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### 2016 Budget Approved

The 2016 Budget was approved at the December 14, 2015 regular Board of Aldermen meeting. The budget is balanced in all funds with projected revenues of \$20,729,665.

The budget is a collection of separate distinct budgets for each of the city's six funds: General, Fire, Parks, Capital, Debt, and Sewer. All, except the Capital Fund are balanced with revenues equal to or greater than proposed expenses. The Capital Fund deficit is due to the purchase of a new Fire Pumper (\$650,000) and saved for in an equipment depreciation account over the past 10 years, reflected in a transfer from the Fire Fund.

City revenues continue to be dominated by sales tax which is projected at \$13,175,000 representing 63% of total revenues projected to be received in 2016. 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 2016, representing the 22nd consecutive year of no local property tax.

The Budget includes a 1.5% increase in the employee pay plan together with an estimated increase of 5% in the cost of employee medical and dental coverage. No additional full-time employees will be added to the workforce in 2016. The City employs 108 full time employees and around 300 part-time seasonal employees (focused primarily at The Lodge).

The Budget also includes the following new initiatives (not exhaustive):

- \$1.5 million in street and sidewalk maintenance, representing a significant increase over 2015 appropriations – a general increase in effort towards establishing a more aggressive pavement management program
- Development of a 3 year Strategic Plan involving elected officials, management team and citizen commissions to establish goals, objectives and action plans for the next three years (2016-2018)
- Complete revision of the Subdivision Code, Sign Code and Zoning Code to implement new goals and objectives established in the 2015 Comprehensive Plan
- Initiate a facility study of City Hall focusing on long-term use of 2nd and 3rd floor storage areas
- Parking Lot resurfacing and landscaping upgrades at The Lodge
- Reconstruct all streets in the Bayberry Hills Subdivision including new concrete curbs and gutters and street surface
- Accreditation of Police Operations with the Missouri Police Chief's Association – expected to be awarded in January 2016 and ongoing implementation/management of designation. Initiate process to achieve international accreditation of police operations thru CALEA with an anticipated certification in 2019

## Letter From Mayor Rick Lahr

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For most Des Peres residents our home is our greatest investment other than the investment in our families. We take great pride in our homes and neighborhoods. That same pride should extend to our COMMUNITY. Des Peres residents are fortunate to enjoy an abundance of assets equal to any location in the St Louis Area. Those assets include our history as a community, our neighborhoods, our extraordinary tax base, our quality public and private schools and most importantly our friends and neighbors.

People often focus on the negative – what’s wrong and what needs to be improved. Without question, everyone and everyplace has room for improvement and we will continue to strive to improve. However, I would like us to focus at the start of a new year on WHAT IS RIGHT IN OUR COMMUNITY!

We have to start with our people! The residents are committed to making this community a better place to live, work, play and raise a family. While we might sometimes disagree on goals or the road to achieve our goals, we all agree that Des Peres is and should remain a premier community in which to live. We have an abundance of citizen volunteers active in the PTA at our schools, in the Boys and Girl Scouts and various youth athletic programs, on committees at our places of worship, serving as Trustees and volunteers to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods and as volunteers on city boards and commissions. Des Peres’ location in the St Louis area is second to none- you can get anywhere in St Louis from Des Peres in under 30 minutes. Of course, you don’t need to travel far to enjoy our recreational opportunities in our parks and at The Lodge or to shop for virtually any need your family might have. That strong commercial and retail tax base allows the city to provide high quality services to residents at a low cost. We are continuing our tradition of zero local property taxes (since 1985) to support city operations and to provide free solid waste services to our residents (since 1973).

Des Peres provides outstanding city services! Our first responders have more training than most of their peers with each officer fully trained and certified in police, fire and EMS. Our parks & recreation department is exploding with enthusiasm offering new and innovative programming and The Lodge remains the premier public recreation center in the metropolitan area. Des Peres enjoys over 100 acres of park land and hopes to continue to add to those amenities as opportunities present themselves in future years. In 2016, we anticipate adding an additional 10 acres to the conservation area known as Phantom Forest and Bittersweet Woods thanks to another generous donation from the Goodson Family Trust.

Our neighborhoods are diverse in appearance, size and personality and offer a wide range of architectural styles and pricing. Residents take pride in ownership and it shows in our neighborhoods.

While organizations like Better Together continue to espouse the call that “bigger is better” calling for consolidation of police and fire agencies, municipal courts and even whole cities as being the answer to all of the metropolitan area problems, Des Peres provides visible evidence that “small works and works well”. (I hesitate to call Des Peres “small” since we rank 27th in population among the 91 cities in the County and we offer the same or better services than the so called “big cities” in our area.)

As a Des Peres resident, I proudly share in ownership of these great municipal assets. I hope that you join me in being PROUD TO LIVE IN DES PERES!

Best wishes for a happy new year!

Rick

# Municipal Calendar

## January

- 1st New Year's Holiday – City Hall closed
- 4th Municipal Court, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall
- 4th Public Safety Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ Public Safety
- 7th Parks and Recreation Commission, 6:00 P.M.  
@ The Lodge
- 11th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 13th Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 18th Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – City Hall closed
- 25th Audit and Finance Committee, 4:30 P.M. @ City Hall
- 25th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 27th Board of Adjustment, 6:30P.M. @ City Hall

## February

- 1st Municipal Court, 6:30 P.M. @ City Hall
- 1st Public Safety Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ Public Safety
- 4th Parks and Recreation Commission, 6:00 P.M.  
@ The Lodge
- 8th Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 10th Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 15th President's Day Holiday – City Hall Closed
- 22nd Audit and Finance Committee, 4:30 P.M. @ City Hall
- 22nd Board of Aldermen, 7:00 P.M. @ City Hall
- 24th Board of Adjustment, 6:30P.M. @ City Hall

## March

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

- Implement additional security improvements at City Hall including electronic door access by ID cards and building improvements to establish secure work counters for the Office of the City Clerk and Department of Public Works
- Complete design for the replacement of the Oak Drive Bridge – scheduled for replacement in 2018
- Work with a consultant to undertake a study of the Manchester Road (east) infrastructure with development of strip maps to reflect current and desired improvements for future enhancement grants involving sidewalks, landscaping, street-scape and potential traffic calming
- Des Peres Park ball field replacement (dura edge) and ball field dugouts and concrete pad placement under baseball bleachers
- Purchase of new front line fire rescue pumper and upgrade of all personal protective gear for first responders including scheduled replacement of turnout gear and replacement of all self contained breathing apparatus'
- Undertake an engineering analysis for future improvements to Topping Lane, including replacement of drainage pipe with a box culvert and related storm water improvements
- Installation of Sugar Creek Park Monument signs
- Outdoor Pool painting and pebbletech installation on the leisure beachfront and sunning pool
- Indoor Pool above ground camera, underwater cameras and slide pool UVA system
- Implementation of new recreation software program (MaxGalaxy)

The Mayor, Board of Aldermen and City Staff approached the 2016 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 curbside Trash and Recycling services; 3) Maintenance of Des Peres AAA Bond Rating.

## ATTENTION SUBDIVISION TRUSTEES

To help the City maintain a current and accurate list of all trustees, please send information to the Office of the City Clerk, attention Ms. Amanda Foster via email: [afoster@desperesmo.org](mailto:afoster@desperesmo.org) or call 314-835-6111. Please include the name of subdivision, name of officers, home address, phone and email.



## CO-REC DOUBLES PICKLEBALL LEAGUE

Pickleball is a fun game that is played on a badminton size court with the net lowered to 34 inches at the center. It is played with a perforated plastic ball (similar to a whiffle ball) and wood or composite paddles. It is easy for beginners to learn, but can also develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players. Equipment will be provided if needed. This newly formed co-rec league is recreational in nature but scores will be kept and winning percentages will be calculated each week. Guaranteed 8 weeks of play for the session. This league will welcome players of all skill levels. Registration will be taken individually. The league administrator will put together the rotation schedule for the session. Registration deadline is one week prior to start of the league. Call 314.835.6150 or visit [www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com](http://www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com) for more information! Minimum 4/Maximum 16

### **Ages: 16 - Adults**

Location: The Lodge Gymnasium, Court #2  
 Cost: \$40/Member; \$42/Resident;  
 \$48/Non-Resident

### **Days: Wednesday (Intermediate to Advanced)**

Time: Match times will be 11 a.m. or 12 p.m.  
 Session: #21735 January 13 – March 2  
 #21736 March 16 – May 4

### **Days: Thursday (Beginner to Advanced)**

Time: Match times will be 7 or 8 p.m.  
 Session: #21734 March 17 – May 5  
 #21733 May 19 – July 7



## FAMILY FUN NIGHT SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.



Families are invited to play together at this enhanced night at The Lodge in February. In addition to basketball in the gym and waves in the pool, you will enjoy unique activities including 9 Square in the Air, Gaga Ball, a bounce house, foosball, music and water games in the wave pool! 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. Dinner or snacks are available to purchase in our café. This event is free for Lodge members. Regular admission applies for non-members. Call 314.835.6150 or visit [www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com](http://www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com) for more information!

## FROZEN IN FEBRUARY DINNER DANCE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6 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. Elsa and Anna will be visiting to entertain and pose for pictures. Price is per person; two and younger are free. Registration deadline is February 2. Call 314.835.6150 or visit [www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com](http://www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com) for more information! Session: #21669; \$28/Member; \$29/Resident; \$34/Non-Resident.



## SUMMER 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 last approximately 30 minutes and will be held on the dates listed below – 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 starting December 21 through the final recruitment session on February 21 (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. 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.

### 2016 RECRUITMENT SESSIONS:

- Tuesday, January 5, 1 p.m., The Lodge Activity Room
- Saturday, January 23, 1:30 p.m., The Lodge Activity Room
- Sunday, January 24, 1:30 p.m., The Lodge Activity Room
- Saturday, February 13, 12:30 p.m., The Lodge Activity Room
- Sunday, February 14, 12:30 p.m., The Lodge Activity Room
- Saturday, February 21, 12:30 p.m., The Lodge Activity Room



Visit [www.desperesmo.org/LodgeDesPeresEmployment](http://www.desperesmo.org/LodgeDesPeresEmployment) for a list of current job openings.

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

The Lodge Des Peres 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).



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Oh the weather outside is frightful...

And during winter storms, Des Peres' 125 lane-miles of streets must be kept clear. This responsibility falls upon the eight men of the Streets Division, within the Department of Public Works, along with assistance from two members of the Parks and Recreation staff. Those ten individuals use two-ton dump trucks (3), one-ton dump trucks (4), and one-ton pickups (3) to spread salt, and when necessary, plow snow.

Salt is our first line of defense. Salting prior to the storm prevents snow from freezing to the roadway, and the first two inches of snow can usually be removed with salt alone. In colder temperatures, calcium chloride is sprayed onto the salt as it's spread. The calcium chloride further decreases the melting point, and reduces the bouncing of salt on the pavement, keeping the salt where we want it.

When the forecast indicates more significant snowfall, we'll still spread salt to prevent freezing, then wait for the snow to accumulate before plowing. Our trucks typically plow in pairs, the first truck cutting a path, and the second truck widening to the curb. They split up, however, when it comes to our many cul-de-sacs. In order to plow the entire city, it often takes the five pairs of trucks four hours to complete their routes.

With new GIS technology available, and new subdivisions being developed, we are in the process of revising the routes in order to salt and plow more efficiently. Speaking of technology, our newest truck has computerized controls that vary the salt spreading rate with ground speed, and help us better track our salt usage. Future truck purchases will include similar capabilities. Controlled salt usage is better for the environment, and better for the bottom line.

Sometimes it can be confusing as to who is responsible for plowing what. Keep in mind that your neighbor across the street may not actually live in Des Peres. Other cities may have a different strategy when it comes to snow fighting. Most of our arterials are not maintained by the city at all. St. Louis County maintains Ballas, Dougherty Ferry, and Barrett Station, while MoDOT maintains Manchester and I-270. Commercial properties are responsible for clearing their own parking lots by ordinance (405.180.E.10.a).

What you can do to help:

- Park cars off the street during/after snowstorms. Cars on the street make it more difficult to safely plow. This is even more critical in cul-de-sacs. If our trucks cannot safely maneuver through the cul-de-sac, it will not be plowed at all.
- Don't install sprinkler heads at the back of the curb. This is prohibited by ordinance (14-364.a.7). The city is not responsible for damage to improvements within the ROW, with the exception of mailboxes and grass.
- Report any damage to grass or mailboxes as soon as possible by calling Public Works at 314-835-6130. The longer you wait, the harder it is for us to determine what happened.
- When clearing your driveway, pile the snow in your yard, or "downstream" of your driveway. We plow with the flow of traffic, so if you pile the snow "upstream", it will fly right back into your driveway when we plow.
- Stay home. Empty streets are much easier and safer to plow. Besides...

...The fire is so delightful, and you've got no place to go.

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

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



## CHARLES MILANO, CAPTAIN OF POLICE SERVICES RETIRES AFTER 31 YEARS WITH CITY



After 31 years of service to the City of Des Peres in the Des Peres Department of Public Safety, Charles Milano has retired. Capt. Milano was formally recognized at the City's annual Appreciation Dinner in November where Mayor Lahr thanked him for

his dedication and service to the community and presented him with a Proclamation. Milano has held virtually every rank in the Department including: Public Safety Officer, Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain of Fire Services and Captain of Police Services. In recognition of his long and dedicated service, Mayor Lahr designated Capt. Milano as Chief for the Day on December 4.

Milano is a graduate of the FBI National Academy (2007) and was an active member of the Greater St. Louis Major Case Squad for the past 26 years, including the rank of Deputy Commander for the past 11 years. He also was the former President of the Law Enforcement Officials (LEO) organization.

We thank Captain Milano for his service and wish him a long and enjoyable retirement in Florida!

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROMOTIONS

With the recent retirement of Captain Milano, several promotions were made within the Department of Public Safety:



- Captain Sean Quinn has been assigned to the position of Captain of Police Services.
- Lieutenant Eric Hall has been promoted to the rank of Captain. He has been assigned to the position of Captain of Fire Services.
- Sergeant Vicki Severs to the rank of Lieutenant
- Corporal Mark Franey to the rank of Sergeant
- Public Safety Officer (PSO) John Appelbaum to the rank of Corporal
- Public Safety Officer (PSO) Brian Felgate to the rank of Corporal

## CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

March - April 2016

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.

The Citizens Police Academy will begin again on March 1st of 2016 from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. and continue to meet on Tuesday evenings for nine weeks with a graduation ceremony on April 26th. 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 provided 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

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

For more information contact Support Services Officer Brandon Elzinga at 314.835.6286 or [relzinga@desperesmo.org](mailto:relzinga@desperesmo.org).



City of

# Des Peres

Missouri

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Tracy Hansen, CPA  
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Joe Heitkamp, C.B.C.O.  
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Administrator  
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