

NEWS FROM CITY HALL

Employees

Let's all welcome Carman Brown, who has been hired as Deputy City Clerk. Welcome Carman!

Utility Bills

Many of you have picked up your Utility Rebate Check. For those of you that have not, please bring picture identification and a current telephone number to reach you.

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"

Jeanine 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

Date: Second Saturday of every month
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 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.

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 a 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

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

- **October 1 - Street Sweeping**
- **October 1 - Municipal Court, 10:00am, City Hall Court Room**
- **October 3 - Yard Waste Pickup**
- **October 7 - Trash & Recycle Pickup**
- **October 10 Yard Waste Pickup**
- **October 14 – Trash & Recycle Pickup**
- **October 15 – Municipal Court, 10am, City Hall Court Room**
- **October 17 – Yard Waste Pickup**
- **October 20 – Board of Alderman meeting, 6:30pm, City Hall**
- **October 21 – Trash & Recycle Pickup**
- **October 24 Yard Waste Pickup**
- **October 28 - Trash & Recycle Pickup**
- **October 31 – Halloween Event, 5:00pm – 7:00pm**
- **October 31 – Yard Waste Pickup**



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

OCTOBER 2014

VOLUME 2014:09

NEWS WORTH KNOWING

WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

I would like to thank the residents of Vinita Park for cleaning up, painting and repairing their property and bringing their homes up to city code which increases property value. I have received positive calls from residents to thank the City of Vinita Park for bringing qualified code enforcement officers that treat everyone fairly. Thank you, once again, for working on your homes and bringing them up to city code. If more time is ever needed, contact our Public Works Director, Mr. Gerald French at (314) 428-7373.

Vinita Park is planning on being a part of bringing scouting to our Boys and Girls Club. We are also looking to take our Boys and Girls Club to the local circus. You will be notified of the date.

Our football team is doing a fantastic job and keeping our young people out of trouble. They did a fantastic job this weekend and have only 3 games left. We are also very proud of our cheerleaders. They are doing a fantastic job in cheerleading. We want to thank all of our residents that came out and supported the football team and our cheerleading team. We also have soccer - so, if you want your children to participate in soccer, contact Tony at 428-7373.

This year the City of Vinita Park was one of 12 of the 24:1 Area Municipalities to receive an award of up to \$10,000 from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) through its Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) cost share grant program. Beyond Housing wrote grants in coordination with 10 of the 12 municipalities.

As a result up to \$70,000 is available to be invested in the following 10 municipalities – Bellerive Acres, Cool Valley, Glen Echo Park, Hanley Hills, Pagedale, Pine Lawn, Upland Park, Velda Village, Vinita Park and Vinita Terrace. MDC funds are matched with recipient funds to improve trees in the community, resulting in a total investment of close to \$100,000. This is a competitive grant that helps communities provide safe and healthy trees. Investments in trees provide lasting improvements in cleaning the air, soil and water.

This is the second year that these 10 municipalities have received such a grant. Last year, Beyond Housing received a Collaborative Tree TRIM grant of \$25,000 that paid for professional tree inventories for all 10 of these municipalities. By contracting the work together, the group

estimated close to 40% in savings compared to what similar municipalities paid in recent years. The participating municipalities anticipate jointly bidding the work to make their dollars go farther.

I would like to thank all of the Aldermen that attended the MML Conference, Alderman Redel – Ward 1, Alderwoman Stokes and Alderwoman Fairley – Ward 2, Alderman Hayden and Alderwoman McGee – Ward 3. I want to thank them for taking from their busy schedule and work to attend the conference to self-improve and move our city forward. Some things that I have learned was: Overcoming the 5 Dysfunctions of a Team, Budget Upside Down, Public Service is a Noble Calling, Municipal Government 102, Council Procedures, Missouri Open Meetings and Records Acts, Cultural Diversity in Your Municipality: Asset or Liability, Critical Court Cases Every Missouri Municipality Official Must Know, Doing Much, Much More with Less, Human Resources- Making the Best Decision, Legal Issues, Permitted Investments for Local Governments, Affordable Care Act, Basics of Planning and Zoning, Public Works Contracting, Dynamics of Jefferson City Today, Understanding your Municipal Court, and the Power of a Purchasing Card.

We will be coming up with an ordinance that every Alderperson must attend at least one conference per year. It's only fair to the residents to expect all Alderpersons, not just a few, to attend conferences when all receive a paycheck.

I want to thank all that was in attendance at the Senior Citizen Picnic on September 30. We had a great turn-out, it was a good menu, and the food was wonderful! Thanks go out to Ms. Stokes and the committee for all of their hard work.

We ask that you continue to work together to make Vinita Park a strong community by engaging our families and successful children. Our motto is building stronger communities, engaging families and success for children.

James W. McGee
Mayor/City Administrator

YOUR ALDERMEN'S CORNER

Happy Halloween Residents of Vinita Park

The spirit of Halloween and the energy that comes with it will be here before you know it. The City of Vinita Park will give out Trick or Treat Candy on Friday, October 31, 2014 at City Hall, 8374 Midland Blvd. from 5pm – 7pm. For more information, call City Hall.

September 3 – 5, 2014, I attended the Missouri Feel Like Home Governor Conference on Economic Development in Tan-Tar-A Resort, Lake of the Ozarks. This conference was on how to help local businesses and cities:

- Make Project Decision
- Training Strategies
- What Makes Successful Communities Successful
- Powering the Future
- Financing Local Infrastructure

These classes help me to know what does work, and what doesn't, in recruiting new companies to our region, plus help me to learn from successful projects.

Also, I attended the Annual MML 2014 Conference in St. Charles, Mo. This conference was on Cultural Diversity in our Municipality/ Missouri Open Meetings and Records Act/Cost Savings through Energy Efficiency/Human Resources; Making the Best Decisions. These classes help me to bring back knowledge and information so I can serve you, Ward 3, and the City of Vinita Park.

St. Louis Job Fair – Save the Date

St. Louis Job Fair Thursday, November 13, 2014 from 9:00am – 12:30pm will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 2 Convention Center Plaza, St. Charles, Mo. 63303. Come meet with hiring managers from local, national, and Fortune 500 companies at no cost to you

Hello Ward II

Summer has come and gone. Fall is here; let's get our home ready for the cold weather. Please don't forget to come up and sign up for the Citizen's Police Academy October 7, 2014 – November 25, 2014 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. Vinita Park will provide transportation to the program. Sometimes we will meet at Vinita Park or Beverly Hills City Hall.

There will be a CPR Class scheduled for a Saturday.

I would like to thank the MML Conference that came to St. Charles, Mo. on September 14-17. We learned a lot of information so our city can run successfully.

Don't forget to come up on the third Monday of each month at 6:30pm to voice your opinion.

I would like to leave you with this saying "You really can change the world if you care enough".

Wanda Fairley
Alderman, Ward II



Hello Residents

Recently we have all been disappointed by the low test scores and bad publicity from the Normandy School District. You cannot, however, let this setback deter you from pushing for a quality education for your children. Even though the test score averages were low system wide, you can still expect to have improvements within your household. By utilizing the free resources at your disposal i.e.: library, internet tutorials, homework counselors, etc. You can have an expectation for your children to do better and increase their learning. As a parent, you have to be involved in your children's education. You can't leave that responsibility solely to other people. Set a standard at home for grades, for homework, and for behavior. You will be amazed at what this can accomplish. Remember your children live up to or down to your expectations. Let's get those scores up!

Alderman
Dennis Hayden



- Tips for Success
- Dress Professional
 - Bring Multiple Resumes
 - Keep an Open Mind

Words of Encouragement

People spend too much time finding other people to blame instead of finding the good in others; they take too much time and energy finding excuses for not being what they are capable of being, and not enough energy putting themselves on the line, growing out of the past, and getting on with their lives constantly working hard for progress and stable leadership in our community.

J. Michael Stracznski

(Knowledge comes, but Wisdom follows)
Alderwoman Celeste McGee



Alderwoman
Celeste McGee
Ward 3

Hello Residents

To God be the glory that we made it through another very hot summer. As autumn approaches, let us all be thankful for all of the wonderful times we have had during this 2014 summer. We have seen our city growing by leaps and bounds this year by both business and new residents moving in. That says a lot for our city and there are others still to come. With that being said, we must continue to keep our city clean and beautiful.

Hats off to our hard working Mayor James McGee for all of the hard work you do for the city. Let us be thankful for a Mayor who contributes so much to our city. Our wonderful Enforcement Officers have done, and are continuing to do, a great job in keeping us safe. Thanks for all of your continuing hard work. Thank you Public Works Team for your efforts in every way to keep our city clean and beautiful. A special thanks to Mary Alvarado for your beautiful job in keeping the flowers looking astounding all summer long.

Seniors: Thanks to all the Seniors who attended our annual picnic on September 30th.

I attended the Governor's Conference on Economical Development along with Alderwoman Celeste and Mayor James McGee on September 3rd – 5th, 2014 in Tan-Tar-A at Lake of the Ozarks. I was highly impressed on how much information was out there on how to make our communities better and successful. Also, on September 14th-17th, 2014, I attended the MML 80th Conference along with Mayor James McGee and many of the Aldermen in St. Charles, Mo. Terrific information about Cultural Diversity, Energy Efficiency, and the Affordable Care Act. I am honored and blessed to have been able to attend this great conference.

"People who try to whittle you down are only trying to reduce you to their size."

Leadership with Integrity
Accessible, Committed,
and Honest

Alderwoman,
Ora Stokes



PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

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

began on August 9, 2014. We have 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, exteriors walls, gutters, porches, decks, handrails, doors, address numbers, flaking, and peeling paint, and sheds in rear yards, 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 work to bring your home into code compliance. Some of the corrections 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 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/ rePlease remember to remove your trash/ recycle/yard waste containers from the curb the same day service is rendered to avoid receiving a citation. Also, you may contact Republic Services (314-947-5959) to receive a trash container.

Grass/Yard Waste

Yard waste pickup will be EVERY FRIDAY. Please use the yard waste container or brown yard waste bags.

Tall Grass and Weeds

Failure to keep weeds, high grass, noxious plants, rank weeds, thickets and other vegetation cut and removed is a nuisance. All person 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 (Section 215.110).

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 therefore to permit the occupancy of any building or dwelling, dwelling unit or addition until inspection is complete and an occupancy permit has been issued. The occupancy permit shall not be issued until all violations have been brought into code compliance.

Gerald B. French, Sr.
Public Works Director

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

National Nite Out went great. The weather cooperated and the rain shut off 15 minutes before the event started. The members of Vinita Park PD thank the Vinita Park residents, Board and Mayor for allowing the very special get-together. Numerous kids received prizes for the events and Ms. Stokes handed out several tablets for students. We look forward to having an even better event next year.

The PD just went through our first ever, bi annual MULES Audit by the State. All department records and statistics were deemed in good order.

We will be having a dual Citizen's Police Academy with the City of Beverly Hills. Everyone is invited to sign up. The academy will begin on Tuesday, October 7th and continue for eight weeks. Classes will be every Tuesday evening from 6-8pm. Transportation will be provided to and from Beverly Hills and Vinita Park City Halls. This is a great opportunity for the

citizens to better understand how the police department functions on a day to day basis. Hope to see everyone there.

We appreciate everyone's attention to the parking regulations during street sweeping days. We have also seen a very good response to no parking on sidewalks in the City. Keeping the City safe and clean is our number one effort.

Keep a close eye out for our next movie night. We are really dependent on the weather and have had to call off 2 this year already. We will send out information on the next movie night, which should be at the end of October.

Col. Tim Swope
Chief of Police
Vinita Park Police Department

