

## City of Des Peres 2014 Budget

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The 2014 Budget was approved at the December 9, 2013 regular Board of Alderman meeting and represents a 1.71% increase in spending over 2013 level. The budget is balanced in all funds with projected Revenues of \$20,644,350.

“The City approached the 2014 Budget process with a set of goals among which were: (1) an expectation that the budget would be balanced with no deficit spending; (2) that the city would continue to provide a high level of services to the community in all areas; (3) that the City tax burden would remain low with continuation of no real estate taxes levied for general or debt service year; and (4) with an eye toward protecting the City’s AAA Bond Rating. The proposed 2014 Budget meets all of those goals,” said Mayor Rick Lahr.

The budget is a collection of separate distinct budgets for each of the city’s seven funds: General, Fire, Parks, Capital, Debt, Sewer and TIF. All, except the TIF Fund, are balanced with revenues equal to or greater than proposed expenses.

While the TIF for West County Center was collapsed late in 2012 (meaning that no new revenues were captured during 2013 allowing the full revenue generated at WCC to flow to the other taxing jurisdictions), the actual fund will be fully closed out in 2013 with distribution of all remaining excess sales tax revenues to St. Louis County and to the City of Des Peres.

City revenues continue to be dominated by sales taxes which are projected at \$12,546,000 representing 61% of all revenues projected to be received in 2014. That projection is net after sharing an estimated \$2.27 million in sales taxes generated in 2014 in Des Peres but shared with St. Louis County and the “Pool”. Real estate taxes will again not be levied by the city in 2014 representing the 20th consecutive year of no local property tax.

2014 Budget All Funds	Revenues
Sales Tax	\$ 12,546,000
Property Tax	\$ -
Court	\$ 450,000
Other Income	\$ 302,400
Intergovernmental	\$ 767,300
Licenses & Permits	\$ 1,319,500
Interest Income	\$ 79,500
Utility Taxes	\$ 1,160,000
Grants	\$ 862,200
Park & Recreation	\$ 3,157,450
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 20,644,350</b>

2014 Budget All Funds	Appropriations
Boards and Commissions	\$ 256,775
Administration	\$ 372,720
Finance	\$ 450,270
Court & Legal	\$ 283,790
Information Technology	\$ 318,570
City Hall	\$ 366,195
<b>Total General Government</b>	<b>\$ 2,048,320</b>
Public Safety	\$ 6,313,655
Public Works & Streets	\$ 2,944,325
Health & Sanitation	\$ 744,500
Parks	\$ 1,668,100
The Lodge	\$ 4,592,120
Debt Service (Lodge)	\$ 1,836,725
TIF Payment to Others	\$ 331,443
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$ 20,479,188</b>

BUDGET continued on page 6

LETTER FROM  
**MAYOR RICK LAHR**

The end of a year is a great time to look back at our accomplishments of the past 12 months and look forward to identifying the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in a new year.

What did 2013 bring us?

MoDOT finally has completed the widening project on I-270 between Manchester Road and Big Bend – including installation of a number of sound walls. While the roadwork is finished, the sound walls are not as MoDOT has promised to return and fill in the gaps left behind in the Spring Valley Subdivision sometime in 2014.

The new West County Center, reopened in September 2002, celebrated its 10th year. During 2013, the mall has undergone significant renovation and store repositioning, with new stores added to help WCC meet the challenges of a changing retail environment in the metropolitan area. That work will continue in 2014. We can't kid ourselves, WCC is competing with the internet and the new outlet malls in The Valley for retail sales in our area. It is vital that we work with WCC and our entire business community to protect and grow our tax base which substantially underwrites the cost of city services.

It is hard to believe that The Lodge celebrated its 10th Birthday in 2013. It seems like just yesterday that we opened The Lodge with an outpouring of community support. It has become a place to gather with family, friends and neighbors and has proven to be an enormous asset to the community. My family and I use The Lodge frequently and are always amazed by the number of

our friends and neighbors that we constantly see enjoying the facility. If you are not a member, think about joining. Not only is it fun, but will be good for your health!

What lies ahead in 2014?

It has been 10+ years since the city last visited the Comprehensive Plan. The 2014 Budget includes funding for a professional planning consultant to review and rewrite that plan. The last land use plan was done in-house using our Planning Director – a position that no longer exists. This will be an extensive project involving the community, the Planning & Zoning Commission and your elected officials taking a forward look at the next 20 years.

We are undertaking our first ever Community Attitude Survey with the goal of ascertaining general public perceptions of the quality of our services and areas where we need to concentrate our efforts to improve both public services, as well as, infrastructure maintenance. The survey results will be used as a planning tool for future budgeting.

The City is investing \$3,626,205 in our capital infrastructure made possible by the 0.5% Capital Improvement Sales Tax adopted by voters in 1995 coupled with \$445,200 in grant funding for replacement of the Claychester Bridge and \$267,000 for park improvements focused on Pioneer Park.

Included in our 2014 Capital Budget is funding \$717,430 for equipment replacement, \$1,404,000 in streets and bridges, \$1,121,275 in improvements at The Lodge and in our parks and \$313,000 in improvements to other public

buildings. The article on the 2014 Budget includes more detail on capital spending or you can visit our website [www.desperesmo.org](http://www.desperesmo.org) for more information on specific projects.

In addition, the West County Center Corner Project, a partnership between the City and WCC, planned and funded in 2013 using \$600,000 in remaining TIF Funds should be under construction and completed by spring. This project will create a focal point at the southwest corner of Manchester and Ballas that might best be described as an urban mini-park at the center of town.

Our biggest challenge as elected officials in 2014 still remains protecting Des Peres' tax base against changes both locally and in Jefferson City. The General Assembly has created an Interim Committee to revisit the issue of sales tax sharing in St Louis County (we already share \$2.27 million per year with other cities in the county). The committee is also looking into the issue of too many governments including minimum size and service standards for cities. Des Peres is a "small big city" with a population of only 8,437 but which offers city services similar to any "big city" in St Louis County. We will need to be proactive in that process.

With winter upon us, I want to encourage everyone to drive carefully and arrive safely. As always, our street crews will do an outstanding job but during a snowstorm sometimes Mother Nature wins in the short-term.

Best Wishes,

Rick

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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*

**MUNICIPAL CALENDAR****January**

1st New Year's Holiday – City Hall Closed  
2nd Parks and Recreation Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ The Lodge  
6th Municipal Court, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall  
6th Public Safety Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ Public Safety Building  
8th Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall  
13th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall  
20th Audit and Finance Committee, 4:30 P.M. @ City Hall  
20th President's Day Holiday – City Hall Closed  
21st Election Filing Closes @ 5:00 P.M. @ City Hall  
22nd Board of Adjustment, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall  
27th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall

**February**

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, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall  
17th Audit and Finance Committee, 4:30 P.M. @ City Hall  
17th President's Day Holiday – City Hall Closed  
24th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall  
26th Board of Adjustment, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall

**March**

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, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall  
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**ATTENTION SUBDIVISION TRUSTEES:  
CONTACT INFORMATION NEEDED**

The City is in need of an updated subdivision trustee list and requesting your help. If you are a trustee or know a trustee, please call Amanda Foster, City Clerk at 314-835-6111 or submit your subdivision information by email to: [afoster@desperesmo.org](mailto:afoster@desperesmo.org). Include the name of the subdivision, name of the officer, office held, phone number and email. The city needs this information for important communication purposes. We appreciate your help!

**ENCHANTED BALL**

at The Lodge Des Peres  
Saturday, February 8  
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. \$24/Member, \$25/ Resident, \$26/ Non-Resident. Registration deadline is February 3, reference session #17309.

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE**

AT THE LODGE DES PERES  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7  
6:00-9:00 P.M.

- Middle school students ages 10-13 are invited to hang out at The Lodge with your friends in February for Friday Night Live. You will enjoy great activities including 9 square in the Air, Ga Ga Ball and hip hop classes. Check out the games and activities planned on our website [www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com](http://www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com). Tickets are \$5 and go on sale the night of the event at the front desk. Don't forget your towel and swimsuit; be sure to wear tennis shoes and bring your best behavior. Free pizza is available while supplies last! Concessions are available to purchase at our cafe.



## “HEALTHY RESOLUTIONS FOR 2014” HEALTH FAIR

At The Lodge Des Peres – Main Level  
Saturday, January 11  
9:00 – 12:00 noon

Kick off the New Year with our “Healthy Resolutions for 2014” Health Fair sponsored by Des Peres Hospital. Mark your calendars and join us for this FREE wellness event where several community vendors will be available to educate you on ways to lead a healthier lifestyle for 2014. Des Peres Hospital will provide free blood pressure, cholesterol and balance screenings from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Please RSVP for your screening appointment(s) by calling 1-888-457-5203. Screening for cholesterol will involve a finger prick sample and results will be provided immediately. Noodles and Co. will be sautéing samples of their healthiest dishes for you to enjoy during the event. For additional details, please visit our “Special Events” page at: [www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com](http://www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com).



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT THE LODGE DES PERES

Are you interested in working at The Lodge Des Peres? The Lodge Des Peres will begin hosting Recruitment Sessions for potential new Lodge employees. Most positions available will be for the summer season, however year round positions will be included as openings become available. Anyone wishing to submit an application will be required to attend a recruitment session before completing an application. The purpose of the session is to give expectations for potential employees to be sure that job requirements match employee expectations. Details about each position will be available including required availability, skills testing and a review of our Lodge Life values. The Recruitment Sessions will be held on the dates listed below and last approximately 30 minutes – no appointments necessary. There will be no admittance after the session has started. After the session, applications will be handed out to participants. Attending the recruitment session gives you priority over other potential applicants. Applications will not be available to the general public until after the final recruitment session (if any positions are still open). There are many benefits that Lodge employees receive including a membership to The Lodge while employed and certification in CPR and First Aid. If you have any additional questions, please contact Nikki at 314.835.6160 or [nthole@desperesmo.org](mailto:nthole@desperesmo.org). All staff must be 16 or older at the start of employment. Visit [www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com](http://www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com) (click on "I Want To") for a list of current job openings.

### ***Upcoming Recruitment Sessions:***

- Saturday, February 8, 12:30 p.m.,  
The Lodge Activity Room
- Thursday, February 20, 6:30 p.m.,  
The Lodge Oak Room
- Tuesday, March 11, 6:30 p.m.,  
The Lodge Dogwood Room
- Thursday, March 27, 6:30 p.m.,  
The Lodge Activity Room



## *Gardening Tips for the Winter Months*

Happy New Year! The frigid cold weather has set in! January is the prep month for the upcoming year in your garden. It is a good time to devote to your houseplants. Some plants are sensitive to chlorine and fluorine in tap water. Allow the water to set out overnight to allow the gases to dissipate before watering the plants. This is also good to do so the water is at room temperature when plant absorbs it. Check for insects – insecticidal soap sprays can be safely applied to most houseplants. Also rubbing alcohol can be used on mealy bugs – take a cotton swab and touch the insect. (Do not use it as a spray on the plant; just touch the bug with the swab.) Keep indoor plants dust free, wipe down periodically with a damp cloth. The air is usually very dry in your home during the winter months - to help build up humidity around plants, place them close together. Also, it is good to have them setting on a tray of pebbles, keep water in the tray but do not allow the plant to ever be sitting in standing water.

Spend time sharpening and oiling tools such as shovels, shears, and mowers. Power tools such as weed eaters and power mowers may also benefit from a good tune up. If there is a heavy snow try to shake or brush off the white stuff from the branches of your evergreens and shrubs. The light fluffy snow poses no real threat, but if it should become wet and frozen, the weight dramatically increases. Branches can be more brittle when the plants are dormant, and the weight of the snow may snap them off. To avoid injury to lawn keep foot traffic to a minimum; when soils are wet or frozen.

January and February are good months to prune most of your deciduous trees and shrubs and it is not too early to begin to think of a strategy for new spring plantings. You might want to create a layout of your garden, and use that as a guide for ordering plants and seeds. Mark on your drawing where you planted bulbs in the fall of last year. This is a good way to keep track of what and where you plant each year.

*-Tina James,*

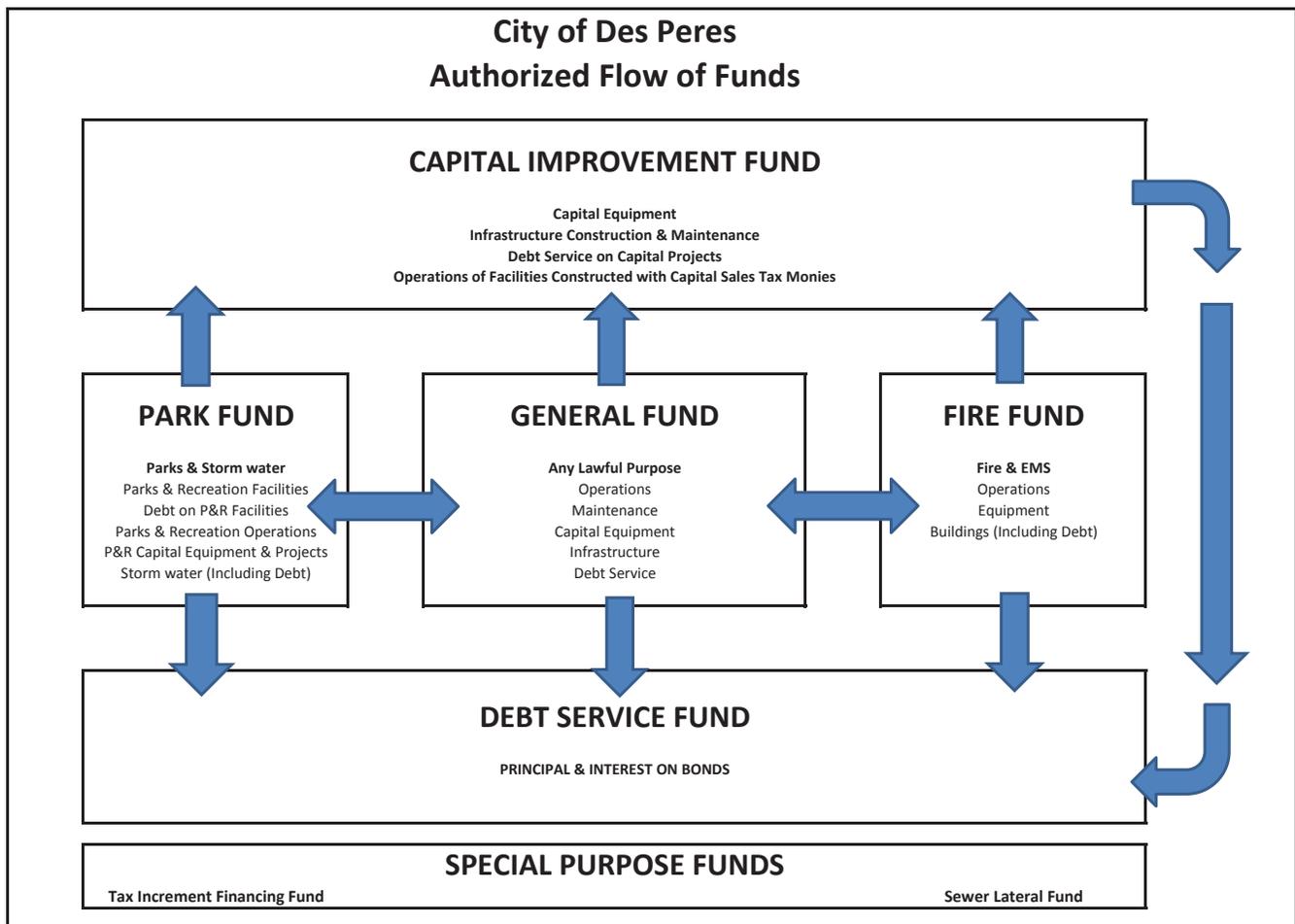
Des Peres Horticulturist

## BUDGET continued

The Budget includes funding for a 2.0% increase in the pay plan for all employees together with estimated increases of 10.0% in the cost of employee medical and dental coverage. The budget provides for an additional full-time accountant in the Department of Finance and an increase of one part-time building maintenance worker at The Lodge. Total number of year round employee's increases to 102.5 full-time equivalents. "In addition, the City will continue to employ around 300 part-time seasonal employees focused primarily at The Lodge," said City Administrator Douglas Harms.

The Budget also includes a sizeable investment in the infrastructure of the community including an \$800,000 upgrade to Pioneer Park; \$770,000 in street construction projects and \$560,000 for replacement of the Claychester Bridge. In addition, the city will invest \$170,000 in improvements to the Fitness Center and \$100,000 in improvements to the outdoor pool at the Lodge. An additional \$150,000 is allocated to upgrade the restrooms in the Government Center, originally constructed in 1975, to bring them into compliance with new provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The 2014 Budget also includes a couple of new major initiatives with allocation of \$80,000 toward an update of the City's Comprehensive Plan (last visited in 2000) and \$65,000 for development of a master plan to distinguish Des Peres as a more friendly "Bikeable/Walkable Community" using a grant received from Trailnet.

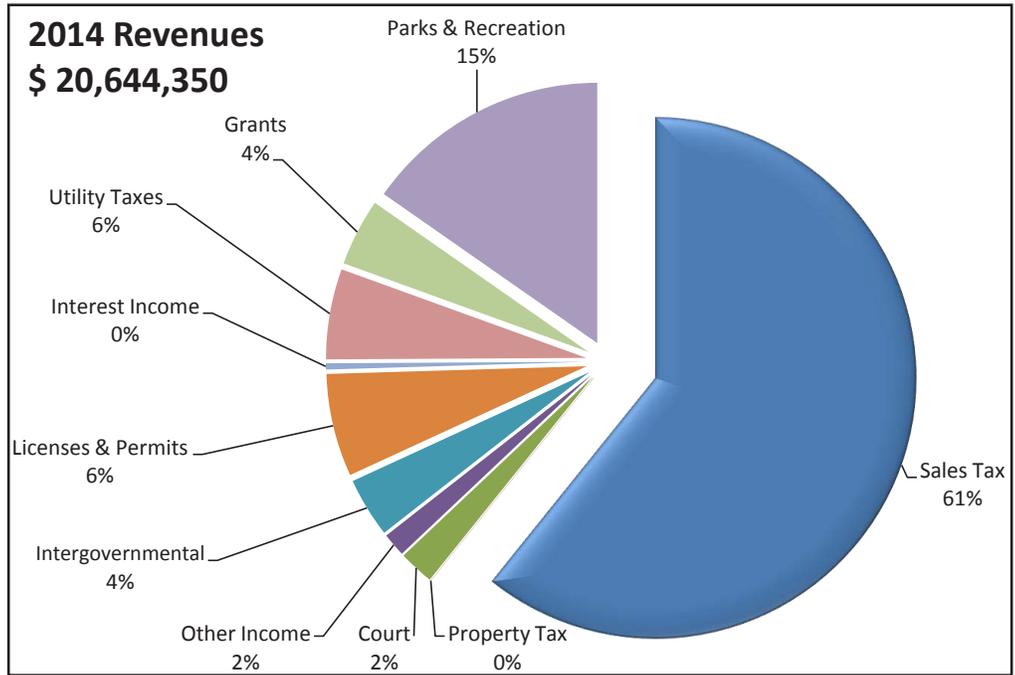


## Fund Accounting

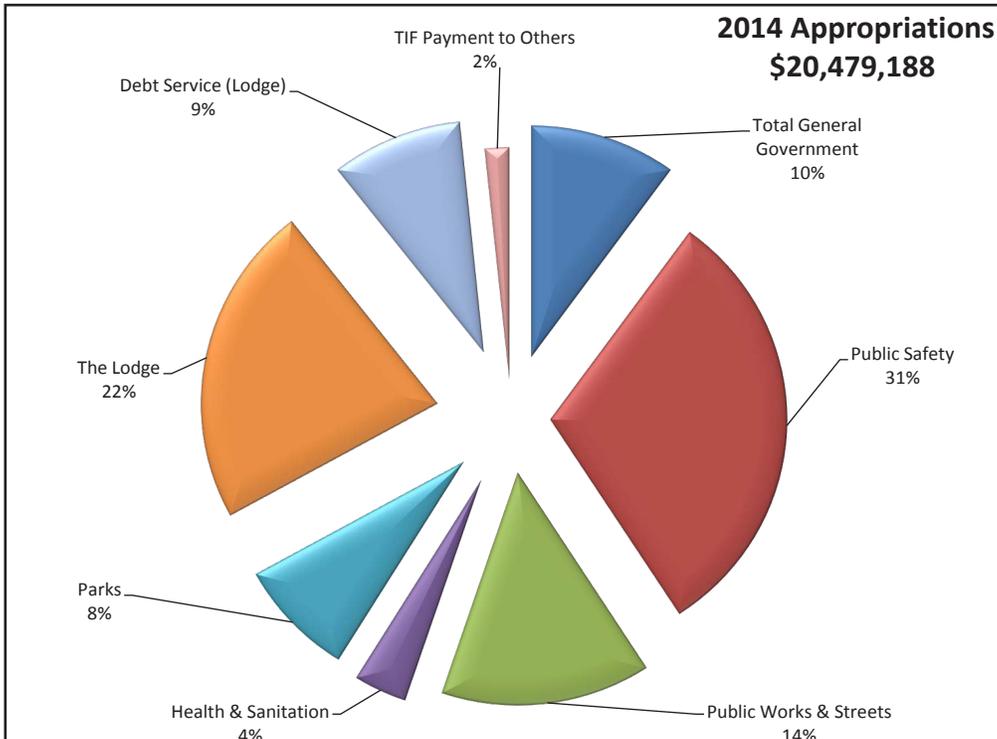
The City of Des Peres uses Fund Accounting. Fund Accounting is a method of segregating all city resources into categories (i.e. funds) in accordance with existing laws and regulations. Each City fund that is established has a distinct purpose and the City must keep a record of how the money therein was collected and spent. The City has established the following funds: General, Fire, Park, Capital Improvement, Debt Service, Sewer Lateral, Special Allocation, and MPIR.

### Revenues

The bulk of city revenues are collected through sales taxes (61% or 12.5 million) followed by Parks and Recreation user fees (15% or 3.1 million). The remainder of revenues are collected through an assortment of sources: Intergovernmental, Grants, Municipal Court, Business Licenses and Permits and Utility Taxes. Property Tax levied by the City of Des Peres remains at 0.0% again for the year 2014.



*“Des Peres is in an enviable position among municipalities in the region. The City is very fortunate to have a vibrant commercial tax base. This is not by accident but represents years of vision and hard work from the elected officials both past and present with support from the community. That tax base allows the City to maintain a low tax burden on both residential and commercial citizens of Des Peres and to provide a high level of quality services to our community.”*  
 -Mayor Rick Lahr.



### Appropriations

Total appropriations for 2014 represent less than a 1% increase in budgeted appropriations over 2013. The primary cost for city operations lies in providing Public Safety for residents. 31% of total Appropriations are for Public Safety (Police, Fire and EMS). The second largest expense (30%) is for Parks and Recreation which includes costs associated with The Lodge Des Peres. Public Works and streets represent 14% of the total budget followed by General Government and Debt Service.

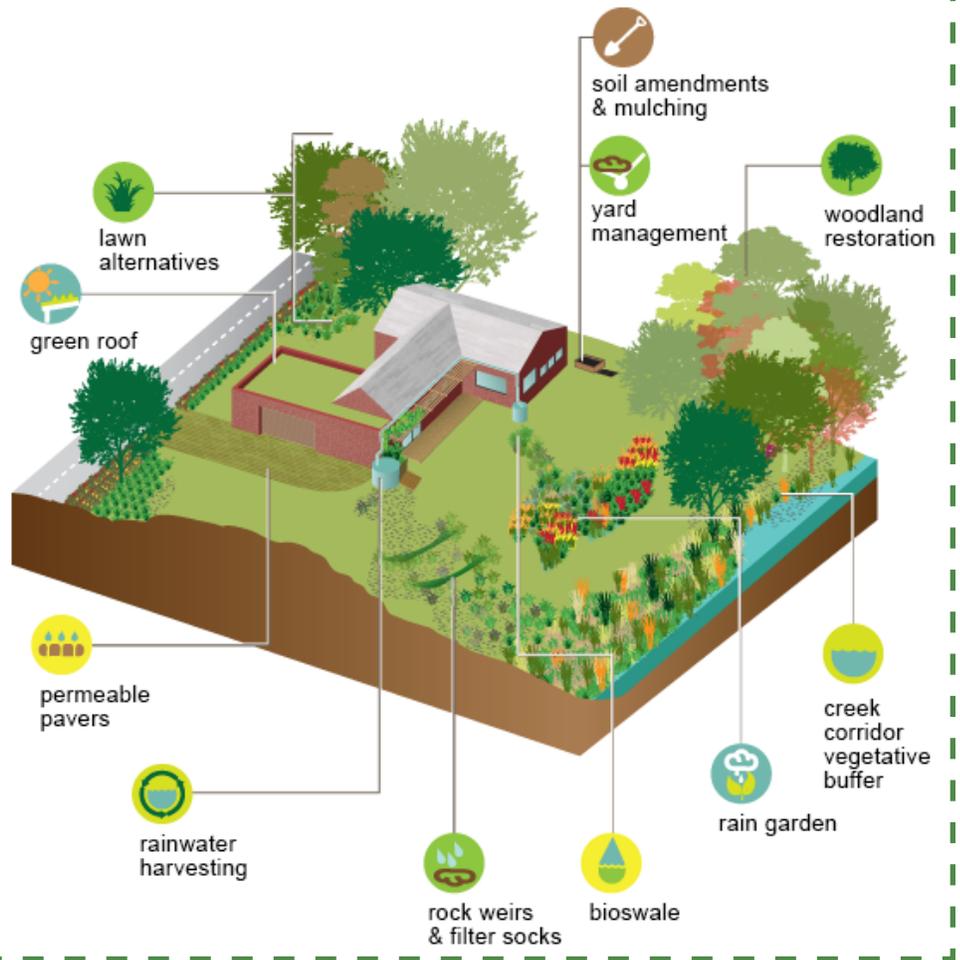
## RainScape Your Yard - Rebates Available

Don't miss out on this limited opportunity to receive a RainScape Rebate and to participate in a GRAND PRIZE Drawing for a free rainscaping makeover for your yard!!! Landowners in Des Peres, including residents, schools, churches, government entities, and businesses, are eligible to participate in a RainScape Rebates program. This is a voluntary program that financially assists those wishing to landscape their yards to improve storm water management. There are a variety of rainscaping options to choose from, including planting a rain garden, installing a rain barrel, amending soil, and/or replacing lawn grass with trees, shrubs, and low-maintenance ground cover.

Due to limited finances, qualified applications will be competitively scored. The maximum rebate per site is 75% of documented expenses up to \$2,000. However, one or more lucky winners will be drawn from the pool of qualified applicants to get a limited expense paid rainscaping makeover for their yard. Sign up to receive the Deer Creek Watershed Alliance e-mail newsletter at [deercreekalliance.org](http://deercreekalliance.org) for program details.

RainScape Rebates Round Three of application forms are now available on at [www.desperesmo.org](http://www.desperesmo.org) or by hard copy at the Office of the City Clerk or Department of Public Works (both located at Des Peres City Hall 12325 Manchester Road) and are due by February 5, 2014.

The Deer Creek Watershed Alliance is a project of Missouri Botanical Garden; the RainScape Rebates program is funded by Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation, Missouri Department of Conservation, Great Rivers Greenway, participating municipalities, and US EPA Region 7 through the Department of Natural Resources (subgrant number G11-NPS-15), under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.



### IESI transitions to new name - Progressive Waste Solutions



IESI is proud to announce the start of an exciting new era for our company as we launch a new corporate name: Progressive Waste Solutions. Our new name, complete with a new logo, has been designed to help us move forward with one unified voice as a true industry leader in North America and reflects our commitment to dependable service and a sustainable future for our company and the communities we serve.

Our new logo represents the complete integration of our business operations in North America and our lines of business across the entire non-hazardous solid waste management stream. The intertwined motion of the blue and green wheel suggests our promise to constantly progress toward a more sustainable future and ties this promise to our core business. If you would like more information on our new brand and our plans for the future, please visit our new company web site at [www.progressivewaste.com](http://www.progressivewaste.com)

## Public Safety: Letter from Chief Keith Krumm

Often called the silent killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. Unfortunately, because of these traits, carbon monoxide is extremely difficult to detect and therefore detectors should be installed in a central location in every home and on every level of the home and checked every month. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home so that when one alarm sounds, they all sound.

Symptoms of CO Poisoning: CO enters the body through breathing. Some symptoms include shortness of breath, nausea, dizziness, light headedness or headaches. High levels of CO can be fatal, causing death within minutes.

### *Sources of Carbon Monoxide:*

- Gas appliances (furnaces, ranges, ovens, water heaters, clothes dryers)
- Fireplaces, wood stoves
- Coal or oil furnaces
- Space heaters or oil or kerosene heaters
- Charcoal grills, camp stoves
- Gas-powered mowers and power tools
- Automobile exhaust fumes

How can you protect yourself from carbon monoxide? The American Lung Association recommends these simple steps to help prevent CO poisoning:

- Make sure appliances are

installed and working according to the instructions and local building codes.

- Never use un-vented appliances. Make sure all appliances are fully vented to the outdoors.
- Have the heating system, chimney and flue inspected and cleaned by a qualified technician every year.
- Do not use ovens and gas ranges to heat your home.
- Do not burn charcoal, kerosene lanterns or portable camp stoves inside a home, cabin, recreational vehicle

or camper.

- Do not operate gasoline powered engines in confined areas such as garages or basements.
- Never leave your car or mower running in a closed garage.

If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for and call for help. Stay in that location until emergency personnel arrive.

Chief Keith Krumm

### **CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY**

March - April 2014

The Des Peres Department of Public Safety will again join Town and Country, Creve Coeur, Olivette, and Frontenac Police Departments to present the Citizens Police Academy. The Academy will give citizens in these communities the opportunity to learn about law enforcement through practical training and exercises. The goal of the academy is to promote understanding between the residents and its police officers regarding their respective needs and problems. By promoting this relationship citizens and police can work together to make the entire community a safer place to live.

#### *Program Details*

The Citizens Police Academy will begin March 4th, 2014 from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. and continue to meet on Tuesdays for nine weeks with a graduation ceremony April 29th. The Academy is open to all residents, as well as non residents providing that space is available, who are 21 years of age or older. The Citizens Police Academy is free of charge. Topics covered will include: Constitutional and criminal law; The Use of Force; Criminal Investigations; Traffic Safety; Pursuits; D.W.I. Enforcement.

For more information contact Community Service Officer Brandon Elzinga at 314.835.6286 or [relzinga@desperesmo.org](mailto:relzinga@desperesmo.org). You may also enroll online at [www.desperesmo.org](http://www.desperesmo.org) using the main top tab CITY SERVICES, navigate to PUBLIC SAFETY and to Citizens Police Academy.

City Of  
**Des Peres**

12325 Manchester Rd.  
Des Peres, MO 63131

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

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**City Hall**

12325 Manchester Road

**City Administrator**  
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](http://www.desperesmo.org)

**Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/desperesmo](http://www.facebook.com/desperesmo)