



2015 Budget Approved

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The 2015 Budget was approved at the December 8, 2014 regular Board of Aldermen meeting. The budget is balanced in all funds with projected revenues of \$20,997,000.

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. The TIF Fund (for West County Center) was retired in late 2012 and was fully closed last month.

City revenues continue to be dominated by sales tax which is projected at \$12,212,000, representing 58% of total revenues projected to be received in 2015. That projected number is net after sharing just over 2 million in sales tax generated in Des Peres with the St. Louis County sales tax "pool". Property taxes will again not be levied by the city in 2015, representing the 21st consecutive year of no local property tax.

The Budget includes a 3% increase in the employee pay plan together with an estimated increase of 5% in the cost of employee medical and dental coverage. One additional full-time employee (Code Enforcement Officer) will be added to the workforce in 2015 providing assistance to our lone Building Official. This additional position was a result of the overall response received by the Community Survey in regards to how the City handles code enforcement, and a need for additional assistance in that area. The City employs 105 full time employees and around 300 part-time seasonal employees (focused primarily at The Lodge).

The Budget also includes a sizeable investment, \$2,671,725 in all four of our municipal buildings bringing each of them up to 2015 Energy Standards with improvements to building insulation, pressurization and envelopes;

2015 Budget	Revenues
Sales Tax	\$ 12,212,000
Property Tax	\$ -
Court	\$ 438,000
Other Income	\$ 351,700
Intergovernmental	\$ 769,500
Licenses & Permits	\$ 1,423,500
Interest Income	\$ 85,000
Utility Taxes	\$ 1,250,500
Grants	\$ 1,243,000
Parks & Recreation	\$ 3,223,800
Total Revenues	\$ 20,997,000

2015 Budget	Appropriations
Boards and Commissions	\$ 164,280
Administration	\$ 391,510
Finance	\$ 507,095
Court & Legal	\$ 287,230
Information Technology	\$ 267,385
City Hall	\$ 270,350
Total General Government	\$ 1,887,850
Public Safety	\$ 6,432,815
Public Works & Streets	\$ 3,396,615
Health & Sanitation	\$ 760,850
Parks	\$ 1,494,985
The Lodge	\$ 6,421,840
Energy Project	\$ 2,671,725
Total Appropriations	\$ 23,066,680

Letter From Mayor Rick Lahr

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The New Year is upon us. What will it bring? As a city, we enter the year with a balanced budget and remain in an enviable financial position. We have initiated a major overhaul of our public buildings both to achieve greater energy efficiency and to replace worn out mechanical systems. We are fortunate that the city has been in a financial position to save money and to proceed with this major project using accumulated savings rather than incurring debt. That project will involve most of the year. We will also be entering into the public engagement phase and wrapping up an update to the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan. I encourage each of you to participate and express your hopes, dreams and desires for the future of this community.

The New Year brings a great deal of uncertainty regarding the future of local government in St Louis County. Oftentimes, outside forces dictate where we focus both our attention and resources. In 2015, we see the following challenges on the horizon:

The Ferguson Commission was created by the Governor with a fairly broad charge to examine race relations and related issues in our region. That is a very complex and multi-faceted issue. It is too early to tell where their examination might lead but early indications suggest they will be examining the structure and role of municipal courts, use of police departments as revenue generators in small cities, racial profiling, poverty and jobs and unequal access to education.

Better Together continues to examine government structure in the region and appear to be focusing on a "bigger is better theme" suggesting that a merger of the City of St Louis and St Louis County is in the region's best interest. Whether their approach is a proposal for a single governmental unit (UniGov like Indianapolis), a simple re-entry of St Louis into the County as the 91st municipality, a reduction in the number of "small cities" or consolidation of police and/or fire services regionally is unclear. While most can agree that no-one would design the fragmentation of small cities that exist in our county, we likely cannot agree on "what is too small" or inefficient. Better Together appears committed to "doing something" using a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment in 2016 to dictate what happens in our region.

Last year, the **Missouri General Assembly** appointed a special interim committee to study governance in the County and they are examining the issue of too many cities, sales tax distribution, annexation and economic development. We are anxiously waiting for the Committee's report which is due to the General Assembly early in 2015.

The **City of Chesterfield** has recently filed a constitutional objection to the current sales tax sharing law in St Louis County adopted over 30 years ago. Sales tax distribution is a zero sum game – increases to some come at the expenses of lost revenues to the County and other cities.

Des Peres is a net contributor to the sharing formula providing \$2.4 million to the "pool cities" to share and would benefit from a Chesterfield win – or would we? We are not an island insulated from what is happening in the balance of St Louis County – Ferguson proved that. Whether or not the lawsuit is successful, it will move to the front burner discussions in Jefferson City on the issue of revenue sharing in our region – a discussion that historically has cost Des Peres lost revenues!

Finally, we see a change in leadership in **St Louis County** with a new County Executive. His recent predecessors have generally been anti-city to the benefit of county services to the unincorporated areas. We constantly remind county government that Des Peres residents are also residents of St Louis County and pay essentially the same taxes to the County as a resident in unincorporated county. Can cities and the county become partners instead of adversaries moving forward? Change can be good or bad but it certainly is inevitable. How we manage and react to change is our challenge both as individuals and collectively as citizens of Des Peres and St Louis County.

To close, while this newsletter will reach you after the Christmas Season, I want to extend to each of you and your families, on behalf of your elected officials and staff, a happy and prosperous new year.

BUDGET continued

implementation of web-based computerized energy control systems; installation of programmable thermostats; HVAC, Chiller and Pool Pak (aquatic dehumidification units) modifications and/or replacements; city-wide interior and exterior energy efficient lighting and lighting sensor technology enhancements, and installation of energy efficient windows (City Hall). To complete the work, the City entered into a Performance Agreement For Comfort From Trane (PACT) Contract for the improvements which guarantees the City a minimum of \$2,298,548 in reduced energy costs and \$749,276 in operational savings over a period of 15 years following completion of the work in 2015. Most of the mechanical equipment identified for replacement was well past or near the end of its useful life - needing to be replaced within the next 2-3 years. Accumulated fund balances in the General Fund, Park Fund and Capital Improvement Fund allowed this project to be undertaken as a single construction project to be completed by Fall 2015.

The Mayor, Board of Aldermen and City Staff all approached the 2015 Budget process with a set of goals, among which were: 1) Maintenance of High, Quality Services: Public Safety, Parks and Recreation, Public Works and Code Enforcement, Streets and Solid Waste Management; 2) Retention of Low Local Tax Rates: \$0.00 Property Tax Rate and continuation of FREE Trash and Recycling; 3) Maintenance of Des Peres AAA Bond Rating. "Des Peres solid financial position represents a vision that has been established by the elected officials both past and present with great support from the community. It is always our goal to maintain that position and we are able to through our enviable geographic location which aids in our strong commercial tax base. We recognize that we are very fortunate to be able to provide such high levels of services while maintaining a low tax burden on both the residential and commercial citizens of Des Peres," said Mayor Rick Lahr.

Municipal Calendar

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

March

- 2nd Municipal Court, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall
- 2nd Public Safety Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ Public Safety
- 5th Parks and Rec 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
- 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

April

- 2nd Parks and Rec Commission, 6:00 P.M. @ The Lodge
- 4th Get Hopping Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 A.M. @ Des Peres Park
- 6th Municipal Court, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall
- 6th Public Safety Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ Public Safety
- 7th Election Day
- 8th Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 13th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 22nd Board of Adjustment, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall
- 27th Audit and Finance Committee, 4:30 P.M. @ City Hall
- 27th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall



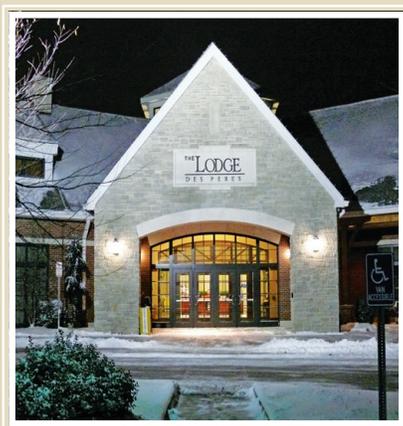
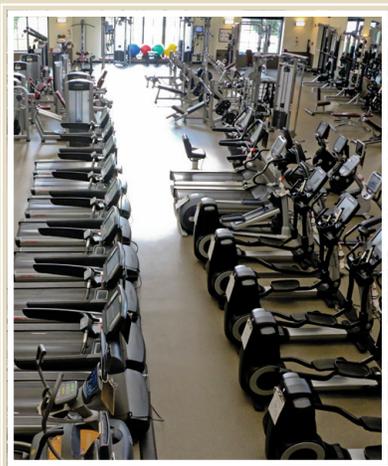
LODGE DES PERES MEMBERSHIP RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015

RESIDENT	Annual	Monthly	NON-RESIDENT	Annual	Monthly
Resident Youth	\$190.00	\$15.83	Non-Resident Youth	\$310.00	\$25.83
Resident Senior	\$245.00	\$20.42	Non-Resident Senior	\$360.00	\$30.00
Resident Adult	\$300.00	\$25.00	Non-Resident Adult	\$470.00	\$39.17
Resident Family	\$500.00	\$41.67	Non-Resident Family	\$800.00	\$66.67

LODGE DAILY ADMISSION RATES

RESIDENT	w/Resident ID	Daily Fee	NON-RESIDENT	Daily Fee
Resident Youth		\$6.00	Non-Resident Youth	\$8.00
Resident Senior		\$6.00	Non-Resident Senior	\$8.00
Resident Adult		\$7.00	Non-Resident Adult	\$9.00
Resident Family		\$20.00	Non-Resident Family	n/a

*Active Military with Military ID: \$6/daily fee



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.

START SMART GENERAL SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Created by the National Alliance for Youth Sports, this program is designed to help kids get ready for sports...and succeed in life. It is a step-by-step approach that builds confidence and self-esteem and makes sports fun. The Sports Development Program is a developmentally appropriate introductory program for children 2-5 years old. Parents work together with their children in a supportive environment to learn the basic skills of multiple sports. The program prepares children and parents for organized sports without the threat of competition or the fear of getting hurt. Age appropriate equipment will be used. Minimum 10/Maximum 20. Ages: 2 - 5; Cost: \$40/Member; \$42/Resident; \$48/Non-Resident.



Instructor: The Lodge Staff
Location: The Lodge Gymnasium
Court #2

Day: Monday
Session: March 16 – April 20
#19746 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.
#19744 5:00 – 5:45 p.m.

Day: Tuesday
Session: March 17 – April 21
#19742 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

SUNDAY FUNDAY SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 11:00 A.M. – 1:45 P.M. THE LODGE GROUP EXERCISE STUDIO

Sunday Funday is a special day just before the start of each new group exercise session where The Lodge Fitness Team showcases some of their new exercise classes being offered for FREE! Classes are 30 minutes in length; come for one or all four! Four classes will be showcased for each Sunday Fun Day offered. First come, first served. This program is for ages 16 and older. No tot care available.



FAMILY GAMES NIGHT SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. THE LODGE DES PERES

Families are invited to play games together at The Lodge in February. You will enjoy great activities including 9 square in the Air, Gaga Ball, Bingo, Minute to Win it and more. Check out the great games and activities planned on our website [www. TheLodgeDesPeres.com](http://www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com). The fun starts at 6 p.m. and lasts until 8 p.m. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times. Concessions are available to purchase at our cafe. FREE/Members; \$6/Residents; \$8/Non-Residents



2015 Capital Improvement Projects: Streets

Street Milling & Resurfacing

June-July

- Kinsterm Drive
- Grant Place
- Devonshire Drive
- Oge Avenue
- Westmark Drive (w/striping)
- Movie Drive (w/striping)
- Sateen
- Old Dougherty Ferry (w/striping)
- Whitehorse Lane
- Whitehorse Court

Concrete Street Slabs

May-July

- Chaltenham
- Point Oak Road
- Ironstone Drive
- Candlewyck
- Camberly Drive
- Woodbridge Park Drive
- Twin Pine Drive
- Fairoyal Drive

Concrete Street Section Replacements

June-July

- Lillian Avenue
- Claychester Drive

New Concrete Curbs

April-June

- Grant Place
- Kinsterm Drive
- Devonshire Drive
- Oge Avenue

Sidewalk Replacements

April - May

- Fairoyal
- Diamond Ridge Lane
- Diamond Ridge Court
- Bentbrook Drive

Special Projects

March - April

- Storm Sewer Improvements on Oge Avenue
- Inlet Adjustments on Claychester Avenue

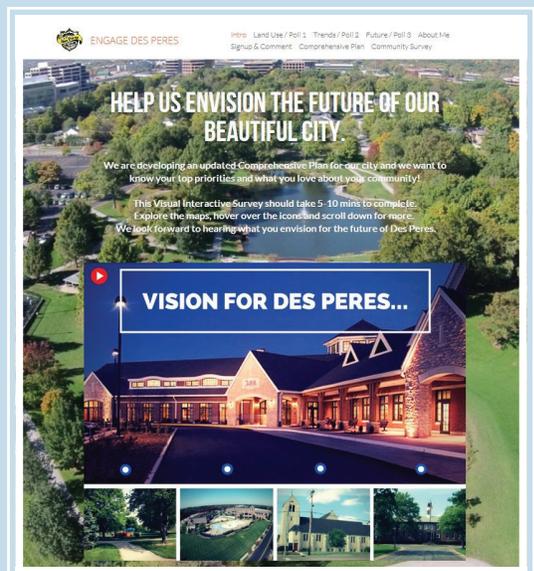
Bridges

- Fawnvalley - Install Vehicular Bridge
- Oak Drive - Right of Way Acquisition

Public Input Needed on Comprehensive Plan

As part of the 2014 Budget, money was allocated to update the City's Comprehensive Plan which was last updated nearly 10 years ago. PGAV Planners was selected to assist the city with the effort and review and updating of the Plan started in June 2014 as directed by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The city is seeking your input as residents and business owners of Des Peres on what your top priorities are and what you love about Des Peres. Please use the link below to engage in the comprehensive planning process and share your vision for Des Peres with us: www.engagedesperes.com A public engagement meeting will also be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 29th at The Lodge Des Peres if you would like to participate in person.



General tips for cold weather safety...

Letter from
Chief Keith Krumm

In Your Home

- Have all heating appliances - furnaces, water heaters and wood stoves - checked and serviced annually by a reliable professional. Make sure no flammable materials have been placed near any heating appliance over the summer, when the appliance was not in use.
- Use space heaters with care and inspect electric heaters for damaged cords.
- Make sure there is a working smoke detector on every level of your home. Check the batteries every six months and replace them annually.
- Develop a home fire escape plan with two exits from every room. Establish a meeting place in a safe location so all family members can be accounted for. Call the fire department from a cordless phone, at a neighbor's home or other safe location. Never re-enter a burning building for any reason. Practice your home escape plan every six months.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors near sleeping areas (on every level of your home) where the audible alarm can be heard. If the alarm goes off, exit the home and call 911.

In Your Car

Also, you should make sure your car is ready for the winter season. In addition to being in good mechanical condition, below is a list of items recommended by AAA to keep in your vehicle in case you become stranded. These items can help you stay warm and safe until help arrives.

- Bag of abrasive material (sand, salt, cat litter)
- Snow shovel
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Window washer solvent
- Ice scraper with brush
- Cloth or roll of paper towels
- Jumper cables
- Extra warm clothing (gloves, hats, scarves)
- Basic toolkit (screwdrivers, pliers, wrench)
- Blankets
- Warning devices (flares or triangles)
- Drinking water and non-perishable snacks
- First-aid kit
- Mobile phone pre-programmed with important phone numbers and a car charger

Citizens Police Academy

March - May 2015

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 our 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 Tuesday, March 10th, 2015 from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. and continue to meet on Tuesdays for nine weeks with a graduation ceremony on May 5th. 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 in the Academy will include and is not limited to:

- 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 by email at relzinga@desperesmo.org. You may also enroll online please visit www.desperesmo.org and click on the Public Safety page for more info.

Participants will also have the opportunity to fire a department issued firearm under the close supervision of Department Range Training Officers. Participants will also experience real life, role play scenarios.



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www.desperesmo.org

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12325 Manchester Road

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Douglas J. Harms
835-6110

Assistant City
Administrator
Jennifer N. Gray
835-6132

City Clerk
Amanda J. Foster
835-6111

Director of Finance
Tracy Hansen
835-6113

Director of Public Works
Steve Meyer
835-6130

Court Administrator
Lucy Vatterott
835-6117

Department of
Public Safety
1000 N. Ballas Road
835-6200
Emergency dial 911
Director of Public Safety
Chief Keith Krumm

The Lodge
1050 Des Peres Road
835-6150

Director of Parks &
Recreation
Brian Schaffer
835-6161

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