

The City of Vinita Park will be having its Busting in Blooming Garden Contest on Saturday, June 21, 2014. Please mark your calendar. The last day to register is Friday, June 20, 2014. For more information, call City Hall at 428-7373.

Planting flowers and gardening is a passion that many of us have; we can't wait to get started and get our fingers into the soft earth and plant beautiful flowers. This is a passion for me also; gardening isn't just a hobby, it's a lifestyle. It's a spirit you can feel and raises your energy so high. The magic of gardening can boost the soul and relax the mind. It will give you inner peace.

Spring is also a good time to get busy cleaning up your yard, and repairing and painting your home. Mary and I will begin cleaning out the flowers pots in Bira Park. We'll begin as soon as the weather permits.

For more information on how to become a volunteer, please contact City Hall at 428-7373 with your name, address, and phone number.

Encouraging Words

A leader does not set out to be a

leader, but becomes one by the quality of their actions and integrity of their intent.

- Douglas MacArthur

Having the compassion to respect the needs of others for the benefit of the team is the mark of a true leader?

Be impeccable with your word. Speak with integrity. Say only what you mean. Avoid using the word to speak against yourself or to gossip about others. Use the power of your word in the direction of truth and love.

- Miguel Angel Ruiz

Always continue the climb. It is possible for you to do whatever you choose if you first get to know who you are and are willing to work with a power that is greater than ourselves to do it.

-Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Constantly working hard for progress and stable leadership for our Community!

**Celeste McGee
Alderdwoman, Ward III**



Hello Ward 2 and all the Wonderful Senior of All Wards

Thanks to all who attended our first senior luncheon of 2014. It was so nice to see such a large number of you there. We had lots of fun and food and we enjoyed all of it. I am so grateful to know some of the places you would like to go this summer. I will try my best to make it happen.

Thanks to Ebony and Tiffany, two seasonal helpers from Better Family Life, for your wonderful help in setting up for the luncheon and for always being willing to assist our amazing public works employees. To Gerald, Mary, Jeff, and Anthony: you all are just the best!

Congratulations to our Mayor James

McGee who was elected to be on the Northwest Chamber of Commerce 2014 Board of Directors. We are proud of your many successes and may God continue blessing you.

Seniors, I look forward to seeing you on April 7th for Easter egg stuffing. It starts at 10:00 am.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 12th at 10:00 am at Charles Forrester Park. Everyone is welcome so bring your children and grandchildren for fun and prizes.

Our next senior luncheon will be on May 8th at 12:00 Noon.

Food for Thought:

Our days are identical suitcases – all the same size but some can pack more into theirs than others. Be very careful of how you live.

"Leadership with Integrity – Accessible, Committed and Honest"

**Ora Mae Stokes
Alderdwoman, Ward II**



Hello Ward 2

Hope you all stay warm during these hopefully final cold days.

I hope all the seniors were able to take advantage of the free tax services. I was glad to see everyone at our first senior luncheon.

There was an error on the calendar in regards to the Easter Egg Hunt. The event will be held on Saturday, April 12th at Charles Forrester Park so please save the correct date.

I am still looking for volunteers for the Easter Egg Hunt. My last meeting will be on April 4th at 6:00 pm at City Hall. You can start picking up your Easter Egg Hunt Raffle tickets starting on Tuesday, April 1st. The last day is Friday, April 11th.

Remember, this is your community so take care of it.

**Wanda Fairley
Alderdwoman, Ward II**

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

Street Cleaning

Please obey the **NO PARKING (Wednesday/Thursday) 7 am – 3 pm**

signs located on each street. As a courtesy, we have been placing warning notices on vehicles in violation of these signs. This courtesy will cease the week of April 7, 2014, at which time court summons (tickets) will be issued to vehicles in violation.

Spring Planting

As we approach the Spring season, please remember to contact Missouri One Call System (Dig Rite) at 1-800-344-7483 before digging in your yard.

Grass/Yard Waste

Yard waste pickup will resume on April 4, 2014. As we enter into another grass cutting season, please **DO NOT** put yard waste in the street or on the sidewalks. Please use the yard waste containers or brown waste bags. Please call Republic Services at 636-947-5959 for any questions or concerns.

RECYCLE-RECYCLE-RECYCLE
We are reminding everyone to

please recycle. Contact Public Works at 428-7373 if you do not have a recycle bin.

Dead Trees & Limbs

It is the homeowner's responsibility to make sure all dead trees and limbs are removed from their property. Please call Ameren-UE at 1-800-552-7583 if any limbs from your property are on electrical lines.

Reminder from Public Works

In an effort to keep our city clean and beautiful, it is sometimes necessary for our city inspector to issue Housing Code Violations. It is the inspector's job to cite those who are in violation. This is not meant as an attack on our residents but as a firm reminder of that needs to be addressed by a resident in order to comply with our housing codes. Our inspector will work with you and may even extend your time frame to complete the necessary work. The work **MUST** still be completed. Failure to respond to your notice unfortunately results in an appointed court date. If this happens, the issue is out of the inspector's hands and into the courts which could result

in possible fines and/or charges. So please, respond as soon as possible.

Storm Drains

At the request of MSD, all of our storm water inlets have been marked as a reminder that only rain water should go in the drain. In years past, it was common practice for residents to sweep debris along the curb into the drains. Some went as far as to dump their waste oil. The new markers are there to remind us that what goes into these drains eventually ends up as our drinking water in our homes.

Spring Cleaning

On April 4 from 7:00 am – 3:00 pm, we will be having a city-wide spring cleaning day. You can set out any bulk items you no longer want and we will pick them up. We will not pick up paint, grease, or tires.

**Gerald B. French
Public Works Director**

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Movie Night in March was very successful. Numerous kids and adults showed up to watch The Avengers. Popcorn and drinks were served and we all had a great time. We should be able to hold the next Movie Night in the park so keep an eye out for the flier and the date.

With the new street sweeper up and running, we are assisting Public Works in making sure cars are parked on the correct side of the road on Wednesdays and Thursdays. This week, we handed out 20 courtesy warnings, making sure everyone is aware of the parking situation. Hopefully everyone can remember to move their cars on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

We want the citizens to know we are fully up and running with our new reporting software. You may see an increase in patrols due to the officers being able

to write reports in their cars. In addition, we have gone almost completely paperless. Officers submit their reports and supervisors can approve the reports without having to print them out. It's great for the budget and the environment.

We are still awaiting clarification from the courts and legislature on when we can resume our public safety program with the speed cameras on Page and Midland. The number of violations drastically decreased when the system was operational, but it appears they have again increased since the system was paused. We will do our best to keep the community safe by providing increased patrols in these areas and we ask the public to remain vigilant in contacting us when they are aware of unsafe driving.

Sincerely,

Col. Tim Swope
Chief of Police
Vinita Park Police Department

