

# POSITIVELY PECULIAR

October - November - December , 2013 Issue



[www.cityofpeculiar.org](http://www.cityofpeculiar.org)



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Youth Basketball</i>	1
<i>Message from the City Administrator</i>	2
<i>Harvest Moon Festival</i>	3
<i>Hometown Holiday In Downtown</i>	4

## 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](http://www.cityofpeculiar.org).

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting will be on December 7 at 6:30 p.m.. There will be activities for the kids and free treats for everyone. DPACD plans to have wreaths for sale. You are encouraged to attend this event.

City Wide Trash Days will be Friday October 18th from 7am-6pm and Saturday October 19th from 8am-4pm at the Salt Shed on the East Outer Road.

The Harvest Moon Festival will be on October 26 from noon to 7:00pm with the parade starting at 11:00. This festival will be the biggest and best ever. I hope to see you there.

Water is a problem for the city. You will see your water rates rise by \$1.50 per 1000 gallons effective immediately. This means that the average water bill will increase about \$6.00 to \$8.00 per month. This increase will finance \$1,000,000.00 in needed improvements to our water storage and distribution system. In the near future, the Board of Aldermen will consider raising the rates by an additional \$4.00 per 1000 gallons over two years to finance changing our water supplier. This issue is too complicated to explain in this newsletter. Please contact me, the City Administrator, the City Engineer or your Alderman and we will try to explain why this change is needed.

As this may be the last newsletter of the year, I wish you a blessed Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Ernest Jungmeyer*

## YOUTH BASKETBALL

The City of Peculiar is pleased to announce opening registration for the inaugural season of Peculiar Parks & Recreation youth basketball league for kids in grades 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>. Boys and girls of all skill levels are invited to participate in a premier basketball league that focuses on skill development, team building, learning and fun. Each team will play an 8 game regular season schedule. All equipment is provided and each player receives a game jersey and participation award. Practices will begin in December and held on weekday evenings. Games will be shared with other area leagues and home games will be held at Raymore-Peculiar

Facilities located in Peculiar on Saturdays. Registration fees are \$80 per player, but players registered by October 25<sup>th</sup> will receive a discounted rate of \$70 per player. Register at City Hall or log onto [www.cityofpeculiar.org](http://www.cityofpeculiar.org) and look for "youth basketball league" on the parks and recreation home page to register online.



Deadline to Register: November 1st



## From the Desk of the City Administrator

There are numerous events planned for this quarter including: Trash Days, Peculiar Basketball Season, Harvest Moon Festival and the Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting. Information for these events can be found in the News Letter. Please come out and support our City Events for some great Family Fun.

Recently the Board of Alderman adopted the new 2013-2014 Fiscal Year Budget. Although the amount of spending only increased 0.5% respectively in the General Fund, you will see many new purchases for the Police Department. These items, including vehicles, are **not** being paid for with taxpayer funds. Around ten years ago, there was an investigation into a local phone company named Casstel. Our Police Department worked closely with the FBI on this investigation and helped to retrieve \$40 million in laundered funds. The Peculiar Police Department was to receive a small percentage of the money retrieved. However, this had never come to pass over these past ten years. The Mayor and I went to Washington DC regarding this matter in April and by June - the Police Department received \$1.2 Million from the recovered funds. This money comes with 40 pages of rules which basically restrict its spending to Police purchases only; the Police Department was given an 18 month window to spend said funds. At the end of this 18 month period, any unspent funds must be returned. We would hate for that to happen, so we are working diligently to allocate these funds within the specified time limit. I want to reiterate that all the new purchases you will notice for the Peculiar Police Department were purchased **without using taxpayer dollars**. You may view the City's budget on our website [www.cityofpeculiar.org](http://www.cityofpeculiar.org) under Administration.

The toughest budget decision for our Alderman this year involved the increase in water. Many do not realize when they receive their "water bill" that it also includes both **sewer** and **trash** charges. Currently, we purchase our water from Water District 2, who marks up the water sold to us by 53% compared to what they are charged via Kansas City. The City completed a water rate study this past year and found if we bite the bullet now, and raise rates for the next three years, we will be able to run our own supply line to Kansas City or another water supplier. If we are able to secure our own connection to a water supplier, our rates will stabilize over the next five years and give us better control over costs. If we do nothing but make the system improvements we need, and we remain connected to Water District 2, we will pay more in those same five years than what the three year increase would cost. The Board of Alderman truly struggled with this decision, as they and City Staff never like to raise fees of any kind. That being said, we as a City need to look at this as an investment which will save us all a lot of money over the long run. I know this will not be popular, or easy, however we must prepare for the future. Many of you that have lived here a long time know this should have been done ten years ago; we have the study online for you to view. We will be posting additional water studies as we prepare for the new connection this fiscal year. Please try to realize this is not something the City wants to do, however if we don't act now, in five years we will look back and say "Why didn't we prepare for this day".

The Sewer Bond that fixed major problems throughout the City and the Sewer Treatment Plant has reached the end of construction. We were able to address numerous problems that surfaced from the dramatic growth of our community experienced several years ago. Areas which were at capacity have been corrected and the area on the West side of the City which had an inadequate lift station has been converted to a gravity flow sewer line. Of course this first phase of improvements has not fixed all of our problems, but it addressed our greatest needs. We are hopeful things will stabilize for now and in the near future we will address phase two of needed Sanitary Sewer improvements.

The I-49 and 211<sup>th</sup> interchange is moving along, you may check the city's website for the design that was selected. Our first payment on the 2009 voter approved bonds that are matching the monies provided by the State is coming due. You will see a .16 cent increase to the "Assessed Value" of your home to address the first phase of payments. There will be additional increases on your property tax bill over the next several years to help pay for the new interchange. We are hopeful and continue to seek additional Federal funding to keep us from issuing all the voter approved bonds for this project.

Even with the property tax increase this year, we are much lower in levied property taxes than of our neighbors to the north. Peculiar's levy rate is now \$0.86, Raymore's is \$1.30 and Belton's is \$1.89. Our rate will only increase to pay for debt service necessary to construct the new interchange. We have not raised the operating mill levy for over fifteen years. The City only collects \$200,000 per year in property taxes for our operating budget. This next year the debt service will go from \$150,000 to \$250,000, this makes for a combined City Wide tax collection of \$450,000 per year.

As you can see, the City is very busy working for you. Local Government is the purist form of Representation Government. A Federally elected official goes to Washington DC, a State elected official goes to Jefferson City, and County elected officials go to Harrisonville; but your City elected official lives here, with you in the community, to work and listen to your needs. That is why I say it is the purist form of Representation Government today. As this will be the newsletter of the quarter for the months of October, November and December; I want to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

*Brad Ratliff*

City Administrator



## 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL

Downtown Peculiar, MO

Saturday, October 26, 2013

12 noon to 7:00 p.m.

Parade starts at 11:00 a.m.

It's time again to celebrate **Fall** and the **Community of Peculiar** with the **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Moon Festival** in downtown Peculiar! This year's event will include activities for all ages. We are also expecting a great turnout for the **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Parade**. We've extended the hours to 7:00 p.m. and added live bands and a beer tent. Of course, we will still have lots and lots of vendor booths and kid friendly activities, such as a petting zoo.

**Location:** Downtown Peculiar on Broadway Street

**Fees:** **FREE** Trick or Treat Booths for Chamber Members – must provide games and/or candy for the kids and not sell merchandise or services for booth to be free of charge

**\$50.00** for **10' x 10'** space if reserved **by October 15, 2013**

**\$75.00** for **10' x 10'** space **AFTER** October 15, 2013

**Make check payable to:** PACC Harvest Moon Festival

**Mail check and form to:** PO Box 669  
Peculiar, MO 64078

## 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HARVEST MOON PARADE

**DATE:** Saturday, October 26, 2013

**WHEN:** Line up starts at 10:00 a.m. – PARADE starts at 11:00 a.m.

**WHERE:** the old Conoco Station on C Highway  
Parking at the Sanders Center

**EVERYONE is invited to participate!!!**

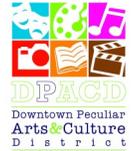
Antique cars\*4-H groups\*Scouts\*Fire Trucks\*Police\*Dancers\*Marching  
Bands\*Horses\*Tractors\*Businesses\*Floats\*MORE!

For information regarding the parade or vendor booths, please contact Gary Mallory ([cassmallory@yahoo.com](mailto:cassmallory@yahoo.com)) at 816-820-8740.

For festival information, please contact Kathy Gladden ([kgladden@cbonline.net](mailto:kgladden@cbonline.net)) at 816-265-6933 or Gary Mallory ([cassmallory@yahoo.com](mailto:cassmallory@yahoo.com)) at 816-820-8740.



# Hometown Holiday in Downtown



The Downtown Peculiar Arts & Culture District (DPACD), in conjunction with several Downtown businesses and organizations, invites you to the second annual Hometown Holiday. This is a day of shopping, food, entertainment and fun. There will be artists, crafters and gift vendors in locations throughout Downtown (a map will be available on the DPACD website - [www.downtownpeculiar.com](http://www.downtownpeculiar.com) - November 1st, 2013). Maps will also be available at each participating location the day of the event. Mark your calendars for November 9th, 2013 and kick the holiday season off in Downtown.

DPACD's portion of this Downtown event will be open from 9 am to 7 pm in Brierly Hall (163 W. Center). We will host a free holiday variety show from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. DPACD's wreath and tree sale, part of the event, will benefit the public art walk in Downtown so plan to pick up your one of a kind wreath and small, decorated tree. Grab your Santa hat, your bank roll and your friends and join us in Downtown on November 9th!

To access vendor signup sheets or variety show applications - please go to [http://www.downtownpeculiar.com/wreath\\_sale.cfm](http://www.downtownpeculiar.com/wreath_sale.cfm) or call 816-806-3698.

Calendar of Events
Oct 18 & 19 - City Wide Trash Days
Oct. 26 - Harvest Moon Festival
Nov 9 - Hometown Holiday in Downtown
Dec 7 - Mayor's Tree Lighting

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