

POSITIVELY PECULIAR

June - July - August , 2013 Issue



www.cityofpeculiar.org



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CITY MEETINGS



Board of Alderman
1st & 3rd Mondays, 6:30 p.m.
Each Month

Planning and Zoning
Commission
2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
Each Month

Park Board
2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Each Month

All meetings are held at City Hall in the Council Chambers and are open to the public. City Hall is located at 250 S. Main Street.

Board of Aldermen 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.org.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Clara Brierly WAM Festival is June 7-9 and the annual Tractor Pull is June 15. Details on these are in other sections of this newsletter. Both are great events. Please attend if possible.

The 211th Street Interchange project is on schedule to begin construction in 2015 or 2016. The city is also working with Cass County on School Road improvements from 203rd to 211th. We hope this project will become a reality and also be under construction in 2015 or 2016. Growth in the north side of Peculiar should accelerate after these two projects are constructed.

The city is also working hard on other infrastructure improvements such as sanitary sewer, street repair and resurfacing. Our streets are not in good shape as the available dollars cannot maintain the existing streets. We have twice attempted to fix this problem with a \$0.01 per gallon fuel tax which was twice defeated by voters (66.67% needed for approval). The average cost to each Peculiar driver would have been only \$10.00 per year. Most of the monies collected would have been from trucks and cars passing through on I-49. This tax would have been used only for street work and would have resulted in more miles of street resurfacing each year. It was a great disappointment to me and the members of the Board of Aldermen that 42% of the voters could not see the benefits of this tax.

The water rate increased last month by \$2.20 per one thousand gallons used. The sewer rate did not increase. The water increase was required as we have not passed on the last few rate increases from our supplier (PWS #2). We expect the water rates to keep increasing in the coming years. Be advised that we are will be doing all we can to keep the rate increases as low as possible.

Have a great summer and keep safe.

Ernest Jungmeyer



TRACTOR PULL

Hosted by: Peculiar Park Board

and



When: JUNE 15 - 7:00pm
Where: 66 Acre Park
Cost: 13 Years & Up - \$15.00
5 - 12 Years - \$5.00
0 - 4 Years - Free
Contact: 816-779-5212

Sanctioned by:



www.mstpapulling.com

Water Bill Costs- Assessing Affordability

City staff is constantly being asked, “Why is my water bill so high,?” First; the monthly bill you receive is actually a utility bill showing three different charges, water, wastewater (sewer) and trash.

Taking only the water portion of you utility bill, the household average in the City of Peculiar is 5,000 gallons each month. The water is made available to you 7 days a week, 24 hours a day 365 days a year. We make it accessible to you at your home so you don’t have to go out in the rain or snow, buy it and then haul it back to you home. Your water meets or exceeds all the State and Federal requirements. Your water is constantly being tested, from the time it was pumped out of the ground, during treatment and through the distribution systems. When you turn on your tap we want you to have great tasting, safe water at the best price we can offer.

Your water is available to you for a number of uses; i.e. drinking, cooking, bathing, watering livestock and pets, yard and garden irrigation, cleaning plus a multitude of other uses. Then in the end your water is used to take the wasted products out of your home and transport it to the wastewater treatment plant where another process begins.

To give you a comparison of what your water costs to other items, we first have to show the price of your water. We noted above the average monthly usage is 5,000 gallons, and the current cost for that water in the City of Peculiar beginning with the May 2013 billing cycle is \$60.79 (sixty dollars and seventy nine cents). If you divide the cost of your water (\$60.79) by the amount of water you receive (5,000 gallons) you pay \$0.012158 for each gallon. ***That is less than \$0.02/gallon!*** It needs to be pointed out, if you use less or more than 5,000 gallons the cost will be slightly different.

So now how much water could you purchase compared to other goods:

	Average Cost	Gallons you could purchase
Phone	\$78.00	6,416
Satellite TV	\$85.00	6,991
Gas automobile	\$35.00	2,879
Propane	\$300	24,675
Combo meal	\$5.99	493
Soda	\$2.25	185
Bottle of water	\$1.50	123
Pack of Cigarettes	\$4.50	370
Case of beer	\$15.00	1,234
Dinner for 2	\$45.00	3,701
Movie combo	\$25.00	2,056

We hope this gives you another outlook of your water bill. One last comment, each and every one of your city staff work hard to make sure when you turn on your tap first it’s safe, next you have water, and importantly affordable.

In addition, please anyone seeing water on the ground, especially if it has not rained in a while, please call 816-779-2222 or 816-779-2238 so we can check and that helps us to keep the cost of your water down.

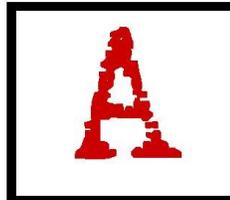
Notice:

The City of Peculiar 2012 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is available for review at
www.dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/pdwb/ccr/MO1010633.pdf

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water
 and the efforts to provide safe drinking water.



WINE



ART



MUSIC

5th Annual
Clara Brierly Festival

June 7 - 9

Downtown Peculiar, MO

Friday 5pm-10pm

Saturday 10am-10pm

Sunday Noon-4pm



FREE ADMISSION - KIDS' ACTIVITIES
WINE TASTINGS - FOOD - FUN

County Road 5 - Friday Night 7:30 pm
Talent Show - Saturday 10:30 am - 2 pm
Echo Creek - Saturday 7:30 pm
Krazy Kats - Sunday 12:30 pm
Local Talent All Weekend

www.downtownpeculiar.com

Day	Time	Act
Friday	6:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Welcome Ceremony
	7:30 pm - 10:00 pm	<i>County Road 5</i> A great Country Band that has opened for many National artists www.CountyRoad5.com
Saturday	10:30 am - 12:30 pm	Peculiar Talent Show
	1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Area Square Dance Club
	2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Pleasant Hill Dance Academy
	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Open Mic - Join In!
	7:30 pm - 10:00 pm	Echo Creek The Official Band of the KCTV-5 Chiefs Locker Room Show www.EchoCreekBand.com
Sunday	12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Krazy Kats Kansas City's legendary 50's band that was inducted into the Rockabilly Hall of Fame 1999, and the Kansas Music Hall of Fame 2012 www.krazykats.00band.com
	2:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Four Simple Reasons Garage Band Made up of Ray-Pec Students

From the City Administrator

As the Mayor pointed out, we are disappointed in raising the water rate but ran out of options. The City had been hit with 8 increases on water purchasing between Water 2 and Kansas City since we last raised the water rate. We came to a point after cutting everything we could cut, there was nothing else to cut. This latest increase simply just goes through to pay for services. But we will continue to work in finding a better solution for the purchasing of water. We are currently studying many ways for the City to find new connections and even partnering with neighboring Cities who are as well hit with the higher prices.

Recently the City went through an S & P rating; which helps us in bonding by letting the financial world know how well the City budgets, controls and ensures its funds. A City of our size would average between a BB to B+ type of rating. Your City did better than the average with an A- rating. This has saved the City hundreds of thousands in interest payments. Your local government is accountable and from our normal outside audits, State Audit to a S & P rating shows that we are working hard and accounting for every dollar. I want to thank a great staff here at the City and our elected leaders that do everything they can to ensure your community is accountable!

I hear many times from people; I pay enough property taxes to have my _____ done. I then ask the question; how much per year do you think the City collects on property taxes? To my shock no one is ever close. The City takes in \$350,000 per year TOTAL in property taxes in which \$150,000 of that goes to a 1999 bond. So in total, we have \$200,000 in property taxes to provide from police protection to the filling of pot holes. The Police Departments budget is the largest budget in the General Fund at \$747,500 per year. The total property taxes collected do not come close to paying for just police protection. The entire General Fund budget is \$1.6 million per year which the \$200,000 in property taxes is included in that figure. The other sources that get us to the \$1.6 million is largely made up of sales tax and franchise fees paid by business. You will see at the end of this year an increase to your property taxes as a result of 68% of the voters approving the bonds for the new 211th interchange back in 2009. Our first payment to MODOT is coming up and that will be paid for through property taxes. However, we are working to create an improvement district around that new interchange that will capture the new sales and new property taxes of businesses that locate in and around that area to take the burden of the bonds off the City wide tax payers. Please if you hear anything different come to us at City Hall who can show you the facts. You will find that your City is very lean and mean when it comes to operating.

I want to thank our veterans who have sacrificed so much this past Memorial Day. I hope you all have a wonderful 4th of July! Despite of all of the disappointing news across the world, this still is the greatest country on the planet and we have a great community!

God bless,

Brad Ratliff

CURRENT RESIDENT

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PERMIT #10

City of Peculiar
250 S. Main Street
Peculiar, MO 64078

