



Winter 2011 Newsletter

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Public Safety Department News

The Des Peres Department of Public Safety is proud to announce that all dispatching related to Fire and Emergency Medical Services will be contracted through Central County E-911 Dispatch Center. The adoption of this dispatching service will provide a more efficient manner in which emergency information is received by the caller and then relayed to our Fire and EMS personnel. With state-of-the-art equipment, Central County Dispatch is able to alert emergency personnel of an incoming emergency call while still receiving and entering important information. This pre-alert system, along with vehicle mounted computers, equipped with continuous information updates and turn-by-turn GPS, should better prepare responding crews while reducing response times. All of these new resources will ultimately provide an improved level of service to our residents and employees. Residents will continue to call 911 for emergencies and (314) 835-6200 for non-emergency calls. The city's communication center will continue as the primary answering point for all calls and continue to dispatch police services. The only change that will occur is when a call requires a fire or an emergency medical response, the caller will be transferred within seconds to Central County Dispatch. During this transfer, the original Des Peres Dispatcher will remain on the line and relay important information to police units that will also respond to all fire and emergency medical calls.

Snow Removal Tips

The Department of Public Works would like to educate residents about removing snow, and have prepared the following tips 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

Greetings from the center of town....

As I write this article, 2011 is rapidly drawing to a close. Thanksgiving has just passed and Christmas is around the corner. It is only natural at year end to look back on the challenges and accomplishments of the recent year and to look forward to the challenges we face in 2012.

In November, the city hosted its annual Boards and Commissions Appreciation Dinner at which we recognized and honored over 50 citizen volunteers who serve on the Board of Adjustment, Audit & Finance Committee, Parks & Recreation Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission and the Public Safety Commission. Each member spends an untallied number of hours in community service each year. Their talents and time commitment are certainly appreciated. Special thanks to John Borbonus, Kaye Huch and Craig Ragland who retired this year with a combined 25 years of service to the community.

The Board and I have completed the 2012 Budget process. We are happy to report that, while things are tight, the budget is balanced and we will continue our 17th year with no local property tax, saving the average homeowner \$220 per year. The Budget allows us to continue to invest in the community's infrastructure and attract and retain quality employees. One major equipment purchase for 2012 will be a new ALS ambulance. The largest

project for 2012 will be replacing the Highland Bridge at a cost of nearly \$900,000 (80% of which is paid by a grant). This is the fourth bridge replaced or scheduled to be replaced in the city.

During the past year, we took a comprehensive look at how we handle E-911 calls. We decided to retain local dispatching services for police but are now contracting our fire and EMS calls to Central County Fire Dispatch which, we believe, offers better service to the first responders in coordinating mutual aid efforts and adds medically qualified dispatchers for our residents.

The new recycling containers purchased this year (using an 80% grant) look great. More importantly, the single stream recycling has resulted in a dramatic increase in the tonnage of materials being recycled. Way to go Des Peres!

The City received numerous awards this past year-our AAA financial rating was maintained; our Finance Department received the GFOA Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for the 16th consecutive year; Des Peres Parks and Recreation was designated a Tree City USA for the 28th year; the city earned an Award of Excellence from the American Society of Landscape architects for Des Peres Lake, our Recreation Superintendent received the Young Fellows Award from MPRA, and our inclusive coordinator (shared with five other cities) won the National Inclusion Award from

NRPA. Our City Administrator received the Buzz Westfall Award for Excellence in Local Government.

What's on the horizon for 2012? Des Peres finds itself at the center of a legislative battle in Jefferson City over sales tax distribution. With nearly \$9,000,000 in sales tax revenue at stake, both I and the City Administrator are actively involved in efforts to preserve our sales tax base against further sharing (we currently share 30% of our general sales tax with the rest of St. Louis County under current state law). Trust me, this has gotten our attention.

As always, I want to encourage residents to SHOP DES PERES FIRST this holiday season and throughout the year. Sales tax is our primary source of revenue that pays for the high quality of services we each receive. Our business community offers a wide variety of products and services which meet virtually every need. Sales tax allows us to maintain the low residential tax burden you enjoy.

Finally, on behalf of the Des Peres staff and Board of Aldermen, I want to wish you and your families a happy and safe holiday season. Merry Christmas to you all....

Rick

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The holiday season is one of the deadliest times of the year for alcohol-related crashes. MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) estimates that “each year nationally, more than 1,000 people typically die during Thanksgiving to New Year’s in drunk driving crashes. Because of increased consumption of alcohol and an increase in the number of special events and parties, drinking and driving is more prevalent. Ironically, drinking and driving crashes are one of the most easily preventable catastrophes. Drinking and driving is a choice each driver makes. A “Designated Driver” is a proactive way to deter drinking and driving. This idea simply aims to have people plan ahead by designating one person to provide safe rides by staying sober. As groups travel to special events and parties together during the holidays, each group should designate someone to provide a safe ride home. By planning ahead, there is no question as to who is driving or how the group will be getting home. The “Designated Driver” concept can be used throughout the year, not only during the holidays.

Chief Keith Krumm

The Lodge-Ready-Rating Facility

In September 2011, The Lodge Des Peres joined the American Red Cross’ Ready-Rating Program. The program is offered to businesses and schools across the nation for free and was created by the local St. Louis Chapter in 2008. The Red Cross Ready-Rating program provides a framework designed to: 1) Help businesses, organizations and schools become prepared for emergencies; 2) Help increase the level of preparedness among individuals and families; 3) Encourage businesses, schools and organizations to help their local communities prepare for emergencies. Any business, school, or organization that is committed to improving their emergency preparedness is welcomed and encouraged to join the Ready Rating program. Every Parks and Recreation and Public Safety employee within the City of Des Peres are required to have current CPR, AED, First Aid and Bloodborne Pathogens certifications and this training is offered free to employees. The Lodge Des Peres is also a designated disaster relief shelter during emergencies, as determined by the Mayor. The Lodge and the City of Des Peres employees are committed to emergency preparedness through constant efforts of improvement and ongoing training opportunities.

HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULES

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 January 3-4. Pick up dates for residents who live west of I-270 will be January 9-10. Dates may be extended due to inclement weather. IESI will also collect trees on Mondays during January for recycling.

There will be no change in the trash schedule for Christmas and New Year's Holidays.

MUNICIPAL CALENDAR

January:

2nd City Hall Closed-New Years Day
 3rd Public Safety Commission, 7:00 P.M.
 3rd Municipal Court, 6:30 P.M.
 5th Parks and Recreation Commission, 7:00 P.M.
 9th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M.
 11th Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 P.M.
 16th City Hall Closed-Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 23rd Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M.
 25th Board of Adjustment, 6:30 P.M.

February:

2th Parks and Recreation Commission, 7:00 P.M.
 6th Public Safety Commission, 7:00 P.M.
 6th Municipal Court, 6:30 P.M.
 8th Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 P.M.
 13th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M.
 20th City Hall Closed-Presidents Day
 22nd Board of Adjustment, 6:30 P.M.
 27th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M.

March:

1st Parks and Recreation Commission, 7:00 P.M.
 5th Public Safety Commission, 7:00 P.M.
 5th Municipal Court, 6:30 P.M.
 12th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M.
 14th Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 P.M.
 26th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M.
 28th Board of Adjustment, 6:30 P.M.

Election Filing Information

Candidate filing for the April 3, 2012 election will begin at 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 and will close at 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 17, 2012. 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 26-All day
- January 2-All day
- January 16-All day (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

Positions on the ballot in 2012 include the office of Mayor, as well as, Aldermen in all three wards. For more information on statutory qualifications or filing procedures, please contact Sandra Haynes, City Clerk at shaynes@desperesmo.org or at (314) 835-6111.

Meeting times, locations and agendas can be found on the website at www.desperesmo.org

LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
CHIEF KEITH KRUMM

The following simple tips when put into practice can reduce the chance of you becoming 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



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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) 835-6111	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	www.desperesmo.org