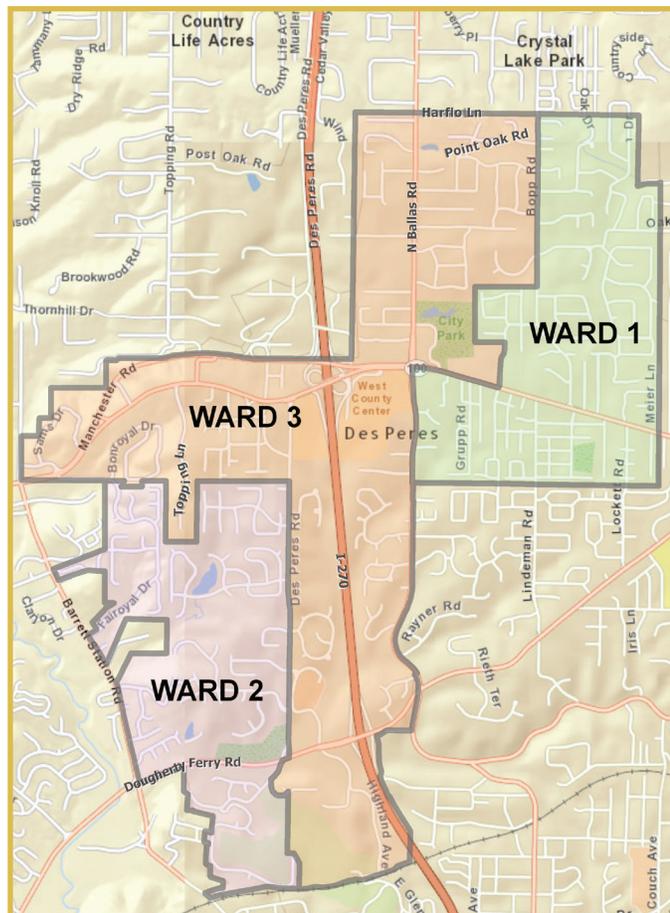


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### Municipal Election: General Information

Des Peres Residents are reminded to vote on Tuesday, April 7, 2015. One week prior to the election, you should receive a postcard from the St. Louis County Election Commission indicating the location of your polling place. Polls are open from 6:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M. You can also get this information from the St. Louis County Election Commission's website: [www.co.st-louis.mo.us/elections](http://www.co.st-louis.mo.us/elections) or 314-615-1800. The St. Louis County Election Board requires all voters to show some form of identification in order to vote.



*The following individuals have filed for the April 7, 2015 municipal election:*

**Municipal Judge**  
Charles (Chuck) Billings

**Alderman, Ward 1**  
Kathleen Gmelich

**Alderman, Ward 2**  
Jim Kleinschmidt

**Alderman, Ward 3**  
Kenneth McKamely  
Sean P. Concagh



## Letter From Mayor Rick Lahr

### MAYOR:

Rick Lahr

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

### ALDERMEN:

#### WARD I:

John Pound

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

Kathleen Gmelich

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

#### WARD II:

Paul Raczkiewicz

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

Jim Kleinschmidt

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

#### WARD III:

Mark Becker

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

Sean Concagh

sconcagh@desperesmo.org  
(314) 835- 6125 (VM)



As I write this letter, March has just arrived and spring is at our doorstep. My first thought, was it was a great winter with reasonable temperatures and little snow. The forecast in the first week of March is the opposite – snow, rain, freezing rain and ice for the metro area! Of course, as time draws near, the storm event can shift resulting in substantially better or worse conditions – weather forecasting is as much of an art as it is a science! However, Des Peres residents can sleep comfortably knowing that our dedicated street crews are ready, prepared and able to do an outstanding job in any weather! Our Street Superintendent has been with the city nearly 42 years and done an outstanding job over those years. Rumor has it that Frank Clark will retire later this year and he will be greatly missed- tough boots to fill!

The city has over 50 miles of streets which we maintain. Typically, we fight winter weather with a team of ten (10) employees drawing from our streets and parks department. It takes roughly 2.5 hours to salt streets and 3.5 hours to plow a typical snow. Plowing is effective when snow volumes exceed 2 inches. Lesser amounts are handled with chemicals. The city has a “snow plan” assigning priorities based on traffic volumes and road terrain. If you live on a short street with a cul-de-sac (like me), you are likely on the lower end of our priority system BUT our crews get to each of us in a timely manner. This is quite an undertaking and we appreciate the patience of the community.

As your Mayor, I continue to represent the city in regional or area wide efforts. Since the General Assembly is now in session, a great deal of our focus is on their activities and making sure they understand how their decisions impact our communities. An example of the “silliness” that can go on in Jefferson City - recent legislation proposed by a legislator would allow non-resident to run for office in a city. While that idea goes against our fundamental democratic principles, the bill received a legislative hearing and required that city officials testify on the bill. By the way, we communicated our opposition to the concept believing that local residents are best situated to serve as elected officials in their communities. One of our focuses again this year is protecting our sales tax revenues against continuing attempts to require more sharing in the region – Des Peres already shares 34% of the general sales taxes generated in our community with others in the County. We are participating in an informal consortium of similar sales tax cities and have retained an on-site lobbyist to monitor the legislation and keep us advised in a timely manner so that we can best protect our interests.

The Des Peres Board of Aldermen and I are committed to managing the affairs of the city in an efficient and proactive manner. We offer an array of quality municipal services with a low local tax burden. Our goal is to maintain Des Peres as THE QUALITY COMMUNITY in the region as a place to live, work, play and raise a family. It requires a lot of hard work in the community to achieve that goal. Residents are encouraged to talk with their elected officials and not just when you have a complaint - a lot of great ideas come from those conversations! Working together as partners who share a common goal to make Des Peres the best place that it can be is the best way to move forward.

Let me close by encouraging each of you to VOTE on April 7th. Participating in the election process just one way (but an important way), for you to impact your city. Unfortunately, we all lead busy lives both professionally and in raising our families and voting may be just one more thing on our list, but it is an important thing to participate in whether a city, state or national election. VOTE April 7th.

Best Wishes,  
Rick

Mayor Lahr Recognized by  
West Magazine - Best of West  
Civic Servant



To say somebody is the Best Civic Servant is to say a lot. Not only does it mean they provide a vital service to the community, it requires that they show a dedication and passion for their work and the residents who rely on them. West Magazine asked their reporters and other city officials for guidance in making their picks for 2014 Best of West Civic Servants. Mayor Rick Lahr was recognized at the February 23rd Board of Aldermen Meeting as one of the Best Civic Servants in West County. West Magazine Editor Kate Uptergrove marveled at Mayor Lahr's dedication, saying: "He has served as a civic servant in the city of Des Peres for 22 years – as an alderman from 1992-2000 and as an eight-term mayor. That's impressive." We think so too, Kate. Congratulations to Mayor Lahr on this well deserved recognition!

**ATTENTION  
SUBDIVISION TRUSTEES**

To help the City maintain a current and accurate list of all trustees, please send an updated list to Ms. Amanda Foster, City Clerk, via e-mail to [afoster@desperesmo.org](mailto:afoster@desperesmo.org). Please include the name of the subdivision, name of officer, office held, home address, phone number and e-mail.

# Municipal Calendar

## 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
- 18th Resident Shredding Event, 10:00 AM - 12:00 P.M. @ The Lodge Pool Parking Lot
- 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

## May

- 2nd Monster Machines Day, 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. @ Des Peres Park Parking Lot
- 4th Municipal Court, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall
- 4th Public Safety Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ Public Safety
- 7th Parks and Rec Commission, 6:00 P.M. @ The Lodge
- 13th Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 11th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 22nd Board of Adjustment, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall
- 25th Memorial Day Holiday – City Hall Closed
- 26th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 26th Audit and Finance Committee, 4:30 @ City Hall

## June

- 1st Municipal Court, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall
- 1st Public Safety Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ Public Safety
- 4th Parks and Rec Commission, 6:00 P.M. @ The Lodge
- 10th Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 8th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 12th Summer Concert Series, 7:00 P.M. @ Des Peres Park
- 22nd Board of Aldermen, CANCELLED
- 22nd Audit and Finance Committee, 4:30 P.M. @ City Hall
- 24th Board of Adjustment, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall



## Get Hopping Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4, 10:00 A.M.  
Des Peres Park



Hop on over to Des Peres Park for our annual youth egg hunt! Children, ages 3-6 years old, will be able to participate in the big scramble. Our special guest will be the Easter Bunny, so be sure to stop by, rain or shine, with your basket in hand. Bring your camera to snap a picture with the Easter Bunny. This event is presented with the help of Scout Troop 313. This event is FREE and reservations are not required. Des Peres Park is located at 12325 Manchester Road - entrance from Manchester Westbound or Ballas Rd.



Spring Hikes at Phantom Forest and Bittersweet Woods Conservation Areas  
Tuesdays: March 31 and April 28  
4:30-5:30 P.M.

All ages are welcome to join Lodge Certified Interpretive Guide Aaron Kaminski for our FREE spring trail hikes that will explore the Phantom Forest and Bittersweet Woods Conservation areas. Each hike will provide a fun and safe time for kids of all ages to enjoy the freedom of nature. We will incorporate themes for each hike. The March hike will introduce nature journaling as a family and the April hike will focus on discovering wild flowers. Pre-registration for each hike is mandatory. Free for members/residents. \$6 for non-residents.

## HELMET SAFETY CHECK

Saturday, April 11, 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.  
The Lodge Des Peres Lobby

Children can bring their own helmets to this event and a trained professional from St. Louis Children's Hospital will check for a correct fit and ensure that it is an approved helmet—all at no charge! If your child needs a different helmet or does not have one, we can provide an approved, properly fitting helmet for \$11.00. Parents and kids will be taught how to put a helmet on correctly so they can continue this important safety practice at home. Pre-registration is required by calling 314.454.KIDS.

Des Peres Resident Shredding Event  
Saturday, April 18, 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.  
The Lodge Outdoor Pool Parking Lot

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) estimates that as many as 9 million Americans have their identities stolen each year, costing individuals and businesses nearly \$50 billion. The FTC recommends deterring identity thieves by safeguarding your information. One suggestion is to shred financial documents and paperwork with personal information. CitiShred is proud to be an AAA Certified member of National Association for Information Destruction (NAID), and stands by its standards and code of ethics. Citishred is a proud contributor and member of The BackStoppers. Citishred is HIPAA and FACTA compliant in their services, especially in shred size. No binder clips or hanging metal file folders. No registration required. Maximum 3 bankers boxes per car. \*Time is 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. or until capacity is reached. Cost is FREE.\* The Lodge is located at 1050 Des Peres Road.

## Spring Gardening Tips and Arbor Day

by Tina James, Des Peres Horticulturist

Hopefully the cold weather is behind us. But if you are still in the hibernation mode, then I will give you some historical information about Arbor Day to read. Arbor Day - the day to celebrate trees – started in 1872 by Nebraska journalist, politician, originally from Michigan, named Julius Sterling Morton. Through his long and productive career, he worked to improve agricultural techniques for his adopted state of Nebraska and throughout the US when he served as President Grover Cleveland's Secretary of Agriculture. But his most important legacy was Arbor Day.

In the years following the first Arbor Day many other states such as Kansas, Tennessee, Minnesota and Ohio all proclaimed their own Arbor Day. Today all fifty states and some other countries either celebrate Arbor Day or have a celebration to tree planting, reforestation, or even a 'Tree Loving Week'. Although the dates may vary in keeping with the local climates, all are usually in the spring. Missouri's is the first Friday in April, the 3th. We will be planting a tree in Des Peres Park (on March 25th) and giving away tree seedlings in honor of Arbor Day starting April 2nd at the lodge. Some of the seedlings to be given away are Black Walnut, White Oak, Pecan, Bur Oak, Hazelnut, and Norway spruce.

For the home owner, Arbor Day is an excellent opportunity to walk your property and take stock in the condition of your trees, and plan for the future. Inspect your trees; note any broken branches, winter damage, and evidence of disease or insect infestation. Call an arborist to come out and do that assessment with you. It might cost but it is well worth the investment. Think about how planting trees might improve the look of your property or provide wind or heat protection or just to screen and use for privacy. Come walk the parks and see the growth habits of some trees that do well in Missouri. Take a trip to a botanical garden, arboretum, or just your local nursery. Talk with your friends, neighbors, or the park staff for recommendations. The internet is always a good place to find lists of native trees. And, oh yes, plant a tree!

## LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO HOST YOUR NEXT EVENT?

The Lodge offers unique amenities that create memorable experiences for your guests. Let The Lodge accommodate your next event!

Meeting rooms to host your next...Bridal shower, baby shower, teen party, rehearsal dinner, wedding, anniversary party or corporate special event

- Indoor Aquatic Center with a wave pool and slide for your next team party or school function
- Regulation gymnasium for basketball and volleyball
- Lock-in and Light Up The Night Packages for an evening of fun-filled activities
- Birthday party swim and gym packages

View rental rates and details at [www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com](http://www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com). To reserve space for your next event, please contact Melissa Armstrong at 314.835.6154 or [marmstrong@desperesmo.org](mailto:marmstrong@desperesmo.org).





Charles Billings  
Candidate for  
Municipal Judge

I've had the honor of serving Des Peres as Judge for the past 30 years. The Court personnel and I have worked to make the Court experience efficient and professional. We have conducted the Court's business without blemish as we provide fair enforcement of the Des Peres Ordinances.

I serve on the executive board of the Missouri Municipal and Associate Circuit Judges Association, which is a statewide organization of Judges. On that board I serve as editor of the Missouri Bench Book – a set of guidelines that is given to every new judge throughout the State.

I have a special commitment to the people of Des Peres. Kathy and I have lived here for 32 years, and we have raised our three children here. Over those years, I have been very active in St. Gerard Majella parish. I also serve as President of Legal Support Services a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing financial support for abused women and children. My full-time work is with my law firm, Bruntrager and Billings P.C.



Kathleen Gmelich  
Candidate for  
Alderman Ward 1

A Des Peres resident since 1987, I was a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission from 1992 until 1996, have been a member of the Board of Aldermen since 1996 and served as President of the Board of Aldermen for four terms.

As an Alderman, I have also served as Aldermanic Representative to each of the City of Des Peres Commissions including Audit & Finance, Board of Adjustment, Parks and Recreation, Planning & Zoning and Public Safety.

My husband David, our three children and I are members of St. Gerard Majella Parish. I have served on the St. Gerard Majella School Board and have been an active volunteer at my children's schools. My academic background includes a BS in Public Administration and a Masters in Business Administration. I am a licensed, practicing attorney.

I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the current Mayor and Board of Aldermen and would consider it an honor and privilege to continue to serve as your Alderman.



Jim Kleinschmidt  
Candidate for  
Alderman Ward 2

My wife Cathy and I, along with our two children, have been residents of Ward 2 in Des Peres since 1990.

I was appointed as a Commissioner to the Planning and Zoning Commission in 1992. In 1995 I ran for Alderman and was elected. I have been re-elected as Aldermen for 9 consecutive 2-year terms since then.

I have served as President of the Board of Aldermen numerous times, as well as the Aldermanic Representative to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Public Safety Commission, Parks Commission, Finance and Information Technology Commission and the Board of Adjustment.

I volunteered to serve in the United States Marine Corps and received an Honorable Discharge in 1973. I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree from Missouri State University, a law degree from The University of Tulsa and have been an attorney in private practice since 1981.

It would be an honor to continue to represent the Citizens of Ward 2 as their Alderman.



**Kenneth McKamely**  
Candidate for  
Alderman Ward 3

A resident of Des Peres since 1994, I have been on the Des Peres Planning and Zoning Commission since 2007 and the Architectural Review Board. I am very excited to be a part of the ongoing dynamic growth in the City of Des Peres.

I am a licensed registered architect in the State of Missouri and have an executive background in construction project management. I retired from the corporate world in 2009 and started my own firm, McKamely and Associates, Architects. With your support, I can bring a unique skill set to the Ward 3 Aldermanic position.

I am a proud veteran who served with the U.S. Army Airborne battalions and attained the rank of Staff Sergeant.

My wife Sue and I are members of St. Clement Parish. We have two grown children and grandchildren.

I look forward to representing you!



**Sean P. Concagh**  
Candidate for  
Alderman Ward 3

My name is Sean Concagh and I am running for re-election as Alderman in Ward 3. I am a lifelong resident of the City of Des Peres, now residing in the Dunmorr subdivision. My wife, Jane, and I are active members of St. Clement of Rome Parish. We have three children, ages 16, 11 and 7. Our children attend both the Kirkwood public schools and St. Clement.

I am a graduate of Chaminade College Preparatory School and the University of Dayton where I received my degree in Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. I received my Certified Public Accountant license in 1993 and have been in practice as partner at Concagh and Co. for the last 18 years.

I would appreciate your support and look forward to having the opportunity to continue to serve the City of Des Peres.

## Election Day:

All polling places open at 6:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M.



### Accepted Forms of Identification:

Missouri election law requires each voter to show a form of identification before voting:

- Voter Identification Card
- Identification issued by the U.S. Government such as a driver's license or passport
- Identification issued by an institution of higher education, including a university, college, vocational and technical school, located within the state of Missouri
- A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or other government document that contains the name and address of the voter
- If you do not possess any of these forms of identification, you may still cast a ballot if two supervising election judges, one from each major political party, attest they know you.

This newsletter insert is not intended to endorse, support or oppose any candidate, but simply serves as a resource for Des Peres Residents. All candidates were given the opportunity to provide a photograph and biography.

## City Hires Joe Heitkamp as Building Official adds Code Enforcement Officer Mary White

Joe Heitkamp  
Building Official



Mr. Heitkamp was hired as the City's Building Official in February 2015 and replaces Bryan Kopp who took another position in a neighboring city.

Official Heitkamp holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Mo. St. Louis. After college Joe began working as a cost estimator and project manager for a residential building contractor. His career in code enforcement began in the City of Clayton and he has been the Building Official for three cities in the metropolitan area as well as a Fire Inspector and Fire Marshal for two fire departments in the St. Louis area.

Joe is very excited to begin his 28th year of Public Service for such a vibrant and exciting city such as Des Peres. Joe and his wife Karen reside in the City of Dardenne Prairie, Mo., and they also have two grown sons who live and work in the St. Louis area.

Mary White  
Code Enforcement  
Officer



Ms. White was hired as the City's Code Enforcement Officer in February 2015, this is a new position that the City has added in FY2015.

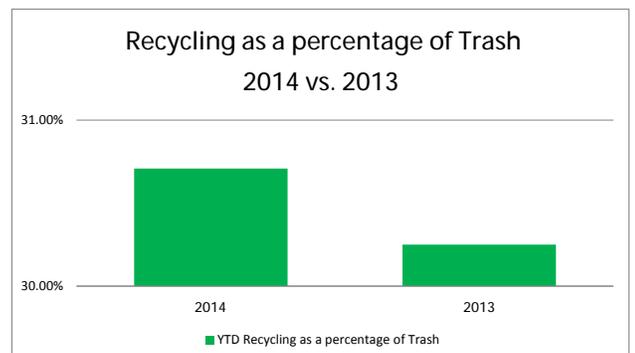
Code Enforcement Officer White holds a Bachelor's degree in General Studies from the University of Mo. Columbia. Mary is also a S.A.V.E. volunteer for the State Emergency Management Agency and she is ICC certified as a Property Maintenance & Housing Inspector, Residential and Commercial Building Inspector.

Mary has worked 10 plus years for the cities of Maryland Heights and University City as both a Code Enforcement Officer and Building/Housing Inspector. Mary was also the president of S.L.A.C.E. (St. Louis Area Code Enforcement) for two years.

Mary is a Kirkwood native and currently resides in the community with her husband and 16 year old daughter. She also owns and rides horses as well as being an avid runner.

## Residential Recycling Progress

2015 represents the 25th year that the City of Des Peres has offered free curb-side recycling for our residents as part of our solid waste management contract. The City contracts with Progressive Waste Solutions for waste management. The City likes to provide yearly updates to residents on our total trash to recycling diversion rate. Our year-end 2014 recycling as a percentage of trash is up from year end 2013 numbers by approximately 1/2 percent to 30.71%. We thank you for your continued efforts to help the city achieve its goal of a 40% diversion rate. For more information on trash and recycling services offered by the city and a list of acceptable recyclables, please visit: [www.desperesmo.org/solidwasteguide](http://www.desperesmo.org/solidwasteguide)



## Spring Break Reminders Message from Chief Keth Krumm

Many people travel during spring break which is a well known fact among the general public, including those that will use this information to make you a victim of a burglary. The best deterrent to home burglary is a home that is occupied. Since you cannot always be at home, it is important to give your home the appearance of being occupied while you are away. First lock all doors and windows. Use timers to turn lights on and off at random times during the evening. Put a small TV on a timer as well to give the appearance that someone is home watching TV. Use motion sensors to turn on lights. A radio tuned to a talk station can simulate people inside the home engaged in conversation.

Turn the ringer volume down on your phone or set your answering machine to pick up on the first or second ring when you are not at home. A constantly ringing phone is a good indicator that your home is unoccupied. Make sure that your answering machine, voice mail or e-mail messages do not indicate that you are out of town. Also, posting pictures on social media is also a means to announce that your home is unoccupied. Check your privacy settings. Have your mail and any deliveries placed on hold while you are out of town or arrange with a neighbor or friend to pick up these items.

The Des Peres Department of Public Safety offers the residents of the City of Des Peres a Vacation House Watch Program. Residents may contact the department prior to a vacation or business trip, and request that a patrol car make periodic checks of their home while they are away. Be sure to mention what lights you will leave on in the house, what lights you will have set on timers, and what security devices you have to protect your home. Officers will then check your house during the dates specified. This service is free of charge and while we do not guarantee it will keep anything from happening while you are gone, it should give you peace of mind to know that our officers will drive by your home periodically and look for strange vehicles or people at your home.

### Schedule a Vacation Watch

If you would like your home checked while you're away, fill out and return a Residential Out of Town Notification and return to the Department of Public Safety at 1000 N. Ballas Road, Des Peres, MO 63131 or by fax to 314.835.6205. Forms can be picked up at the Public Safety building (address listed above) or can be accessed online via the City's website: [www.desperesmo.org](http://www.desperesmo.org). Once at the website homepage, select the header YOUR GOVERNMENT then under DEPARTMENT select PUBLIC SAFETY. On the left hand side of the page is a yellow box that will have the category FORMS, mouse over this category and select RESIDENTIAL OUT OF TOWN NOTIFICATION FORM. Fill out the information and print.

I also want to encourage residents to register and subscribe for Nixle. Public education concerning crime issues is an important part of the Public Safety department's overall response to crime in the community. A properly informed citizen will find it much easier to reduce his or her risk of becoming a victim of crime. The Des Peres Public Safety Department uses Nixle, a community information service provider that is built exclusively to provide secure, trustworthy, and reliable communications in real-time. The City partners with Nixle because it is a secure service that partners with National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (Nlets) and the International Public Safety and Justice Network. The system allows our department to communicate with all subscribers at once or to targeted affected audiences. Subscribers to this service will have information available in three forms of free messages: through cell phone text message, by e-mail message and over the web. Nixle is easy to use and subscribers choose what level of information they want to receive.

To register for Nixle, visit: [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) for questions or assistance with Nixle, please call or email community services officer Brandon Elzinga at [relzinga@deperesmo.org](mailto:relzinga@deperesmo.org) or 314.835.6286.

City of  
**Des Peres**  
Missouri

12325 Manchester Rd.  
Des Peres, MO 63131

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

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PAID  
St. Louis, MO  
Permit #495

City Hall/  
Municipal Court  
12325 Manchester Road

City Administrator  
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, CPA  
835-6113

Director of Public Works  
Steve Meyer, P.E.  
835-6130

Municipal 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 Recreation  
Facility  
1050 Des Peres Road  
835-6150

Director of Parks &  
Recreation  
Brian Schaffer  
835-6161

## CITY OFFICIALS

### MAYOR

Rick Lahr  
[rlahr@desperesmo.org](mailto:rlahr@desperesmo.org)

### ALDERMAN

#### WARD I

John Pound  
[jpound@desperesmo.org](mailto:jpound@desperesmo.org)  
Kathleen Gmelich  
[kgmelich@desperesmo.org](mailto:kgmelich@desperesmo.org)

#### WARD II

Paul Raczkievicz  
[praczkievicz@desperesmo.org](mailto:praczkievicz@desperesmo.org)  
Jim Kleinschmidt  
[jkleinschmidt@desperesmo.org](mailto:jkleinschmidt@desperesmo.org)

#### WARD III

Mark Becker  
[mbecker@desperesmo.org](mailto:mbecker@desperesmo.org)  
Sean Concagh  
[sconcagh@desperesmo.org](mailto:sconcagh@desperesmo.org)