



## July - August 2010 Newsletter

### Nixle

## In This Issue

#### **Page 1:**

Nixle  
The Lodge Memberships

#### **Page 2:**

Letter from Mayor Lahr

#### **Page 3:**

Legislation

#### **Page 4:**

Municipal Code

#### **Page 5:**

Municipal Calendar

#### **Page 6:**

Des Peres Directory

The Des Peres Department of Public Safety has begun utilizing a new service to access important, valuable community information while using the latest technology.

Public Safety will create and publish messages through the Nixle Community Information Service. Nixle will then deliver this information to you instantly by cell phone, text message and/or email. Notifications can also be accessed online on Nixle's web site at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com).

This service is reliable and free to use. You are able to choose what information you want and whether you want it sent to your cell phone or email.

Please register now at the company's main website at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com).

The Public Safety Department also asks you to forward this information to five of your neighbors or friends in the community and encourage them to also register to Nixle. New communication forms continue to evolve and this service will allow Public Safety to keep residents informed in the most convenient, reliable ways possible.

If you have any questions in regard to this new system, please call Community Services Officer Brandon Elzinga at (314) 835-6286 or email at [relzinga@desperesmo.org](mailto:relzinga@desperesmo.org).

## Resident Summer Memberships

As a resident of Des Peres, you are eligible for summer memberships at The Lodge! Summer memberships, only available to Des Peres residents, are valid now through Labor Day (September 6, 2010). Summer memberships give you all the same benefits of a normal Lodge membership. As a member, you will receive access to the entire facility and receive the lowest prices on classes and room rentals. Special college student memberships are also available. Visit [www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com](http://www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com) for more information and rates.

Please contact The Lodge at (314) 835-6150 for information on the Summer Membership Programs.

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

**LETTER FROM  
MAYOR RICK LAHR**

Life is full of surprises, some good and some not so good. We were shocked and saddened to have found that the former Director of Finance violated our confidence and the public trust by misappropriation of city funds. The employee has been terminated and we immediately informed and cooperated with the appropriate authorities and the matter is in their hands at the time of this writing.

We are confident that we have uncovered all improprieties and have also taken the necessary steps to see to it that every penny is restored to the city's accounts. The city should not end up suffering a financial loss nor will it affect the overall financial health of the community or its credit rating.

The most important thing is that we learn from these events and take appropriate actions to ensure that similar events cannot occur in the future.

The Board of Aldermen, the City Administrator and I take our fiduciary responsibilities very seriously in safeguarding and using your resources effectively. The city takes a fairly conservative approach to our finances and we strive for excellence and transparency in financial reporting. It is important that the problem was uncovered internally as a part of routine preparation for the annual audit. We undergo a complete audit by an independent accounting firm every year and have received satisfactory

results without exception. We change auditors periodically to have a new set of eyes looking at our records and internal controls. Despite those best practices, our internal controls failed in this instance. I want to assure the taxpayers we have sought advice from our banks and independent auditors and have taken all appropriate steps to strengthen our internal controls.

On a happier note, Des Peres' financial position remains strong. We have just received the annual audit prepared by RubinBrown for the year ending December 31, 2009 and we continue to enjoy a strong and enviable financial position in the metropolitan area. Despite the difficult economic times, the city ended 2009 with an operating surplus of nearly \$600,000. During 2009, revenues were up only 1.1% due primarily to grants received but expenses were cut -6.5% from 2008. Sales tax, which is the lifeblood of local government financing in Missouri, was down -8.8% county wide but down only -0.1% in Des Peres thanks in large part to the new Restaurant Village at West County Center. A strong sales tax base is what allows Des Peres to offer a high quality of residential services with a low residential tax burden.

Help yourself...SHOP DES PERES FIRST!

We continue our summer schedule of entertainment for residents. Hope to see you at the remaining Summer Concerts in Des Peres Park!

Best wishes,  
Rick

The City has contracted with IESI of Missouri for residential trash collection, curbside recycling, yard waste and bulky item pick up services since January 2005. That contract is due to expire at the end of this year. Our experience with IESI over the past seven years has been outstanding when measured by industry standards. On an annual basis, IESI has picked up trash from 3,125 households representing 162,500 pick ups per year for trash and a similar number for recycling. That represents 325,000 collections per calendar year. Our Department of Public Works is responsible for management of the trash contract and tracks citizen complaints about missed pick ups. During the past 12 months, the department received only 269 complaints. Due to their outstanding performance which is superior compared to our experience with other haulers in the metro area in the years before IESI had Des Peres' contract, the city is negotiating a contract extension with IESI for another 3 year period in lieu of bidding. We have surveyed recent bids in other communities and are confident that the city can negotiate a fair and acceptable rate.

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

**2535** Grants a Permit for the Operation of a Commercial Parking Lot in a Residential District on Certain Property Located South of Manchester Road, East of Lindemann and West of Tallie (Dierbergs Des Peres)

**2536** Approves a Master Development Plan for a 6.43 Acre Tract of Land to be Known as Dierbergs Des Peres; Vacating Certain Property and Accepting Dedication of Certain Land

**2537** Grants a Conditional Use Permit to Dierberg Markets Inc. for Operation of a Grocery Supermarket

**2538** Amends Chapter 18 of the Municipal Code Relating to Installation/Operation of Gates Erected at the Entrance to Lots For Subdivisions

**2539** Vacates a 6 footwide Sidewalk Easement Located Within Lot 6 of Manhattan Place Subdivision and Amends Ordinance 2441 Requiring Construction of a Sidewalk Thereon

**2540** Amends Chapter 14 Motor Vehicles and Traffic of the Municipal Code Relating to Commercial Traffic on Through Streets and Weight Limits on Bridges

**2541** Amends Ordinance 2525 to Adopt a Revised Coordinated Master Development Plan for Lot 4 (Chick-Fil-A) Schnucks Des Peres Subdivision

### Just a Reminder...

The Board of Aldermen have adopted a summer meeting schedule which cancels the July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, pursuant to call of the Mayor to handle emergency business of the City.

The Municipal Code can be found online under Government Information on the website at:  
[www.desperesmo.org](http://www.desperesmo.org)

**MAYOR:**

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**ALDERMEN:**

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**CITY ADMINISTRATOR:**

Douglas Harms  
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(314) 835-6110

## MUNICIPAL CODE

The Des Peres Municipal Code provides standards for the exterior maintenance of properties. When a property maintenance violation is found, the City will send written notification to the property owner. The written notification describes the violation, references the ordinance section, and gives a prescribed time for remediation. A reinspection is conducted when the prescribed time expires and if it is found that the property violations still exist, a “Final Notification”

letter is sent to the property owner prescribing a time to repair the cited items. When that time expires, a final reinspection is conducted. If the property maintenance violations still exist the matter is then forwarded to the City’s Prosecuting Attorney and a court date is set. Once a court date is set, appearance in court is mandatory.

Typically, residents are unaware of property violations and corrections are often made before the first

reinspection. We strive to work with our residents as best as possible regarding realistic time frames for compliance and encourage you to contact the Public Works Department at (314) 835-6130 if you receive a property violation notice. This will provide us an opportunity to discuss the violation, the referenced ordinance sections, and the steps for remediation.

### MOSQUITO CONTROL

The City of Des Peres contracts with the St. Louis County Health Department for mosquito control. Under state regulations, fogging cannot be done on an indiscriminate basis, but may be done based on need as demonstrated by field trapping of insects and citizen complaints of mosquito activity.

- The Department of Health will be spraying in Des Peres on Thursday evenings, now through October as needed.

Larviciding routes for mosquito breeding sites have been updated for the 2010 season; these sites are monitored on an on-going basis throughout the season. Effort is concentrated on pretreatment-larva control. Spraying for adult mosquitoes is on a complaint basis only. Source reduction is encouraged; homeowners and businesses can help by eliminating breeding sites on their property. If you need fogging services in your neighborhood, please contact County Health at (314) 727-3097 or the Department of Public Works at (314) 835-6130.

### THE LODGE OUTDOOR POOL

Summer is here and with that brings the outdoor pool season! The outdoor pool at The Lodge will be open until Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. Our prestigious staff at The Lodge has worked in great lengths to provide you with a variety of opportunities to get out and enjoy our spectacular outdoor pool this season. Just a few of the highlights include:

- July 17<sup>th</sup>–Dive-In Movie-Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs
- Throughout the summer–Outdoor Swimming Lessons
- Throughout the summer–Aqua Zumba
- Now through August 13<sup>th</sup>–River Walking-Free for Members!
- September 7<sup>th</sup>–Dog Days of Summer

\*For more information on the above programs, please visit [www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com](http://www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com) or call (314) 835-6150.

**MUNICIPAL CALENDAR**

The Board of Aldermen Meeting Schedule at Des Peres City Hall, 12325 Manchester Road:

- Monday, July 26, 7:00 P.M.
- Monday, August 9, 7:00 P.M.
- Monday, August 23, 7:00 P.M.

The Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting Schedule at Des Peres City Hall, 12325 Manchester Road:

- Wednesday, July 14, 7:00 P.M.
- Wednesday, August 11, 7:00 P.M.

The Board of Adjustment Meeting Schedule at Des Peres City Hall, 12325 Manchester Road:

- Wednesday, July 28, 6:30 P.M.
- Wednesday, August 25, 6:30 P.M.

The Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule at The Lodge, 1050 Des Peres Road:

- Thursday, July 1, 7:00 P.M.
- Thursday, August 5, 7:00 P.M.

The Public Safety Commission Meeting Schedule at Public Safety Department, 1000 N. Ballas:

- Tuesday, July 6, 7:00 P.M.
- Monday, August 2, 7:00 P.M.

The Municipal Court Schedule at Des Peres City Hall, 12325 Manchester Road:

- Tuesday, July 6, 6:30 P.M.
- Monday, August 2, 6:30 P.M.

**PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION**

The Des Peres Department of Public Safety has teamed up with Des Peres Hospital to offer magnetic pouches in order for important medical information and emergency contacts can be posted on your refrigerator. If you have a medical emergency, emergency medical providers must be able to gather a large amount of information quickly in order to properly treat the patient. Oftentimes, one provider will treat the patient while another provider tries to obtain an accurate medical history from either the patient or a family member. You or your family can help reduce the amount of time needed to gather this history by having some information compiled before an emergency happens. The cards included with the pouches list the main information that emergency responders would require. Also, if something would happen to your residence while you are not at home, (a fire, storm damage, etc.) the emergency contact information will help the Public Safety Department contact you with the information. These magnetic pouches are free to Des Peres residents and can be obtained by stopping by the Des Peres Department of Public Safety.

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> |