

In this Issue

Page 1:

- Winter Ready Your Home

Page 2:

- Letter from Mayor Rick Lahr

Page 3:

- Municipal Calendar
- Holiday Trash Schedule
- The Green Initiative Continues
- Notice of Municipal Election

Page 4-5:

- 2012 Boards and Commissions Dinner

Page 6-7:

- Renew your Lodge Membership
- Des Peres Greatest Looser Challenge
- Enchanted Ball
- Winter Aqua Adventure Camp
- Health Fair

Page 8-9:

- Letter from Chief Keith Krumm
- St. Louis Night Out and Public Safety Open House Pictures
- Recap of 2012 Public Works Projects
- Christmas Tree Pick-up

Winter Ready Your Home

Seal ducts. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), homeowners can save money (as much as \$140/year) by correctly sealing the air shafts between walls and floors that distribute air. In addition, if you are able, consider installing energy-efficient heating and cooling systems.

Replace air filters and clean your home heating system. Dirt and general neglect are the main causes of system failure. If it has been a few years since you have looked at your system, it is worth having professionally cleaned and inspected.

Program the thermostat. Install or learn how to properly use a programmable thermostat. By adjusting thermostat settings when no one is home, you can save around \$100/year, according to the EPA.

Check doors, windows and gutters. If any weather-stripping is loose, repair or replace it. Swap out summer window screens for solid panes. Thoroughly clean gutters and check that drainage spouts are tightly and properly attached to the bottom of the gutter to direct melting snow away from the house.

Locate your snow shovel. Inspect it for wear to make sure it won't break during the first snowstorm of the season.

Check batteries. Make sure your flashlights are working and that you have extra batteries in case of a power failure. This is also a good time to check the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

Perform an online energy assessment. At the online site: Energy Star (www.energystar.gov/homeimprovement), you can enter totals of your previous year's worth of energy bills to compare your expenses with those of similar homeowners.



LETTER FROM

MAYOR RICK LAHR

As I write this letter, Thanksgiving is on our doorstep, giving us all pause to remember and recognize the many blessings in our life and our community. I am always thankful for the support of my wife and my family in allowing me the time to serve as your Mayor. I am not alone in that regard – we have to thank the families of all our elected officials and our citizen volunteers for the time they donate away from their jobs and families to serve this community. This past week, we held our annual Boards and Commissions Appreciation Dinner to thank 54 citizens who serve on our boards and commissions (please see the special feature on Des Peres Boards and Commissions on pages 4-5). Finally, I am thankful to each and every one of you - the residents, who allow me to serve as your Mayor.

2012 Property Tax bills are in the mail. I am pleased to report that for the 18th consecutive year, *NONE OF YOUR PROPERTY TAX IS PAID TO THE CITY OF DES PERES!* City services are largely funded from sales tax revenues, allowing us to

maintain a \$0.00 property tax and the ability to provide free trash to households - together, that represents approximately a \$500 per year household savings, compared to your costs if you lived in a city other than Des Peres!

We anticipate that by the end of this year, the TIF at West County Center will end – 8 years earlier than originally scheduled. Despite the controversy at the time, the TIF has been a win-win proposition for the city and community. The city has preserved its “downtown” and a stable revenue source for the next 20 years; the schools received \$7,000,000 in new revenue during the life of the TIF and are now in line to receive \$2.8 million per year in new property tax revenues starting in 2013. The mall owners and their investors have a regional mall that is the pride of their portfolio! Competition for shoppers remains stiff in St. Louis and the city and mall owners will need to continue to evolve as markets change – especially as internet sales continue to grow.

We continue to prepare for the new year. The 2013

Budget is nearly complete – a budget that maintains a low residential tax burden and a high quality of citizen services equal to any city in the metropolitan area. We are projecting a \$1,000,000 surplus next year which is being earmarked to increase our debt service reserve to ensure continuation of our AAA bond rating. Next year will see substantial construction involving our parks, streets and bridges. The next newsletter edition will feature city budget details.

In closing, Des Peres’ ability to provide high quality services is tied closely to our sales tax. For that reason, I remind everyone to invite their friends and relatives to *SHOP DES PERES FIRST!*

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas,

Rick

Municipal Events and Activities



MAYOR:

Rick Lahr
rlahr@desperesmo.org
(314) 835-6120 (VM)

ALDERMEN:

WARD I:

John Pound
jpound@desperesmo.org
(314) 835-6121 (VM)

Kathleen Gmelich
kgmelich@desperesmo.org
(314) 835-6122 (VM)

WARD II:

Paul Raczkiewicz
praczkiewicz@desperesmo.org
(314) 835-6123 (VM)

Jim Kleinschmidt
jkleinschmidt@desperesmo.org
(314) 835-6124 (VM)

WARD III:

Mark Becker
mbecker@desperesmo.org
(314) 835-6126 (VM)

John Gnagi
jgnagi@desperesmo.org
(314) 835- 6125 (VM)



Des Peres Board of Aldermen

First row (L-R): Alderman Raczkiewicz,
Alderman Gmelich, Alderman Becker
Second row (L-R): Alderman Pound,
Alderman Kleinschmidt, Alderman
Gnagi, Mayor Lahr

Municipal Calendar

December:

3rd Municipal Court, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall
3rd Public Safety Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ Public Safety Building
6th Parks and Recreation Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ The Lodge
10th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
12th Planning and Zoning Commission - CANCELLED
17th Audit and Finance Committee, 4:30 P.M @ City Hall
24th Board of Aldermen - CANCELLED
24-25th - CITY HOLIDAY
31st - CITY HOLIDAY

Holiday Trash Schedule

Monday, 12/24 & 12/31 - No Change in Schedule
Tuesday, 12/25 & 1/1/13 - No trash or recycling pick up
Wednesday, 12/26 & 1/2/13 - Tuesday's trash & recycling picked up
Thursday, 12/27 & 1/3/13 - Wednesday's trash & recycling picked up
Friday, 12/28 & 1/4/13 - Thursday's trash & recycling picked up
Saturday, 12/29 & 1/5/13 - Friday's trash & recycling picked up

The Green Initiative Continues!

In early 2012, the City of Des Peres applied for and was awarded \$14,000 of grant money from the St. Louis - Jefferson Solid Waste Management District and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to help with the purchase of indoor and outdoor dual receptacle recycling containers. In total, 48 receptacles were purchased and placed in City Buildings and Parks in 2012! Look for them on your next visit.

**REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE**



Notice of Municipal Election Tuesday, April 2, 2013

The General Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2013. The following offices will appear on the ballot for a two-year term: *Municipal Judge, Alderman Ward 1, Alderman Ward 2, Alderman Ward 3.* Candidates for the April 2 Municipal Election must file, in person, a Certificate of Candidacy with the City Clerk of Des Peres, at Des Peres City Hall, 12325 Manchester Road, Des Peres Missouri, 63131. Filing begins at 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday, December 11, 2012. Candidate's 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 15, 2013. For additional information, please contact Sandra Haynes at 314-835-6111 or shaynes@desperesmo.org.

CITY OF DES PERES BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ANNUAL APPRECIATION DINNER



2012 AWARD RECIPIENTS Public Safety Commission

Jerry Bommarito
(20 Years of Service)

Parks and Recreation Commission

John Gnagi
(9 Years of Service)

Board of Aldermen

James Doering
(21 Years of Service)
Paul Fingerhut
(12 Years of Service)

Parks & Recreation Commission

Duties: The Commission provides the resident perspective to the professional staff in all matters relating to the operation and maintenance of the City Park system and The Lodge Des Peres. In addition to their advisory role, the Parks and Recreation Commission is empowered to set program and facility use fees within guidelines established by the Board of Aldermen and provide a recommendation on membership fees for The Lodge.

Aldermanic Rep: John Pound

- Margaret Amend
- Tim Frailey
- Sharon Godwin
- Duff Hufford
- Julie Killeen
- Jane Langa
- Mitchell Stevens
- Katie Weinberg
- John Wright

Planning & Zoning Commission

Duties: The Commission reviews and makes recommendations to the Board of Aldermen on all zoning requests, major development proposals, conditional use permits, subdivisions, any and all proposed amendments to the Zoning Code, Subdivision Code, Sign Code, and Landscaping Standards. If the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends against a specific petition, approval by the Board of Aldermen will require a two-thirds vote instead of a simple majority vote.

Aldermanic Rep: Kathleen Gmelich

- Anna Ahrens
- Mark Ahrens
- Don Body
- Teresa Gwin
- Cynthia Kardesch, M.D.
- James Kennedy
- Kenneth McKamely
- John E. Oeltjen
- Barbara L. Pohle
- Anthony Pawloski, Jr.
- Bill Reeves
- Paul Ruzicka

Right: Mayor Lahr thanks former Aldermen Paul Fingerhut and James Doering for their years of service.



Below: Mayor Lahr and members of the Parks and Recreation Commission present John Gnagi his award.



Audit and Finance Committee

Duties: Review the annual budget; examine the monthly financial statements for budgetary control and sound management practices; review the results of the annual audit with the auditing firm; make recommendations to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on the need for implementation of studies to improve results in broad areas of management, organization, and operating functions.

Aldermanic Rep: Paul Raczkwicz

- Randy Atkisson
- Dan Bauman
- Marc Hamilton
- Michael Hauser
- Judy Mundle



Public Safety Commission

Duties: The Commission is charged with the responsibility to advise and assist the Director of Public Safety in evaluating departmental operations and budgets, consider employee grievances and citizen complaints, setting goals, and generally providing input on departmental programs. The Commission serves as the Traffic Commission of the City making recommendations on speed limits, parking restrictions, and other traffic related regulations.

Aldermanic Rep: Mark Becker

- Robert Ashcraft
- Larry Beermann
- Joanne Sullivan



Left/Below: Member of the various Boards and Commissions, city staff, spouses and guests visit during the annual appreciation dinner at the Lodge.



Board of Adjustment

Duties: Consideration of appeals from decisions of the Director of Public Works on building and zoning enforcement and requests for variances from the enforcement of the City's zoning, sign, and subdivision ordinances. Petitioners must prove that either an error has been made by a City Official in interpreting the City's requirements, or that an unusual circumstance exists for granting an exception to the rules.

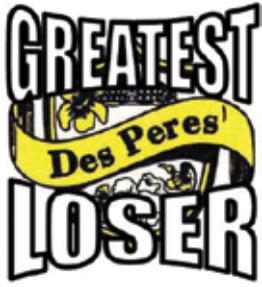
Each matter is uniquely considered as based on the evidence presented at the formal Board Hearing. This is a quasi-judicial forum requiring that all evidence be provided under oath, that a transcript of the proceeding is made and preserved, and that the members consider only the evidence presented at the hearing to arrive at their decision. Decisions of the Board of Adjustment are final and may be appealed only to the Circuit Court by any party with standing.

Aldermanic Rep: John Gnagi

- Ron Arcese (Alternate)
- Mark R. Bahn
- Marilyn Chapman
- Ray Griesedieck
- Joseph Mueller
- Larry Quick (Alternate)
- Patrick Walsh

"Thank you to all who serve on the various Boards and Commissions. Without your time, energy and dedication, Des Peres would not be as great of a place to LIVE, WORK and PLAY."

-Mayor Rick Lahr



DES PERES GREATEST LOSER COMPETITION

JANUARY 14 – MARCH 11, 2013

Join your friends and neighbors in the Des Peres Greatest Loser Competition! This 8-week program is geared towards anyone interested in losing weight and becoming healthier (16 and older). The Lodge Fitness Staff will provide weigh-ins and weekly e-mail messages to help keep you motivated. It will be your responsibility to lose weight through healthy diet and exercise! The person who has lost the highest percentage of body weight at the end of the challenge will be awarded a \$200 cash prize! For additional details and rules, please visit: www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com. Register (session #15539) by January 11th to receive a t-shirt! \$25/Member, \$27/Resident, \$30/Non-Resident.



"HEALTHY RESOLUTIONS FOR 2013" HEALTH FAIR & SUPER SATURDAY AT THE LODGE DES PERES SATURDAY, JANUARY 12 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Kick off the New Year with our "Healthy Resolutions for 2013" Health Fair and Super Saturday event. These events will be combined to offer one spectacular day of wellness! Super Saturday will showcase the services offered by the fitness department such as free group exercise classes provided by our Group Exercise team. This year's event will include mini-sessions from local guest speakers, as well as, free health screenings. Please join Noodles & Co., Des Peres Hospital, Clarkson Eyecare, community wellness vendors and Lodge Staff to learn ways to lead a healthier lifestyle for 2013. Des Peres Hospital will offer glucose (blood sugar), cholesterol screenings and BMI testing. To register for testing, call 1.888.457.5203 (it is recommended that people fast from midnight on). Premier Medical Specialists will also offer blood pressure checks (walk-up only). The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive for anyone interested in donating. Mark your calendars and plan on joining us for this FREE wellness event!

Speakers:

- 9 a.m.: "Sports Injuries" presented by Medical Director, Dr. Peggy Petralia
- 9:30 a.m.: "Geriatrics - A Checklist for Seniors and Their Adult Children" presented by Board Certified Geriatrician, Dr. Bruce Lowrie
- 11 a.m.: "Vision Care" presented by Clarkson Eyecare Optometrist, Dr. Kelly Le O.D.

ENCHANTED BALL AT THE LODGE DES PERES SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9: 5:30 – 8:00 P.M.

Girls (ages 3-10), ask your favorite Valentine guy (Dad, Grandfather, Uncle, etc.) to this enchanted evening at The Lodge. Couples will enjoy a special dinner, dancing, a photo opportunity and party favors. Don't miss this magical evening with your Valentine! Price is per person – two and younger are free. Registration (Session #15269) deadline is February 3. \$24/Member; \$25/Resident; \$26/Non-Resident.





Thank You for Your Loyalty to The Lodge!

It is hard to believe that we are embarking on our 9th year at The Lodge! To celebrate your loyalty and show our gratitude this holiday season, you have the opportunity to claim a Member Appreciation Package valued at \$75 when you renew your Lodge membership between November 23, 2012, and December 23, 2012! The Appreciation Package includes 6 complimentary flex passes on your Lodge account. These flex passes can be used for guest admissions and/or group exercise daily fees. While supplies last, you will also receive a Lodge tote bag (one per membership).

Please stop by the Front Desk to renew your Lodge membership and verify your account information. The renewal process only takes a few moments and you will be set for another GREAT year at The Lodge!

Recent Upgrades to Your Lodge:

- New cardio equipment in the Fitness Center
- Refinished Indoor Pool deck
- New decking and paint on the Indoor Pool slide
- New lockers
- New Group Exercise Studio stereo
- New wood benches in the Sauna – coming soon!
- New Activity Room floor – coming soon!



Annual Membership Rates

	Des Peres Resident	Non-Resident	Corporate
Youth (3-17)	\$185	\$300	\$260
Adult (18-59)	\$295	\$460	\$360
Senior (60+)	\$240	\$350	\$310
Family	\$495	\$795	\$695

For additional information, please call The Lodge Des Peres at 314.835.6150 or visit our website at: www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com. Don't miss out on these GREAT member benefits: renew with The Lodge today!

WINTER AQUA ADVENTURE CAMP

DECEMBER 26 – 28, 2012

12:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Kids (ages 5-12) – join your friends at the indoor pool and add a little summer to your winter with Aqua Adventure Camp! Campers will be divided into smaller groups based on their swimming ability on the first day of camp. Our certified swim instructors will serve as counselors and lead the campers through aquatic themed days. Campers will participate in swimming lessons, age appropriate water games, crafts, some dry land games and free swim. Please have your camper eat lunch prior to camp; lunch is NOT provided. Pack along a non-perishable snack and bring a full change of clothes with tennis shoes. Please fill out a Camper Information Form at the time of registration. To register, reference session #14215. \$63/Member, \$66/Resident, \$76/Non-Resident.



Public Safety

St. Louis Night Out: October 2, 2012



Letter from Chief Keith Krumm

I would like to thank everyone who participated in our Night Out Against Crime on October 2nd, 2012. This event used to take place in August and was changed to October due to the intense heat we experienced over the last few summers. We visited eleven subdivisions and many residents had the opportunity to meet with members of the Public Safety Department. Both police and fire vehicles were scheduled at all of the locations.

The members of the Public Safety Department had a great time hosting an open house at the public safety building on October 13th, 2012. The last time we held an open house was in 1992, the year we moved into the current building. We had a steady

stream of visitors and would like to thank everyone who came by and spent some time with us. We had both police and fire vehicles on display along with the equipment that we carry and use during our normal course of duties. Police equipment included firearms, pepper spray, tasers and an assortment of equipment used by the detectives to conduct investigations. Child I.D. Kits and gunlocks were available free of charge. Downstairs we had fire and EMS equipment on display. Several demonstrations were scheduled including auto extrication, fire fighting foam application and master stream demonstrations. We hope everyone who attended had a fun and educational experience.

Sincerely,

Chief Keith Krumm

Community Open House: October 13, 2012



**CELEBRATING
50 YEARS OF
SERVICE**



Recap of 2012 Projects!

Street Reconstruction:

- Blase Avenue

Bridge Replacement:

- Highland Avenue

Subdivision Sidewalk Repairs:

- Four Winds Farm
- Westledge
- Dougherty Ridge
- Gray Meadows

Concrete Street Repairs:

- Fairoyal Drive
- Firethorn Drive
- Point Oak Drive
- Greenbriar Estates
- Ridgetree
- Grupp
- Plymouth Rock
- Orpington
- Wood Valley
- Bent Brook

Asphalt Resurfacing:

- Huntercreek Road
- Bellerosa Drive
- Bellerosa Place
- Bellerosa Court

Trench Drain/Grate Repairs:

- Sunny Terrace
- Kirk Place
- Greenbriar Estates Drive

Concrete Curb Repairs:

- Des Peres Road
- Huntercreek

Fence Replacement:

- Centeroyal Drive



Highland Avenue Bridge Replacement



Four Winds Farm Sidewalk Replacement



Blase Avenue Street Reconstruction



Trench Drain/Grate Repairs



Huntercreek Concrete Curb Repairs



Centeroyal Drive Fence Replacement



Bellerosa Asphalt Resurfacing

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

The Des Peres Department of Public Works and the Department of Parks & Recreation will again provide curbside recycling of Christmas trees for Des Peres Residents. Trees collected by the city will be run through a chipper and tub grinder to create mulch which will be used in local parks this coming Spring. Trees will be collected during the first two weeks of January.

PICK-UP DATES

- Wed., Jan. 2 & Thurs., Jan. 3 – Residents West of I-270
- Mon., Jan. 7 & Tues., Jan. 8 – Residents East of I-270

***Pick up dates may be extended due to inclement weather.*

The program is for RESIDENTS ONLY. Commercial properties and Christmas tree lots are not included. 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.

IESI will also collect trees on Mondays during January for recycling at a commercial compost facility.



12325 Manchester Rd.
Des Peres, MO 63131

www.desperesmo.org
www.facebook.com/desperesmo

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Permit #495



City Hall
12325 Manchester Road

Phone: 835-6100
Fax: 835-6101

City Administrator
Douglas J. Harms
835-6110

City Clerk
Sandra Haynes
835-6111

Director of Finance
Tracy Hansen
835-6113

Director of Public Works
Denis Knock
835-6133

Municipal Court
12325 Manchester Road

Phone: 835-6118
Fax: 835-6101

Court Administrator
Lucy Vatterott

Public Safety
1000 N. Ballas Road

Emergency
911

Phone: 835-6200
Fax: 835-6205

Director of Public Safety
Chief Keith Krumm

The Lodge
1050 Des Peres Road

Phone: 835-6150
Fax: 835-6151

Director of Parks & Recreation
Brian Schaffer
835-6161

Community Numbers

IESI Trash Service
636-321-2100

Des Peres Post Office
314-966-3437

Des Peres Hospital
314-821-5850

Des Peres License Bureau
314-909-1514