

Message from the Mayor

I want to welcome you to our first monthly edition of "All-Things Des Peres" being published in the Webster-Kirkwood Times. Please look for this page on the 1st Friday of every month.

In our most recent Citizen Satisfaction Survey, Des Peres received high marks (82.0%) from our citizens for our efforts related to citizen communication and government transparency but we want to continue to improve in that area. Our quarterly publication mailed to each home was identified as their primary source of information (78%), followed by the W-K Times (55%) and the City Website (47%).

The W-K Times publication is intended to fill a void in our current efforts to report and advertise more time sensitive information. Notices about meetings and issues under discussion can be

addressed in our quarterly publication which has roughly a 30 day lead time between when the newsletter is sent to the printers and the delivery date to your door. This monthly page in the W-K Times will allow for more timely information that will refer residents to our website for more details.



The monthly edition will not routinely include a letter from the Mayor - I believe the space is better used to provide information and will leave my messages to the quarterly mailed publication. I hope this effort is well received and the information helpful. Your feedback is invited and welcome.

-Mayor Mark Becker

Public Works Reminders

Trash, Recycling & Yard Waste: Starting January 1st, yard waste collections will take place on the same day as your trash and recycling pickups.

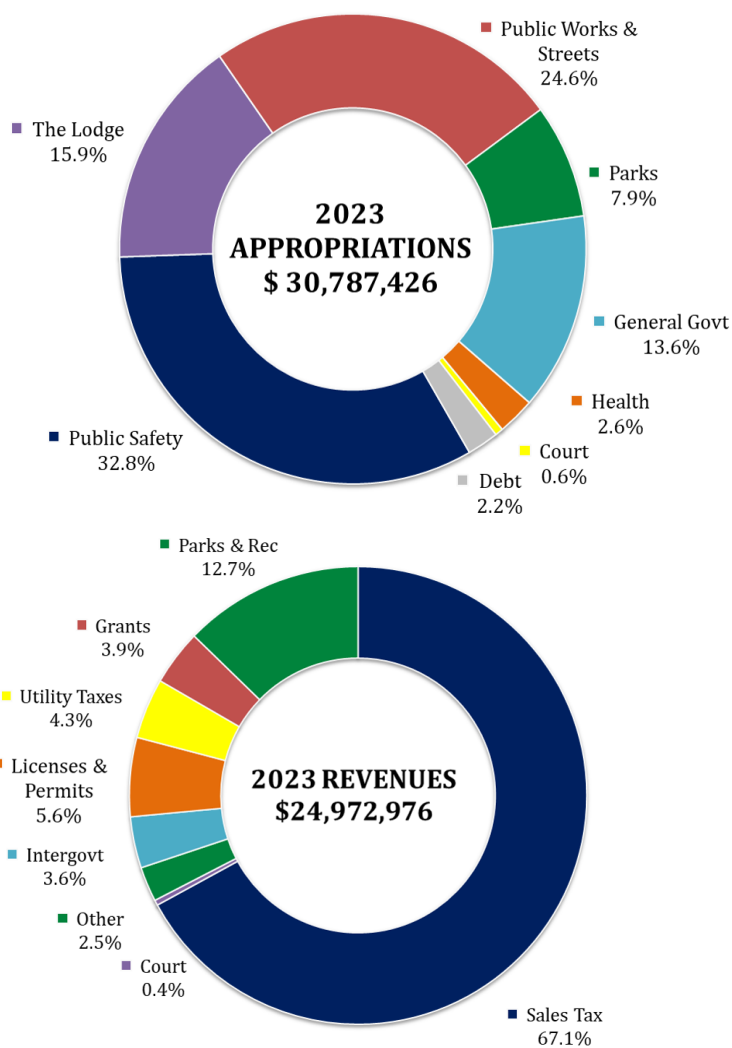
Pothole Season: Potholes form as water seeps into cracks, then freezes and thaws. Please report potholes to Public Works through the City's website or by calling 314-835-6130. Please be as specific as possible with the location, so our crews can quickly patch the hole.

Christmas Tree Pickup: Please put out (real) Christmas trees with yard waste. Oversized trees should be cut in half.



Board of Aldermen Adopts 2023 Budget

The Des Peres Board of Aldermen under R22-3639.2 adopted its 2023 Fiscal Year Budget following a lengthy review and adjustment process that spanned nearly six months. That effort culminated with a public hearing held November 8th in which our Director of Finance, Tracy Hansen, outlined a spending plan totaling \$30,787,426 with anticipated revenues projected at \$24,972,976 - detailed below:



The 2023 Budget features a planned deficit intended to draw down accumulated fund balance reserves which currently exceed \$25 million due to a combination of prudent spending and the windfall of federal COVID aid. To that end, the 2023 Budget calls for a highly aggressive capital investment plan in which nearly \$11 million has been earmarked for major projects involving streets, roads, parks and large-scale improvements to public buildings. Those facility upgrades focus primarily on the following:

- **City Hall:** \$2 million set aside for pre-constructing expenses involving a \$6 million renovation to the 100-year old building which includes ADA compliance, fire code upgrades, and expanded work spaces. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2023 with an anticipated completion date of 2024.
- **Public Safety Station:** \$1 million in design costs relating to a \$10 million renovation and expansion of the existing facility with a tentative completion date of 2025.
- **Streets Garage:** \$2 million budgeted for expansion and limited renovations to the Streets Garage featuring a new maintenance facility intended to house large equipment and vehicles. Design and pre-construction for this project is currently underway with an anticipated completion date of 2023.

"Despite the aggressive construction programs, operating budgets will continue to fund high quality public services across all departments", said Mayor Mark Becker. "Des Peres prides itself on providing a high quality of services to our community with a very low residential tax burden including no local real estate tax to fund city services or a charge for residential trash services. That tradition continues in 2023".

For a more detailed perspective on the 2023 budget including future capital projects, please visit www.desperesmo.org to review the document in its entirety. You may also contact us directly at 314-835-6132.

Public Hearing on Multi-Family Zoning

At their December meeting, the Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of amendments to the Zoning Code that would allow for multifamily housing on commercial properties located west of Ballas Road with mandatory frontage along Manchester Road.

The Board of Aldermen will hold a public hearing on this subject at their Regular Meeting scheduled for January 23rd starting at 7:00pm.

Meeting Calendar:

- **Monday, January 2nd:** Municipal Court (1:30PM)
- **Monday, January 9th:** Regular Board of Aldermen Meeting (7:00PM)
- **Wednesday, January 11th:** Planning & Zoning Commission (7:00PM)
- **Monday, January 16th:** Martin Luther King Holiday (City Hall Closed)
- **Monday, January 23rd:** Regular Board of Aldermen Meeting (7:00PM)
- **Wednesday, January 25th:** Audit & Finance Commission (4:30PM)