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### **2017 BUDGET APPROVED**

The 2017 Budget was adopted by the Board of Alderman and approved by the Mayor under Resolution 16-3043 on December 12, 2016. We are pleased to deliver a balanced budget in all funds with projected revenues at \$20,275,670. The Budget is a combination of six integrated funds, each representing a unique City operation and driven by a dedicated source of revenue per State law: General, Fire, Parks, Capital, Debt, and Sewer.

Budget development is a six-month endeavor spearheaded by City staff and guided by the elected body through a series of work sessions. Along the way the draft budget is continuously refined to reflect community priorities and to balance demands with anticipated resources. All sessions are open to the public and subject to feedback. Public input culminates in a formal public hearing held at the last Board of Alderman meeting in November and comments continue to be received until budget adoption in December.

The City's first Strategic Plan played a major role in crafting the 2017 Budget. Strategic planning is a concept designed to serve as an organizational roadmap for the City's residents, businesses, and visitors. The document provides the City with a general framework to plan proactively for the future, driving decisions about budget, capital outlay, financial policies, and operations. Over the next three years, the City will use the Strategic Plan to strengthen operations and ensure that employees are working toward common goals by managing priorities, measuring and assessing results, and adjusting the City's direction to reflect the changing environment.

Total spending in 2017 will be scaled back 10% from last year. The decrease is largely the result of reducing our capital expenditures by nearly \$2 million. Those reductions account for an extraordinary year in 2016, which included the purchase of a new fire truck, completion of the TRANE energy project, and significant residential street maintenance efforts.

City revenues continue to be dominated by sales tax, representing 64% of total revenues projected to be received in 2017. This projection is net after contributing an estimated \$1.9 million in sales taxes with the St. Louis County sharing "pool". We are proud to report that property taxes will again not be levied by the City in 2017, marking the 22nd consecutive year of maintaining a 0.00% property tax. Des Peres is one of only two cities in St. Louis County to forgo a local property tax.

BUDGET Continued on Page 3

## Letter From Mayor Rick Lahr

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Des Peres has a well deserved reputation for its outstanding park system both in acreage and maintenance. Des Peres Park, Sugar Creek and Pioneer Parks with their walking trails and active recreational amenities are well used by the community. An unnoticed gem in our park system is our urban wildacres component in which Des Peres, in partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation, preserves green space in the urban area.

I am happy to report that our park system is about to get larger thanks to the generous donation of ten (10) acres by Joan Goodson for expansion of the Bittersweet Woods Conservation Area. This is the second donation from the Goodson family which, coupled with an earlier donation of 13 acres by Claire Moore, has enabled the City of Des Peres to partner with the Missouri Department of Conservation in preserving 33 acres of urban woodlands for use by our community.

The Urban Wildacres program sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation offers a partnership with cities to preserve natural woodlands and prevent its development. Under the program, Conservation takes title to the land (usually by donation) and leases it to the local municipality in which it is located for use and maintenance as a natural park. Under the terms of the Urban Wildacre Agreement, use of the property is limited to walking trails constructed of natural materials. The property is to remain undeveloped and allowed to evolve over time as nature intended. Any additional plantings, whether trees, grass, wildflowers or other plants introduced to the conservation areas, must be native to Missouri.

Phantom Forest is accessed from Barrett Station Road and includes a small parking lot. Phantom Forest is linked to Bittersweet Woods via a series of trails constructed by the city thru the common ground of Dougherty Ridge Subdivision. The terrain within the nature area is not for the faint of heart and offers both a challenging hike and a great opportunity to bird watch and to observe other wildlife native to our area. With the expansion of Bittersweet Woods, the city will provide a small parking area and an access point in the new Brighton Heights Subdivision off of Des Peres Road. We hope to be able to complete the expanded walking paths and new parking area later this year.

The city will be undertaking a formal Citizens Attitude Survey this spring similar to the one completed in 2014 to assess Des Peres resident's opinions on a wide variety of city services. The survey in 2014 found a high level of satisfaction among residents about your government and community and provided a framework to identify areas where improvements could be made. The 2017 survey is intended as a follow up to measure our improvement since 2014 and identify new priorities from our residents.

The survey will be conducted by ETC Institute and is constructed using a scientific sampling method intended to provide a representative cross sample of our households by location and both gender and age. If you are among the 400-500 household selected at random by our consultant for a phone or mail survey, please respond as your opinions are important to our future planning.

Best Wishes,  
Rick



# 2017 Budget

## Continued

On the personnel side, the 2017 Budget includes a 2% cost-of-living adjustment to the pay plan for all full-time employees. The City anticipates hiring one additional full-time employee in Public Safety to be assigned to the West County Center Mall. The City currently employees 101 full-time employees and roughly 300 part-time seasonal employees – focused primarily at The Lodge.

Other budget highlights include:

- Continuation of curbside household waste collection including yard waste and recycling for 3,150 homes at an average cost savings of \$238.44 per home.
- Continuation of payment of all debt service from sales tax revenues in lieu of the \$0.486 real estate tax levy allowed by statute representing revenues of \$1,100,000 if the debt service tax were levied.
- A reduction in debt service costs due to paying off the final COPS Certificates for The Lodge in 2016 representing an annual cost savings of \$540,400 and planned utilization of accumulated bond fund reserves to reduce the annual budget contributions for debt service during 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020. Those General Obligation Bonds will be fully retired on February 1, 2020.
- Shifting of all costs for Park Operations from the General Fund into the Park Fund to be paid from Park Sales Tax Revenues starting in 2017.
- Please visit [www.desperesmo.org](http://www.desperesmo.org) to view the complete 2017 Fiscal Year Budget.

## Municipal Calendar

### February

2nd	Parks & Recreation Commission, 6:00PM @ The Lodge
6th	Municipal Court, 6:30 p.m. @ City Hall
6th	Public Safety Commission, 7:00 p.m. @ Public Safety
8th	Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 p.m. @ City Hall
13th	Board of Alderman, 7:00 p.m. @ City Hall
20th	President's Day Holiday - City Hall Closed
22nd	Board of Adjustment, 6:30 p.m. @ City Hall
27th	Audit & Finance Committee, 4:30 p.m. @ City Hall
27th	Board of Alderman, 7:00 p.m. @ City Hall

### March

2nd	Parks & Recreation Commission, 6:00PM @ The Lodge
6th	Municipal Court, 6:30 p.m. @ City Hall
6th	Public Safety Commission, 7:00 p.m. @ Public Safety
8th	Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 p.m. @ City Hall
13th	Board of Alderman, Cancelled
22nd	Board of Adjustment, 6:30 p.m. @ City Hall
27th	Audit & Finance Committee, 4:30 p.m. @ City Hall
27th	Board of Alderman, 7:00 p.m. @ City Hall

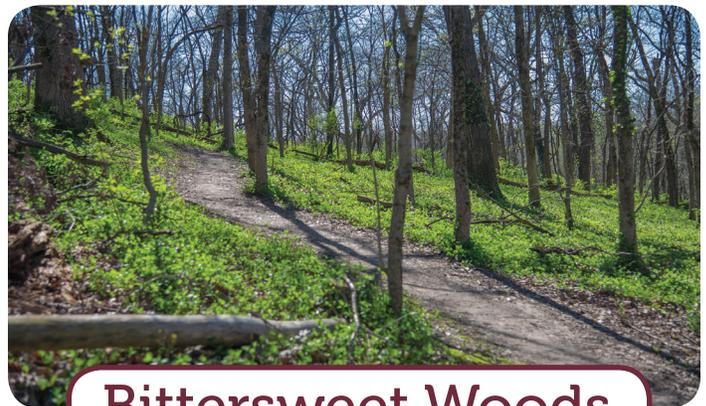
### April

3rd	Municipal Court, 6:30PM @ City Hall
3rd	Public Safety Commission, 7:00PM @ Public Safety
6th	Parks & Recreation Commission, 6:00PM @ The Lodge
10th	Board of Alderman, 7:00PM @ City Hall
12th	Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00PM @ City Hall
24th	Audit & Finance Committee, 4:30PM @ City Hall
24th	Board of Alderman, 7:00PM @ City Hall
26th	Board of Adjustment, 6:30PM @ City Hall

## Phantom Forest



## Bittersweet Woods



## COMMUNITY CPR/AED/FIRST AID TRAINING

Would you know what to do in a cardiac, breathing or first aid emergency? The right answer could save a life. With emphasis on hands on learning, this course gives you the skills to save a life. Participants are provided with the knowledge and skills necessary to help sustain life and to minimize pain and the consequences of injury or sudden illness until professional medical help arrives.

Certification includes: First Aid, CPR/AED for adult and child, CPR for infants. Attendance at all sessions is mandatory for certification. Minimum 5/Maximum 20.

**Ages:** 15+.

**Day:** Sunday. Time: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Session:** #2401 February 12

**Instructor:** American Red Cross

**Location:** Lodge Meeting Room.

**Cost:** \$60/Member; \$63/Resident; \$72/Non-Resident



## HI-NRG GYMNASTIX

The best way for your child to spend their day is to flip, jump, tumble and play in a Hi-NRG Gymnastix class at The Lodge. We provide a healthy, active and safe environment where they will exercise with friends and create happy memories. Whether your child has gymnastics experience or no experience at all, they will benefit by learning the fundamentals, building strength as well as flexibility, while maintaining a healthy lifestyle through exercise and being introduced to gymnastics skills. Call 314.835.6150 or visit [www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com](http://www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com) for more information or to register! Min. 7/Max. 14

**Instructor:** Hi-NRG Gymnastix Staff

**Location:** The Lodge Gymnasium, Court 2

**Cost:** \$70/Member; \$74/Resident; \$84/Non-Resident.

### MOMMY AND ME GYMNASTICS

**Ages:** 2 - 3 years with a participating parent

**Day:** Tuesday

**Time:** 9:40 – 10:20 a.m.

**Session:** #2598 February 28 – April 11  
(no class 3/14)

### PRESCHOOL GYMNASTICS

**Ages:** 3 - 4 years

**Day:** Tuesday

**Time:** 10:30 - 11:10 a.m.

**Session:** #2599 February 28 – April 11  
(no class 3/14)

## TAI CHI

Tai Chi combines moving Yoga, Qigong, meditation and traditional Chinese martial arts. Students will learn the basic form of Yang Style Tai Chi, the principle and philosophy of Tai Chi and some fundamentals of Chinese traditional medicine. Tai Chi exercise improves circulation, stability and overall health. Classes are held at City Studio with the option to move outdoors to Des Peres Park depending on the weather. For more information on the instructor, please visit [www.arthurtaichi.com](http://www.arthurtaichi.com). Call 314.835.6150 or visit [www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com](http://www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com) for more information or to register!



**Ages:** 16 and Older

**Instructor:** Master Arthur Du

**Location:** Des Peres Park/City Studio,

**Cost:** \$95/Member; \$100/Resident; \$119/Non-Resident.

**Session:**

#2680 Tuesday, 1 - 2 p.m., March 7 - April 23

#2682 Thursday, 7 - 8 p.m., March 9 - April 25

## SUNDAY FUNDAY

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 Funday offered. First come, first served. No Tot Care available. Call 314.835.6150 or visit [www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com](http://www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com) for more information!

**Ages:** 16 and older **Days:** Sunday

**Time:** 11 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

**Location:** Lodge Group Exercise Studio

**Cost:** FREE

**Session:** March 12

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - Yoga For EveryBody with Hal G.

11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. - Barre with Rebecca J.

12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m. - Zumba with Mimi S.

1:15 p.m - 1:45 p.m. - Group Strength with Katie S.



## TENNIS ROUNDUP

This event is designed to introduce people of all ages to the game of tennis! We will be opening the tennis season with activities to include youth group tennis lessons, adult group tennis lessons and Cardio Tennis. Tennis racquets and tennis balls will be provided. This is a great way to meet our Tennis Instructors! Come out and see what our youth and adult classes are all about. Registration Deadline is April 8. Call 314.835.6150 or visit [www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com](http://www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com) for more information or to register!

**Ages:** 5 and older.

**Day:** Sunday, April 10

**Session:**

#2668 Youth Tennis Lessons 1 - 1:30 p.m.

#2670 Adult Tennis Lessons 1:45 - 2:15 p.m.

#2671 Cardio Tennis Lessons 2:30 – 3 p.m.

**Instructor:** Des Peres Tennis Staff

**Location:** Des Peres Park Tennis Courts 3 & 4

**Cost:** FREE, but pre-registration is required by April 8!



## GET HOPPING EGG HUNT



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 Boy Scout Troop 313. This event is free and reservations are not required. Call 314.835.6150 or visit [www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com](http://www.TheLodgeDesPeres.com) for more information!

**Ages:** 3 - 6

**Day:** Saturday

**Time:** 10 a.m. sharp!

**Session:** April 15

**Location:** Des Peres Park

**Cost:** FREE

## 2016 CONSTRUCTION RECAP

The past year in Des Peres was filled with construction. The million-dollar Street Resurfacing Project included improvements in Dougherty Lake, Bayberry Hills, Harwood Hills, Roger Lane, and Winslow Lane. Lawnwood Avenue, Briar Fork Court, and Belle Meade Court were replaced with new concrete streets. Concrete slabs were replaced in Ballas Trails, on Ridgebrook Road, and on Ridge Tree Lane. Heaved sidewalk slabs were replaced in Spring Valley, and all the concrete streets west of I-270 were cracksealed. While not quite to the same level of 2016, we still have plenty of work planned for 2017. Those projects will be discussed in our next newsletter and at [www.desperesmo.org/projects](http://www.desperesmo.org/projects)



While we typically think of Des Peres as a “built-out” city, residential construction continues to boom. The Arbors at Sugar Creek is nearing completion, going from five homes to seventeen either completed or well underway. Residential construction began in Chandler Ridge early in 2016, and at the end of the year, four homes had been finished, with fifteen more planned. At this time last year, the land west of the Arbors was empty. Now, half the land has been turned into a nature preserve, and the other half has been subdivided into nineteen home sites known as Brighton Heights. With roads built and lots graded, homes will pop up this summer.

Besides these new large subdivisions, infill construction continues throughout the city. Twenty-six infill home permits were issued in 2016, up from twenty-two in 2015 and twenty in 2014. While Harwood Hills has been the focus of infill housing for years, homes are also being replaced in neighborhoods like Manhattan Heights/Old Town, Bayberry Hills, Topping Lane, and along Ballas Road. With Des Peres being such a desirable community, we expect this trend to continue.

In addition to residential development, commercial development has been strong with new or remodeled businesses such as The Village Bar and Restaurant, Circa St. Louis Restaurant, and Paper Dolls. Two of the large office buildings within the Manchester bifurcation were recently remodeled by Scottrade and AT&T. In 2017, we’re looking forward to construction of a new Regions Bank at Manchester & Bopp and Rosalita’s Cantina on Old Des Peres Road. Information on proposed developments can be found at <http://www.desperesmo.org/Index.aspx?NID=1163>

## WINTER WEATHER REMINDERS

It’s not summer yet, so here are a few notes about winter weather. We have modified our snowplowing practices this year, and will continue to refine the process. In the past, the City was divided into five routes, and a pair of trucks plowed each route from curb-to-curb. While this cleared the street all in one pass, it meant that many streets remained untouched for up to four hours. Starting this year, we’ve split the City into ten routes, with one truck on each route. Drivers focus on clearing a path on all streets first, resulting in more timely service for all, and ensuring access for emergency services.



Over the past two years, we have been modernizing our fleet with equipment that monitors salt usage, and varies the spreading rate based upon ground speed. Controlled salt usage is better for the environment, and better stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Our streets personnel also attended a class this year on winter maintenance, which included calculation of appropriate application rates for both salt and calcium chloride.

It is much easier to clear snow off the street if there are fewer obstacles. This includes cars, dumpsters, storage containers (“pods”), and steel plates. Please park cars off the streets during snow storms. Dumpsters and storage containers should be kept on private property whenever possible, but can be left on the street with a permit from Public Works, after demonstrating a hardship. Any dumpsters or storage containers on the street must have the permit attached, as well as reflective tape or barricades. Steel plates covering trenches should be kept to a minimum during winter months, but when necessary, need to be marked with barricades. Otherwise, when the street is covered by snow, plows may run into the plate without warning, causing damage and injury.

## LETTER FROM CHIEF KRUMM

In Des Peres, Public Safety began in 1958 as a fire department with three paid members and up to twenty-seven volunteers. At that time, the City had a Town Marshal and decided to study the feasibility and possibility of combining the two functions of fire and police services. Established in 1962, the Des Peres Department of Public Safety was the first fully integrated Department of Public Safety in the State of Missouri. Public Safety is an innovative approach that has proven extremely successful in providing the community with quality Police, Fire and Ambulance services at a reduced cost when compared to separate traditional police and fire departments.

The Director of Public Safety serves as both Police and Fire Chief. Each of the forty Public Safety Officers are highly trained to fulfill these diverse functions. He or she is a licensed Police Officer in the State of Missouri, a graduate of the St. Louis County and Municipal Fire Academy and a licensed Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic.

These Public Safety Officers are supplemented by three Firefighter/Paramedics to insure that there is at least one Paramedic and one Emergency Medical Technician manning the ambulance at all times. Eight civilian employees round out the department. These include the Assistant to the Director, a Record Room Clerk, a Clerk/Dispatcher, a Dispatch Supervisor and four full-time and two part-time Dispatchers.

When you call for the police department to assist you, the officer who arrives at the scene is also certified as a firefighter and licensed as a Paramedic or E.M.T. (Emergency Medical Technician). If you call for an ambulance, usually the first person to arrive is a police officer. In Des Peres, that means you are not just getting a police officer but also a licensed Paramedic or E.M.T. who can start a medical evaluation and advise the incoming personnel of the patient's condition. Police officers also carry an emergency medical kit and an automated external defibrillator (A.E.D) in their police vehicles and are trained to use them. On a fire call, the first arriving police officer can give a scene size up to the incoming fire units and provide valuable information that can assist in the overall success of the call.

It takes a unique individual to maintain the necessary training and remain qualified in all three functions. The Public Safety concept works in Des Peres, giving you and your community outstanding service by exceptional individuals.



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## WEST COUNTY CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Des Peres Department of Public Safety will again join Town and Country, Creve Coeur, Olivette, and Frontenac Police Departments to present the West County 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.

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, and DWI 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.



The Citizens Police Academy will begin again on Tuesday March 7th and continue for nine weeks with a graduation ceremony on the final night May 2nd. The Academy meets every Tuesday night from 7-9 P.M. during the nine weeks. The Academy is open to all residents, as well as nonresidents providing that space is available, who are 21 years of age or older. So register early to ensure your position in the next upcoming class.

The Citizens Police Academy is provided free of charge. For more information contact Community Service Officer Brandon Elzinga at 314.835.6286 or email. You may also enroll online at <http://www.desperesmo.org/FormCenter/Public-Safety-5-5/Citizens-Police-Academy-Application-48-48>



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 Brian Schaffer, C.P.R.P.  
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