

POSITIVELY PECULIAR

DECEMBER 2008-JANUARY 2009 ISSUE



www.cityofpeculiar.com

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ANNUAL MAYOR'S TREE LIGHTING SCHEDULED FOR DEC. 6TH

The City of Peculiar Annual Mayor's Tree Lighting will be held Saturday, December 6th at 6:00 PM. The festivities will take place at The Friendship Hall located at 163 W Center St. The 9th Grade Choir from the Ray-Pec Freshman Center will be performing Christmas Carols and there will be a special presentation to all foreign exchange students who are currently attending at Ray-Pec Schools. Following the lighting of the Mayor's Christmas Tree Santa will arrive for free photos with the children indoors. While waiting to see Santa enjoy entertainment by DeAnna's School of Dance and enjoy free cookies, hot chocolate, coffee and popcorn. The DPACD organization will also hold their 2nd annual wreath sale. Wreaths will be on display inside the Friendship Hall during the festivities.



The City of Peculiar will have collection containers inside Friendship Hall for donations of non perishable food items to help families in need during the holiday season. All food items collected will go directly to families in Peculiar. Please remember those less fortunate during this holiday season.

Special Bagged Leaves Drop-off Day: Monday, December 8, 2008

The Fall Trash Days event was very successful this year, and your City Administrator has decided to extend services to the community for one additional day. This **One-Day-Only event** will be for bagged leaves and will take place at the City Salt Shed, near the wastewater treatment plant on the east outer road of U.S. 71 Highway (same location as Fall Trash Days). **Only bagged leaves will be accepted.** There is no charge to City residents for this service. The City will be hosting its normal Spring Trash Days next year for disposal of other items. This special bagged leaves event will be held Monday, December 8, 2008 from 8:00AM to 7:00PM. For more information, contact Rick McGee, Public Works Manager at 816-779-5212, Ext. 224 or via E-mail at rmcgee@cityofpeculiar.com.

NEWS FROM MAYOR JUNGMEYER



One of my pet peeves is the lack of public participation in city government. The ordinances passed by the Board of Aldermen can have a great effect on the citizens and it seems no one is interested in these ordinances until they influence their lives.

This brings to mind the City Wide Comprehensive Plan and related ordinances. Citizens were invited to attend over 30 meetings and hearings over a period of 19 months. Few citizens attended these meetings.

Some changes suggested by the few citizens who did attend were approved. I hope that you, the citizens, will be happy with the new comprehensive plan and related ordinances. I had hoped for better public participation.

The city currently has openings on the Park Board, the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Board of Adjustments. **THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY.** A short application/questionnaire, for those interested can be picked up at City hall or accessed on the city website at www.cityofpeculiar.com by selecting the city government tab.

The recent Chamber of Commerce Harvest Moon Festival was a huge success with a parade, vendors,

food and entertainment. The Chamber will be working towards an improved festival next year.

The Mayor's Tree Lighting will be held December 6th at 6:00 pm at the Friendship Hall located at 163 W Center St. There will be entertainment, refreshments and Santa will be there for the kids. DPACD will also be holding their 2nd Annual Wreath Sale. Please join us for some holiday fun.

Mayor's thought for the day: I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place is proud of him.

-Abe Lincoln-

Ernie Jungmeyer

CHIEF'S CORNER

The holiday season is rapidly approaching and with all the bad news in the world today, the last thing we want is for one of our residents to become a crime victim. It's good to remember that our Christmas shopping season is also the shopping season for thieves. They strike in the mall, in parking lots and in our neighborhoods. However, with a few simple precautions we

can at least make the thief's job more difficult and at best keep ourselves from being a crime victim.

When shopping at night, try and park under a light or in a lighted area. Never keep anything of value in the passenger area of your car, always store valuables in the trunk.

Never place your purse in your shopping cart. Keep the strap over your shoulder with the purse between your arm and torso. If you pay with a credit card, keep the card in your hand, swipe it, and return it to your billfold or purse.

When you leave your house at night, even for a short time, lock all doors, turn exterior lights on, leave a couple of indoor lights on, and it doesn't hurt to leave a radio on. And most importantly, never hesitate to call your police department (911) if you see anything or anyone that looks suspicious.





FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

After 19 months of meetings in the community and extensive meetings with steering committees, the City Wide Master Plan has been completed. We have had over 30 public meetings on the plan and we thank all that participated. The Board of Aldermen passed the final reading of the ordinances November 18, 2008. The consultants will have all documents ready for distribution on December 2, 2008. Please visit the City's website under Community Development to view the plan and revised Zoning and Subdivision regulations. According to long time members of the community this has been the most massive ordinance review in the City's history. Thank you again to all citizens that took time coming to meetings to help plan our community's future.

On November 16, 2008 Water

District #2 had a major line break. Water #2 is the City's water supplier and when their main line broke it affected around 100 Peculiar resident homes. Public Works began to reroute areas of the City's water sources to the area affected. When the meters for the City drop below a certain psi number then DNR requires a boil advisory. This is as a precaution even though we did not feel the water had been compromised. However we must follow the DNR regulations. We notified all news agencies as well as posted on our government channel 7 and our website. When Water #2 repaired their line they brought their systems back on line. Public Works was not notified that they were coming back on line which pushed more pressure on our system and caused 5 water leaks. Thursday November 20, 2008 DNR reported back that our water supply was not

compromised. Therefore the boil advisory was lifted and all leaks have been fixed as a result of the extra pressure being applied to our system. As the economy continues to spiral downward, we continue to keep a close eye on it. Many residents do not realize that the City's budget is primarily built on sales tax. The recent news that sales tax is down 2.8% nationally and in Missouri down 3.3% brings concern. Over the last two years we have cut our General Fund operating budget by 19%. If the downturn in sales tax continues then we are prepared to cut further. We are in hopes that any additional cuts will not impact normal city operations. However, without a crystal ball I cannot guarantee that some of our operations will not be affected if the downturn in the economy continues. We want the

citizens of Peculiar to know that we are staying diligent in ensuring that you get the most out of every dollar. The Holidays being in full swing gives us time to reflect on the many blessings we have received. Thanksgiving began that opportunity to be thankful for what we have more than what we wish we had or may have even lost. I pray that you have a wonderful Holiday full of love, family and cheer. I hope to see you out to the Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting at 6pm on December 6, 2008.

God Bless,
Brad Ratliff



CITY ORDINANCE UPDATES



Ordinance 093008

Allows for the name change of a road in the Shadow Glen Subdivision to honor retiring City Clerk of 40 years, Nora Dodge.

Ordinance 100708

Amends Municipal Code to comply with State and Federal Statutes pertaining to placement of political signs.

Ordinance 102108

Amends Municipal Code to reflect current rate changes in water, sewer & trash service and allows for future rate changes by Board Resolution when adopting budget amendments.

Ordinance 102108A

Establishes a revised Ward District Map and changes names of Wards effective December 1, 2008.

Ordinance 110408

Provides for adoption of a new City Wide Comprehensive Plan.

Ordinance 111808

Amends Municipal Code with new Zoning Regulations

Ordinance 111808A

Calls for a General Municipal Election on April 7, 2009 and establishes filing dates for said election.



CITY MEETINGS

Board of Alderman
1st & 3rd Tuesdays
Each Month

Planning & Zoning
Commission
2nd Thursday
Each Month

Park Board
2nd Monday
Each Month

All meetings are held at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

City Hall is located at 600 Schug Avenue.

All meetings are open to the public.

Board of Alderman meetings are video taped and are played at 1:00pm Monday through Friday and can be viewed on Comcast Cable Channel 7.

All agendas and minutes from city meetings are available on the City website at www.cityofpeculiar.com

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
RENEWS FUNDING FOR
SIDEWALK PROGRAM**

Is the sidewalk crumbling along the street in front of your house? Is your property lacking a section of sidewalk that might improve overall pedestrian traffic in Peculiar? You may want to consider participating in the City's sidewalk program. This program, which has now been extended for Fiscal Year 2008-2009, offers a 50/50 cost share to City residents for replacement of failing sidewalk or construction of new sidewalk. The program is offered only for sidewalk that is within the public street right of way, and all applications are subject to review and approval by the City. The residents that have participated in the program have gotten their sidewalk replaced for an average of \$13.33 per linear foot (their share) for 4-foot-wide sidewalk. If you would like to learn more about this program or request an application for a specific sidewalk project, please contact Bob O'Brien, City Engineer at 816-779-5212, Ext. 228 or via E-mail at bo'brien@cityofpeculiar.com.



**CORNERSTONE
CHAPEL
&
FRIENDSHIP HALL**

Located at West Center
& First Street

Available for Rentals
Weddings
Receptions
Meetings
Special Events

For rental information
Contact Diane at
779-5212 Ext 237

**ONLINE BILL PAY & E-BILL
AVAILABLE FOR UTILITY BILLS**

It's not too late to sign up to pay your utility bill online

Online payments can be made by logging on to the city website at www.cityofpeculiar.com Click on the City Services tab, select the quick link for "Pay Water Bill Online" and follow the instructions. For our customers who would like to receive their monthly bill via email, forms are available at City Hall in the utility department. If you have questions regarding either of these services contact Trudy at 779-5212 Ext. 222.

**RESIDENTS TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF FALL
CITY WIDE CLEAN-UP**

Many residents participated in the Annual Fall City Wide Clean-Up held November 7th & 8th. The clean-up provides a way for residents to dispose of items that cannot be disposed of with normal weekly trash while keeping the cost affordable. This year we filled 13 large roll-off containers and collected a total of 97 tires. Thanks to all residents that participated in helping keep our city clean.