

POSITIVELY PECULIAR

April - May - June, 2014 Issue



"Like us on Facebook"



Keep up with
City News by
signing up for
E-Notifications
on our websites
home page.

cityofpeculiar.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

April 8 is election day. PLEASE VOTE. This is your right. There are four candidates for Mayor and two for Ward 3 Alderman. Decisions made by elected officials in the next few years will be vital to the future of Peculiar. I hope that you would examine each candidates position on issues such as parks, street improvement and maintenance, water supply, public safety, city planning and zoning .

A one cent per gallon fuel tax will also be voted on. Proceeds from this tax will only be used for road and street improvements. Most of this proposed tax would be paid for by trucks and cars buying fuel from Flying J. The cost to residents of Peculiar would be about \$10.00 per year if you bought most of your fuel in the City. This is a small price to pay for needed street improvements. I hope that you will consider the positive benefits to Peculiar when you vote on this issue.

I would like to repeat what I said in the last newsletter that it has been my privilege to serve as your Mayor for the past six years. I wish the new Mayor and the Board of Aldermen the best as they tackle the issues facing Peculiar.

Ernest Jungmeyer

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.

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



CLARA BRIERLY WAM (Wine, Art, Music) Festival June 6 – 8

Mark your calendar now to attend the 6th Annual Clara Brierly WAM Festival put on for the community by the Downtown Peculiar Arts & Culture District. This event is free to the public and we usually have about 2500 – 3500 attendees. Those who are there for the first time always say "How did I not come to this before? EVERYONE should be here!" Come enjoy quality artist booths*, kids activities, chapel history tours, a talent show*, the Texaco Country Music Showdown contest*, Flannigan's Right Hook (Friday night), Eisle and Hoover (Saturday night), free wine tastings from Missouri wineries, food vendors* and fun.

Festival location is Center Street and C Highway in Downtown. Festival hours are Friday night June 6 from 5 pm – 10 pm, Saturday June 7 from 10 am – 10 pm, Sunday June 8 from 12 pm to 4 pm. Lots to see, do, taste and hear so plan on spending some time enjoying the festival with us! Bring your friends!

*For more info or to get an application, visit our website at www.downtownpeculiar.com.

RUMORS VS FACTS

Rumor: The City will use the money collected for anything it wants regardless of what the ballot says.

Fact: The money collected can only be used for **construction, reconstruction, maintenance, repair, policing, signing, lighting, and cleaning of roads and/or streets; and for the payment of principal and interest on bonded indebtedness incurred for road and street purposes, the use thereof being subject to such other provisions and restrictions as provided by law.**

Each year the City is audited by an outside firm to insure that all monies are being spent according to law.

(The City currently has NO issued Street Bonds)

Rumor: The City spent its money for streets on the new police vehicles.

Fact: The City received over one million dollars from the Federal Government for the assistance that was provided several years ago in an FBI Investigation. This money came with almost 40 pages of rules and regulations that had to be followed when spending it, and it could only be spent on the Police Department. **None of the money allocated for streets was spent on the new police fleet.**

Rumor: The City used their money to put up signs all over town to vote for the 1 penny Fuel Tax.

Fact: The City has not spent any money for signs or handouts. All these signs were paid for by private citizens that have organized to ask people to vote for the Fuel Tax. They believe the City needs this revenue stream for our street maintenance and they are campaigning on that issue. The City is prohibited by law to campaign for any issue - we can only send out factual information on these issues.

Rumor: If the City didn't spend money so frivolously there would be more money for roads.

Fact: The City went through three (3) S&P Reviews in-which the City received in "A" in our Bond Rating. A City of our size would normally receive a "BB" Rating, however we were able to get higher at an A. This rating is based upon our strong financials and our clear management process; stated by the private bond market sector as "Excellent." One of the significant points identified in this review was our City Budget being cut by twenty-five percent (25%) over the past several years. They were amazed a City would cut that much - they rarely see that in performing their reviews. The City initiated these budget cuts during a recession and established healthy fund reserves without reducing City services. To say the City is spending out of control is completely fabricated, there is no Audit or Private sector reviews that even vaguely support that statement.

Rumor: The City spent all their money on the new City Hall

Fact: The new City Hall was purchased for \$48 a square foot, you cannot build a metal building that cheap! It had no major impact on our normal budget and is clearly shown as a line item of the budget.

Rumor: The City has all kinds of money they are secretly spending in other places and that is what they will do with the Fuel Tax (road) money.

Fact: Again, by law, the City cannot spend tax money passed by our voters in other areas or for other uses. Every budget, and the most current audit, is posted on the City's Website for anyone to review to verify where every dollar goes. We are not the Federal Government, we cannot print money and we cannot spend more than we have budget approval for.

Rumor: If the City was more business friendly we would have more business that would pay for our roads.

Fact: The City is business friendly as pointed out from the recent metro review and our ordinances are very clear and very open to any business coming into town. Recently the Planning Commission and Board of Alderman passed a Matrix of allowable business uses for every Zoning Business District of our community.

Rumor: The City has too many staff and they pay them too much.

Fact: Seven (7) years ago the City went through a comprehensive review of staff and their classifications. Every staff position has a job description, and a minimum to maximum pay range. Every position is eligible to receive a raise based on performance. At the beginning of the fiscal year, every staff member meets with their supervisor and the supervisor sets goals for the year that the employee must meet. At the end of the fiscal year, the employee is rated per their goals as well as the normal day to day quality of work and employee reliability. If they exceed their performance goals they are eligible for a 4% raise, if they meet their goals a 3% raise and if they do not perform they do not get a raise. In addition, those who do not perform are placed on a 90 day probation with goals; if they do not improve during this period they are terminated.

As far as too many staff; over the past five (5) years the City reduced staff from 37 employees to 30 employees City wide. Yes, that number includes every staff person, we only have 30. That represents a 19% reduction in staff while providing the same level in services.

PLEASE VOTE ON APRIL 8th

THE MONEY GENERATED CAN AND WILL ONLY BE USED FOR ROADS!

**TOWN AND COUNTRY
SPRING
YARD WASTE EVENT
SATURDAY, APRIL 26,
2014**

**Please have your items at the
curb
by 7:00 a.m.**

**For Questions, call City Hall at
779-2222**



Peculiar Street Clean Up Day

***A Fundraiser for
Caring Hearts of Peculiar
Saturday, April 12, 2014
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.***

**Help Clean Up Peculiar Streets
Make a Donation \$10/trash bag
Volunteers are also needed**

**For More Information
Contact Larry Dobson
816-716-5387**



**CITY WIDE GARAGE SALE
SATURDAY, May 31, 2014**

Registration Fee \$5.00

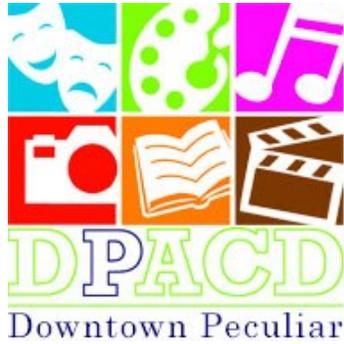
**Registration will open on
Tuesday, May 1st at City Hall
to have your address included on the
garage sale map**

**Maps will be available at various city
businesses and at City Hall
Beginning Monday, May 20th**

**Peculiar United Methodist Church
Annual Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 19th, 2014
10:00 a.m.**

**Peculiar United Methodist Church
20521 S. School Road
Peculiar, Mo 64078
(816) 779-5777
Pancake Breakfast
Activities/Games
Easter Egg Hunt
All FREE!!**





EGGZIBIT 2014 COMING TO DOWNTOWN

Eggzibit will once again lend its whimsical touch to the Downtown Peculiar landscape! This is the 8th year for this temporary public art exhibit featuring two feet tall, plastic eggs which have been "arted" up into sculptures. This year's theme is all about animals. You will see armadillos to goldfish, pigs to bald eagles from artists ranging in age from three to "we'll never tell". Eggzibit is just one of the Downtown Peculiar Arts & Culture District's events. The eggs (over 100 this year!) go up around Easter for about two weeks every year. You can drive through but the best experience is had when you park and walk through all of the eggs. This is a one of a kind event and an eggzact fit for a town named Peculiar! Eggzibit is another community based project hosted by the Downtown Peculiar Arts & Culture District (DPACD).

Please Vote!

- April 8—Election Day
- April 12—Peculiar Street Cleanup
- April 19—Easter Egg Hunt
- April 26—Yard Waste Pick up
- May 31—Citywide Garage Sale
- June 6-8—Clara Brerly Festival

Calendar of Events

CURRENT RESIDENT
OR
(Mail Merge Here)

PRESORT
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U S POSTAGE PAID
PECULIAR, MO
PERMIT #10

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

