

POSITIVELY PECULIAR

December, 2012 - January, 2013 Issue



www.cityofpeculiar.org



MARK YOUR CALENDAR . . .

Mayor's Christmas
Tree Lighting
Dec. 1st @ 6:00 p.m.

Candidate Filing
Opens
December 11, 2012
8:00 a.m.
City Hall

CORNERSTONE CHAPEL

&
BRIERLY HALL
West Center &
First Street
Available for
Rentals
Weddings
Receptions
Meetings
Special Event
For information
Call

Brenda Conway at
806-3698



MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2012 6:00 p.m.

Brierly Hall

163 W. CENTER

*Please join us inside Brierly Hall for
"Holiday Fun" for Everyone*

*Kids photos taken with Santa Claus
Balloon Characters with Katrina the Elf*

Christmas Ornament Decorating

with Prizes for Boys & Girls

Ages 0 - 5, 6 - 8 and 9 - 12

*Ray-Pec Bella Armonia, Women's Chamber
Choir, Cookies, Popcorn & Hot Chocolate*

**The Downtown Peculiar Arts &
Cultural District
will have a wonderful selection of
wreaths!!**



BRING A CAN OR TWO!!

*Please open your cupboards or
shop for non-perishable food
items to donate to First Baptist
Church of Peculiar Food Pantry*



**The Downtown Peculiar Arts
and
Cultural District
will have a wonderful selection of
wreaths!!**

DPACD will once again be selling unique, handmade wreaths for great prices during the Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting! There will be traditional holiday wreaths, theme wreaths and "just for fun" wreaths. There will also be some small trees and table pieces this year. These wreaths are great for the holidays, for home decor and for gifts.



All proceeds from the wreath sale go toward Downtown revitalization so you're doing more than taking home something beautiful - you're helping Downtown!

Early Bird Piccadilly Tickets Are On Sale!

The Downtown Peculiar Arts & Culture District (DPACD) wants to let everyone know that early bird tickets for the 6th Annual Peculiar Piccadilly & Art Auction are on sale now! The tickets can be purchased online at www.downtownpeculiar.com or by stopping in at Downtown Business TC Heating & Cooling (152 E. Broadway St). The tickets can be purchased via mail as well by calling 816-806-3698. The Peculiar Piccadilly is a unique night of entertainment, art, food and fun. All proceeds from the event go toward downtown revitalization. To learn how a Piccadilly auction works - visit our website or call the number given above! This event sells out every year so get your tickets early (there are NO ticket sales at the door). This year's theme is "Art Stock" (like Woodstock only not so muddy!). Those attending are encouraged to dress for this fun, late 60's theme but it is not required. Get a group of your friends together and buy a table!

***From The Desk of the City Clerk....
City Business Licenses***

All City Business Licenses will expire on Dec. 31st. Renewal notices will be mailed in the upcoming weeks and will be due back to the City Clerk's office no later than January 4, 2013. The fee for this license is \$75.00

All sales, real & personal property taxes and any other financial obligations which are delinquent and owed to the City of Peculiar must be current prior to issuance of the license. A copy of paid City/County Tax receipt is required. A retail business also requires a Certificate of "No Tax Due" from Mo. Dept. of Revenue and an annual fire inspection from West Peculiar Fire Protection District. New business licenses will also be subject to a city inspection fee of \$47 in accordance with Section 605.070 of the Peculiar Municipal Code.

Liquor Licenses and Cigarette Licenses are also due for renewal on December 31st. The fees are the same as the previous year.

Inquiries regarding Business Licenses may be made to the City Clerk's office at 816-779-5212, ext. 221.

City Hall Happenings

New Employees-

Clifford McDonald- *City Planner*
David Shrout- *Water/Wastewater Specialist*
Nathan Musteen- *Director of Parks & Recreation*

Employee's of the Month:

May- Aaron Reid

June- Michael McLaughlin

July- Rick Clausing, Jr.

August- Trudy Prickett

September- Steve Spencer

October- Bill England

City Hall will be closed the following dates:

December 24 th & 25th, 2012

January 1 st & 21st, 2013

An update from the Court Administrator....

City of Peculiar's Traffic Violations Bureau Payment Schedule has increased by \$20.00 to \$25.00. Please see our website at Cityofpeculiar.org for the correct current schedule.

If you try to call the court on a court day, I am sorry but we will NOT be able to answer the phone. Please leave a message and we will get back to you the following day. If you call after 5pm for a continuance, Judge has already issued a Failure to Appear charge with \$124.50 in additional fines and court costs. Please call back the following day for a new court date. As always, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Laura Fitzpatrick Court Administrator - 816-779-5104

Happy Holidays

From all of us her at the City of Peculiar

Message from the Mayor.....

On a cold, wet Veterans Day, I helped dedicate the Veterans Memorial at Standard & Poor . This memorial was constructed by a Boy Scout, Ian Phillips, as his Eagle Scout project. It is a fine piece of work. Stop by and see it. Ian's brother, Spencer, constructed a Flight 93 memorial directly across the sidewalk in 2004.

The City had a well attended Ribbon Cutting & Open House for the new City Hall. If you did not attend, stop by and take a look at YOUR new City Hall. It is a building to be proud of and will last the City for a long time.

We recently sold the first bonds for the proposed 211th Street Interchange project. The interest rate on the bonds was very low due to the City's excellent Standard & Poor rating. You can expect to see an increase on your 2013 property tax bill as we begin paying for these bonds.

Please come to the Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting at Brierly Hall on December 1 at 6:00 p.m. See the front page of this newsletter for the free kids activities and free refreshments for all. A good time is waiting for you.

From my family and everyone at City Hall, I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

May every day of the coming year be the best day of the rest of your life.

Ernie Jungmeyer

The City of Peculiar has many exciting things going on throughout the Community. Please make sure that you follow us on Facebook and our website. We would like to welcome Elmwood Reclaimed Timber and their employees to our community. Elmwood is located in the old Branaman Cabinets building and brings 35 jobs to our community. There are other businesses opening soon in the downtown area and in the Peculiar Past and Present's building. Please help support our local businesses!!

The City of Peculiar hired our very first Parks and Recreation Director, Nathan Musteen; he comes to us with 10 years of doing these type of programs in Raymore. The purpose is to focus on bringing multiple recreational activities to our community. The 2010 census reported that the average age of a Peculiar residents is 32 years old, telling us that we have many young families in our community. We will have many activities starting with baseball and softball in the spring of 2013. Please pay attention to flyers and communications from the City to get your kids signed up. In addition, we will have many activities in the future for all ages, youth to seniors.

Recently, the City went through a Standard and Poor rating, which rates how the finances, controls and management of the City is handled. The City received an A rating, which is very good for a City of our size. This allowed us to sell our recent GO Bonds for the new interchange at only a 2.5% interest rate. This saves the City hundreds of thousands of interest payments. We also went through an unwarranted State Audit in which not one allegation that the petitioner lodged against the City was substantiated. Every year the City also pays to have an outside auditing firm audit our finances and processes as well. We have proven by many of the different outside agencies that have reported a solid and financially sound City that you have a very responsible, accountable and hard working LOCAL government. Lets be proud of the community that we live in and local government that works hard for you.

As we head in to this holiday season, I want to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

God bless,

Brad Ratliff

City Administrator

A winter reminder from Chief of Police Harry Gurin.... It is important for people to keep up to date on weather forecasts and to understand key National Weather Service terms:

Winter Storm Watch indicates that severe winter weather may affect your area within 12-48 hours.

Winter Storm Warning indicates severe winter weather is in the area or expected immediately and can be life threatening.

Ice Storm Warnings are issued for ice accumulations of a quarter-inch or more.

Missourians can prepare for winter by: Creating a family emergency plan and an emergency kit with bottled water and food that can be prepared without cooking in case of a power outage. Kits should include bottled water, canned and dry foods, battery-powered radio, flashlights, extra batteries, manual can opener and a first-aid kit.

Securing an alternate fuel source such as firewood or a generator. Make sure your fireplace functions properly. If you have a generator, make sure you have fuel and that your generator functions properly. Only operate generators outdoors.

Creating a winter car kit in the trunk of the car. This includes a blanket, spare radio with batteries, snacks or energy-type food, jumper cables, flares, shovel, sand or shingles to give tires traction. Be prepared!!!

Winter

Holiday Adopt-a-Family



Dear Peculiar Patrons and Businesses,

As many of you know the holiday season can be a difficult time for some families who are facing tough financial situations. We recently offered the families in need the opportunity to take part in an Adopt-a-Family program here at Peculiar Elementary. Our hope is to assist those families with purchasing gifts and needs for their children.

If you are planning on adopting a family during this holiday, please consider adopting a family at Peculiar Elementary, knowing you are helping a family right here in our school.

I do think it is important to note that all families will remain completely anonymous and confidential. Neither the family nor children names will be given; this includes both the family "being adopted" and the family/organization "doing the adopting." We feel this is important for a variety of reasons. All presents will be delivered to the school and I will be sure they get to the family. Please see below for more detail.

If your family or an organization you know is interested in adopting a family, please contact Tami Ingalls, school counselor, at 892-1667 or tingalls@raypec.k12.mo.us. I will match you with a family and you will receive information on gender, age, clothing sizes and toy requests.

We thank you, in advance, for your help with this wonderful program. Please be sure to follow the steps below to ensure the most efficient and effective way, while maintaining confidentiality to deliver all presents in time for the holidays.

The information you receive regarding your "adopted family," will include a number assigned to each family and letters assigned to each child (no names will be given).

Please wrap each gift and label each with a sticky note the family number and child letter. You could also wrap each child in a different paper for distinction.

Please put all presents in a big bag(s) and be sure to indicate the family number and child letters on the outside

Please include a package of gift tags we can give to the parents, so they are able to write the child's name on the outside of the present to make it more personal.

****All presents must be bought, wrapped, and dropped off at Peculiar Elementary by Monday, December 3rd.**

All of us here at Peculiar Elementary wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,

Tami Ingalls School Counselor—tingalls@raypec.k12.mo.us
892-1667

CANDIDATE FILING FOR ANNUAL CITY ELECTION

Filing for the annual City Election, April 2, 2013, opens Tuesday, December 11, 2012, at 8:00 am and ends on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at 5:00 pm, in accordance with Section 115.127.5 RSMo. as amended. City offices will be closed December 24 & 25, 2012, January 1, 2013 and January 21, 2012.

On April 2, 2013 here shall be elected:

One (1) member of the Board of Aldermen for Ward #1 for the full term of two (2) years

One (1) member of the Board of Aldermen for Ward #2 for the full term of two (2) years

One (1) member of the Board of Aldermen for Ward #3 for the full term of two (2) years

Qualified candidates may file with the City Clerk at Peculiar City Hall, 250 S. main St., from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. There is a \$10 filing fee payable to the City of Peculiar at the time of filing. To qualify for the office of Mayor, a candidate must be 30 years old, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city for at least two (2) years immediately preceding the election. To qualify for the office of Alderman, a candidate must be at least 21 years old and a resident of the Ward from which they are to be elected. In addition, all candidates for Alderman must be a US citizen and a resident of the city for at least 1 year prior to election, must be a registered voter and have paid all county and city taxes. Candidates must not be in arrears for any taxes or fees on the last day of filing. RSMo 79..070,.080,250.