



VINITA PARK
 CITIZEN NEWSLETTER
 & PUBLISHED BY &



VINITA PARK CITY HALL

OCT/NOV/DEC 2025

VOLUME 2025:10

NEWS WORTH KNOWING

**VINITA PARK
 CITY HALL**

8374 Midland Blvd.
 Vinita Park, MO
 63114
 (314) 428-7373
 FAX: (314) 428-7379
 8:30 A.M. – 5:00
 P.M.

MAYOR

James W. McGee

COLLECTOR

Jeanette Carridine

**BOARD OF
 ALDERMEN**

WARD 1

Brian Gremaud
 Richard Redel

WARD 2

Richard G. Fairley
 Nina Bono

WARD 3

Celeste McGee
 Marcietta D. Reed

WARD 4

Dianne Bryant-Miller
 John Phillips

Hello everyone!

I would like to thank all those that voted in favor of the 24:1 Transportation Development District (TDD) at the August 5, 2025 election. The TDD will help improve sidewalks, streets, and curbs and any help fund other special projects Vinita Park may have. There are 17 cities involved in the TDD and this is 40 years in the making.

Thank you to everyone that attended National Night Out on September 30, 2025 and helping show unity in the community. I would like to thank the Chairperson Alderman Celeste McGee and her committee for planning a great National Night Out event that brought our community together with the assistance of numerous volunteers.

We are currently working with the Normandy Schools Collaborative leadership to improve the education our youth receive. We are also overhauling our license system by reviewing and making needed changes to our Code of Ordinances on fees such as business licenses and warehouse fees.

I believe that it's crucial to our city's success, because we believe in building stronger communities, engaging families, and successful children.

James W. McGee
 Mayor

City of Vinita Park General Fund as of August 31, 2025 Y-T-D - Funds available \$1,266,272, Personnel Service \$815,349, Supplies \$27,825, other services and charges \$339,000 Total: Operating exp.--\$1,182,174, Non-Operating Activity \$56,814, OPERATING RESERVE:--\$140,912. City of Vinita Park Financial Status as of August 31, 2025: General Fund \$140,912.41, Cap Improvement Fund \$122,185.92, Storm Water/Parks Fund \$34,049.56, Road Fund \$68,402.12, Sewer Lateral Fund \$234,781.18, Prop P fund \$3,031.61, Accts Receivable \$75,079.95. Total Reserves & Accounts Receivable \$678,442.75.

ALDERMEN'S CORNER



Hello, Wards 1, 2, 3 and 4

I attended the 2025 Missouri Municipal League Annual Conference from September 14-17, 2025 in St. Charles, MO. This conference focused on how to run your city more efficient and effective as well as updating us on new legislation affecting cities.

I attended the Ameren UE Community Voice workshop and Expo recently as well. This workshop focused on how to save residents and businesses money. Here are some of the programs they highlighted:

1. Big Saving Program
2. Single-family Income Eligibility Program
3. Business Social Service
4. Smart Saver Home Assessment
5. Energy Efficiency Programs

National Night Out was held September 30, 2025 and the event went great. I would like to thank Mayor McGee, Alderman Richard Fairley for playing the music, Chief Buchannan and his staff especially Officer Zyan Thomas-King and Officer Samondra Robinson for all their work to make the event a success and the cooks for making all the wonderful food. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.





“Action without vision is only passing time, vision without action is merely day dreaming, but vision with action can change the world”(Nelson Mandela)

Constantly working hard for our community.

Board President
Alderman Celeste McGee
Ward 3



Hello, Vinita Park residents!

Hope all is well! Fall is here! I want to thank Mayor McGee, our Aldermen, Public Works, the Administration and of course our Police Department, supervised by our Chief, Chief Buchanan, for all their help! Some of the tree leaves are starting to change colors. Some leaves are already falling. A beautiful time of the year!

We will be planting trees in Bira Park, Friday, October 10, at 9:15 a.m. If you would like to volunteer, please come up to City Hall at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be served afterwards.

Many of you have called and asked about trees being removed, either from your property or outside of your property. Check and make sure you are on the tree list, to see when it will be removed. Call our arborist, Jack at 314-376-5625. Please, call if it is an emergency. He will determine what the next step will be. If you are not on the tree list, call to have your name put on it. Some residents have been called. If there is any other concern, please feel free to call me and I can make a visit to your address.

As always, take care and be safe!

Alderman Reed

Ward 3

Tree Fact: Hospital patients recover eight percent faster if they can see trees from their hospital window.



It's officially summer and starting to get dangerously hot outside. Make sure you stay hydrated, check on your elderly neighbors, and outdoor pets as well.

Let's make an effort to keep our yards looking good; and say "hello" to our neighbors when we see them. Let's show grace and empathy towards one another. We are community.

Be safe, and enjoy your summer,

Alderman John Phillips, Ward 4

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

Permits

Please come to City Hall to secure the proper permits **PRIOR** to having any work done to your property. Doing so will prevent unnecessary delays and fines. If you are not sure if you need a permit, **PLEASE** call City Hall at 314-428-7373 to inquire.

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.

Yard Waste

All Yard Waste should be placed in a designated yard waste can or brown yard bags for pickup. Yard Waste in plastic bags will **NOT** be picked up. Public Works will **only** pick up limbs that are knocked down during a storm of at least 60 mile per hour winds or greater, and placed on the curb within **48 hours** after the storm.

Bulk items

Bulk pick-up is available once a month. Furniture and other items may be disposed of by contacting Waste Connections (636) 321-2100. Please **DO NOT** put bulky items out before trash collection day or prior to contacting Waste Connections.

Street Sweeping

Please be advised, street sweeping days have been changed to the first Tuesday and Wednesday of the Month from April-November. Please obey the **NO PARKING** on street sweeping day signs that are posting on each street. Trash, recycling and yard waste collection days have **NOT CHANGED**.

Reminder

As we strive to keep our city Clean & Beautiful, trash containers should be placed curbside after 6:00 p.m. prior to the collection day and must be removed before 8 p.m. the day of collection. Failure to comply with the above could result in the resident receiving a summons to appear in court. Please Do Not allow your dog to defecate on your neighbor's yard.

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 Works Supervisor

Andre Owens

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Please see attached letter from Chief Buchannan about Emergency Preparedness.

**Police Department Contact Info for registering
for
Vacation Checks
314-499-6090**

NCPC contact information, Emergency 911, Non-Emergency Dispatch: 314-428-6868,

NCPC Headquarters: 314-499-6090, and NCPC Chief's Office: 314-499-6099.

**Serving: Beverly Hills, Dellwood, Flordell Hills, Hanley Hills, Pine Lawn, Uplands Park, Velda Village Hills, Vinita Park,
Wellston.**

CITY HALL NEWS

Payments to City Hall

The forms of payments to the City of Vinita Park must be **cash, money orders, credit/debit card, or a business check. No personal checks will be accepted for payment.** We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Low Income, Elderly, and Disabled Customer Utility Programs offered by Community Organizations and Utility Companies

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) ▪ 314-863-0015

- Helps to pay for gas in the wintertime and electric in the summer.
- Both tenants and homeowners can apply.
- Available through local community agencies.
- <http://www.caastlc.org/programs-page/energy-services/>

CAASTLC Home Weatherization ▪ 314-863-0015

- Seals air drafts, install insulation, ensure furnace, and water heater are running efficiently.
- Income Requirements are based off the Federal Eligibility Guidelines which is included in the application.
- Both tenants and homeowners can apply.
- Utilities Assistance for heating and cooling is also available.
- <http://www.caastlc.org/programs-page/>

MSD Customer Assistance Program ▪ 866-281-5737

- 50% rate reduction to qualified low-income, elderly, and disabled customers.
- Homeowners under the age of 62 must have liquid assets and real estate valued at less than \$10,000 including residence and automobiles.
- Must own and/or reside as tenant in property that receives rate reduction
- <https://www.stlmsd.com/customer-service/rate-information/customer-assistance-program>

Non-Emergency Dispatch

If there are any non-emergencies which require a police officer, please contact dispatch at 314-428-6868.

Consolidated Municipal Courts – City of St. Ann

For Municipal Court matters, please call 314-428-6811.

Currently Serving: Beverly Hills, Vinita Park, Wellston

Customer Utility Programs offered by Community Organizations and Utility Companies for all Residents

Ameren Upgrade Rebates ▪ 800-552-7583

- Get cash back for updating heating and cooling systems
- <https://www.ameren.com/missouri/energy-efficiency/residential>

Spire High Efficiency Rebate Program ▪ 800-887-4173

- Residential Customers can receive rebate checks on energy-efficient HVAC, integrated systems, and programmable thermostats.
- Work must be performed by a licensed HVAC or plumbing contractor
- <https://www.spireenergy.com/rebates-offers-home>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 01 – Street Sweeping / Municipal Court 10:00am / Consolidated Municipal Court City of St. Ann
- October 02 – Trash & Recycle Pick-up
- October 03 – 1st Friday with Alderman Richard Fairley 6:00pm City Hall Board Room
- October 06 – Yard Waste Pick-up
- October 07 – Street Sweeping
- October 9 – Trash & Yard Waste Pick-up
- October 13 – Indigenous People Day – Columbus Day/Yard Waste Pick-up
- October 15 – Housing Court 9:30am / Municipal Court 10:00am Consolidated Municipal Court City of St. Ann
- October 16 – Trash & Yard Waste Pick-up / Bosses Day
- October 20 – Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:30pm / Yard Waste Pick-up
- October 23 – Trash & Yard Waste Pick-up
- October 24 – United Nation Day
- October 27 – Yard Waste Pick-up
- October 28 – Neighborhood Watch Meeting 6:00pm Vinita Park
- October 30 – Trash & Yard Waste Pick-up
- October 31 – Halloween Event 5-7pm
- November 01 – All Saints Day
- November 02 – Daylight Saving Time Ends / All Souls Day
- November 03 – Yard Waste Pick-up
- November 04 – Election Day / Street Sweeping
- November 05 – Street Sweeping / Municipal Court 10:00am / Consolidated Municipal Courts City of St. Ann
- November 06 – Trash & Recycle Pick-up
- November 07 – 1st Friday with Alderman Richard Fairley 6:00pm City Hall Board Room
- November 10 – Yard Waste Pick-up
- November 11 – Veteran’s Day
- November 13 – Trash & Recycle Pick-up
- November 17 – Yard Waste Pick up / Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:30pm
- November 19 – International Men’s Day / Housing Court 9:30am / Municipal Court 10:00am/Consolidated Municipal Courts City of St. Ann
- November 20 – Trash & Recycle Pick-up
- November 24– Yard Waste Pick-up
- November 27 – Thanksgiving Day / CITY HALL CLOSED / Trash & Recycle Pick-up
- November 28 – CITY HALL CLOSED
- December 01 – Yard Waste Pick-up
- December 03 – Municipal Court 10:00am / Consolidated Municipal Courts City of St. Ann
- December 04 – Trash & Recycle Pick-up
- December 05 – 1st Friday with Alderman Richard Fairley, 6:00pm City Hall Board Room
- December 07 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- December 08 – Yard Waste Pick-up
- December 11 – Business Watch 11am-1pm Vinita Park / Trash & Recycle Pick-up
- December 12 – Holiday Lighting Contest Deadline
- December 13 – Breakfast With Santa / Santa Comes to Town
- December 15 – Yard Waste Pick-up / Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:30pm

- December 17 – Housing Court 9:30am / Municipal Court 10:00am / Consolidated Municipal Courts City of St. Ann
- December 18 – Trash & Recycle Pick-up
- December 21 – Winter Begins
- December 22 – Yard Waste Pick-up
- December 24 – Christmas Eve
- December 25- Christmas Day / CITY HALL CLOSED
- December 26 – Trash & Recycle Pick-up / Kwanza begins
- December 29 – Yard Waste Pick-up
- December 31 – New Years Eve



To the Citizens of Vinita Park,

As your Chief of Police, I want to take a moment to speak directly to you about something that affects us all—**preparation for natural disasters.**

Whether it's tornadoes, floods, wildfires, or earthquakes, disasters can strike without warning. How we prepare today can make all the difference tomorrow. My goal is to ensure every family in our community is safe, informed, and ready to act when it matters most.

Here's what you can do right now to be ready:

1. Create a Family Emergency Plan

- Know **where to go and how to communicate** if you're separated.
- Identify a safe meeting spot both near your home and outside your neighborhood.
- Make sure **everyone, including children**, knows how to call 911 and who to contact in an emergency.
- Practice your plan regularly—make it a game for the kids to help them understand and remember.

2. Build a "Go Bag"

Every household should have a **Go Bag**—a small emergency kit that you can grab quickly. It should include:

- Bottled water (at least 3 days' supply)
- Non-perishable food and snacks
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Phone charger (and power bank)
- Extra clothes and sturdy shoes
- Copies of important documents (IDs, insurance, etc.)
- Any needed medications
- A list of emergency contacts
- Small toys or comfort items for children

**Vinita Park – Wellston – Pine Lawn – Dellwood
Beverly Hills – Velda Village Hills – Uplands Park – Hanley Hills – Flordell Hills – Velda City
8027 Page Avenue, Vinita Park, MO 63130**

**Chief of Police
John Buchannan**





3. Stay Informed

- Sign up for **local alerts** and warnings via text, email, or apps. Visit [<https://member.everbridge.net/337829242601605/login>] to register.
- Follow official channels on social media, including our police department page, for real-time updates and instructions.
- Keep a battery-powered or hand-crank radio in case of power outages.

4. Take a Community Safety Class

Knowledge is power. I encourage all residents to consider taking:

- **First Aid and CPR training** (offered by the Red Cross or local health centers)
- **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes**
- **Basic disaster preparedness workshops**, often hosted by local fire departments or emergency services.

These programs teach life-saving skills and help you stay calm and capable during high-stress situations.

Let's Involve the Kids

Children can feel helpless or scared in an emergency. You can ease that fear by:

- Talking to them in simple, honest language about disasters.
- Creating a family emergency checklist **with pictures** for young children.
- Practicing your emergency plan like a fire drill—make it fun, but informative.

In times of crisis, our strength lies in preparation and unity. As your Chief, I'm proud of how this community comes together in the face of adversity. Let's continue that tradition by making safety and preparedness a priority in every household.

If you have questions or need help getting started, don't hesitate to reach out to the police department. We are here to serve you—not just in emergencies, but in helping you prevent them.

Stay safe, stay prepared,

*Vinita Park – Wellston – Pine Lawn – Dellwood
Beverly Hills – Velda Village Hills – Uplands Park – Hanley Hills – Flordell Hills – Velda City*
8027 Page Avenue, Vinita Park, MO 63130

Chief of Police
John Buchannan





NORTH COUNTY POLICE COOPERATIVE

Chief John Buchanan
North County Police Cooperative

Vinita Park – Wellston – Pine Lawn – Dellwood
Beverly Hills – Velda Village Hills – Uplands Park – Hanley Hills – Flordell Hills – Velda City
8027 Page Avenue, Vinita Park, MO 63130
Chief of Police
John Buchanan

