



VINITA PARK

Leading The Way In St. Louis County

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2014

VOLUME 2014:09

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR

James W. McGee

426-5529

COLLECTOR

Jeanette Carridine

428-7373

BOARD OF ALDERMAN

WARD I

Brian Gremaud

922-0885

Richard Redel

368-2329

WARD II

Wanda Fairley

427-8587

Ora Stokes

429-6863

WARD III

Celeste McGee

426-5529

Dennis Hayden

276-6188

The City of Vinita Park and the 24:1 Chiefs including the EMS and fire department have put together a critical response team to deal with man-made disasters, emergencies, and civil unrest to make our residents feel safe in the community and in their homes.

Emergency Preparedness: We have had over 125 elected officials and key staff complete NIMS (National Incident Management Systems) training required by FEMA.

The 24:1 Mayors and community had requested a town hall meeting with DESE Board on October 28, 2014 at the Pagedale City Hall at 6:30PM. The purpose is to get answers to important issues facing our children in the NSCB (Normandy School Collaboration Board). Such as,

1. Academic Achievement: What curriculum is being used? How not having AP and honors classes affect our points for accreditation? What part of the reformation plan developed by Dr. Ty is being used? When will you recruit experienced teachers?

2. Security: What is the plan for increasing/improving security in school/buses? Are there any plans for the School Resource Officers?

3. Community engagement: Mayors and communities want, and need, updates on goals, progress and timelines.

I would like to thank all residents for showing up to the town hall meeting at the Pagedale City Hall.

The Vinita Park/Beverly Hills Citizen Police Academy started October 14, 2014. There was a great turn-out for the first class. This is a great opportunity for everyone to better

understand the work of their police department. Classes are every Tuesday at 6:00pm. For more information contact Chief Swope at 314-428-7373.

Vinita Park Boys & Girls Club will be starting a boy scouting program. We want all our young people to be a part of the program to help them mature and be successful in life.

The 24:1 Local Municipal Partnerships has been selected to receive a 2014 Outstanding Local Governmental Achievement Award for Exemplary Intergovernmental Collaboration.

This award recognizes the efforts across 24 jurisdictions that pool all their resources and streamline services in ways that best serve our residents. The awards ceremony will be Friday, November 14, 2014 from 12:00pm to 1:30pm at the Saint Louis Hilton at the Ball Park.

Happy Thanksgiving to all residents, employees, and business of Vinita Park. Have a great holiday.

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



HALLOWEEN EVENT

The Halloween Committee Alderwoman Celeste McGee, Alderwoman Ora Mae Stokes, and Alderman Brian Gremaud, would like to thank all our Vinita Park children, family

and friends for coming out showing off their favorite character costume on Halloween night.

We had a ball watching all the different costumes. We know the children had a blast getting dressed up, getting lots of candy, and having fun.

We would like to thank our wonderful Mayor James W. McGee, and our Police Department for supporting our entire city programs. We hope you all had a safe Halloween.

SAVE THIS DATE

Our Annual Breakfast With Santa will be on Saturday, December 13, 2014 from 9am-11:00am for Vinita Park children only. Ages 0-12

HAPPY THANKSGIVING VINITA PARK RESIDENTS

Thanksgiving is a time of the year when the world gets to see just how blessed and how workable we are giving thanks to what we have, and not on what we want.

It warms the heart to think of those who mean so much to us all year long. The emphasis is not on giving or buying, but on being thankful and expressing that appreciation to God and to one another.

THANKSGIVING POEM

For each new morning with its light, for rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends,
For everything thy goodness sends,

For flowers that bloom about our feet ;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;

For all things fair we hear or see, Father in heaven, we thank Thee! Have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving
(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTEST

Deadline for our Annual Lighting Contest is Friday December 12, 2014.

All entries should be in no later than 5pm, at city hall.

ST. LOUIS CAREER FAIR INFORMATION

Wednesday, November 19, 2014 from 11:00am to 2:00pm

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

Working Hard for stable Leadership and Progress in Our Community.

Celeste McGee
3rd Ward Alderwoman



HELLO WARD II SENIORS

Seniors, it has been a lot of fun working with you all this summer. We had a lot of fun and enjoyment during our gathering. I look forward for the same another year. We will now get ready for our last function which will be our Christmas celebration. We currently do not have a date but you will be informed. We will have our Christmas luncheon when the Public Works Department luncheon takes place. I do need all seniors who have birthdays from August thru December to call city hall and give Ms. Brown the date of your birthday. Thanks to all our businesses in Vinita Park for your contribution in participating in our Back to School Program. Because of you all, we were able to make so many of our boys and girls very happy.

Our next holiday will be Thanksgiving and I'm sure we all are looking forward to that day, when families all get together for a lovely feast and enjoy one another. I pray we all remain healthy and be blessed to do so.

"Food for Thought"

Reputation is made in a moment: Character is built in a lifetime.

"Leadership with Integrity Accessible, Committed & Honest".

Ora Mae Stokes
Alderwoman Ward 2



HELLO WARD II

Fall has slowly approached. I hoped everyone had a wonderful time at the senior picnic. Don't forget that if you need help with your heat bill, please

call (314) 863-0015, the Community Action Agency.

Don't forget about our citizen academy program from 6-8pm, every Tuesday at the city hall. You will get good information on how the police officer works for you.

We have our board meeting every third Monday at 6:30pm of each month, please come out and give your opinion.

We have a lot a of things going on in our wonderful city such as a football team, a basketball team, a soccer team, and we are trying to get boy scouts. I would like to thank the police department and public works for doing a wonderful job.

"Quote of the Month"

"I am not judged by the number of times I fail, but by the number of times I succeed and the number of times I succeed is the direct proportion to make the number of times I can fail and keep trying."

- Author- Tom Hopkins

Thank You.

Wanda Fairley
Alderwoman, Ward II



HELLO VINITA PARK RESIDENTS

I hope everyone had a happy and candy filled Halloween!

As usual the Public Works Dept. has been hard at work maintaining our city. We are looking at ways to stop the erosion of the mulch and wood chips in the Tot Lot. Consideration is being given to possibly extending the wall to trap the mulch.

If you have been to Forrester Park after a hard rain you know the ball field looks like a lake. The Public Works Dept. has been applying dirt to level off the field as much as possible. City Hall and Public Works have been hard at work trying to secure sponsorship of the field. We'll let you know when that happens.

Whenever you get a chance, stop at Bira Park. It is a great place to have a picnic or just enjoy the breeze. We are working on upgrading the signs with the park rules. We recently had a public forum (Oct. 9) to discuss the park grant for which the city applies. Mr. French showed the plans for the proposed upgrades to the city park. When finished the upgrades for the park will be enjoyed by all residents who come.

Please come out and enjoy one of our parks that we are so fortunate to have in our city.

Remember to help keep our parks clean.

Thank You.

Dennis Hayden
Alderman, Ward III

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

Code Enforcement- A Division Of Public Works 2014 Annual Code Enforcement Survey

As of August 9, 2014, we have our inspectors walking street by street looking at every home for code compliance.

The inspectors are looking at the condition of driveways, walkways, fences, windows, roofs, trims, exterior walls, gutters, porches, decks, handrails, doors, address numbers, flaking, peeling paint, sheds in the rear of the yards, and making sure they are in good condition.

The inspectors are citing all overgrown vegetation, vacant properties, and those properties that are unfit for occupancy and that should be demolished. An advisory notice has been, or will be, posted on your door.

You have 30 days to bring your home into code compliance.

Some of the homes will take longer due to the nature of the violation. The city is willing to work with each property owner as you make repairs to your home.

Those failing to make repairs will receive citations/summons to appear in the Vinita Park Municipal Court. We are focusing on the health, safety, and welfare of our beautiful community.

We need your cooperation as we move forward in renewing our city property values. Property maintenance increases your property value.

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.

Parks

Park restrooms will close November 1, 2014 and will reopen April 1, 2015.

Street Sweeper

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

Snow Removal

As we approach the winter months, please take notice of no parking signs to allow thorough plowing of all streets.

Trees & Limbs

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

Occupancy Inspection and Permit Required

It shall be unlawful for any person or family to occupy, or for any owner or agent therefor to permit the occupancy, of any building or dwelling 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.

Gerald B. French, Sr.
Public Works Director

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Citizens Police Academy is two weeks in and has been going great. Attendees were at the St. Louis County Police Academy last week and went over firearms safety and other operational matters. There were 20 people at the last class and we hope to get even more at the next. Classes are every Tuesday at 6pm, at Vinita Park City Hall or Beverly Hills City Hall.



We even offer you a ride if it's at the Beverly Hills City Hall. Contact the City Hall to sign up!!

We have had a few vehicle break-ins in the last few weeks. Please remember to lock your vehicles and keep an eye out for you and your neighbor's property.

Let the Police know anytime you see someone suspicious in the neighborhood. The 24:1 Critical Response Team is formed and operational.

Officers are attending training and equipment is being procured. This unit will respond to any critical incidents that occur in the area.

Making our communities safer is key to this endeavor. All of the 24:1 municipalities have pooled their resources to make this unit possible. Thanks to everyone involved.

Due to the possibility of continued problems due to the events in the Ferguson area, we will not be scheduling a movie night for November.

If the situation changes, we will try to squeeze one in whenever possible.

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

NEWS FROM CITY HALL

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 Beyond Housing at (314) 932-1079.

Women Living Whole Monthly Event "Walking in Financial Freedom" Geraldine Williams

This is a financial educational explosion! Do you want to take charge of your finances? This meeting will help you start to do just that. You may be thinking I don't know how or how can I get started? Well stop thinking about it and come hear about it; so you can put some steps together to make it happen. Each month on second Saturday there will be a session held.

Date: Saturday November 8, 2014
Place: Vinita Park City Hall, Meeting Room
8374 Midland Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63114

BASIC SUPPLIES KIT CONTINUATION

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 reference 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

Kit Storage Locations

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

HOME

Your disaster supply kit should contain essential foods, 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.

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 triangles
- Baby formula and diapers if you have a small child

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.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 4 - Trash and Recycle Pickup
- November 5 - Municipal Court, 10:00 am, City Hall Court Room
- November 5 - Street Sweeping
- November 6 - Street Sweeping
- November 11 – Trash & Recycle Pickup
- November 12 – Street Sweeping
- November 13 - Street Sweeping
- November 14 – Yard Waste
- November 17 - Board of Aldermen Meeting, 6:30pm, City Hall
- November 18 - Trash and Recycle Pickup
- November 19 - Municipal Court, 10:00 am, City Hall Court Room
- November 19 - Street Sweeping
- November 20 - Street Sweeping
- November 25 – Trash & Recycle Pickup
- November 26 – Street Sweeping
- November 27 – Thanksgiving, City Hall Closed
- November 28 – City Hall Closed
- November 29 – Yard Waste Pickup