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### 2014 New Businesses

Des Peres is a thriving business community and in 2014, many new businesses were opened that have enhanced the city, including:

- Aldi Food Market
- Altar'd State
- American Buy Back
- Banana Republic
- Boy Scouts of America Outfitters
- Cardinal's Clubhouse
- Chipotle
- Colonial Life Insurance
- Delfino's Pizza
- Fifth Third Bank
- Fox Paw
- Gap
- Hesse Martone
- Jewelry Box
- Kiddie Academy
- Kilo Diabetes Foundation
- Love, Yoga
- Pairing's Wine Bar
- Psychiatric Center
- Rolwes Company
- Sia's Italian Ice
- Smoothie King
- T. Fuller Construction
- Three King's Public House
- Zydeco Blues



## Letter From Mayor Rick Lahr

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Rick Lahr

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### ALDERMEN:

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Last summer, the city engaged with the ETC Institute to undertake a Community Survey to obtain a score card on how our residents view city government and the services we provide. The results are on our website and I would encourage you to peruse them. ETC presented the results at a public meeting held at The Lodge and commented that Des Peres has set the standard for excellence nationwide with extremely high satisfaction levels regarding quality of city services and value for those services. That's certainly not to say we are perfect and we are looking at areas identified by residents as being "high" but not has "high" as we would like.

We are taking the community survey to the next step as a part of our Comprehensive Planning project headed by PGAV, a local but nationally recognized planning firm, and have engaged Crowdbrite to create an interactive website for community input on the planning process. That process is unfolding during the late stages of this year and early next year. Please visit [www.engagedesperes.com](http://www.engagedesperes.com) to get informational updates on the plan and provide input as we move thru that planning process.

Much has been made in the press and by "Better Together" about the operation of Municipal Courts in St Louis County with extreme examples given of cities with extraordinary revenues being generated from their courts. Unfortunately, in the press, we all get painted and judged by a single brush. Des Peres is not one of the city offenders! State law states that no city shall receive more than 30% of their revenue from court fines and costs – in Des Peres, we expect to generate \$438,275 in court fines and costs this year representing only 4.4% of total city revenues. Our revenues are split roughly 50/50 between traffic fines and other offenses (typically shoplifting). Roughly 86% of traffic tickets were issued to Caucasians and only 11% to African-Americans with the balance to other races – percentages you might expect given the racial composition of the metropolitan area as a whole and recognizing the enormous number of cars that travel the roadways thru Des Peres on a daily basis. Traffic enforcement is a part of police work necessary to keep our roads safe but in Des Peres is a very minor part of what our Public Safety Officers do.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize and thank Denis Knock who is retiring at the end of the year after 28.5 years as your Director of Public Works. Everywhere you turn in Des Peres you see his fingerprints on the obvious - roads, bridges and streetscaping. He also has been responsible for supervision of our solid waste management efforts, supervising our building code and enforcement programs and serves as staff and advisor to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Denis – congratulations on an outstanding career in local government. Your successor has big shoes to fill.

We are now approaching the holidays... Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year providing an opportunity to reflect and give thanks for the many blessings that we, as Des Peres residents, receive both as a community and personally. Give it some thought and count your blessings and say thank you to those people who have positively touched your life. Many times we focus on what's wrong instead of what's right in our lives. I for one am most thankful for the loving support of my wife and children.



DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION  
AWARD AND  
CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING  
PRESENTED TO CITY

The city has recently received a number of awards from the Government Finance Officers Association of America (GFOA)



L-R: Tracy Hansen, Director of Finance; Mayor Rick Lahr and Jennifer Gray, Assistant City Administrator

including a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for our 2014 Budget (our 1st year receiving the honor) and a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for our 2013 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (our 19th consecutive year). We have also published for the first time this year a Popular Annual Financial Report that is being reviewed by GFOA to determine if we meet the highest professional standards for that publication which is intended to give a lay person a better understanding of city finances.

"These awards are important for what they represent – professional work aimed at increasing transparency and information to the taxpayers of this city. I mention these awards both for what they are – best practices in the field of governmental finance and budgeting but also to recognize the high level of achievement of our professional staff. In particular the Director of Finance Tracy Hansen, who is responsible for our day-to-day accounting and preparation of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and our Assistant City Administrator Jennifer Gray, who is responsible for preparing our budget document and took the lead in submitting the budget this past year to GFOA for scrutiny. It is highly unusual to receive the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award in the first year of submittal. Congratulations and thanks to both Tracy and Jennifer", said Mayor Rick Lahr.

# Municipal Calendar

## December

- 1st Municipal Court, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall
- 1st Public Safety Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ Public Safety Building
- 8th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 10th Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 16th Election Filing Opens, 8:00 A.M. @ City Hall
- 22nd Audit and Finance Committee, 4:30 P.M. @ City Hall - CANCELLED
- 22nd Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall – CANCELLED
- 25th Christmas Holiday -- City Hall Closed
- 26th Christmas Holiday -- City Hall Closed

## January

- 1st New Year's Holiday – City Hall Closed
- 2nd New Year's Holiday – City Hall Closed
- 5th Municipal Court, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall
- 5th Public Safety Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ Public Safety Building
- 8th Parks and Recreation Commission, 6:00 P.M. @ The Lodge
- 12th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 14th Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 19th Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – City Hall Closed
- 26th Audit and Finance Committee, 4:30 P.M. @ City Hall
- 26th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 28th Board of Adjustment, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall

## February

- 2nd Municipal Court, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall
- 2nd Public Safety Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ Public Safety Building
- 5th Parks and Recreation Commission, 6:00 P.M. @ The Lodge
- 9th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 11th Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 16th President's Day Holiday – City Hall Closed
- 23rd Audit and Finance Committee, 4:30 P.M. @ City Hall
- 23rd Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 25th Board of Adjustment, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall



2015 HEALTH FAIR  
 Saturday, January 10  
 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon  
 The Lodge Des Peres



Kick off the New Year with our 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 in 2015. Des Peres Hospital will provide free blood pressure checks and balance screenings from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Please RSVP for your balance screening appointment by calling 1.888.457.5203. If you are a Des Peres business interested in a booth in The Lodge Lobby for this event or if there is a service you would like to see offered, please contact Alex at 314.835.6168. Early discounted registration deadline for potential vendors is 11/26/14. Regular registration deadline for potential vendors is 12/14/14. We will notify all applicants via email by 12/16/14 if you have been accepted as a vendor for our 2015 event. For additional details, please visit our "Special Events" page at [www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com](http://www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com).

## DES PERES' GREATEST LOSER COMPETITION

Monday, January 12 - Monday, March 9

The Lodge Des Peres Fitness Center

Join us for our 8-week Des Peres' Greatest Loser Competition beginning in January! This program is geared toward anyone age 16 and older interested in losing weight and becoming healthier. We welcome and encourage Lodge members and non-members to participate. We will have weekly weigh-ins to track individual weight loss. Each participant will also be randomly put onto a team for individual motivation and team competition. The team who loses the most weight and "wins" will receive an extra bonus prize! The Lodge Fitness Staff will provide weigh-ins and weekly e-mails to keep you motivated. It will be your responsibility to lose the weight through healthy diet and exercise! Each participant will receive a T-shirt and participate in mandatory weigh-ins on January 12 and March 9 at The Lodge Fitness Center. All participants will compete individually. The man and woman whom have lost the highest percentage of body weight at the end of challenge will be crowned the winners of the Des Peres' Greatest Loser Competition and awarded a cash prize of \$100! Cost: \$25/Member; \$27/Resident; \$30/Non-Resident

### COMPETITION RULES

1. HAVE FUN, eat healthy and exercise!
2. Our program will go by the percent of body weight loss. The calculation is made by taking your actual weight at the final weigh-in (AW) and subtracting it from your initial weight (IW). Then divide that number by your initial starting weight (IW). Take that number and multiply it by 100 to get your weight loss percentage.  $[(IW-AW)/IW] * 100 = \text{weight loss percentage}$ . Example: If I start at 211, and I lose 5 lbs in a month and end up at 206. That's 211-206 (5 lbs.) Take 5 lbs. and divide it by my starting weight (211).  $5/211 = .023697$ . Multiply that by 100 and you get 2.37%
3. For consistency, everyone who wants to participate in the program must weigh in on the same scale on the same day at The Lodge.
4. The first mandatory weigh-in will be on Monday, January 12
5. The optional mid program weigh-in will be Monday, February 9
6. The final mandatory weigh-in will be on Monday, March 9
7. Individual first place prize for both the Men's and Women's competition will be \$100!

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT THE LODGE DES PERES

Are you interested in working at The Lodge Des Peres? The Lodge is hosting Recruitment Sessions for potential new 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 – no appointments necessary. Each session lasts about 30 minutes. 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. The following are the scheduled dates for our upcoming recruitment sessions. Be sure to come to an early session as positions fill quickly! 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.

\*All meetings are held in The Lodge Activity Room.

### Recruitment Session Dates:

- Saturday, January 3, 1:30 p.m.
- Sunday, January 4, 1:30 p.m.
- Saturday, February 14, 12:30 p.m.
- Sunday, February 15, 12:30 p.m.
- Saturday, February 28, 12:30 p.m.
- Sunday, March 1, 12:30 p.m.



### FROZEN IN FEBRUARY DINNER DANCE

At The Lodge Des Peres

Saturday, February 7: 5:30 - 8:00 P.M.

Girls, 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. Elsa, Anna and Kristoff will be visiting to entertain and pose for pictures. Don't miss this very enchanted evening with your Valentine! Price is per person; two and younger are free. Registration deadline is February 3. Session #19305. Tickets: \$28/Member; \$29/Resident; \$34/Non-Resident.



## CITY CREWS READY FOR WINTER WEATHER

Last year was a record setting winter in terms of salt usage for the City of Des Peres. A total of 960 tons of salt and 6,300 gallons of calcium chloride were used to fight 18 different snow and ice events on Des Peres' 44 miles of streets. Our Street Crews, lead by Superintendent Frank Clark work extremely hard (and long hours) during these events to keep all those who travel through Des Peres safe.

Hopefully the 2014-2015 winter season will be more typical for Des Peres crews. In a "typical" winter we use approximately 490 tons of salt to fight inclement weather events. To prepare, the City will stock pile around 1,200 tons of salt or the equivalent of what would prepare us for 2 ½ seasons of typical snowfall.

Snow and ice removal procedures divide the City into five separate territories, each with its own spreaders and plows. Just as snow begins to stick, all routes are salted and liquid calcium is sprayed on the salt when temperatures are 28 degrees or are lower and dropping.

Plowing usually begins when accumulation depths reach 1 ½" to 2". Plowing will then continue until all snow is removed from the driving lanes. If temperatures remain below freezing, another round of salt is typically applied.

The snow removal routes are chosen to try and avoid Manchester Road traffic delays. Once MODOT plows Manchester Rd, windrows of tall snow are usually left across each of our intersections and City plows must immediately return to clear out our street intersections. Streets not owned by Des Peres, are not typically treated by City plows (unless in emergency situations).

The following roads fall outside the City's jurisdiction:

- Manchester Road (MODOT)
- I-270 (MODOT)
- Ballas Road (St. Louis County)
- Dougherty Ferry Road  
(St. Louis County)
- Commercial Shopping Center  
Parking lots (Private)



*Des Peres Street Department Salt Dome and Garages*

City snow removal operations also serve major City owned parking lots at Des Peres City Hall and Park, the Lodge Des Peres and the Public Safety Building. Depending on the size and severity of the event, Streets and Park crews will also tend to the walking paths in Des Peres Park.

Residents can assist in snow removal operations by keeping the cars off the street. In most cases when vehicles are parked in cul-de-sacs, the plows simply cannot get by. In these instances, no work will be performed. Plows are much larger than cars and blades stick out behind the edges of the tires.

Residents with snow-related issues or questions, may call the Department of Public Works at 314-835-6134.

## DES PERES APPOINTS STEVE MEYER DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

The City of Des Peres has appointed Stephen Meyer as the new Director of Public Works replacing Denis Knock who is retiring at the end of the year following 28+ years of service to the city. His appointment was formally approved by the Board of Aldermen at their meeting held October 27, 2014. The Director of Public Works serves as a critical part of our overall management team with direct responsibility for all Streets, Planning & Zoning, Building Permits, Inspections, Code Enforcement, Bidding and coordination of all city construction projects as well as the residential sanitation program and professional consulting contracts.



"Des Peres is very fortunate to have attracted a large number of quality applicants for the position of Director of Public Works with a broad range of education and experience in both the public and private sectors. We interviewed and considered a strong field of candidates during the past 2 months. Stephen Meyer rose to the top based on his education, experience and enthusiasm for the position. We are happy to welcome him aboard", said Mayor Rick Lahr.

Steve is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Missouri having graduated with a Bachelors Degree in General Engineering and Construction from the University of Illinois and also holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the John Cook School of Business at Saint Louis University. In addition, Steve serves on the MoDot Statewide Local Public Agency (LPA) Program Advisory Committee, is a member of the American Public Works Association and serves as the Senior High Youth Director at Timothy Lutheran Church. He comes to Des Peres from the City of Clayton, MO where he served as a City Engineer for 7+ years. While in Clayton, Mr. Meyer was responsible for design, bidding and construction projects relating to street construction and maintenance. Prior to his service in Clayton, Stephen worked as a Project Engineer with consulting engineering firms for 5 years.

"Hiring a new Public Works Director is a bittersweet experience. We are excited by the skills being brought to the position by our new Director but certainly sad to see Denis' departure. He has done an outstanding job for 28 years and is directly responsible for a large number of capital projects including reconstruction of Des Peres Road and 7 bridge replacements attracting nearly \$2.0 million in grant funding to our community. On a day-to-day basis, Denis was engaged with our citizens and staff working tirelessly to resolve problems and benefit our residents. We wish him well in his retirement." said Mayor Lahr.

Steve officially started with the City of Des Peres on November 24, 2014 and can be reached at [smeyer@desperesmo.org](mailto:smeyer@desperesmo.org) or by phone at 314-835-6130.

### DENIS KNOCK RETIRES, RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE BY CITY AND AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION (APWA)

The Missouri Chapter of the American Public Works Association Awarded Denis with the Leader of the Year Award at their annual conference November 3 in Columbia, MO. The Award seeks to inspire excellence and dedication in public service by recognizing the outstanding career service achievements of individual public works professionals and officials, from both the public and private sectors. The primary focus of the award is on cumulative career service to the public works profession rather than on any one single event or project.



The City will be formally recognizing Denis for his 28+ years of service to the community at a reception in December and wishes him a long and enjoyable retirement.

## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING PICK-UP DATES

The Des Peres Department of Public Works and the Department of Parks & Recreation will provide curb side recycling of Christmas trees. 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 spring. Trees will be collected during the first two weeks after Christmas.

### PICK-UP DATES

- Tuesday January 6th & Wednesday January 7th – Residents East of I-270
- Thursday January 8th & Friday January 9th – Residents West 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.

Progressive Waste will also collect trees on all Monday's during the month of January for recycling at a commercial compost facility. If you have any questions about this service, please feel free to contact Progressive Waste directly at 636-321-2100 or Des Peres Department of Public Works at 314-835-6134.

## 2014-2015 HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE

### NOVEMBER 2014

- Thursday, November 27th (Thanksgiving): No trash service
- Friday, November 28th: Thursday Trash & Recycling Picked Up
- Saturday, November 29th: Friday Trash & Recycling Picked Up

### DECEMBER 2014

- Wednesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve): No change in schedule
- Thursday, December 25th (Christmas Day): No trash service
- Friday, December 26th: Thursday Trash & Recycling Picked Up
- Saturday, December 27th: Friday Trash & Recycling Picked Up
- Wednesday, December 31st (NYE): No change in schedule

### JANUARY 2015

- Thursday, January 1st (New Years Day): No trash service
- Friday, January 2nd: Thursday Trash & Recycling Picked Up
- Saturday, January 3rd: Friday Trash & Recycling Picked Up

For questions regarding your trash or recycling service, please call Progressive Waste at 636-321-2100 or the Des Peres Department of Public Works at 314-835-6134.

## DES PERES NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

The City of Des Peres 2014 Night Out Against Crime was held Tuesday, October 7th and the Department of Public Safety and City Officials visited twelve different neighborhood block parties in each of the three wards across the city. A great night was had by all!



## NOTICE OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The general municipal election will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2015. Polls are open from 6:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M. The following offices will appear on the ballot for a two-year term: Municipal Judge; Alderman Ward One; Alderman Ward Two; Alderman Ward Three. Candidates for the April 7 municipal election must file, in person, a Certificate of Candidacy with the City Clerk of Des Peres, Ms. Amanda Foster at Des Peres City Hall, 12325 Manchester Road, Des Peres, MO 63131. Filing opens at 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday, December 16. Candidates names will appear on the ballot in the order they are received and certified. The closing date is January 20, 2015. For additional information, please contact Amanda at 314-835-6111 or [afoster@desperesmo.org](mailto:afoster@desperesmo.org).

## CITY WELCOMES HOME SGT. DANIEL MILBERG AFTER 4th TOUR OF DUTY OVERSEAS

The City would like to recognize, thank and welcome back 17 year veteran of the Des Peres Public Safety Department, Sgt. Dan Milberg after completing his fourth tour of duty overseas.



Sgt. Milberg is a PSO with the Des Peres Public Safety Department but is also a Chief Warrant Officer 5 for the Missouri National Guard and serves as the Quality Control officer for the 1107th Aviation Group in Springfield, MO. The 1107th provides depot level aviation maintenance. Sgt. Milberg has been with the Army and Army National Guard for 31 years.

Sgt. Milberg has completed four tours of duty overseas including: Operation Desert Shield/Storm 1990/1991; Iraq in 2004 and 2008 and Afghanistan in 2014; in addition, he also was called to assist with Operation Bahamas and Turks and Caicos (OPBAT) in 1991-1993 which was a drug eradication and interdiction mission with the Army, Coast Guard, DEA and Bahamian police.

Dan has received a Distinguished Flying Cross Award which is awarded to an officer or enlisted member of the United States Armed Forces who distinguishes himself or herself in support of operations by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight; he has also received the Air Medal Award twice. An Air Medal is awarded for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight.



When asked what serving his country means to him, Dan replied, "It truly has been an honor and privilege to serve in what I believe is the country with the most liberties and greatest opportunity." Dan also mentioned that this year marks the tenth anniversary since

he and his crew members were shot down in Iraq. "On November 12th, 2014, I along with my crew celebrated our tenth year alive since we were shot down in Iraq. My crew members all received serious injuries. All of my crew members and those assisting that day have gone on to do great things. One (as of the most recent election) is a 2nd term Congresswoman and another has since attended flight school and is a pilot in the Illinois National Guard. All of them have done well for themselves. I am proud to be affiliated with them and call them my friends," said Dan.

Dan would like to thank his wife of 20 years, Kecia for her love and support and his three sons who have all served in the military. His son Bryan is still serving in the Army Special Forces and has been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.



# City of Des Peres

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City Hall/  
Municipal Court  
12325 Manchester Road

Building Official/  
Inspector  
Bryan Kopp  
835-6137

City Administrator  
Douglas J. Harms  
835-6110

Court Administrator  
Lucy Vatterott  
835-6117

Assistant City  
Administrator  
Jennifer N. Gray  
835-6132

Department of  
Public Safety  
1000 N. Ballas Road  
835-6200

City Clerk  
Amanda J. Foster  
835-6111

Emergency dial 911  
Director of Public Safety  
Chief Keith Krumm

Director of Finance  
Tracy Hansen  
835-6113

The Lodge  
1050 Des Peres Road  
835-6150

Director of Public Works  
Steve Meyer  
835-6130

Director of Parks &  
Recreation  
Brian Schaffer  
835-6161



## CITY OFFICIALS

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