



City Redesigns, Updates Website

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Graphic Links: Located on the top right of the home page and on the left hand side of every interior page. The graphic links are pages of special interest on our website and were designed for efficient, one-click navigation.

In August, the City of Des Peres went live with our redesigned website. The new design features an updated and enhanced navigation structure and the latest website module technology. The primary goal of redesign was to amplify our information display and simplify information finding. Check it out today!



Left Hand Links and Newsflash/Calendar Module: The Left Hand Links (yellow box) are located center left and are links to pages within the site that were designed for one-click access. The Newsflash/Calendar Module keeps residents up to date with the latest news and events.



Enhanced Global Navigation: Located on the top band of the home page and all interior pages. Five new categories were designed to group site information more efficiently and effectively: Your Government, City Services, Our Community, Doing Business and How Do I...? A component to the new global navigation structure includes a mega-menu drop-down design that displays sub-navigation and related categories.

Social Networking Links and Community Profile Video: Located below the Graphic Links, the Social Networking links are another way to connect with residents and provide interactivity. The Community Profile video showcases Des Peres uniqueness - why Des Peres is a great place to LIVE, WORK, PLAY AND SHOP!

LETTER FROM

MAYOR RICK LAHR

Summer has come to an end. I hope that each and every one of you enjoyed your summer break and activities: family vacations, concerts in the park, swimming at The Lodge. Now it's back to school and back to work!

Coming Soon.... The city and CBL Properties, owners of West County Center, are partnering on a new landscaped focal point for the southwest corner of Manchester and Ballas. The original design implemented when West County Center was re-developed in 2002, called for a large pine tree as the centerpiece of the landscaped area. After three ill-fated attempts to plant a 30' tall pine, the City and WCC abandoned that component of the plan. Working with CBL and WCC mall management we are now in position to unveil what we think is an exciting and upbeat design to change that corner into what might best be described as an urban mini-park. The project is being funded from revenue generated from the Tax Increment Financing District. If you recall, the TIF was fully retired last

year, some 10 years early. We hope to begin construction in October and complete this project by year end.

I am happy to report that our strong commercial tax base and sales tax revenues will allow the Board of Aldermen and I to keep our Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes at \$0.00. This is our 19th consecutive year with a zero local tax rate which saves the average homeowner nearly \$400 per year in real estate taxes. We have had a zero Personal Property Tax on cars for 40 years! Our total taxes and fees on residential properties, including our utility tax and free trash, ranks among the lowest in St. Louis County. At the same time, we provide a high quality and broad package of municipal services including public safety, an outstanding park system, a state-of-the-art recreation center, and high level street maintenance services. Please consider "Shop Des Peres First".

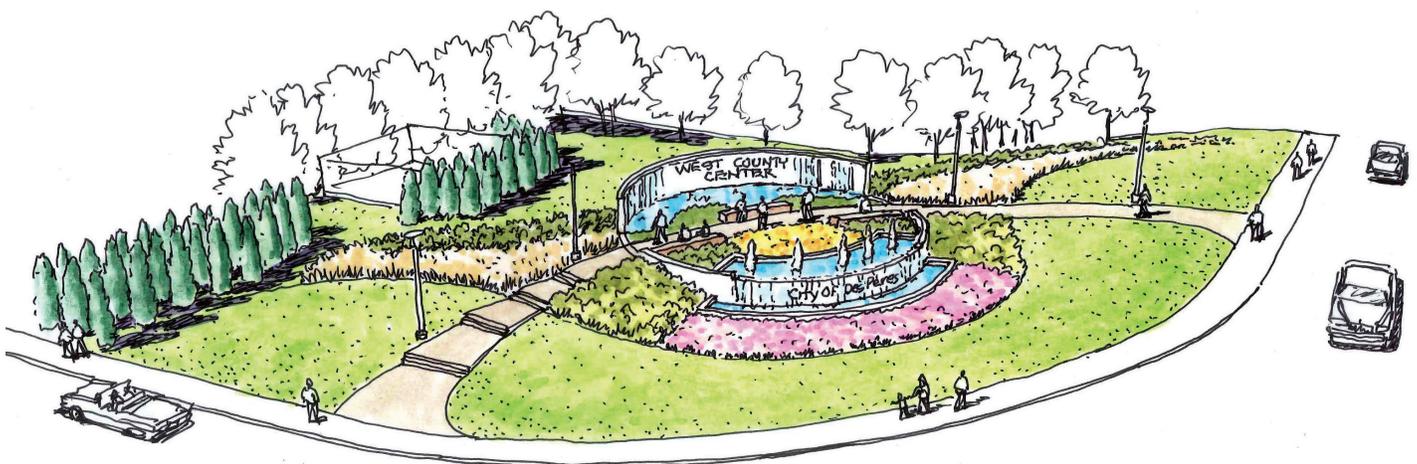
This year, the city is undertaking a Citizen Satisfaction Survey measuring (in part) the level of

satisfaction of residents with city services, the condition of our "infrastructure" and to identify areas that need more attention or improvement. We are in the final process of selecting the vendor who will have responsibility of preparing the survey questions (to make certain that they are not "leading" questions) and then to conduct the survey. The survey method most likely will be a combination of phone and mail contact. The survey will involve a random sample of registered voters (400-500 households) which will have a margin of error of less than 4.0%. We hope to have the survey underway in late October and completed by year end. If you get a call or mailer, please respond... we want to know what you think.

Hope to see you at St. Louis Night Out Against Crime - Tuesday, October 1.

Regards,

Rick



*Manchester/Ballas
Urban Mini Park*

Horticultural Tips for Fall



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Des Peres Board of Aldermen

(L-R): Alderman Becker, Alderman Concagh, Alderman Gmelich, Mayor Lahr, Alderman Raczkiewicz, Alderman Pound, Alderman Kleinschmidt

As summer's end has come and gone, you may think gardening season is over. The good news is with a few strategic tips, you can keep your green thumb going. With the intense heat we had in the latter part of the summer it is important to continue watering. Especially evergreens! If the soils are dry - watering helps to reduce or prevent winter browning of foliage resulting from dry winds.



Plant spring flowering bulbs – choose areas where when the plants grow in spring they will hide the dying bulb foliage. Maybe a bed of perennials such as hostas, whose foliage come up later than most perennials. If hardy mums are planted, water well into winter, keep spent flower heads removed to tidy plants. As for all perennials that have stopped blooming – tidy dead foliage but do not cut stems back to the ground in November, wait until new growth begins in March. The dead tops help to protect the plants during winter.

All lawn seeding should be finished by Oct. 15th, continue cutting till lawn growth stops. Also in mid October, spray broadleaf herbicides, for cool season weeds such as dandelions and chickweed. Keep leaves raked off of lawns to prevent smothering grass. End of October into early November it is time to winterize your lawn mower before storage, only if there is not a chance of additional mowing.

Keep in mind the first average frost date is October 15th, so you may want to protect plants from early frosts to extend season. That goes a long way for the cool season vegetables – continuous harvesting of tender crops before frost. Just a few tips to get you into fall!

Tina James, Des Peres Horticulturist

RAINSCAPE REBATES

ROUND THREE STARTS: NOVEMBER 15

Round three of the RainScape Rebates program starts November 15th. Des Peres residents are eligible to take part in this voluntary program that financially assists landowners (75% of documented expenses up to \$2,000) in the Deer Creek Watershed wishing to landscape their yards to improve stormwater management.

The purpose of the program is to improve water quality in Deer Creek and its tributaries by installing landscaping that helps capture rain where it falls, instead of allowing water to run off-site. RainScaping can also be employed to solve a drainage problem, increase aesthetic appeal, improve property values, and more!

Please visit: www.deercreekalliance.org/rainscaperebates.aspx for more information and an application!

Municipal Calendar

October

3rd Parks and Recreation Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ The Lodge
 7th Municipal Court, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall
 7th Public Safety Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ Public Safety Building
 9th Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
 14th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
 16th Morning Court, 9:00 A.M. @ City Hall
 21st Audit and Finance Committee, 4:30 P.M. @ City Hall
 23rd Board of Adjustment, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall
 28th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall

November

4th Municipal Court, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall
 4th Public Safety Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ Public Safety Building
 5th Election Day
 7th Parks and Recreation Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ The Lodge
 11th Veterans Day Holiday - City Hall Closed
 12th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
 13th Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
 18th Audit and Finance Committee, 4:30 P.M. @ City Hall
 25th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
 27th Board of Adjustment, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall
 28th-29th Thanksgiving Holiday - City Hall Closed

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE AT THE LODGE DES PERES November 8: 6:00-9:00 P.M.

Middle School students ages 10-13 are invited to hang out at The Lodge with your friends! Enjoy great activities, cool games, fitness classes and more. The fun starts at 6 p.m. and parent pick up is at 9 p.m. Free pizza is available from 6 - 7 p.m. while supplies last! The concession stand will also be open to purchase snacks. Tickets are \$5 and are available for purchase the night of the event. Participants should remember to bring their swimsuit, towel, tennis shoes and their best behavior.



THE LODGE 10TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY Friday, November 22 6:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Since November 2003, The Lodge has been improving our community's quality of life through many different recreational opportunities. We would like to invite all Des Peres Residents and Lodge members to join us in celebrating 10 successful years and thank you for your loyalty. We have planned many activities for the entire family including: live music by Fanfare, free snacks and food from local businesses, inflatables in the gymnasium, face painting, Mike from Way Cool Balloons, a photo booth, Tye Dye Iguana reptile show, ping pong, pool games, free T-shirts and more! We will send out e-invitations in September so stop by or call the front desk to ensure we have your e-mail address on file – don't miss out on the fun! The Lodge will close at 5 p.m. to non-members and non-residents.



FALL FESTIVAL IN DES PERES PARK

OCTOBER 12: 5:00-9:00 P.M.

Join us for a free, fabulous fall evening at the park. Enjoy blue grass music, hayrides, Pumpkin races, Scarecrow contest and a Disney Pixar family movie under the stars, Brave (rated PG). Bring your lawn chairs and coolers with your favorite snacks and beverages. Glass bottles are not permitted. Concessions are available for purchase from 5 - 8 p.m. courtesy of Boy Scout Troop 313. Thank you to our sponsor, Montgomery Bank!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 5 - 7 p.m. – Hayrides and Live Blue Grass Music
- 5 - 5:30 p.m. - Check-in for Pumpkin Races
- 5:30 p.m. - Pumpkin Races Start!
- 6 p.m. Scarecrow Contest Winners announced
- 7 p.m. - Movie: Brave (rated PG; 101 min)



THE GREAT PUMPKIN RACE OFFICIAL RACE RULES



Rules are adapted from the official "World Famous Pumpkin Race" in Manhattan Beach, CA

1. Pumpkin Race Car may be from only a single pumpkin
2. Insert two independent axels through your pumpkin and attach wheels to the axles. The style of your racer is limited only by your imagination.
3. You may not attach your pumpkin onto a pre-fabricated chassis of any kind (skateboard, stroller, etc.)
4. No Explosives or Pyrotechnics
5. No pushing or 'helping' your racer on the starting line.
6. Pumpkins can be any size - please check in on the day of the event by small, medium or large pumpkin.
7. Visit www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com for more information or to register for the race.
8. Contest entry is free but please register your pumpkin by October 7 by calling 314.835.6150 and referencing #16907.

SCARECROW CONTEST RULES

1. FREE! There is NO cost to enter but you must register by 10/7/13 to participate, reference #16910.
2. Scarecrow Contest is open to all ages, individuals, families, clubs groups and businesses. Each person, family or group may only enter one time.
3. Our Fall Festival Scarecrows must be family-friendly, durable and able to stand up to natural elements.
4. Scarecrows should be whimsical, humorous, mischievous or lovable...NOT FRIGHTENING!
5. We reserve the right to disqualify entries we feel to be distasteful, scary or not family-friendly.
6. We will supply a 4 to 5 foot tall steel post already in the ground. You will need to bring rope or wire to attach your scarecrow to the post. Feel free to bring additional props like straw bales, corn stalks, etc.
7. Scarecrow and props must fit into a 6 X 6 foot area. Minimum size is 4 ft. tall, maximum size is 7 ft. tall.
8. If you choose to bring fresh vegetables or fruits (like pumpkins) they must be whole and not punctured or carved, to ensure they last through the duration of the contest.
9. We reserve the right to remove any entries that do not maintain their ability to be displayed.

YARD WASTE PICKUP: FALL LEAF AND GRASS CLIPPINGS

As the fall season approaches, changing leaves will soon color the skyline and cover the ground. It is timely to share that the City does not permit leaves or grass clippings to be deposited into the streets. Many storm water inlets found at street curbs drain to lakes or collection basins. Depositing yard waste into the storm drains can block the lines and fill the collection areas. This can create backups or slow the drainage process of rainwater during storms. Also, many reports are received about yard waste being deposited into creeks and waterways. The Metropolitan Sewer District prohibits this practice as it commonly creates blockages downstream.

Please, take advantage of the great yard waste pickup service provided by the City and bag any yard waste for collection. For more information on yard waste, trash and recycle pickup services please visit: despermo.org. From our homepage, select the main navigation heading 'How Do I?' (top right), and under the 'Request' heading, select 'Trash and Recycling Pickup' or call the Des Peres Department of Public Works at 314-835-6134.

Bryan Kopp,
Des Peres
Building Official



St. Louis Metro Tip-A-Cop Event at Red Robin Saturday, October 12th 11:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

On Saturday, October 12th, The Des Peres Department of Public Safety will team up with Red Robin Gourmet Burgers to participate in the annual "Tip-A-Cop" fund-raising event. The event will be held from 11:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Public Safety Officers will trade in their handcuffs and badges for aprons and gourmet burgers as part of the National Tip-A-Cop event benefitting Special Olympics. Along with the Des Peres location, the event is held at five other Red Robin Restaurants in the St. Louis area: Chesterfield Commons, Dardenne Prairie, Fenton, Mid Rivers, and O'Fallon. Each year a friendly competition is offered between locations as to who can raise the most. Of course we would like the honor of boasting this years highest totals from the Des Peres location. So we are asking for your help! Please come out and join us for a fantastic meal while benefiting a wonderful organization that provides so much for so many.

Special Olympics Missouri provides year-round sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. By participating in sports, physical fitness and healthcare education programs, Special Olympics Missouri athletes increase self-confidence and social skills, improve physical and motor skills, and have better success in leading more productive and independent lives. It is events like "Tip-A-Cop" that help us provide these programs at no cost to the athletes or their families.

PSO Brandon Elzinga
Community Services Officer



Letter from Fire Marshall Sean Quinn

October 6-12 is The National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) 2013 Fire Prevention Week.

The tragedy that struck a South County Family on August 27th could have happened anywhere. Without going into great detail, a residential fire occurred at around 1:20 A.M. and tragically claimed three lives. It is important to know what to do when you suspect there is a fire in your home. According to data compiled by the U.S. Fire Administration, there were 2,560 civilian fire deaths averaged annually from years 2008 to 2010.

It is important to develop and implement a *Home Fire Safety Plan and an Escape Plan*. We all remember those days when we were in elementary school and we had "Fire Drills." For me and my friends they were fun, a way to get out of the classroom for a few minutes. It is stories like this that bring to mind that there is a valid reason why schools are "required" to have monthly fire drills.

Think about the number just mentioned, 2,560 fire deaths in homes across America each year. Your chances of being in a fatal

fire are much better than winning the lottery. Escape Planning will greatly reduce this number.

Each family should involve the children and adults living in the home in the Fire Safety Plan and Escape Plan. The following are things that each family should do to develop and implement these plans.

(1) Go room to room in the house and check to ensure that there are working smoke detectors in each bedroom and one in the pathway leading from floor to floor and outside. For example a second floor with three bedrooms upstairs should have a smoke detector in each bedroom and one in the hallway near the stairs. These smoke detectors should have fresh batteries installed each fall and spring even if they are permanently wired on an electrical circuit. Test the detectors monthly.

(2) Go room to room and find two ways out. Ensure that the doors and windows leading outside work properly. Look for and eliminate potential fire hazards such as electrical cords under flooring or furniture, frayed cords, and multi-plug adapters without fuses. Also

keep combustibles such as paper or clothing away from space heaters.

(3) If you need to use a "Collapsible Escape Ladder" be sure it has been tested by a recognized testing agency and only use this ladder for emergencies.

(4) Have a plan for those with disabilities to get out.

(5) Teach children how to get out on their own in case help cannot get to them quickly.

(6) Practice your Escape Plan during the day and at night.

(7) Have a meeting place. Mailboxes in the front yard are most common.

For any further information or assistance with your plans please do not hesitate to call the Des Peres Department of Public Safety at (314) 835 6200.

Sincerely,

Capt. Sean Quinn

Fire Marshall

City Of
Des Peres

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www.desperesmo.org

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Douglas J. Harms
835-6110

Assistant City Administrator
Jennifer N. Gray

City Clerk
Amanda J. Foster
835-6111

Director of Finance
Tracy Hansen
835-6113

Director of Public Works
Denis Knock
835-6130

Municipal Court
12325 Manchester Road

Phone: 835-6117
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

City Website
www.desperesmo.org

Facebook
www.facebook.com/desperesmo