

20th Anniversary Celebration!

THE LODGE DES PERES

NOVEMBER 3 | 5:30-7:30

WHERE YOUR NEIGHBORS GATHER



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COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

It is hard to believe that The Lodge Des Peres will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year! The success of The Lodge is directly attributed to the community's overwhelming response to the facility. For 20 years, The Lodge has been the destination in Des Peres for neighbors to gather and improve their quality of life.

In celebration of this milestone, on Friday, November 3, 2023, Des Peres Parks and Recreation would like to invite Lodge members and Des Peres residents to a family-friendly event as a way to say thank you for your loyalty and support. The event will include music, raffles, photo booth, face painting, balloon art, reptile experience show, recreational games, pool games, food, drinks and more! The first 150 adults and 150 kids at the door will receive a free giveaway item (one gift per person, while supplies last).

Please RSVP at www.desperesmo.org by October 29th. This event is for Lodge members and residents of Des Peres only. The Lodge will close early at 5 p.m. to prepare for the party.

Date: Friday, November 3

Time: 5:30 - 7:30p.m.

Cost: FREE

Location: The Lodge Des Peres

Ages: All Ages



LETTER FROM MAYOR MARK BECKER

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As I pen this letter in mid-September, we have moved from our summer schedules; the children are back in school; we see the first signs of fall; and we begin to focus our thoughts already on the upcoming holidays and the arrival of the New Year.

However, I am also pausing to take the time to look back on the challenges that our residents, our Des Peres community, our city employees and your elected officials have successfully faced the past 4 years. COVID, and the financial chaos created by COVID, have been our biggest challenges since 2020 and continue to influence our agenda. The recovery has been "V-shaped" and we saw our sales tax return to near pre-COVID levels by the end of 2022 (impacted in part by historic inflation rates). Rentals at The Lodge are just now returning to 2019 levels but memberships remain about 10.0% below pre-COVID numbers.

Unfortunately, some businesses, both large and small, did not survive COVID. We need to focus our efforts to assist the local business community and restore our commercial tax base. Many of the changes caused by "work from home" and shifting of personal shopping from in-store to internet are likely here to stay and we need to adapt to that "new normal". In addition, our sales tax base continues to be under attack by the Missouri Legislature with renewed attempts expected to eliminate the local sales tax on food - a change that will cost Des Peres an estimated \$3.5 million per year in local revenues to support your city services!

As we look forward to 2024, we have scheduled a number of deferred capital projects including expansion of our street maintenance facility (now underway) constructed in 1978; renovation of the historic Government Center purchased 50 years ago primarily for life safety, fire code and ADA compliance to be completed by end of 2024; expansion and renovation of the Public Safety Building constructed over 30 years ago which will be completed late in 2025; replacement of 20+ year old playgrounds in Des Peres Park funded in part with a County Park Grant; construction of the roundabout at the intersection of Des Peres Road and Old Des Peres Road funded by an 80.0% federal grant. Those projects are in addition to MoDOT's Manchester Road project and our "normal" street and park improvement and maintenance projects. 2024 will be a busy year and we ask your patience.

Despite all of the above plans, the City will continue with a \$0.00 real estate tax levy for the 29th consecutive year in 2023. Des Peres and Town & Country are the only two cities in the region without a local real estate tax when you consider both the city levy and the levy of the fire protection district if the city does not directly provide fire-ems services.

Until my Holiday message in December - be safe, drive slowly in our neighborhoods, enjoy life and "Go Tigers"!

Mayor Mark Becker

Des Peres City Administrator receives a Distinguished Service Award from Missouri Municipal League

From left MML Executive Director - Richard Sheets,
City Administrator - Douglas Harms,
Des Peres Mayor - Mark Becker



CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Another successful construction season is in the books.

- Over one thousand sidewalk slabs were replaced in Dougherty Ridge and Dougherty Woods to eliminate trip hazards.
- Three cul-de-sacs in Greenbriar Estates were replaced with new concrete that should last 50+ years.
- In Harwood Hills, a new storm sewer inlet was installed to address longstanding groundwater seepage and four streets received a new asphalt surface after base concrete was repaired.
- All three streets in Apple Hill were also resurfaced after deficient slabs and curbs were replaced.
- A substantial street slab replacement project was completed on Bent Brook Drive.
- Our first microsurfacing project was completed on Old Dougherty Ferry, Bellerosa Estates, Highland Avenue, Westmark Drive, Movie Drive, and Sateen Drive. This treatment extends pavement life at a fraction of the cost of a new asphalt surface.

But work will continue through the winter...

MoDOT's contractor continues work on Manchester Road between I-270 and Lindbergh. The Ballas Road intersection will be finished prior to Thanksgiving, so as to not impact West County Center during the holiday season. MoDOT's project includes replacement of curbs, sidewalks, entrances, and the road surface. The City secured a grant to provide additional improvements such as contrasting sidewalk color at entrances and edge-lit signage on traffic signals. This work will continue well into 2024.

A new vehicle maintenance facility is well underway at the Streets garage on Des Peres Road. The existing 70s-era maintenance bay is too small to accommodate our dump trucks; they can't fit through the door. Our new four-bay garage will help us properly maintain our trucks for years to come, and includes a wash bay that will allow us to safely wash salt off trucks after winter storms. This project is scheduled for completion by early spring.

LEGISLATION ADOPTED SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

- [Ordinance 2976](#) calling for a Special Election on November 5, 2024 on a proposition to ban comprehensive marijuana dispensaries in Des Peres. Such a ban is permitted under Constitutional Amendment #3 with 60.0% voter approval at an election that can only be held in conjunction with a general presidential election.
- [Ordinance 2978](#) authorizes an agreement with SSM Health Systems to Provide Medical Director Services to the Department of Public Safety on expiration of a similar contract with Missouri Baptist Hospital.
- [Ordinance 2979](#) Rezones a 6.5 Acre Tract of Land located at 13431 Manchester (adjoining Sam's Wholesale) from C-1 Commercial to Planned Development - Mixed Use Commercial (PDC-MXD) and approving a Preliminary Plan for a residential development including 182 luxury apartments in a single 5 story building with up to 4,000 square feet of retail and other on-site amenities for residents.
- [Ordinance 2980](#) reaffirming the 5.0% gross receipts tax on Missouri American Water Company for use of city right-of-way for their distribution system.
- [Ordinance 2982](#) amending the zoning code to establish a formal process for proposing amendments to the zoning code by the Board of Aldermen, members of the Planning & Zoning Commission or property owners.
- [Ordinance 2894](#) amending the zoning code to require a Conditional Use Permit for operation of a comprehensive marijuana dispensary facility and establishing criteria for evaluating such petitions in compliance with Constitutional Amendment #3 approved by Missouri voters in 2022.
- [Ordinance 2985](#) amending the zoning code to require a "Warehouse Use for Storage of Beer and Spirits Only" as a permitted use only in a Planned Development Commercial (PD-C) District.
- [Ordinance 2986](#) granting a Conditional Use Permit for operation of a limited service restaurant at 11754 Manchester to "4 U Tea LLC."
- [Ordinance 2987](#) amending the Master Plan for "Wholesale Plumbing Supply Plaza" at 13380-13384 Manchester Road to provide for a 2nd loading dock.

Signed copies of all bills and resolutions as adopted by the Board of Aldermen are available on the city website www.desperesmo.org and can be read or downloaded remotely.

FALL LAWN CARE TIPS FROM THE DES PERES PARKS CREW

Core aeration, overseeding, and fertilizing for lawns is right around the corner. Fall is the most important time of the year for aerating, seeding, and fertilizing your lawn. After a summer of extreme heat, cool weather creates perfect growing conditions for your lawn.

Aerating can alleviate soil compaction, which allows water, fertilizer, and air to reach the roots and promotes deep root growth for a stronger lawn next year. There are many ways to aerate, but our preference for Des Peres Parks is to pull plugs with our aerator. Aeration plugs are full of nutrients and will usually break down and be washed back into the ground after heavy rains.

Next, we overseed the lawn. The most common seed to use in our area is tall fescue, although on high traffic areas we like to use something with a rye blend. Fall is the perfect time to seed. It is the best time for seed germination and establishment, plus overseeding fills in thin areas of grass, and helps protect your turf against disease and pest.



Finally, it is time to fertilize your lawn. Fertilizing in the fall gives your turf the best chance to have healthy, green grass in the spring. We start to fertilize when grass growth starts slowing down, which is usually in late September and early October. Roots are the most important part of growth, and fertilizing in the fall will keep your roots healthy and strong throughout the winter.

Aerating, seeding, and fertilizing in the fall will give your lawn the best chance to have a healthy winter and a beautiful lawn in the spring.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Halloween is beyond exciting for kids—they get to stay up late, dress up and gorge on candy. They're hyper, distracted and determined to make the most of the day (and night!), so parents need to make sure they stay visible, follow the rules of the road, and don't eat anything strange from their loot bag. Here are some quick tips to keep this spooky holiday from becoming a scary one.

1. Pick the right size Make sure that costumes fit properly. Hems should be well above the ground to avoid tripping, and kids should have full range of motion.

2. Keep it bright Dark colors are obviously harder to see at night, so dress your kids up in bright costumes or add reflective accessories to dark getups.

3. Break out the makeup Since masks can obstruct vision, create the same idea with face paint. But...

4. Test it out first Before the big day, try the face paint to make sure your child doesn't have a skin reaction. And of course, be sure to wash it all off before tucking them into bed.

5. Choose non-flammable fabrics Jack-o'-lanterns often have real candles inside, so opt for costumes with 100-percent synthetic fabrics like nylon, polyester and acrylic and avoid loose capes and glittery fabric, which tends to be more flammable. And to cut the risk, light

up your own pumpkin with a battery-powered tea light or LED "candle."

6. Get your glow on Light your kids up with glow sticks, bike lights clipped onto costumes or reflective tape. And give them a flashlight, or carry one with you.

7. Accompany the tiny trick-or-treaters Little kids should always have an adult with them.

8. Go as a group Older kids should travel together, stick to a route they've cleared with their parents, check in by phone regularly, and have a set curfew to return home.

9. Choose wisely Don't feel you have to hit every home on the block. Look for well-lit locations.

10. Stay on the step Kids should never enter strangers' homes.

11. Follow the rules of the road Set a good example and only cross the street at established crosswalks. If you are driving in residential areas, take it slow.

12. Check it all out Before you let your kids dive in, dump the entire candy bag out and inspect it all. Throw out any packages that look like they've been opened and any homemade or repackaged goods.

13. Be alert for allergens If you've got a child with serious allergies or food sensitivities, read any unfamiliar labels before handing over the candy.

14. Brush up Don't skip the teeth-brushing routine! Sticky candies are cavities waiting to happen.

Have a Safe and Fun Halloween



DES PERES PARK 50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The City of Des Peres celebrated the 50-year anniversary of Des Peres Park in August 2023. Located on what was the Lutheran Orphanage Home, Des Peres Park was purchased and developed by a voter approved bond issue in 1973. The commitment of Des Peres residents has earned the City a reputation as a "City of Parks" as evidenced by the nearly \$5.0 million budget for parks and recreation facility operations and maintenance and our broad offering of recreational opportunities.



Aerial View of Des Peres Park



Fall Day in Des Peres Park

Our park system, encompassing over 100 acres of parks and natural woodland conservation areas, is anchored by Des Peres Park. The 42.5-acre park is home to the Des Peres Government Center housed in what had been the orphan's home and is anchored by Des Peres Lake. The park provides an oasis of open space for both active recreation for tennis, pickleball, shuffleboard, and youth sports on our multi-purpose fields as well as more passive recreational uses including walking trails, playgrounds, picnic facilities and general open green space in our suburban community.

For more information about Des Peres Park as well as the other parks in the city, visit the Parks & Recreation page on our website at www.desperesmo.org.



Historical Photo of the Orphanage

The Crew that Keeps the City's Parks Beautiful



As Fire Prevention Week approaches, The Des Peres Department of Public Safety reminds residents:

“COOKING SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU!”

This October 8th – 14th the Des Peres Department of Public Safety is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) — the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years — to promote this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Cooking Safety Starts with You!”. The campaign works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.



The Des Peres Department of Public Safety encourages all residents to embrace the 2023 Fire Prevention Week theme and the following safety tips to prevent having a cooking fire:

- 1. Watch what you heat.** Always keep a close eye on what you are cooking. Set a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- 2. Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove.** Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.
- 3. Have a “kid and pet-free zone”** of at least 3 feet around the stove or grill and anywhere else hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and cooking safety, visit www.fpw.org, or contact our Department of Public Safety, Fire & EMS Commander Dale Fiala (dfiala@desperesmo.org) or 314-835-6200.

VEHICLE CRIME AND SAFETY TIPS

Now that everyone is back at school, attending sporting and family events, and taking advantage of the beautiful weather, the department of Public Safety would like to offer the following tips to keep you, your family, and property safe:

- Lock your vehicle, take the keys and garage door openers with you.
- When you park your vehicle, remove valuables that otherwise would be in plain view such as money, cellular phones, and cameras and lock all valuables in the trunk of your vehicle or take them with you. Criminals are often looking for items in plain sight that can be taken quickly.
- Don’t leave unlocked guns in your vehicle.
- Park in well-lit areas and make sure your residential outside lighting is on at night (and all doors and windows to your residence are closed and locked, including garage doors).



The department would like to remind our community of our Residential Camera Program. If you have a camera system for your property that you would like to register with the Public Safety Department please contact Captain Vicki Severs at 314-835-6232 or vsevers@desperesmo.org. Adding your camera system will only take a few minutes and the location is securely added to our mapping system. If the department has an incident, and your camera location may be able to assist, the department will contact you to check your footage for anything of evidentiary value.



The Des Peres Department of Public Safety is proud to announce that the department was awarded re-accreditation on July 28, 2023, by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc (CALEA). Our department was first accredited in 2018 which required a multiyear self-assessment process of policies, operations, training, equipment and facilities and an on-site review by a team of CALEA assessors. Reassessment involves a similar review expanded to include

a show of proof of compliance with those standards. CALEA Accreditation demonstrates the departments and the city's commitment to excellence and professional law enforcement. Des Peres is among only 52 other law enforcement agencies across Missouri to share this rare designation, 25 of which reside in St. Louis County.



Captain Vicki Severs and Lt. John Appelbaum, who serve as our accreditation managers, attended the recent CALEA conference in Oklahoma City where the commission reviewed the report on the

department by CALEA assessors and approved our department for re-accreditation for another four-year period. Accreditation focuses on standards that provide best practices relating to life, health and safety procedures for police agencies and ensures that officers are prepared to meet community service expectations and to manage critical events.



THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE

Thursday, November 23, 2023

Collection days scheduled on or after the Holiday will be delayed 1 day.

connect with us



www.facebook.com/desperesmo/



<https://www.instagram.com/thelodgedesperes/>

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS OCT/NOV

OCTOBER

Monday – October 2nd
Courts 2pm
Thursday – October 5th
Parks and Recreation Commission 6pm
Monday – October 9th
Board of Aldermen 7pm
Wednesday – October 11th
Planning and Zoning 7pm
Monday – October 16th
Public Safety 6pm
Monday – October 23rd
Board of Aldermen 7pm
Wednesday – October 25th
Audit and Finance 4:30pm (Virtual)
Wednesday – October 25th
Board of Adjustment 6:30pm

NOVEMBER

Monday – November 6th
Courts 2pm
Monday – November 13th
Board of Aldermen 7pm
Wednesday – November 15th
Planning and Zoning 7pm
Wednesday – November 15th
Audit and Finance 4:30pm (Virtual)
Monday – November 20th
Public Safety 6pm
Monday – November 27th
Board of Aldermen 7pm