



# VINITA PARK

Leading The Way In St. Louis County

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2015 VOLUME 2015:03 NEWS WORTH KNOWING

### WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

#### 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

I would like to give condolences to Ms. Judy Baker, Mrs. Jeanette Carridine and Ms. Pointer in the loss of their loved ones.

I would like to send a "special thanks" to Alderman Stokes, for chairing our board meeting February 17, 2015. Alderman Stokes did a fantastic job in running the meeting.

I was in Jefferson City on February 17th and 18th in reference to Senate Bill 5. This bill has passed out of the committee that proposes to change the current 30 percent cap on the revenue a municipality can collect and keep as a percentage of total operating revenue (Mack's Creek Law). The proposal change will reduce the allowable percent to 10 percent. Such a dramatic change would place a financial burden on the municipalities in which we live. Vinita Park residents should not have to pay more taxes to continue to receive the services to which they have become accustomed to, but that will happen if Senate Bill 5 passes in its current form in the house. I don't think it is necessary, or fair, to our police, who work hard every day to protect our residents and businesses from those people that speed, or run red lights and stop signs or otherwise drive irresponsible which puts our family lives and property in danger. Police also respond quickly when we call, they also patrol our streets regularly, which could change if this law passage forces personnel cuts.

Why not enforce the current law after the state guidelines for the percentage calculation or shared with our City Hall staff. To my understanding, such guidelines have still not been drafted by the state auditor's office, but municipalities are still expected to comply with the law. Local Mayors are going to Jefferson City twice a week for the Senate Bill 5 hearing and sharing the reason why this bill is detrimental to our local municipalities and our quality of life.

As elected officials, it is our job to ensure delivery of good services to our residents. Those services include things such as snow/ice removal, street and sidewalk maintenance, building property code enforcement to keep our neighborhood a desirable place to live, police protection, and much more. It costs money to provide these services and we need the legally collected revenue, including reasonable traffic fines earned by those who violate our laws to continue those services. Senate Bill 72 will dissolve all villages in the St. Louis County area, compromising villages may not be incorporated or annexed.

We ask that you continue to work together to make Vinita Park a strong community by engaging our families and successful children.

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

# YOUR ALDERMEN'S CORNER



## **HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

St. Louis Job Fair: Thursday, March 12th, 2015  
from 9:00am-12:30pm

Where: Doubletree Hotel in Westport  
Address: 1973 Craigshire Rd. St. Louis Mo, 63146

Come meet with hiring managers from local, national, and Fortune 500 companies for free at our St. Louis Job Fair.

Tips for Success: Dress Professional, bring multiple resumes and keep an open mind.

1. You will be meeting with decision makers face to face, so wear a suit and dress for success.
2. Update your resume and bring 15 + copies to be able to offer a resume to every manager you speak with.
3. There might be companies and industries you are not familiar with, but take time to speak with them. It might be your dream job. Good Luck

Our hearts are saddened to hear the loss of our tax collector Mrs. Jeanette Carridine's grandmother on February 16th, 2015. Ward 3 and the City of Vinita Park wish to express our deepest sympathy and condolences to Jeanette and the entire Williams family.

### **St. Patrick's Day Poem**

Remember back in the day when you were a kid playing in the back yard looking for a four leaf clover Shamrock or four leaf clover. People always say that, if you find one it will bring you good luck, and if you wish for something special it can make all your dreams come true.  
(Celeste McGee)

May luck be our companion  
May friends stand by our side  
May history remind us all of Ireland's faith and pride  
May God bless us with happiness  
May love and faith abide

(Irish Blessing)

Constantly working hard for progress and stable leadership in our community

**Celeste McGee**  
3rd Ward Alderwoman



## **Hello Ward II/Seniors**

I want to give a shout out to our wonderful Mayor James W. McGee for all of his hard work. You're traveling to and from Jefferson City, Missouri, fighting for our City to remain as Vinita Park. We certainly don't want to have to merge with another city. Let us all work together to prevent this from happening.

Thoughts and prayers go out to Ms. Pat Garner as she recovers in a nursing home.

Hats off to our Boys and Girls Club of Vinita Park, Keep up the good job you're doing for the city.

To our seniors, your first luncheon for 2015 will be March 12th, 2015 at the City Hall.

### **"Happy St. Patrick's Day To All"**

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ms. Emma Robinson, who was rushed to St. Mary's Hospital on Thursday February 19th, 2015. She's home now but will be returning on March 2nd, 2015 for surgery. Let us all pray she has a speedy recover.

Spring is just around the corner, and I'm sure if you're like me you can hardly wait till after this below zero weather. We will welcome it with open arms.

"Authority makes some people grow and others just swell"

"Leadership with Integrity Accessible, Committed & Honest"

**Alderwoman Ora Mae Stokes, Ward 2**



## **HELLO WARD II**

I hope everyone had a wonderful Valentine's Day.

I would like to let you all know that the Library is now closed for remodeling. If you have any items on hold at the branch you will be directed to other Saint Louis County Library locations. To pick up those items, you may contact (314) 994-3300.

Ward II: you will be voting at the Vinita Park City Hall on April 7th, 2015.

March 5th, 2015 at 6:00pm, I will be hosting my first committee for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the City Hall. Please come out and give me your ideas.

Beyond Housing is still accepting home repair applications. Please contact (314) 918-9918 ext. 28

Remember this is your city, so come up to the board meeting on the third Monday of each month to give us your ideas.

I would like to thank the Police Department and Public Works for doing a wonderful job. Keep up the good work.

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be March 28th, 2015 at 10:00am at the Charles Forrester Park. Thank you, see you all there!!!

**Wanda Fairley**  
Alderwoman, Ward II

# PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

## **Rate Increase Notice Effective February 1, 2015**

### Residential/Commercial Inspection & Occupancy permits

- **One hundred dollars (\$100)** for the initial residential inspection
- **One hundred twenty five dollars (\$125)** for the initial commercial inspection
- **No charge** for the first residential or commercial re-inspection
- **Seventy-five dollars (\$75)** for the 2nd re-inspection of the same residential or commercial property, including fire marshal's re-inspection
- **Fifty dollars (\$50)** for fire inspection for each new commercial occupancy inspection
- **Fifty dollars (\$50)** for the occupancy permit sale property
- **Forty dollars (\$40)** for the occupancy permit for residential rental property
- **Fifty dollars (\$50)** for commercial occupancy permit
- **Fifteen dollars (\$15)** for a copy of any type of occupancy permit
- **Fifty dollars (\$50)** for an amended copy of any type of occupancy permit

## **Park Reservations**

- **Thirty dollars (\$30)** reservation fee for residents of Vinita Park; plus one hundred dollars (\$100) refundable deposit
- **Seventy-five (\$75)** reservation fee for non-residents of Vinita Park; plus one hundred dollars (\$100) refundable deposit

## **Pet Tags**

- **Ten (\$10)**

## **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**

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

## **Trees & Limbs**

Please call Ameren UE (1-800-552-7583) if any limbs on your property are on electrical lines.

## **Trash Containers**

Please remember to remove your trash/ recycle/yard waste containers from the curb the same day service is rendered to avoid receiving a citation.

In addition, you may contact Republic Services (636-947-5959) to receive a trash container.

## **Leaves/Yard Waste**

Yard waste pickup will be every Friday. Please use the yard waste container or brown yard waste bags. Please do not rake leaves into the streets.

Gerald B. French, Sr.  
Public Works Director

# POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS



Our safety belt warning initiative has proved very successful. We have issued over 150 warnings for drivers and front seat passengers not wearing a safety belt. I have received numerous calls from people who received the warnings stating they were very happy to be getting a warning simply reminding them to wear their safety belt. Our officers did a great job working with the citizens in making this a great program.

Officer Susie Lorthridge has been named Officer of the Month for February 2015. Officer Lorthridge was a Sargent at a nearby agency when we hired her. She has only been with us for a short time, but her knowledge, experience and the way she works with the citizens has not gone unnoticed. Her commitment to patrolling the neighborhoods has really helped avert crime. She deals with children very well and loves

to talk with the residents. Officer Lorthridge will continue to be a great asset to Vinita Park and we are lucky to have her.

We have had very few accidents during this inclement weather. Thanks to all for driving safely!!!

**Col. Tim Swope**  
**Chief of Police**  
**Vinita Park Police Department**



# CITY HALL NEWS

## Administrative News

Inter-department training continues within Administration and Court Clerk duties in order to achieve more efficient operation. This will ensure productivity and that needs are met in each department.

## Candidacy Filing

Write-in Candidates for Alderman have until **March 27, 2015** to declare their candidacy for the General Municipal Election on **April 7, 2015**.

## March Events

We have a lot going on in the month of March. On **March 8th, 2015** the clocks will be moving forward by one hour.

On **March 12th 2015**, the Senior Luncheon will be held at noon.

Our monthly Board Meeting will be held on **March 16th, 2015**

**St. Patrick's Day is March 17th, 2015.**

We will be having our Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Charles Forrester Park on **March 28th, 2015**.

## Payments to City Hall

The forms of payments to the City of Vinita Park must be cash, money orders or a business check. We apologize for any inconvenience; however, personal checks cannot be accepted.

## BASIC EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

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

- 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- EFFAK (PDF – 997Kb) developed by operation Hope, FEMA and Citizen Corps to help you organize your information
- Emergency material such as, a first aid book or free information from the 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 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 pencils
- Books, games, puzzles, or other activities for children

Be prepared for an emergency by keeping your gas tank full and if you find yourself stranded, be safe and stay in your car, put on your flashers, call for help and wait until it arrives.

## HOME

Your disaster supply kit should contain essential food, water, and supplies for at least three days. Keep this kit in a designated place and have it ready in case you have to leave your home quickly. Make sure all family members know where the kit is kept. Additionally, you may want to consider having supplies for sheltering for up to two weeks.

## Kit Storage Locations

Since you do not know where you will be when an emergency occurs, prepare supplies for home, work and vehicles.

## VEHICLE

In case you are stranded, keep a kit of emergency supplies in your car. This kit should include:

- Jumper cables
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- First aid kits and necessary medications in case you are away from home for a prolonged time

- Food items containing protein such as nuts and energy bars; canned fruit and portable can opener
- Water for each person and pet in your car
- AM/FM radio to listen to traffic reports and emergency messages
- Cat litter or sand for better tire rotation
- Shovel/Ice scraper
- Warm clothes, gloves, hats, sturdy boots, jackets, and an extra change of clothes
- Blankets or sleeping bags

Also consider

- A fully-charged cell phone and phone charger
- Flares or reflective triangle
- Baby formula and diapers if you have a small child

## **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

- March 3- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- March 4- Municipal Court 10:00am
- March 6- Yard Waste Pickup
- March 8- Daylight Savings Time
- March 10- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- March 12- Senior Luncheon
- March 13- Yard Waste Pickup
- March 16- Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:30pm
- March 17 Trash & Recycle Pickup
- March 17- St. Patrick's Day
- March 18- Municipal Court 10:00am
- March 20- Yard Waste Pickup
- March 24- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- March 27- Yard Waste Pickup
- March 28- Annual Easter Egg Hunt (At The Charles Forrester Park ) (Saturday at 10:00am)
- March 31- Trash & Recycle Pickup