

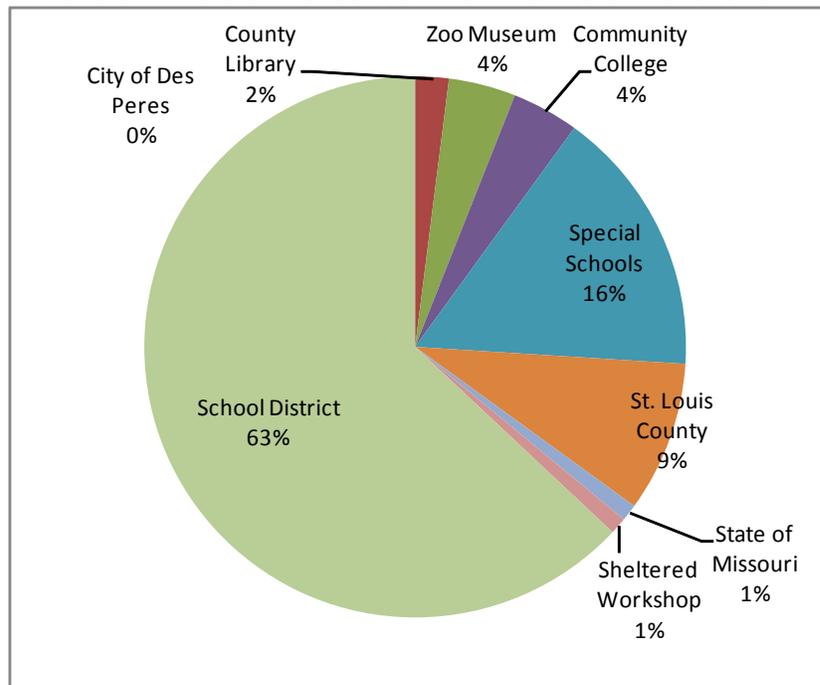


# Winter 2010 Newsletter

## In this Issue

- Page 1:**  
Real Estate Tax Distribution  
Snow Removal Tips
- Page 2:**  
Letter from Mayor Lahr
- Page 3:**  
Boards and Commissions
- Page 4:**  
2010 Budget
- Page 5:**  
Legislation  
Municipal Election Notice
- Page 6:**  
Trash Schedule  
Municipal Calendar
- Page 7:**  
Letter from Chief Krumm
- Page 8:**  
Des Peres Directory

## 2009 Real Estate Tax Distribution



For the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the City of Des Peres is not levying a municipal property tax representing an average savings of \$300.00 per year per household and reduction of revenues of over \$1,000,000 per year to the city.

## Snow Removal Tips

The Department of Public Works would like to educate residents about removing snow and have prepared the following tips for you to follow:

- **Keep your car off the street.** Park in your garage or driveway to allow more efficient salting and plowing of the street.
- **Do not shovel snow from your driveway into the street.** Such unnatural accumulations can be a hazard to motorists.
- **Do not pile snow too high in front of your mailbox.** Mail cannot be delivered if the pile is too high or extends too far into the road.
- **Try to stay off streets during the periods of heaviest snowfall.** Accidents are more likely when visibility is reduced, pavements are slippery, or salting operations are underway.

For more information on snow removal, please contact the Department of Public Works at (314) 835-6130.

## LETTER FROM MAYOR RICK LAHR

As we bring 2009 to a conclusion, it is common to look back and reflect on the year. For Des Peres government, it was a most interesting year.

In February, after a regional search and consideration of many excellent candidates, the Board of Aldermen and I appointed a new Director of Public Safety, Chief Keith Krumm, a 31 year veteran of our department. We have every confidence that Chief Krumm and his officers will continue the fine traditions of the Des Peres Department of Public Safety in maintaining a very safe community.

This year we achieved some significant financial success. Standard & Poor's has upgraded our municipal bonds to a AAA rating—the highest rating possible. We are only one of four cities in the state of Missouri with a AAA rating. This enabled us to refinance a portion of our 2002 bonds issues for construction of The Lodge, resulting in a savings of \$437,208 over the remaining life of those bonds. We anticipate a similar refinancing of some general obligation bonds in 2010 which should net us another \$200,000+ in long term savings.

In 2009, the city again has levied a \$0.00 city property tax representing the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that Des Peres has not levied a local property tax, which saves the average homeowner about \$300.00 per year! Collectively, the savings is around \$1,000,000. The 2010 budget assumes continuation of

that same \$0.00 tax rate. This is made possible due in large part to a strong business community and the resulting sales tax revenues.

The Des Peres Staff, Board of Aldermen and I have just completed work on our 2010 Budget. Everyone is aware of the economic recession and its impact on consumer spending and tax revenues. I am happy to report that, while times are tight, we are better positioned than most cities in our area to weather the storm without any major service or staff reductions. Our 2010 Budget totals \$17,041,000 representing an increase of less than 1.0% over 2009. It balances, but only barely, with a proposed surplus of \$70,000 which is less than one half of one percent of the budget.

One of the major accomplishments of 2009 was the complete redesign of the city web page, which took considerable time and effort by the staff. Please visit our website at [www.desperesmo.org](http://www.desperesmo.org). The webpage is a project that is never finished and we continue to look for ways to improve this method of communication with our citizens. Late in the year we initiated a similar project to update our city newsletter—again, a work in progress, and suggestions are welcome.

Major projects were completed in 2009 which included renovation of the lake in Des Peres Park. This project was done in financial and collaborative partnership between the City, Edward Jones and the

County Municipal Park Grant Commission in order to provide a lake with better aesthetics, better water quality and fish habitat. The lake also provides an outdoor educational opportunity for the younger citizens in the community as well as meets the storm water detention needs of Edward Jones. We were also able to secure 80% grants this past year to allow us to replace three bridges—Brookbend (2010), Firethorn (2011) and Highland (2012).

From a development perspective, the Restaurant Village at West County Center was completed with Bravo and McCormick & Schmicks opening earlier this year and Prime Bar scheduled to open in December. The mall also opened Hanley's Tap & Grille. Tallbrook has been substantially completed and is seeking tenants. Des Peres Corners, anchored by the new Schnucks, was completed. The store seems to be well received in the community and I have since nicknamed it "The Disney World of Grocery Stores."

As always, I want to encourage residents to SHOP DES PERES FIRST this holiday season and throughout the year. Sales tax is our primary revenue source and strong retail sales allow us to provide a high quality of municipal services with a low tax burden on our residents.

On behalf of Des Peres Staff and the Board of Aldermen, I want to wish all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,  
Rick

“Thanks” to all of the staff, elected officials, citizens of the community and citizen volunteers who serve on the Boards and Commissions.

#### **Audit and Finance**

Mike Gallagher, Richard Reichle, Judy Mundle, Marc Hamilton, Kathleen Gmelich (Aldermanic Representative)

#### **Board of Adjustment**

Patrick Walsh, Joseph Mueller, Thomas Greenman, Mark Bahn, Ray Griesedieck, Marilyn Chapman (Alternate Member), Larry Quick (Alternate Member), John Pound (Aldermanic Representative)

#### **Parks and Recreation**

Craig Ragland, Sharon Godwin, Tim Frailey, Julie Killeen, Louis Monnig, Jr., Margaret Amend, Kaye Huch, John Gnagi, Tina Revling, James Doering (Aldermanic Representative)

#### **Planning and Zoning**

Anna Ahrens, Paul Ruzicka, Andy Wolf, Mark Ahrens, James Kennedy, John Oeltjen, Theresa Gwin, Barbara Pohle, Kenneth McKamely, John Borbonus, Cynthia Kardesch, Anthony Pawloski, Paul Fingerhut (Aldermanic Representative)

#### **Public Safety**

Jerry Bommarito, Joanne Sullivan, Larry Beermann, Robert Ashcraft, Jim Kleinschmidt (Aldermanic Representative)

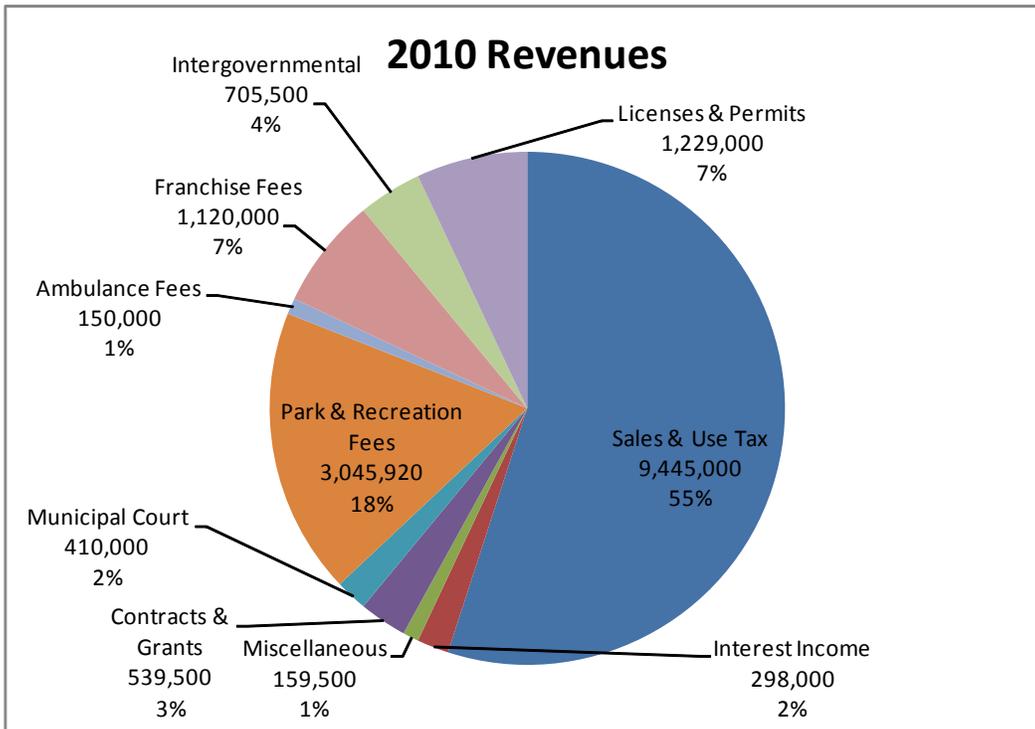
Looking forward to 2010, what do we see? Economists differ on the pace of the recovery from the economic downturn. Consequently, we have assumed no growth in sales tax in our budget other than new revenues generated by a full year of stores in Restaurant Village and Schnucks. 2010 also represents the final year of our five year contract with IESI—our trash hauler—and by all accounts they have done an excellent job and we will be looking for ways to retain them as our hauler at a reasonable cost. From a land use perspective, the two most visible projects on the horizon are redevelopment of Des Peres Centre (the old Schnucks site) and the proposed Dierberg Store across the street. The Planning and Zoning Commission has completed its review of the redevelopment of Des Peres Centre with a recommendation for approval and I expect the Board of Aldermen will have voted on this project before year-end. The Dierberg petition is still in the Planning and Zoning review process and I would not expect the board to consider that project until after the end of the year.

Rick

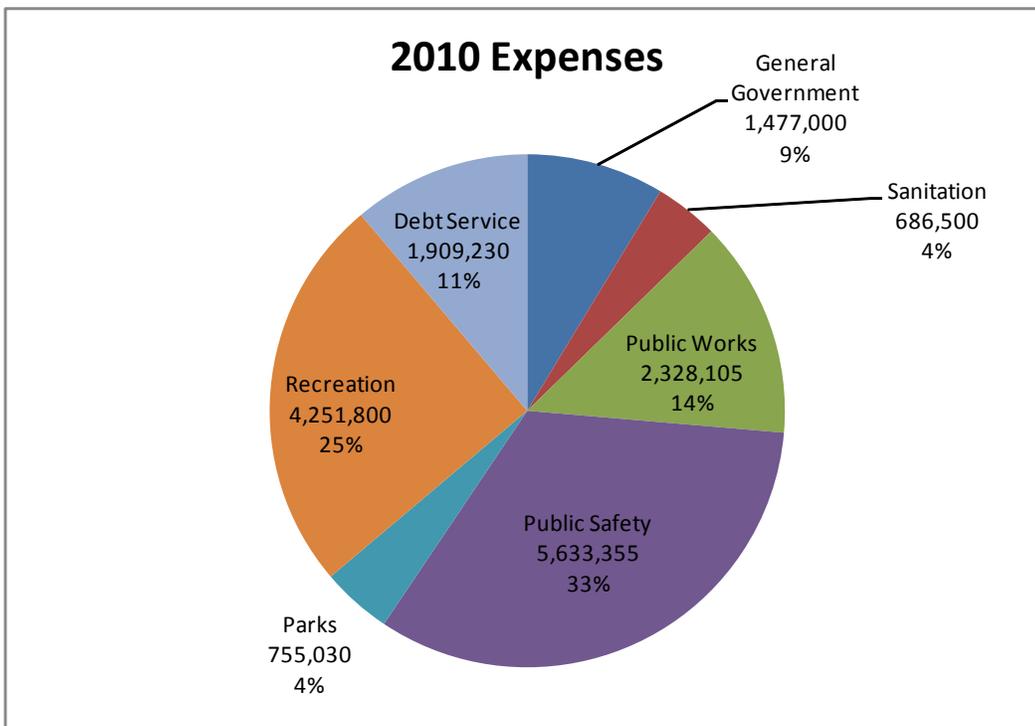
## **CORO Fellows Program**

The City of Des Peres recently participated in the Coro Fellows Program. The Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs is a full-time, nine month, graduate-level experiential leadership training program that prepares diverse, intelligent and committed individuals for effective and ethical leadership in the public affairs arena. Coro Fellows learn to see the big picture—the community as a whole—and appreciate the varying perspectives that characterize our cities, states, and nation. Through group interviews, seminars, and field placements in the non-profit, government, organized labor, electoral politics, and business sectors they develop strategies for consensus-building, translating their ideals into action, and improving their own communities and beyond. Caitlin Fleming worked as a Coro Fellow for a month in Des Peres. During her time at Des Peres, Caitlin worked to develop an online business directory and researched housing policies. The online business directory can be found on the city’s website at [www.desperemo.org](http://www.desperemo.org).

## 2010 BUDGET



The economic downturn has impacted all of us individually, at work, and where we live. The 2010 Budget reflects the impact of that economic downturn. Fortunately, Des Peres is positioned better than most cities to weather the recession due to a strong business community, the new Schnucks and Restaurant Village at West County Center and prudent fiscal planning.



The 2010 Budget is balanced across all funds with revenues exceeding planned expenditures by less than \$70,000. Revenues are projected to decrease by 1.0% and 2010 expenses are only 1.0% higher than 2009. Summaries of the budget are available on-line at [www.desperesmo.org](http://www.desperesmo.org) or are available at City Hall, 12325 Manchester Road, Des Peres, Missouri 63131.

**THE CITY OF DES PERES APPROVED  
THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES**

**2515** Ordinance Amending Section 6-4 In-Fill Housing Regulations of Chapter 6. Buildings and Building Regulations Relating to Street Improvement Requirements (09-28-2009)

**2516** Ordinance Extending a Special Use Permit for Operations of a Hospital and Attendant Medical Office Buildings at 2345 Dougherty Ferry Road (Des Peres Hospital) (09-28-2009)

**2517** Ordinance Amending Section 405.230 of Appendix C. Zoning Regulations Relating to Phase II Storm Water Regulations Adopted by the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (10-12-2009)

**2517-A** Ordinance Authorizing a Construction Contract with FICON, Inc. for Renovations to the Public Safety Building (10-26-2009)

**2518** Ordinance Appointing Gilmore & Bell as Special Bond Counsel for Preparation of Documents Required for Partial Refinancing of Series 2005 General Obligation Bonds (10-26-2009)

**2519** Ordinance Approving an Amended Master Development Plan for Des Peres Pointe to Allow Construction of a Drive-Through for the Restaurant known as St. Louis Bread Company located at 13275 Manchester Road (11-09-2009)

**NOTICE OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION  
APRIL 6, 2010**

A Municipal election will be held on April 6, 2010. The following offices will appear on the ballot for a two year term:

- Mayor
- Alderman Ward 1
- Alderman Ward 2
- Alderman Ward 3

Candidates for the April 6, 2010 Municipal Election must file, in person, a Certificate of Candidacy with the City Clerk of the City of Des Peres at 12325 Manchester Road, Des Peres, Missouri 63131.

Certificates of Candidacy will be available through the Office of the City Clerk as early as 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday, December 15, 2009. Candidates' names will appear on the ballot in the order they are received and certified. The closing date is 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 19, 2010.

Candidates for office shall meet all age and residency requirements established by law and may not be delinquent on any local taxes, licenses or fees at time of filing. For more information on statutory qualifications or filing procedures, please contact Linda Schulte at [lschulte@desperesmo.org](mailto:lschulte@desperesmo.org) or (314) 835-6112.

**MAYOR:**

Rick Lahr  
[rlahr@desperesmo.org](mailto:rlahr@desperesmo.org)  
(314) 835-6120 (VM)

**ALDERMEN:**

**WARD I:**

John Pound  
[jpound@desperesmo.org](mailto:jpound@desperesmo.org)  
(314) 835-6121 (VM)

Kathleen Gmelich  
[kgmelich@desperesmo.org](mailto:kgmelich@desperesmo.org)  
(314) 835-6122 (VM)

**WARD II:**

Paul Raczekiewicz  
[praczekiewicz@desperesmo.org](mailto:praczekiewicz@desperesmo.org)  
(314) 835-6123 (VM)

Jim Kleinschmidt  
[jkleinschmidt@desperesmo.org](mailto:jkleinschmidt@desperesmo.org)  
(314) 835-6124 (VM)

**WARD III:**

James Doering  
[jdoering@desperesmo.org](mailto:jdoering@desperesmo.org)  
(314) 835-6125 (VM)

Paul Fingerhut  
[pfingerhut@desperesmo.org](mailto:pfingerhut@desperesmo.org)  
(314) 835-6126 (VM)

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR:**

Douglas Harms  
[dharms@desperesmo.org](mailto:dharms@desperesmo.org)  
(314) 835-6110

Information for candidates on filing for the April 6, 2010 election can be found on the City Clerk's webpage at [www.desperesmo.org](http://www.desperesmo.org).

## HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULES

The Christmas and New Year's Holiday Trash Schedule:

- Monday, December 21 and Monday, December 28-Normal Yard Waste, Trash, Recycling Pick-Up
- Tuesday, December 22 and Tuesday, December 29-Normal Trash and Recycling Pick-Up
- Wednesday, December 23 and Wednesday, December 30-Normal Trash and Recycling Pick-Up
- Thursday, December 24 and Thursday, December 31-Normal Trash and Recycling Pick-Up
- Friday, December 25 and Friday, January 1-No Trash or Recycling Pick-Up
- Saturday, December 26 and Saturday, January 2-Friday's Trash and Recycling Pick-Up

Martin Luther King Day on Monday, January 18, 2010 will not affect the trash schedule.

Christmas tree recycling will be available again free this year to RESIDENTS ONLY. All trees and roping must have all ornaments, lights and other decorations removed. No cutting or bundling is required. Please do not place trees in plastic bags. Trees collected by the city will be run through a chipper to create mulch which will be used in local parks this spring. Pick up dates for residents who live east of I-270 will be December 28–29. Pick up dates for residents who live west of I-270 will be January 4–5. Dates may be extended due to inclement weather. IESI will also collect trees on Mondays during January for recycling.

## MUNICIPAL CALENDAR

### January:

- 1<sup>st</sup> City Hall Closed-New Years Day
- 4<sup>th</sup> Public Safety Commission , 7:00 P.M.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Municipal Court, 7:00 P.M.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Parks and Recreation Commission, 7:00 P.M.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 P.M.
- 18<sup>th</sup> City Hall Closed-Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Board of Adjustment, 6:30 P.M.

### February:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Public Safety Commission, 7:00 P.M.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Municipal Court, 7:00 P.M.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Parks and Recreation Commission, 7:00 P.M.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 P.M.
- 15<sup>th</sup> City Hall Closed-Presidents Day
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Board of Adjustment, 6:30 P.M.

### March:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Public Safety Commission, 7:00 P.M.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Municipal Court, 7:00 P.M.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Parks and Recreation Commission, 7:00 P.M.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 P.M.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Board of Adjustment, 6:30 P.M.

### Election Filing Information

Candidate filing for the April 6, 2010 election will begin at 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 and will close at 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 19, 2010. During the filing period City Hall will maintain regular operating hours of Monday–Friday 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. City Hall will be closed for the following holiday observances:

- December 24-Noon–4:30 P.M.
- December 25-All day
- December 31-Noon–4:30 P.M.
- January 1-All day
- January 18-All day (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

Positions on the ballot in 2010 include the office of Mayor as well as for Aldermen in all three wards. For more information on statutory qualifications or filing procedures, please contact Linda Schulte, City Clerk at [lschulte@desperesmo.org](mailto:lschulte@desperesmo.org) or at (314) 835-6112.

Meeting times, locations and agendas can be found on the website at [www.desperesmo.org](http://www.desperesmo.org)

## LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

## CHIEF KEITH KRUMM

The following simple tips when put into practice can reduce the chance for you to become a crime victim. Closely guard your personal effects. Criminals are constantly surveying the environment for an opportunity to commit crimes. Thieves will look for a running vehicle, an unsuspecting shopper who leaves her purse in the shopping cart, or an individual who leaves his or her packages in the backseat of a vehicle.

Criminal opportunity is accomplished by a lack of witnesses or by distracting the victim. The probability of being detected influences a criminal's decision to commit a crime. Increasing witness potential is one way to reduce criminal opportunity, but being more observant and aware of surroundings is another proactive method of ensuring a safe and secure shopping season.

The following are methods you can use to reduce your chance of becoming a victim to criminal activity:

- **Be alert and aware.** Knowing who is near is the first step to being secure. If someone makes you feel uncomfortable, move in the direction of witnesses. Slow down; hurrying causes a narrow focus and reduction in alertness to one's surroundings.
- **Display confidence.** Walk with purpose, scan the area around you and make casual eye contact with others to display confidence.
- **Trust your instincts.** If you have an intuitive feeling something is wrong, trust your instincts. React immediately and take action to reduce your risk. Many individuals suppress these feelings because they fear their response will offend someone. React to your instincts and don't worry about someone else's feelings. If someone approaches you and you feel uncomfortable, ask for assistance.
- **Ask for help.** If you feel vulnerable, ask security or store personnel to escort you to your car. This is often another fear individuals have, that they may inconvenience someone for something that did not exist.
- **Closely guard your personal effects.** Shoppers should always closely guard their personal items.
- **Travel on populated, well-lit streets.** Travel with someone else if possible. Traveling in groups of two or more significantly reduces your chances of becoming a victim of crime.
- **Plan purchases in advance and carry only the amount of cash necessary to make the purchases.** If you must carry a large sum of money, divide the cash between your purse, wallet, pockets or other areas.
- **Carry your purse close to your body.** Place one end of the purse in the palm of your hand and the other in the bend of the elbow. Never carry a purse by the handle or wrap the strap around your body.
- **If you are carrying a wallet, carry it in the breast pocket of your jacket or in your side pants pocket.** The rear pants pocket is one of the easiest to pick.
- **Be suspicious.** Watch for individuals requesting help to read labels, ask for directions or any other distraction method to avert your attention.

Especially during the holiday shopping season, residents are reminded of the importance of personal safety and security. Seasonal crime trends rise due to increased numbers of shoppers and increased opportunities for criminals.

Respectfully,  
Chief Keith Krumm

*City Of*  
**Des Peres**

12325 Manchester Rd.  
Des Peres, MO 63131

[www.desperesmo.org](http://www.desperesmo.org)

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City Hall	(314) 835-6100	The Lodge	(314) 835-6150
City Hall Fax	(314) 835-6101	Des Peres License Bureau	(314) 909-1514
Public Safety	(314) 835-6200	Des Peres Post Office	(314) 966-3437
City Clerk	(314) 835-6112	Des Peres Hospital	(314) 821-5850
Public Works	(314) 835-6130	IESI (Trash Service)	(636) 321-2100
Municipal Court	(314) 835-6118	City Web Site	<a href="http://www.desperesmo.org">www.desperesmo.org</a>