

# POSITIVELY PECULIAR

December, 2014 - January, 2015 Issue



[www.cityofpeculiar.org](http://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 available on the City's website.

All agendas and minutes from city meetings are available on the City website at [www.cityofpeculiar.org](http://www.cityofpeculiar.org).

## Peculiar is named Missouri Art Council's 2015 Creative Community

The Missouri Arts Council (part of the Missouri Dept. of Economic Development) started recognizing outstanding contributions to the arts in 1983 via their annual Missouri Arts Awards. The category of Creative Community, added in 2007, recognizes those communities (municipality, village or town, business district, tax district, neighborhood association, etc.) **which use the arts to promote economic growth, tourism, business and/or resident attraction, or civic growth.**

Previous winners of this prestigious award include the City of Columbia, the City of St. Joseph, the City of Springfield, The City of Lee's Summit, the City of Chesterfield, the City of Joplin, the City of Webster Groves and the City of Kansas City. The 2015 Creative Community is the City of Peculiar via the Downtown Peculiar Arts & Culture District (DPACD). Peculiar is the smallest community based on population that has ever received the award.

Peculiar's Mayor Holly Stark nominated DPACD. "Perhaps one of the greatest accomplishments of this group is the way they have created access to the arts in this very underserved area and made art approachable. This spirit of meeting people where they are; of finding common ground with regard to involvement is evidenced by the diversity of the group itself and the partnerships it has forged. There are obviously artists but there are as many or more non artists and there are businesses. Many members are from our town of roughly 4600 residents but many are also members of the other 70,000 people located in the surrounding communities. There are even members, donors and volunteers from other states who are lead to participate because they believe in the very real concept that life and the economy in a small town can be positively impacted by the arts."

DPACD's mantra is a Margaret Mead quote, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Called "feisty grassroots" by the Missouri Arts Council on its Facebook announcement of the awards, the committed members of DPACD in cooperation and partnership with the forward thinking leadership of the City of Peculiar are changing their corner of the world. Always a wonderful hometown, Peculiar is also now a recognized Creative Community.

Delegates from the City, from DPACD and from the community will travel to Jefferson City to formally accept this award in February, 2015.

## Caring Hearts of Peculiar



*'Tis the Season for Giving.  
Be an Angel and give a gift to your Community.*

*Caring Hearts has begun its annual fund-raising campaign and is partnering with the Country Mart Store to benefit those who call Peculiar home. A Christmas Tree has been set up at the store, decorated with Angels which can be purchased for either \$1, \$5, or \$10. When you purchase an Angel, the entire amount is tax-deductible and goes directly to Caring Hearts of Peculiar. Many organizations are supported by Caring Hearts, including the local Thrift Store, the First Baptist Church Food Pantry, the Peculiar United Methodist Church Christmas Store, Peculiar Boy Scout Troops 245 and 621, Hope Haven of Cass County, Young Life of Cass County, Cass County Dental Clinic and Harvesters. The Christmas Angel Tree will be in place until December 14 at the Country Mart Store. In addition, informational brochures, posters and collection jars will be available at several local businesses in Peculiar, making contributions convenient. Website is:*

Caring Hearts is a 501(c)(3) Tax Deductible Organization

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



## Utility Bill Payment “Convenience Fee” Questions and Answers:

This past month, City staff has received a number of questions concerning utility bill payment “convenience fee”, and hopefully we will be able to restate the question and provide an answer:

Q: Why is the City charging the utility customer a “convenience fee” to use his/her charge card or debit card?

A: The City is not charging the utility customer a “convenience fee” to use their charge/debit card. The (payment center) banking facility that is running your card is charging the “convenience fee”, and we are passing that “convenience fee” cost on to the utility customer using the card.

Q: Why doesn't the City “waive” the “convenience fee” cost for using his/her card?

A: The City has done exactly that “waive” the “convenience fee” cost to the utility customer for the past several years. During the City's budget work session this past year, the Mayor and the Board of Alderman (BOA) were made aware by City staff that approximately \$20,000 a year “the City had been waiving” for the “convenience fee”; and those “convenience fee” costs could be used instead as funds for utility infrastructure improvements throughout the City. The Mayor and the BOA thought that the utility customer creating the cost should pay the cost of the “convenience fee”; and then City staff could use those funds to benefit of the utility customers.

Q: What is the cost of the “convenience fee”?

A: The cost of the “convenience fee” is as follows:

- For each charge/debit card transaction, the fee is \$4.30.
- For each utility deposit using a credit/debit card, the fee is \$5.90.
- For each “e-check”, the fee is \$2.50.

Q: I had my bank pay my bill “on-line” through electronic checking on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month and I still received a late charge. I called my bank and they said, “It was taken out of my account on the 10<sup>th</sup>”. City staff is holding payments to collect more money on late fees.

A: City staff CAN NOT and WILL NOT hold payments. The day City staff receives the payment from the utility customer's bank; the payment is posted to the customer's account. When you go “on-line” to pay your utility bill, the bank is correct when they say, “It was taken out of his/her account on the 10<sup>th</sup>”. They do take the money out of your account on that day. What you may not know is the bank in turn generates a check to be written and sent out through the United States Postal Service (USPS). The bank does exactly as you would do; write a check, put it in an envelope and take it to the USPS to be delivered. There are times we do not receive these checks for days after you notify your bank. If you choose to use this type of service, contact your bank and talk to your representative to find out their procedure. They may be able to get the checks out sooner or you may have to notify the bank to pay the utility bill earlier.

Q: How can I pay my utility bill and not be charged the “convenience fee” for paying the utility bill?

A: There are a couple of options;

First, there is payment by regular check and placing the check in the mail; the “old fashion way”. Again a friendly reminder, City staff cannot control the USPS office practices and procedures; and delivery times. Therefore, make sure you allow plenty of time for your utility bill payment to be received by City staff.

The second option is what is called “ACH”. You authorize the City to have your utility bill payment taken directly from your bank account each month. You receive a monthly utility bill on the first business day of the month, and the utility bill payment is withdrawn automatically from your bank on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. If you're interested in more information, please call 816-779-2222 and City staff we'll be glad to tell you more about this option.

Q: When does City staff consider my payment being paid?

A: Your payment is considered to being “paid” when the utility bill payment is received in City Hall, and stamped “paid” before 9:00 A.M. on or before the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month so no late fees are calculated. Your payment must be in City Hall and stamped paid before 9:00 A.M. on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month so your water is not disconnected and administrative charges applied to your utility account.

One last note: The Mayor and the Board of Alderman are the governing body that establishes the ordinances (policies and procedures); and we as City staff follow those ordinances. The Mayor, BOA along with City staff is always open for suggestions and comments to find solutions that effect the operation and betterment of the City.

If you have an idea that will benefit the citizens and meet the Mayor and BOA's directives, please contact the Mayor, your Alderman or City staff at 816-779-2222.

## Changes to Candidate Filing & General Election Information

The City of Peculiar will be having its annual General Election on Tuesday, April 7, 2015. At the Election an Alderman from each of the 3 (three) Wards of the City shall be elected. Candidate Filing will begin on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at 8:00 am and will end on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 5:00 pm.

### Items needed for Filing:

Copy of Driver's License

\$10.00 Filing fee via Check or cash

Copy of Executed and Notarized Form 5120 from the Missouri Department of Revenue

At the direction of the Board of Aldermen the Candidate Filing Order will be selected differently than past years. In past years the Filing Order was determined by who had the requisite completed information to the City Clerk first appeared first on the ballot. This year The City Clerk will be doing the Random Draw Method outlined in Section 115.121.1 (2) RSMo as amended.

Per change in State Statute all Candidates are required to file a form 5120, Candidate's Affidavit of Tax Payments and Bonding Requirements, with the Missouri Department of Revenue and include a completed copy said form with their Declaration of Candidacy.

The form may be found at the following web address: <http://dor.mo.gov/forms/5120.pdf>

**For the first day of Candidate Filing only:** Candidates will receive and fill out the necessary paperwork from the City Clerk. When the Candidate has turned his or her paperwork into the City Clerk, the Candidate will draw at random a number between 1 and 10. Filing Order will be determined for each office by the lowest number drawn and so forth.

**After the first day the Filing Order will be determined by the next Candidate to submit all requisite documentation to the City Clerk.**

## PUBLIC NOTICE City of Peculiar, Missouri

Filing for the annual City Election, Tuesday, April 7, 2015 opens Tuesday, December 16, 2014, at 8:00 a.m. and ends on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 5:00 p.m., in accordance with Section 115.127.5 RSMo as amended.

At said election there 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 South Main, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Please note: Filing opens on December 16, 2014, at 8:00 a.m. and ends on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 5:00 p.m., City Hall will be closed for business December 25, 2014 for the Christmas Holiday and January 1, 2015 for the New Years Day Holiday and January 20, 2015 for Martin Luther King Day.

There is a \$10.00 filing fee payable by cash or check to the City of Peculiar at the time of filing.

Candidates are required to file a form 5120, Candidate's Affidavit of Tax Payments and Bonding Requirements, with the Missouri Department of Revenue and include a completed copy of said form with their Declaration of Candidacy.

The City of Peculiar will be performing the random draw method in accordance with Section 115.12.1 (2) RSMo as amended on the first day of filing to determine the filing order of candidates for each office. After the first day, the order will be determined by the next candidate that files for each available office and so forth.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact the City Clerk's office at 816-779-2221.

Nick Jacobs, City Clerk

# MAYOR'S TREE LIGHTING

## CITY OF PECULIAR

December 4  
5:30pm  
Brierly Hall

Entertainment by the  
*Raymore-Peculiar Band*

Pictures with  
**SANTA**

Sweet Treats and Holiday Joy



### Tax Breakdown for \$100,000 Market Value Home in Peculiar

Ray-Pec R-2 School	\$	961.05
West Peculiar Fire	\$	193.95
West Peculiar Ambulance	\$	57.15
State of Missouri	\$	5.70
Cass County Road & Bridge	\$	43.80
Cass County Library	\$	28.65
Hospital Maintenance	\$	25.95
Sheltered Workshop	\$	9.60
City of Peculiar	\$	174.15
<b>Total Tax</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>

