

POSITIVELY PECULIAR

October - November - December 2016 Issue



www.cityofpeculiar.org



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**Thank You for
Your Service !!!**



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.
Quarterly

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.

The new I-49 & Peculiar Way Interchange is now OPEN!!!

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

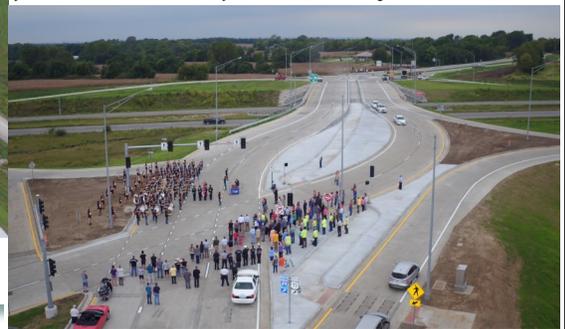


Progress as Promised !!!

The I-49 & Peculiar Way Interchange and Peculiar Way Improvements are complete and open. The interchange was opened on Friday, September 16th at 2:00 PM, more than seven (7) weeks ahead of schedule.

This summer has been busy with implementing and completing the construction activities of the Capital Improvement Plan projects for 2016. Currently, the projects under contract are completed.

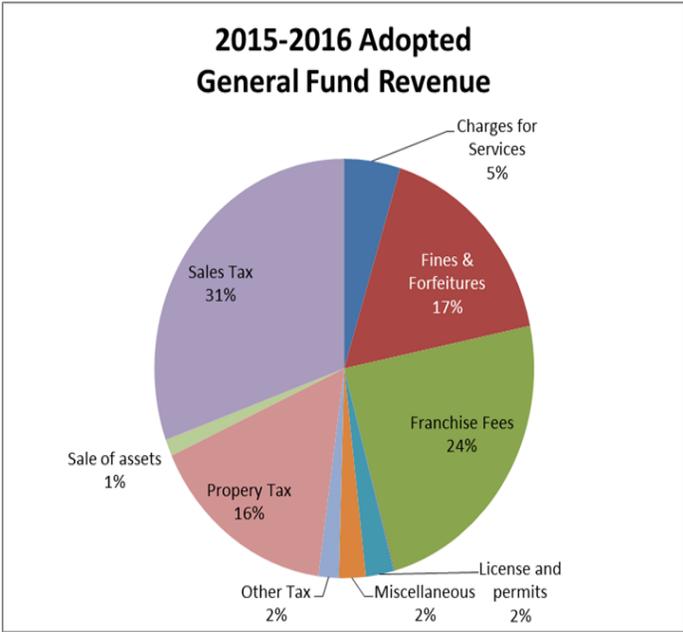
There was an Honorary Flag Raising Ceremony by the American Legion Post 0488 and a Peculiar Monument Sign Dedication on Tuesday, September 27th, 10:00 AM at the Monument Sign. Veterans were recognized for their service and the City of Peculiar has been proclaimed a "Purple Heart City".



City of Peculiar 2016-2017 Budget Information -

The City of Peculiar budget was presented to the Board of Alderman by Department and Fund with a break out of Fixed Personnel, Operational Cost and Capital Requests. A five year capital plan was presented for the City projects including Transportation, Parks, Facilities/Equipment and Utilities. The City’s fiscal year runs October 1 to September 30 of every year. The City staff start preparing the budget to present to the Board of Alderman in March to April of every year. Please remember your local City cannot work and function like the County, State or Federal Government. We are audited by an outside firm every year and we cannot run a deficit budget, as it’s against State law.

Employee pay adjustments – The financial impact for 2016 of the Pay Performance Plan adjustments will be fully annualized in the 2016-2017 fiscal year budget. There is an additional Special Projects as well as a new Patrol Officer position that will be added.



A summary of major changes for the adopted 2016-2017 budget is:

- Increase of School Resource Officer participation at the school district.
- An additional FTE in the Police Department.
- Transfer of all Emergency Management duties to the Police Department. The West Peculiar Fire Board voted to no longer manage Emergency Management for the citizens. The City therefore had to take up the responsibility to ensure safety to the residents and keeping the City eligible for grants and disaster funds, if ever needed.
- Funding for the VOIP telephone system to decrease monthly costs and increase reliability of communications.
- Transfer parks mowing to City staff from outside providers and purchase the necessary equipment to do so.
- Continue the implementation of funding for the Kansas City water connection by \$1.50.
- Increase rates for waste water by \$0.55 per Board Policy for major improvements.
- Implementing a Winter Averaging program on Wastewater for residents.
- Increase funding for streets and curbs, due to 1 penny fuel fee.
- Upgrading vehicles and equipment in Administration Department
- 50/50 Program for Sidewalks and Curbs for residents to have options.
- Addressing needed Storm Water repairs throughout the community.
- Implementing a years of service award program for employees.

General Fund

Revenues within the general fund are estimated to remain unchanged from the prior year. The primary driver behind revenues continues to be the growth in sales tax.

Water Enterprise Fund

The 2017 budget proposes a \$1.50 per thousand increase as previously anticipated. This increase continues the city’s progression toward a long-term cheaper source of water for our customers.

- ◆ Increase of funding set aside for principal bond payments.
- ◆ Increase in capital for a long-term water source.

Sewer Fund

The sewer fund’s 2017 budget contains a \$0.55 per thousand increase as previously anticipated. These annual increases affords the City to keep up with the inflation being realized on certain operating costs in addition to taking advantage of future economic development opportunities.

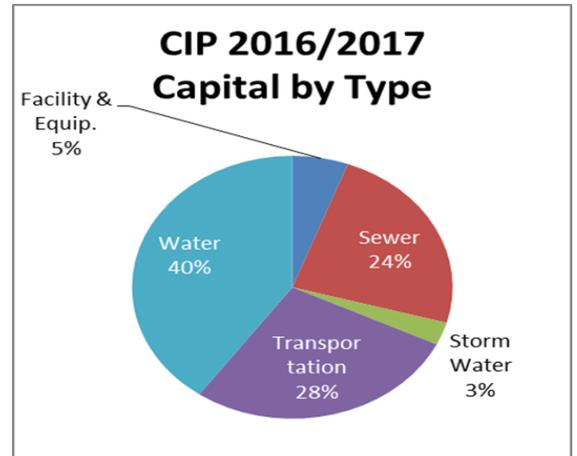
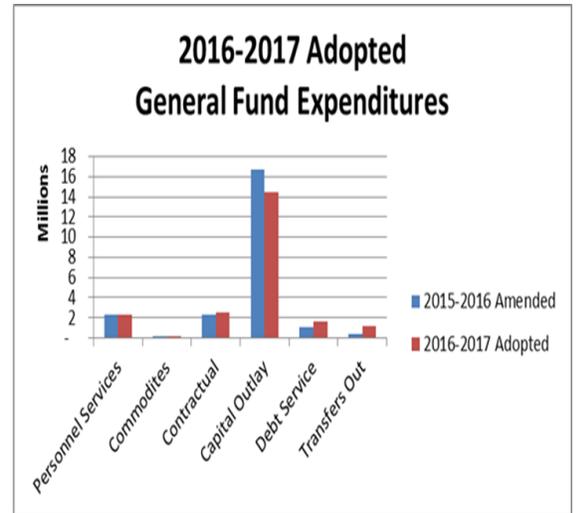
- ◆ Continued funding of plant, lift station, and line maintenance at similar levels in the past.
- ◆ Funding of various major projects in conjunction with routine maintenance.

Capital Expenditures

The City’s 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Projects Plan (CIP) totals \$113,183,340 over the 5 year period. The breakout of capital projects include transportation, facility/equipment, parks, and utility projects and discussed further in this document. Fund for the CIP includes a mix of cash and bond funding for the same period. Remember all water and sewer increase are only resulting in bonds. The Residents voted for these increase in 2009 by 67% saying yes.

Conclusion

This is a very small snap shot of all the programs and budget information. Please go the City’s website, www.cityofpeculiar.org where you will see the entire 200 page budget. Every penny spent is publicly displayed for you to review. There is in addition a 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for you to review the plans for infrastructure for the next 5 years. We put everything on line for you to review, even our yearly audits. You will see a lot of projects going on all through the community this coming year!



The FY 2016-2017 Budget contains water and sewer rate increases as planned.....

In September, the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen approved an increase in the water and sewer rates for residential and business-government users. The rate increase will be \$1.50/1000 gallons of water used for the water rate, and the rate increase will be \$0.55/1000 gallons of water used for the sewer rate.

WATER—The new water rate, which will take effect October 1st for water used the previous month, sets the cost of water at \$22.46/1000 gallons for the first 1,000 gallons and \$18.02/1000 gallons for all usage after the first 1000 gallons.

SEWER—The new sewer rate, which also will take effect October 1st for water used the previous month, sets the cost of sewer at \$16.35/1000 gallons for the first 1,000 gallons and \$8.20/1000 gallons for all usage after the first 1000 gallons. Winter averaging will be an option for our sewer customers. More information on “winter averaging” to follow in a future newsletter.

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.

Regarding the water portion of the utility bill, the household average in the City of Peculiar is 5,000 gallons each month. Water is made available to you 7 days a week, 24 hours a day 365 days a year. City staff makes 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 tap 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 transported to the wastewater treatment plant where the wastewater process begins. Regarding the cost of water, with an average monthly usage of 5,000 gallons, the current cost for that water in the City of Peculiar beginning with the October 2016 billing cycle is \$94.54 (ninety-four dollars and fifty-four cents). If you divide the cost of 5,000 gallons of water (\$94.54) by the amount of water you receive (5,000 gallons) you pay \$0.018908 for each gallon. *That is \$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.

The fees and taxes are as follows:

Water – Water is the cost for water usage at the current rate(s), and is set by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen (BOA).

Bond – The \$12.00 sewer bond fee is for the re-payment of the \$3.125M in Sanitary Sewer Improvements that were approved by the Mayor and BOA in early 2011. The improvements were at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, East lift station and “C” Hwy lift station, an 18-inch force main and a gravity sewer main. The bond fee is paid by all sewer customers.

Primacy – The \$0.25 primacy fee is set and used by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Sewer – Sewer cost is based on water usage, and the sewage cost is at the current rate set by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen (BOA) as indicated above.

Trash – Trash is the monthly fee (\$14.80) for residential trash service. The trash rate is set by the Mayor and BOA.

County Tax – County Tax is a sales tax and is used for the following four (4) categories:

- General Revenue (0.5%) and is used for general obligations of the County; i.e. Administrative, Law Enforcement
- Road & Bridge (0.25%) and used for both county and city roads. The county keeps 2/3's of the sales tax, and 1/3 of the sales tax is given back to the cities of Cass County.
- Justice Center (0.25%) and is used to pay the bond for the new Justice Center Building.
- Law Enforcement (0.25%) and is used specifically for law enforcement in the county.

Capital Tax – the Capital Tax (0.5%) is for all of the Capital Improvements that go on within the City (Example: Street Asphalt Mill & Overlay Program, Water Main replacement, Sewer Main replacement, and any capital or fixed asset having an estimated economic useful life of at least two years.)

Transportation Tax - the Transportation Tax (0.5%) is for the construction, reconstruction, repair and maintenance of streets, roads, sidewalks, trails, community-owned parking lots, and bridges within a municipality; the construction, reconstruction, repair and maintenance of airports owned and operated by municipalities; the acquisition of lands and rights-of-way for streets, roads, sidewalks, trails, community-owned parking lots, bridges, and airports; and planning and feasibility studies for streets, roads, sidewalks, trails, community-owned parking lots, bridges, and airports. "Bridges" shall include bridges connecting a municipality with another municipality either within or without the state, with an unincorporated area of the state, or with another state or an unincorporated area thereof.

Parks Tax – the Parks Tax (0.5%) is for the upkeep and any expenditure related to Peculiar's Parks System.

City Tax – the City Tax (1%) is a City Sales tax and goes straight to the City's General Fund.

City Projects Continued -

The mill and overlay process involves removing two inches of the pavement surface and replacing it with new asphalt pavement. Areas that have experienced base failure will be removed full depth and replaced prior to the new surface asphalt. This process improves ride quality and smoothness, and protects the remaining base asphalt to extend the life of the pavement.

The City's Pavement Management System outlines a regular maintenance schedule for the street network in order to maintain the network in "good" condition or better. This roadway upkeep occurs in various locations around the city and is approved annually by the Board of Aldermen. Streets scheduled to receive maintenance sealing repairs this year include:

Reclamite Preservative Seal (Maintenance Completed) -

- 1) Cindy Lane, J Hwy to Kendall Rd.
- 2) Kendall Rd. from 875 Kendall to 211th St.
- 3) West 1st St. from W. Broadway to W. Center
- 4) West Center from W. 1st St. to Main St.
- 5) West Second St. from Peculiar Dr. to W. Broadway

Reclamite Preservative Seal (Maintenance) -

- 1) 233rd St. from C Hwy to east city limits

CRF Options -

- 1) Twin Oaks Subdivision Phase 1
- 2) Hurley from School Rd. to Elm St.

City's 2016-2017 Sidewalk 50/50 Replacement Program

The City's new Sidewalk 50/50 replacement program has a budget of \$5,000 for sidewalks. If the property owner is willing to pay 50% of the cost of the sidewalk replacement, then the city will match the cost up to 50%. This is a first come, first serve offer. If you have additional questions, please contact, John Stoltz, Public Works Manager at 816-779-2224. Once again this year, the City of Peculiar is participating in a joint bidding process with Belton, Raymore and Pleasant Hill in the hopes of leveraging greater economies of scale for curb & gutter and street repairs throughout the area. City staff anticipates that these projects will start late this fall and again next spring.

**Peculiar
HARVEST MOON
FESTIVAL OCT. 29th**

Pumpkin Carving & Scarecrow Decorating Contest
Drop entries off before noon at Main Stage
Winners announced at 7:30pm

Street Dance
6pm-9pm

Performances & Entertainment throughout the day

Doggie Costume Contest

Bounce House

Harvest Moon Parade
Line up begins @ 9:30am at the old Conoco Station off C Hwy.
Peculiar

Contact Cathy Wansing @ 816-916-7977 or Nicole Snyder @ 816-868-9304 for parade participation information.

KID'S FUN RUN & ZOMBIE 5K RUN
Register Online: www.enter2run.com/search/event.aspx?id=38516
Register Day of event: 4:00 pm; Broadway & 1st Street
***Kids Fun Run/Walk—Starts @ 4:30pm—\$10 (includes T-Shirt)
***5K—Starts @ 5:00—\$25 (\$30 for late registration)
REGISTER EARLY TO GET YOUR T-SHIRT!

Photo Booth Noon-4pm

Vendors **Food** **Live Music**
Games & Kids Activities

Safely Dispose of Your Electronics

Saturday, October 15, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.— Noon
 Family Center at the Mill-Walk Mall
 2601 Cantrell Rd., Harrisonville, Missouri



Computer Monitors (CRT only)	\$20.00
Televisions (CRT based only)	\$20.00
Console & Rear Projection TVs	\$20.00
Flat panel monitors & flat panel televisions	FREE
Stereos, Small Fax Machine, VCR, Scanner	FREE
Personal Printers (Desktop Inkjets & Laser Printers less than 15" x 15" x 10")	FREE
Desktop Printers, Large Fax Machine (3 in 1) (Multifunction Inkjets & Laser Printers from 15" x 15" x 10" to 15" x 18" x 13")	FREE
Large Printers (Plotters & Laser larger than 15" x 18" x 13")	FREE
Microwaves	FREE
Computer, Key boards, Mice, Drives, Parts	FREE
Cell Phones, Pagers, Home Phones, PDA's	FREE
Came Consoles, Hand-Held Games, Joysticks & Controllers	FREE

Safely dispose of your old computer, television and other electronics.
 Recycling electronics saves landfill space and protects our environment.
Fees will apply only on CRT computer monitors, CRT base television & console and real projection TVs because:

- ◆ These products contain lead and other hazardous materials. These electronics are transported to Midwest Electronics Recovery in Iowa for safe destruction and recycling. Costs cover shipping and labor, and insure proper disposal.
- ◆ No materials are sent overseas.

This event is provided through a partnership of the Cass County Sustainability Committee, Family Center and The Surplus Exchange.



Surplus Exchange
 Surplusexchange.org
 Onsite Recycling Fees
 Revised 2016

Checks and Cash Only
 Please leave original packaging at home.



Scam Phone Calls Continue; IRS Identifies Five Easy Ways to Spot Suspicious Calls

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service issued a consumer alert today providing taxpayers with additional tips to protect themselves from telephone scam artists calling and pretending to be with the IRS.

These callers may demand money or may say you have a refund due and try to trick you into sharing private information. These con artists can sound convincing when they call. They may know a lot about you, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling. They use fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. If you don't answer, they often leave an "urgent" callback request.

"These telephone scams are being seen in every part of the country, and we urge people not to be deceived by these threatening phone calls," IRS Commissioner John Koskinen said. "We have formal processes in place for people with tax issues. The IRS respects taxpayer rights, and these angry, shake-down calls are not how we do business."

The IRS reminds people that they can know pretty easily when a supposed IRS caller is a fake. Here are five things the scammers often do but the IRS will not do. Any one of these five things is a tell-tale sign of a scam. The IRS will never:

1. Call to demand immediate payment, nor will we call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.
2. Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
3. Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
4. Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
5. Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS and asking for money, here's what you should do:

- If you know you owe taxes or think you might owe, call the IRS at 1.800.829.1040. The IRS workers can help you with a payment issue.
- If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to believe that you do, report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at 1.800.366.4484 or at www.tigta.gov.
- You can file a complaint using the FTC Complaint Assistant; choose "Other" and then "Imposter Scams." If the complaint involves someone impersonating the IRS, include the words "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.

Remember, too, the IRS does not use unsolicited email, text messages or any social media to discuss your personal tax issue. For more information on reporting tax scams, go to www.irs.gov and type "scam" in the search box. Additional information about tax scams are available on IRS social media sites, including YouTube and Tumblr where people can search "scam" to find all the scam-related posts.

Follow the IRS on New Media
 Subscribe to IRS Newswire

Caring Hearts of Peculiar Sponsors the Angel Tree



Caring Hearts of Peculiar will again be sponsoring the Angel Tree fund raising event at Peculiar's Country Mart and other Peculiar businesses beginning in mid November and running through the end of December. Other businesses that have consented to hosting an Angel Tree are: Peculiar Hardware, Peculiar City Hall, Peculiar Community Bank, Peculiar's UMB Bank and perhaps others. Caring Hearts of Peculiar, Peculiar's social welfare organization is a 501 (C)(3) organization which means your contribution will be tax deductible. Caring Hearts of Peculiar supports the local community by paying the monthly rent at the local Peculiar Thrift Store as well as other contributions to the Thrift Store. They also contribute to the two Boy Scout Troops in Peculiar, Troops 621 and 245 and Girl Scout Troop 688. This Peculiar based organization contributes to the Food Pantry at the First Baptist Church or Peculiar and the Christmas Store at the Peculiar United Methodist Church. In addition, Caring Hearts contributes to Hope Haven, The Cass County Dental Clinic, Cass County Young Life, the Ray-Pec Public School Foundation CAN Program, Peculiar Elem. Back Snack, Pathways Mental Health Clinic and Peculiar Community Bank "Stuff the Bus" program. In 2015 Caring Hearts contributed a whopping \$22,700 to the above listed local community agencies and so far in 2016 Caring Hearts has donated over \$20,000. More funds are needed to finish out the year.

So, stop by Peculiar's Country Mart or the other local businesses hosting an Angel Tree and make your contribution by selecting an Angel from the Christmas Tree and make a donation of \$1, \$5, \$10, or \$20 or more. Any donation is appreciated and the donor knows the funds are staying within Cass County and helping locally those that are in need of assistance. Donations of larger amounts will be acknowledged by Caring Hearts of Peculiar along with a tax donation letter. For more information look at our web site. www.caringheartsofpeculiar.org.

Caring Hearts of Peculiar will also sponsor the Peculiar Street Clean Up Day in April by picking up trash from the highways entering Peculiar. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated to clean up the highways before the mowers make the trash a worse mess. If you have interest in volunteering to help this worthy organization, then feel free to contact, Larry Dobson, President at 816-716-5387. Because.... working together, we can make a difference in Peculiar.

Parks & Recreation Information ~

Youth Basketball League



Entry Fee: \$90 per player
 Divisions: 3rd/4th, 5th/6th, 7th/8th
 Boys and Girls Divisions
 Registration Deadline: November 11th

For more information and registration go to www.teamsideline.com/peculiar

Yoga Mind & Body Fitness Class

Where: Community Room, Peculiar City Hall

When: Tuesdays, Thursdays and the second & fourth Saturday of the month

Time: 5:45pm Tuesday & Thursdays, 8:30 Saturdays

Class Fee: \$24 per month, \$4 drop-in fee

Total Body Fitness

Small group exercise class that incorporates interval training with body weight exercises, core training and strength training to get a full body workout. The class will use dumbbells resistance bands, stability balls, chairs, beach balls and kettlebells. The class is designed for everyone of all ages. Exercises are customized to fit your individual fitness level.

Where: Community Room, Peculiar City Hall

When: Tuesdays, Thursdays and the second & fourth Saturday of the month

Time: 6:30pm - 7:30pm Tuesdays & Thursdays,
 9am - 10am Saturdays

Touch a Truck

When: Saturday, November 5th

Time: 10am - 12pm

Where: Raisbeck Park (23205 SE Outer Road)

WELCOME TO THIS FREE EVENT

Peculiar Community Honeysuckle Cleanup Day



When: November 12th starting at 9am

Where: City Lake

Join the Peculiar Parks, South Grand River Alliance and the Missouri Department of Conservation on November 12th for a fun day of community clean up at the City Lake. During the community cleanup day you will be educated what honeysuckle is and how to identify honeysuckle. Also that day we will start removing honeysuckle from the south side of the lake so that people can start enjoying fishing from that side of the lake.

Senior's Poker Walk

When: Monday - Friday

Where: Peculiar City Hall

Who: Seniors (50+ years of age)

Cost: FREE

Peculiar Parks and Recreation has partnered with the Cass County Health Department to bring to you the Senior's Poker Walk. Earn a playing card for each mile walked, best poker hand at the end of the week will win the weekly prize. Track your miles by picking up your complimentary pedometer at the Peculiar City Hall.

Grant Purkey, Director of Parks and Recreation
 City of Peculiar, Missouri
 816-779-2225



Breast Cancer Semi-Postal Stamps Available at Your Local Post Office

Since the inception of this stamp in 1998, nearly \$80.4 million has been raised for Breast Cancer Research.

Many of us have been touched by this terrible disease in one way or another, so let's continue to 'Fund the Fight to Find a Cure'.



Each Breast Cancer Semi-Postal Stamp sold supports the research efforts for a cure.



Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
November 29, 2016
5:30 pm
at Brierly Hall



Formerly Town & Country

CITY WIDE CLEAN UP DAY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2016

Non Acceptable items are: No liquids, tires, batteries, appliances (unless you pay \$15.00 and must be Freon free), yard waste or brush.

FALL YARD WASTE EVENT—SATURDAY, November 5, 2016

Please have your items at the curb by 7:00 a.m.
For Questions, call City Hall at 779-5212, ext. 222



CURRENT RESIDENT

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

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

