

POSITIVELY PECULIAR

April - May - June 2016 Issue



www.cityofpeculiar.org



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Message from the Mayor

Exciting things are happening in Peculiar! Blessings abound and we are thankful to have so many in our community!

Fair weather has certainly been a friend to the City of Peculiar and to the many projects we have in progress. Work on all of our projects are on track and even ahead of schedule in some cases. We can only hope that the great weather continues as Spring seems to bring many opportunities to get out of doors and enjoy everything our City has to offer. There are several events planned from the Chamber of Commerce Easter Egg Hunt, The Peculiar People "Spring Thang" event, as well as spring sports leagues starting up with Parks and Recreation. Please check the city's website and Facebook page for details on all of these events.

Work continues to speed ahead at the new Peculiar Way interchange. It is amazing to see how fast that project is progressing. The sidewalk project from City Hall through downtown to the current interchange is well underway. That project will increase the availability and safety for pedestrian traffic through our town and connect to the High Line Trail. We are pleased to see many residents already taking advantage of some of the completed sections, it seems no matter what time of day you go through town, you see people out enjoying the sidewalks and walking trail.

The City is seeing increased interest in development, both residential with the a strong number of new home permits, and new businesses as well. One of the things we have heard continually at city hall from our residents, is that they would like more restaurant choices in town. We are very excited about the opening of two new eating establishments, Enjoy Thai restaurant off of Legend Lane and Merle's American Pub off of J Hwy. Please welcome these new businesses to our town and show them how grateful we are for their investment in our community by supporting local business.

Congratulations to the residents, the elected officials and our city staff on the highest rating they achieved by our independent audit of the city's financials and processes! Also, many kudos for the recent award of the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association. This is a tremendous honor and shows how hard our staff is working to be fiscally responsible and transparent. We should all be very proud of the professional leadership working hard for our citizens!

Wishing you and yours a Happy Spring!

Mayor, Holly Stark

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.



Peculiar People is a group of volunteer residents, business owners, and city employees who would like to cultivate a sense of community by organizing activities and events for the enjoyment of all Peculiar residents. These events would help raise funds for local community improvement projects. Suggestions and involvement from the general public and local business owners would be most welcome. The first event will be the "Spring Thang" Festival, to be held April 22nd and 23rd. Those interested in a sponsorship or volunteering at the event should contact Greg Hobson at 816-489-6077 or ghobson1216@yahoo.com, or Cyndora Gauthreaux at 816-779-2220 or cgauthreaux@cityofpeculiar.org.

Peculiar People 1ST ANNUAL

SPRING THANG

April 22nd & 23rd
Broadway & C—Downtown Peculiar

Friday Evening: 4/22, 6pm—10pm
DJ, Street Dancing, Beer Garden, Vendors

Saturday: 4/23, 9am—11am (registration @ 8am)
Children's Fishing Tournament
(Ages 2—15) @ City Lake

Saturday Afternoon/Evening: 4/23
11am—10pm
Activities for all ages, Vendors, Live Music,
Dancing, Beer Garden

COME JOIN THE FUN!!!

Starburst graphics: DANCING, FOOD, FUN FOR ALL, LIVE MUSIC, FISHING DERBY

For Vendor Booth information, please contact Cyndora @ 816-779-2220 or Kerrie @ 816-651-4684

- WEATHER & EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS -

"Code Red" changed to "Everbridge"

"Code Red" weather and emergency notifications are being changed in Cass County to "Everbridge". Everyone must sign up for the new notifications, **NOW**, by creating an account.

On line account is available at the Cass County Emergency Services Board www.casscountyesb.com or by telephoning Robin Tieman at 816-887-1953 in order to continue getting *severe weather, flooding, and emergency notifications*.

Check out the.....National Weather Service's Spring Safety Website

Make sure you and your loved ones are prepared for the hazardous weather this spring will bring by checking out the National Weather Service's Spring Safety website! http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/spring_safety.html #SpringSafety

Turn Around Don't Drown

Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that over half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water. The next highest percentage of flood-related deaths is due to walking into or near flood waters. People underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in automobiles as they are swept downstream. Of these drownings, many are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn you the road is flooded. A mere **6 inches** of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. It takes just **12 inches** of rushing water to carry away a small car, while **2 feet** of rushing water can carry away most vehicles. It is NEVER safe to drive or walk into flood waters.



SafeTrade

The Peculiar Police Department joins SafeTrade - a national safety initiative for completing online transactions safely when meeting in person.

SafeTrade is a simple program for police and sheriff's departments to encourage transactions at their facilities; for classified sites to strengthen their safety and security initiatives, and for users to insist on "SafeTrade" by conducting their transactions only at a local police or sheriff's office.

In the past few months, a number of U.S. police departments have offered to host online transactions, most of them referring to Craigslist as the reason. Participating police departments can now post banners or use logos referring to their facilities as SafeTrade Stations. Additional information is available at www.safetradestations.com.

Residents may utilize the Peculiar Police Departments parking lot, which is monitored by security cameras, to conduct Safe Trade transactions. While the parking lot is continuously monitored, the Department ask that trades be conducted between 8 am and 7 pm, 7 days a week. Although not required, citizens should notify the officer on duty that they are there to conduct a Safe Trade transaction.

If a citizen would like for an officer to be present at the time of trade, they will need to contact the Police Department at 816-779-5102, to request an officer be present. However, due to the nature of policing, the department is not able to guarantee that an officer will be available when requested and ask the citizens to keep this in mind when requesting an officer's presence.

Stay safe and use our Safe Trade Zone to complete your online transactions. The Safe Trade Zone is located at the Peculiar Police Department 224 N Main St. Peculiar, MO 64078.

*Chief Harry Gurin
Peculiar Police Department*

Peculiar Projects.....In Progress All Around Town

With the recent mild winter weather, you have probably noticed construction activities around town. City staff have been busy planning the Capital Improvement Plan projects for 2016, and the City is well underway on the list of projects. Currently, the projects under contract and/or about to begin construction are and will include the Route C (Main Street) Sidewalk and McKernan Park Sidewalk Improvements Project, Windmill Country Estates Water Meter Replacement Project, and the Bridal Trail Curb & Gutter Replacement Program.

Route C (Main Street Sidewalk and McKernan Park Sidewalk Improvements Project

The project has started and consists of approximately 3,200 L.F. of 5'-0" wide sidewalk located in the MoDOT Right-of-Way along Main Street from City Hall to the west end of the I-49 and C/J bridge. Minor sidewalk improvements are also included in McKernan Park. City staff has issued the Notice to Proceed for December 17, 2015; and the project is scheduled for final completion on May 1, 2016.



Windmill Country Estates

Water Meter Replacement Project.

The project has begun and was scheduled for the removal and replacement of forty-three (43) water meters from the inside of the home to the outside of the home. Residents of the Windmill Country Estates HOA have had nothing but high praise's for the contractor's work and their old water meters from inside the home will be removed and replaced with new water meters located in their yards very soon.



Bridal Trail

Curb & Gutter

Replacement Program

The project consists of approximately 2,900 L.F. of 2'-0" wide curb & gutter located in the City's MoDOT Right-of-Way along Bridal Trail and Morgan Drive. City staff is excited to begin this very important part of our overall street preservation programs.



Currently, Ongoing Projects...

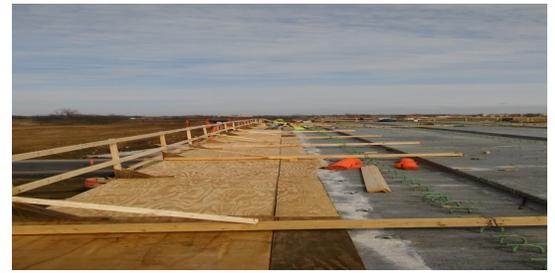
The I-49 & Peculiar Way Interchange and Peculiar Way Improvements, and the 12-Inch Water Main Replacement along Peculiar Drive and Main Street from Hurley to North Street is complete, with the exception of final grading and seeding.

Construction ahead of schedule at I-49 & Peculiar Way

Mother Nature is cooperating, and Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc. (contractor) for the new I-49 and Peculiar Way Interchange continues to make excellent progress on the project ahead of schedule. This past winter finish grading work continues, storm water sewer work has been completed, and pavement edge drains along the east end of Peculiar Way have been installed to allow drainage for the many springs that have been found. The bridge walls are nearing completion and the bridge work continues. This spring the contractor is planning to begin paving in March and will continue paving into the summer with an expected completion in the Fall of 2016. With the project under budget, the Mayor and BOA have agreed to add an architectural feature to "spruce up" the concrete safety barriers that are visible from I-49. Stay tuned for additional updates.



Continued Progress.....I-49 & Peculiar Way Interchange



12-Inch Water Main Replacements along Peculiar Drive and Main Street from Hurley to North Street

Triple C Underground LLC (contractor) has completed the connection to more than twenty existing water customers from the old existing two (2) and four (4) inch water mains to the newer 12-inch water main installed a few years ago. To our surprise, some of the residents were already connected to the newer existing 12-inch water main. Residents will have more water flow to their homes at no additional pressure. Final grading, seeding, fertilizer and straw to be completed in the near future.



If you have any questions about the projects, please contact the City Engineer's office at 816-779-2228.



Code Enforcement

Mowing Season is Upon Us! Peculiar's Property Maintenance Code requires property owners to mow their grass and any adjacent Right-of-way area(s) to maintain a height of ten (10) inches or less. Growth exceeding ten (10) inches in height is in violation and the property owner will receive a "Violation Notice" from the City to mow the property within a few days of receipt. If the property is not mowed, and the responsible party/property owner has received legal notice, the City will abate the problem using a contract mowing company; the property owner will then be billed for that cost.

The Violation Notice and abatement process described above must be followed each and every time, even for a repeat offense property; Peculiar is a Fourth (4th) Class City and our procedures are governed & directed by State Statute. In the past three (3) years over ninety percent (90%) of the Violation Notices issued were resolved without further action. The cost of having the other violations abated by contract mowing was fully recouped; either from billing the responsible party/property owner or by placement of a tax lien upon the property.

Codes Enforcement asks residents to be aware of ditches, creeks and storm water systems around their property. These systems have been engineered to collect storm water runoff and minimize property damage - the city relies on property owners to clean and maintain the systems adjoining their property. Please do not deposit lawn debris, tree branches, shrubs, or trash in ditches, creeks or storm water systems abutting your property. Anything which causes the system to slow or clog decreases its effectiveness and may cause damage to your neighbor's property or even your own. Every property owner relies on the storm water collection system to safely remove runoff and the City encourages our residents to keep it clear and working as efficiently as possible. If you witness dumping, wish to report an issue, or have a question; please contact Codes Enforcement at 779-2227.



Government Finance Officers Association
203 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2700
Chicago, Illinois 60601-1210
312.977.9700 fax: 312.977.4806



PRESS RELEASE—February 19, 2016

Chicago—The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) is pleased to announce that **City of Peculiar, Missouri** has received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget.

The award represents a significant achievement by the entity. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

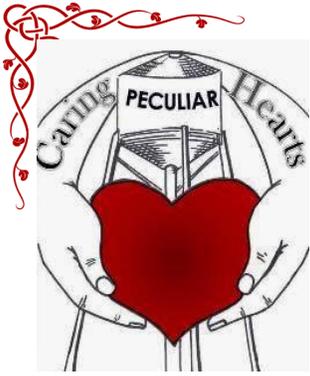
a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, a communications device

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award. When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted to an entity, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individual or department designated as being primarily responsible for its having achieved the award. This has been presented to **Trudy Prickett, Business Office Manager**

For budgets beginning in 2014, 1,491 participants received the Award. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

The Government Finance Officers Association is a major professional association servicing the needs of 18,300 appointed and elected local, state, and provincial-level government officials and other finance practitioners. It provides top quality publications, training programs, services, and products designed to enhance the skills and performance of those responsible for government finance policy and management. The association is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, with offices in Washington D.C. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

Caring Hearts of Peculiar Sponsors the Fifth Annual Peculiar Street Clean-Up Day - April 16, 2016



Caring Hearts of Peculiar will sponsor the Fifth Annual Peculiar Street Clean-Up Day on April 16th from 9 am until 1 pm. Caring Hearts invites volunteers to join Boy Scout Troops # 621 and #245 and many local residents to help pick up trash along C Highway, J Highway, Peculiar Drive, and exit and entrance ramps at I-49. Beginning at 8:30 am, volunteers are asked to sign in Saturday, April 16th, at the old Conoco Station near Sanders Strip Mall. Volunteers will be supplied with trash bags, simple gloves, and a safety vest and then assigned a location to begin picking up trash. In previous years a large roll off dumpster has been filled over half full of litter that was picked up along these roadsides. The Peculiar Street Clean-Up day is done yearly at this time to coincide with Earth Day. Eliminating litter helps to make the entrances into Peculiar more attractive and demonstrates the pride of a caring community. It is hoped that the trash which has accumulated over the past several months can be removed before mowing season, so that these pieces will not be cut into smaller pieces. Treats will be given to all volunteers.

Volunteers will pick up trash, place it in bags and when the trash bag is full, they may leave it at the curbside and other volunteers in trucks will pick up the bags and take it to the dumpster donated by Waste Management, formerly Town & Country.

Peculiar Street Clean-Up Day is also a fundraising project for the Caring Hearts of Peculiar, a local social welfare organization. Your contribution is tax deductible and will go to pay the rent at the local Peculiar Thrift Store so they can help local people in need. Caring Hearts also supports the food pantry at the Peculiar First Baptist Church, the Christmas Store at the United Methodist Church, local Boy Scout Troops #621 and #245, Cass County Young Life, Hope Haven, Cass County Dental Clinic, Pathways Mental Health, Harvesters and other organizations serving our community.

For more information go to: www.caringheartsofpeculiar.org or contact president, Larry Dobson at 816-716-5387. Donations can be sent to: Caring Hearts of Peculiar, P. O. Box 371, Peculiar, MO 64078 All donations are greatly appreciated.



Peculiar Farmers and Artists Market

The Peculiar Farmers and Artist Market (PFAM) has been established for the benefit of both producers and consumers. The PFAM provides producers with the opportunity to sell fresh locally grown produce directly to the consumer. The market will feature farmers, vendors, craftsmen and artists selling products that are grown, raised and produced within a 100 mile radius of the market.

Wednesdays 3pm – 7pm
May 25th - October 12th

For vendor information go to <http://www.cityofpeculiar.org/pView.aspx?id=31607&catid=585>



Children's Fishing Derby

Peculiar City Lake
Saturday, April 23rd
Free event for children ages 2 – 15
Registration starts @ 8am Derby 9am – 11am
Age Divisions: 2 – 9 & 10 – 15
Awards will be given for the following: Most Fish Caught, Biggest Fish Caught and Most Unusual Catch.



Event is sponsored by Peculiar Hardware



Peculiar City Lake Boat Permits

Before placing any boat upon the City Lake, boat owners must obtain a permit

Permits are sold at Peculiar City Hall

Permit fee: \$7 per year

Such permit must be kept on board the boat when it is on the City Lake

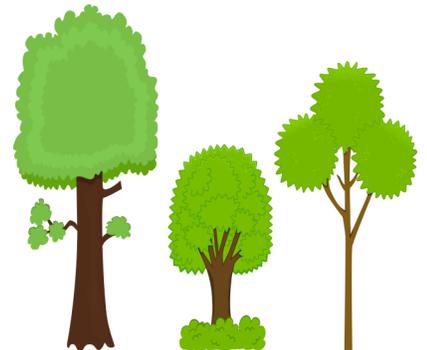
For questions, please contact Director of Parks & Recreation Grant Purkey, at 816-779-2225.

Peculiar Park Shelters Reservations

McKernan Shelter (6 tables, Public Restrooms) Residents \$35 per day; Non-Residents \$50 per day

City Lake Shelter (4 tables, Portable Restroom Unit) Residents \$25 per day; Non-Residents \$35 per day

City Lake Pier (1 table, Portable Restroom Unit) Residents \$15 per day; Non-Residents \$25 per day





CITY WIDE GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016

Registration Fee \$5.00

- Registration is available at Peculiar City Hall, to have your address included on the garage sale map.
- Maps will be available at various city business and at City Hall beginning May 9th.

CITY WIDE SPRING CURBSIDE YARD WASTE EVENT SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2016

Acceptable Items:

- Leaves and grass clippings in paper bags. Limit 25 bags per house.
- Branches and limbs, bundled no larger than 4 feet in length and 24 inches in diameter wrapped with twine.

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

For questions, call City Hall at 779-2222



Formerly Town & Country Disposal



**- WEATHER & EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS -
"Code Red" changed to "Everbridge"**

Don't forget to sign up for notifications!!!

CURRENT RESIDENT

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

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

