

Meeting & Event Dates

WPRA:	WPRA - 3rd Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.*Aug 21 -- Sep 18
City:	City Council - 2 & 4th Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m.* Finance - 1st Tuesday @ 5:30 p.m.* Land Use - 3rd Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m.* Plan Commission - 3rd Tuesday @ 5:30 p.m.* Public Safety - 3rd Wednesday @ 5:30 p.m.* Transportation - 2nd Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.*
Around the Town:	Cub Scouts - 4th Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.** Boy Scouts - every Monday @ 7:00 p.m.** Garden Club - 3rd Monday @ 7:00 p.m.* Lions Club - 2nd & 4th Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.** Neighborhood Watch - 3rd Thursday @ 6:00 p.m.* Township - 2nd Monday @ 7:30 p.m.*
What's Next:	Book Signing - Martha Smith-Henderson - August 2*** Immaculate Conception Community Mass - August 10*** Cross Baptist Community Carnival - August 10*** Boy Scouts Ice Cream Social - August 21** Night Out Against Crime - September 5*** WPFDF Family Day - September 28**
Location:	*City Hall **United Disciples Christian Church ***See Article

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Welcome to West Peoria!

Presently under construction, the decorative wall at the intersection of Heading and Western Avenues will soon be an inviting and attractive "front door" entrance to West Peoria for those visitors approaching our city from Peoria's Main Street.

This project was made possible by the \$20,000 left to West Peoria by Gerard A. Fahnestock, a long-time and well-known West Peorian who passed away last year. In keeping with Fahnestock's wishes that the money be used for the beautification of our city, the West Peoria City Council voted to renovate this intersection and to build the wall to welcome people to the city. The land on which the wall is built actually belongs to the city of Peoria. Through an intergov-

ernmental agreement between Peoria and West Peoria, our city has been allowed to proceed with this project.

This "Welcome Wall" and the "Welcome" banners along Rohmann Avenue are part of an initiative to instill a unique sense of place in West Peoria and to make the city an even more attractive residential community.

This is the corner to watch this summer as the project moves to completion with the addition of landscaping work and possible lighting accents—plans for which are under the direction of the residents' association's West Peoria Beautiful Committee and its chairman, Jan Powers.



President's Corner

by David Pittman

With sadness and a sincere "thank you," the West Peoria Residents' Association wishes both Krystiana Bronny and Mical McFarland success as they leave their positions with the city of West Peoria to take on new careers and professional responsibilities.

Krystiana spent one year with the city as a Vista volunteer, working on over a dozen projects that benefit residents in simple, far-reaching ways. A great communicator and a very well-organized and creative person, Krystiana greatly assisted our WPRA's Board of Directors in our efforts to improve the *West Peoria News*, to send out a membership survey, to improve our communication with the city council, to apply for grants, to develop block watch neighborhoods through the WP Neighborhood Watch, and to assist us in many other ways.

Mical McFarland, who began working with the city as a Peace Corps volunteer, has been the city's Planning and Community Development Coordinator for three years and is responsible for the 2005-2006 MAPPING community meetings that helped energize the WPRA. Mical is a visionary thinker whose ambitious efforts for our community helped many of us step back from our daily lives to consider the future, long term direction for West Peoria. Mical was always very patient and positive with our requests and especially helped us become comfortable with basic internet communication skills. Mical will be leaving us to go to North Carolina. As president of the WPRA, I want personally to thank these two talented young people for all their efforts and to wish them both the very best. Our city is blessed with a city council and a staff who work very hard; their efforts deserve our respect and gratitude.

Gene Pratt, a marketing director with Three Sisters Park, will soon step into Mical's shoes in West Peoria. We look forward to working with Gene to continue the improvements that both Mical and Krystiana have inspired.

As November elections grow closer, the WPRA's membership meetings will feature several political candidates who have requested the opportunity to speak to us. These guests will speak for about twenty minutes following a short general meeting. In August, Darin LaHood, the Republican candidate for Peoria County State's Attorney, will speak. In Sep-

tember, the speaker will be Joan Krupa, the 92nd District Republican candidate for the Illinois House of Representatives. In October, Jehan Gordon, the 92nd District Democratic candidate for the Illinois House of Representatives, will be the speaker.

In addition to these WPRA meetings where these individuals will be our guests, the WPRA is planning to host a Candidates' Night in mid-October (date not yet finalized), and I hope many West Peoria residents and the public, in general, will take advantage of the opportunity to direct questions to these candidates who are seeking our votes.



**Great Drinks,
Good Food,
& Lots of Fun!**

2801 Farmington Road
West Peoria, IL 61604

MARK'S MARKET

LOTTO ICE

COLD BEER SODA

2705 W. Farmington Road
West Peoria 673-2590

Articles for the West Peoria News

The *West Peoria News'* primary function is to inform residents of the activities of the city's governmental agencies and officials, its committees, its organizations, and its businesses.

Now that we are publishing more often (6 issues a year), the WP News staff would appreciate receiving information for articles in a timely fashion (at least, by the 10th of every odd-numbered month). Our staff will write the articles; just provide the essential information (the "who, what, when, where, how, or why" facts).

Although space is limited, any suggestions for future articles are welcome.

2008 WPRA Membership Form

Mail check payable to:
 "West Peoria Residents' Association"
 to:
 Maggie Moore, Treasurer, WPRA
 2305 W. Ayres
 West Peoria, IL 61604

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Membership Options:

- \$15 Family
- \$10 Single
- \$ 5 Senior

Donations:

- General Funds
- American Flags
- Christmas Party
- West Peoria News

Want to Help With:

- Jamboree
- Parade
- Christmas Party
- Event/Activity Planning

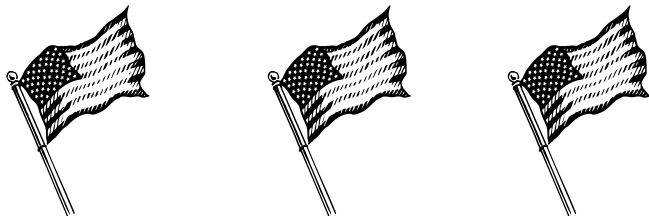
Membership Meeting

The June WPRA's membership meeting was an especially heartening experience with over thirty in attendance. This record number of attendees included a significant number of "first-timers—most of whom said they had come in response to the new sign posted on Rohmann by City Hall, announcing the upcoming WPRA meeting. Most members and newcomers (some of whom became new members on the spot) remained after the meeting for refreshments and a time of "getting-to-know-you" conversations. The time had been planned as a going-away celebration for Krystiana. We look forward to an even larger crowd for our future meetings.

The West Peoria Residents' Association is pleased to announce the names of several new 2008 members (see list below). If you paid your 2008 dues and your name has not been published in the *West Peoria News*, please call Maggie Moore @673-0535.

- Armbruster, John & Mary
- Chelin, Judith R.
- Endres, John W.
- Faries, Trudy
- Jackson, Earl & Denise
- Jones, Charles & Louise
- Kilgus, Judy
- Schmidt, Ronald & Donna
- Sydnese, Stephen
- Reagan, Jeff
- Reinhaart, Rolland
- Resneck, Alice
- Robinson, Steven
- Roberts, Jennifer
- Sisters of St. Francis,
 Immaculate Conception Convent
- Uhl, James & Mary Ann
- Wolford, Andrea

Thanks
 for
 Paying
 Your
 WPRA
 2008
 Dues!



Flags

The West Peoria Residents' Association hopes that our residents have enjoyed the flags flying from poles throughout our city. A special thanks to everyone who made donations to the Flag Fund. Your donations make this patriotic display possible.

Learn more about the
West Peoria Residents' Association by visiting
<http://www.westpeoriareidents.org>,
 attending a meeting on the third Thursday, or
 contacting an officer listed on the back page.

Educational Excellence Committee

"We're seeking to revitalize the West Peoria Residents' Association's Educational Excellence Committee. There's much going on in District #150 and from what I hear, St. Mark's is planning to build a new school. Wouldn't it be nice to have St. Mark's break ground in West Peoria?" states Jeff Adkins-Dutro, the chairperson of the committee.



Whittier has a new principal, Calvin Coolidge will be getting a new principal, and Manual is in the process of being restructured. The education committee's responsibility will be to ensure that these public schools are effectively serving the children of our community. Further, our community can get involved with and help out at these schools.

In recent news, the West Peoria Residents' Association board members unanimously voted to contact District 150's Board of Education in an effort to get them to rescind their vote to cut the primary students' school day by 45 minutes. That effort was successful, but the district has now proposed a revised plan to shorten the primary school day by 90 minutes every Wednesday. At least three members of the residents' association are addressing this issue as members of the group District Watch.

Anyone interested in being a member of the Educational Excellence Committee or in helping District Watch in their efforts should contact Jeff Adkins-Dutro via e-mail at adkinsdutro@msn.com or at 339-9210.

If you expressed an interest in being on the Educational Excellence Committee at a residents' association meeting, please still send an e-mail to Jeff Adkins-Dutro. These e-mail responses will be used to create an "official" list.

Heading OM  **Yoga Studio**

Woodridge Professional Building, Suite 318
2619 West Heading Avenue
West Peoria, IL 61604
www.headingom.com
309.231-YOGA (Tammy) or 309.224.8805 (Lisa)

West Peoria Beautiful Committee

The winners of the West Peoria Beautiful Awards for 2008 are Dan and Cindy Butler of 314 Sterling and Robin and Brett Masters of 2001 W. Rohmann. The awards, presented at the July 17th West Peoria Residents' Association meeting, included a flag to display in each winner's yard and an official award certificate.

Congratulations go to these winners and to all other residents who work so hard to make West Peoria a beautiful place to live—especially in the summer with the bursts of color displayed in yards all over our city. Start now to plan your flower gardens for next year's contest.

Jan Powers is the chairman of the West Peoria Beautiful Committee, the sponsor of this contest.



Dan & Cindy Butler - 314 Sterling

Robin & Brett Masters - 2001 Rohmann



Joan Krupa

...building a healthy community through the power of neighborhoods

State Representative
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Meet Your City Council Members - Ward #2

MERLIN "ROCKY" MATHEWSON, a West Peoria Ward 2 alderman, was elected to the city council in 1993, when West Peoria became a city, and he has continued to serve in that capacity. He is presently the chairman of the Finance Committee and proudly asserts that the city has always had a balanced budget.



Mathewson moved to West Peoria in 1974, when he purchased his grandmother's house on Kellogg—a home that held many happy memories of spending time with his grandmother and helping her by mowing the grass, raking leaves, and shoveling snow.

Now residing at 3220 W. Alice, Mathewson and his wife Carol have been married for thirty-six years. They have three daughters—Beth, Janice, and Katie—and one son Tom. They have three grandsons, Miles, Jacob, and Maxwell (Max)—just born in May.

Mathewson taught for two years in Toluca, thirty-one years at Limestone High School, and many years as a part-time instructor at Illinois Central College. He has taught chemistry, physics, ecology, cabinetmaking, drafting, and drivers' education.

According to Mathewson, he continues to enjoy his public service to this city where he has worked with and met many wonderful people. He further states, "The community of people and fellowship of friends makes West Peoria a great place to live." He can be reached at 674-6003.

JERRY MEISMER, a West Peoria Ward 2 alderman, moved to West Peoria in 2003 and was appointed to fill Brian Hoehne's unexpired term in October 2006. In 2007 he won the election to serve for the final two years of that office.



He is presently a member of both the Finance and Public Safety Committees. He also serves as a trustee and the chairman of the Finance Board for St. Ann's parish in Peoria.

Jerry and his wife Sue, who have been married for over forty years, live at 615 N. Coolidge Court. They have five adult children and five grandchildren.

A retired District #150 teacher and administrator, Meismer enjoys reading, crossword puzzles, bowling, and golf. He can be contacted at 673-2334.



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Peoria, IL 61604
(309) 676-7626

West Peoria Signs

By 2012 West Peoria's stop and yield signs will be replaced by signs that will be more visible at night. These replacements will be made possible by a \$10,000 state grant that Senator Dave Koehler (D-Peoria) helped to secure from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, according to West Peoria Mayor James Dillon.

First, the grant money will be used to provide about 200 new stop (\$48 each) and yield signs (slightly less than \$48). Probably hundreds of street name signs must also be replaced.

The Federal Highway Administration has mandated that communities nationwide replace their street signs by 2012. According to city officials, drivers--especially older drivers--find the old signs more difficult to read at night because the headlights of newer cars direct the light straight and down instead of spreading the light out.

Communities nationwide are being mandated by the Federal Highway Administration to replace their street signs by 2012 with signs that are more visible at night, city officials said. Other grants to help in this effort may be available, according to Dillon.

Building Permits

Please make sure you have the building permit that is required before erecting a fence, building a deck, installing a swimming pool, etc. All permit applications are available at City Hall or on the City Website: www.cityofwestpeoria.com

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Shop @ home, office, and avon.com
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Paint Program

West Peoria has established a Paint Program for residential property owners. If you are interested in this program, please pick up your application at West Peoria City Hall or online at: www.cityofwestpeoria.com. The Paint Program offers reimbursement of paint costs to residents who wish to paint the exterior of their homes or accessory structures (sheds, storage units, or garages). Reimbursement will be granted for exterior paint only. Participants who purchase paint in West Peoria will receive reimbursement of 50 percent of total paint costs, up to a maximum of \$250. If the paint is not purchased in West Peoria, the maximum amount reimbursed will be 30 percent of total paint costs, also up to \$250. Paint is available in West Peoria at Ace Hardware at 2504 W. Rohmann Avenue and at Farmington Road Hardware at 2600 W. Farmington Road. Reimbursement of receipts will be received upon completion of the project.

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PEORIA, IL 61606
PHONE 673-5337

Garage Sales and Public Works Projects

There is a new ordinance defining and restricting garages sales. Residents are advised that all public works projects are impossible to reschedule and will proceed as planned, regardless of garage sales. It is recommended that residents check with City Hall about planned Public Works Projects before scheduling a garage sale.

Joan Krupa
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through vital health care experience*
State Representative
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From The Code Enforcement Office

Remember, if it poops, you scoop!

Please be courteous to your fellow resident and pick up your dog's waste.

Residents are responsible for cleaning and maintaining their alleyways and disposing of all garbage and debris. The Code Enforcement Office will send out violation notices and fines to all who fail to comply with city ordinances in a timely fashion. Most fines start at \$50.00; legal action will be taken against violators who fail to pay the fine.

Contact West Peoria City Hall (674-1993) with any questions, comments, or concerns. To view the complete text of city ordinances, visit http://www.cityofwestpeoria.com/new_ordinances.asp.

Target Areas

The city has implemented a program focusing on one area of the city at a time. The City Code Enforcement Officer and a P.A.W.S. Officer will be inspecting your neighborhood in the future. They will survey the neighborhood, provide resources, issue violations if necessary and will be available to answer any questions.

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Nuisance Weeds

Please be on the lookout for nuisance weeds in your yard such as poison ivy, mock strawberry, thistles, dandelions, pennycress, creeping Charlie, common cocklebur and pokeweed. For a description of nuisance weeds in the area please visit: www.illinoiswildflowers.info/index.htm and click on "Weedy Wildflowers." As grass and weeds in excess of 9 inches will be in violation of our City Code, we encourage residents to pull up and destroy all nuisance weeds in West Peoria.

"Proud To Be An American!"

FAIRLANE AUTO SERVICE & TIRE

2424 W Rohmann Ave.
West Peoria, IL 61604
(309) 303-9859

Sidewalk Replacement

The City of West Peoria helps fund a sidewalk improvement program. Please call the City of West Peoria or go to http://www.cityofwestpeoria.com/sidewalk_program.asp for program guidelines and to get a petition. The deadline to have your sidewalks redone in 2009 is September 30, 2008.

West Peoria Military

The *West Peoria News* and the WPRA website want to honor those West Peorians who are serving or have served our country.

Please visit www.westpeoriaresidents.org for more complete information about these West Peorians who have served and those who are serving in the United States military. Please send information about other West Peoria veterans and active duty military personnel to news@westpeoriaresidents.org - see contact list on back page. Give the following information about veterans or those on active duty: branch of military, when and where they serve(d), and any interesting stories.

WESTERN AVE. CLEANERS
309-673-1920
326 N. Western Ave. Peoria, IL 61604
wcleaners@gmail.com
Dry Cleaning and Shirt Laundry
Repairs & Alterations, Leathers & Suede, Gowns
Heavy Starch available for Shirts and Denim
Environmentally Safe Solvents
Formerly "Lee's Cleaners"

WPFD to Charge for Ambulance Calls

The West Peoria Fire Department will begin charging for ambulance calls beginning October 1, pending completion of billing procedures. A combination of factors—including rising costs of medical equipment, supplies, and operating costs—have led to this decision made by the Fire Protection District Board of Trustees.

"In order to maintain the high quality of service to West Peorians, we unfortunately found it necessary to begin charging for ambulance calls," states Fire Chief Robert Stecher. "The ambulance service has dramatically changed over the last thirty plus years. There have been many life-saving medical and technological advances and we've been able to keep pace, but equipping and maintaining an ambulance today is far more costly."

Another change is that each volunteer will be paid a nominal amount per call. This is a deviation from past practices but has been necessitated by the changing dynamics in EMS services locally.

"We are one of the last area departments to offer a free ambulance service," Stecher said. "We found ourselves training emergency medical technicians only to lose them to area ambulance services and other departments that pay their crews. We want to continue to provide the high quality of service at the most affordable means we can, but we cannot continue to do so if we are a training ground for paid services. We anticipate the charges to be less than what Advanced Medical Transport charges," Stecher stated, "and we are normally much quicker in our response because the ambulance is right here rather than summoning an outside agency to respond to our call."

The free ambulance service was added to the fire department in 1975 to be able to respond quickly to West Peoria residents in emergency situations. Until the change to a fee structure, the ambulance has been funded through tax dollars, memorials, and donations as well as fundraisers. Switching to a user-fee structure will free up a portion of the other funding sources to address the fire department's budgetary needs as well as the ambulance service expenses. For more information, please feel free to contact Chief Robert Stecher at the West Peoria Fire Department's non-emergency number: 674-6615.



WPFD Appreciation Dinner

At its annual firefighter appreciation dinner held on May 24, Ross Garman was honored as Firefighter of the Year for 2007 and Amanda Olsta as Emergency Medical Technician of the Year for 2007.



Joan Krupa

*...building a healthy community
by building a healthy economy*

State Representative
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The One and Only

The Original



428 N. Waverly

676-1533

Boy Scout News

West Peoria's Boy Scout Troop 11 is pleased to announce that in June 2008 Evan Murphy became its 59th Eagle Scout, the highest rank attainable in scouting. Evan and his parents, Barb and Rich Murphy, live on Sherman Avenue.

To earn this rank, Evan participated in a project to remodel the United Disciples Christian Church, which is the sponsoring institution for Troop 11. Evan, who is sixteen-years-old, will be a junior at Notre Dame High School, where he participates in band and drama.

According to Scoutmaster Bob DeSutter, yet another member of Troop 11 will soon be ready to earn the rank of Eagle Scout, bringing the total number to sixty since 1943—which is quite an accomplishment for West Peoria.

Troop 11 is having a busy summer. In June, eleven boys went to summer camp for one week. In July, Troop and Pack 11 and the Eagle Scouts participated in the color guard at West Peoria's Fourth of July Parade and took part in the flag raising ceremony after the parade. At the end of July seven scouts and two adults will be leaving on a ten-day trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

West Peoria Township News

West Peoria Township officials will be assisting our two area schools, Calvin Coolidge Middle School and St. Mark Grade School, by providing funding for part-time instructors in the fine arts field. "For several years the Town Board has been involved in providing youth programs, and the collaboration with the schools is a perfect fit," according to Supervisor Robert DeSutter.

"Studies show that young people involved in fine arts are more successful in their school work and are less apt to be in trouble," DeSutter added. The board is unanimous in its support of the youth of the community.

In past years the schools have used the funding for a music instructor, an art instructor, and a director of a theatre production.

St. Mark's School Awards

St. Mark School has awarded the Knights of Columbus Citizenship Award to the following two students:

- Alexis Carballido, daughter of Jorge and Karyn Carballido of West Peoria
- Scott Simmons, son of Doug and Lori Simmons of Peoria

This award and a savings bond were given to these two St. Mark's graduates at the awards ceremony on Friday, May 16, 2008.

The Father Fitzgerald Endowment awards a full scholarship to Notre Dame High School to the top two girls and two boys of each graduating class of St. Mark Grade School. The recipients for the 2008 graduating class are:

- Hannah Dohm, daughter of LeRoy and Cindy Dohm of West Peoria
- Lauren Schaumburg, daughter of Scott and Anne Schaumburg of West Peoria
- Joe Hoerdeman, son of Jeff and Annette Hoerdeman of Peoria
- Danny Osmulski, son of Brian Osmulski of Peoria and Heather Osmulski of West Peoria

St. Mark's also announced the following winners of the Mary Houston Scholarship:

- Mary Kate Tracy, daughter of Greg and Bonnie Tracy, Bartonville
- Scott Simmons, son of Doug and Lori Simmons, Peoria

FRC Peoria Park District's
Franciscan Recreation Complex

**Community Indoor/Outdoor
Garage Sale**

Saturday, September 13 • 8am

RENT A TABLE! - Clean out that basement, attic, and garage, or closet—it's time to get rid of all that 'stuff' you no longer want. Rent tables and set up inside our gym, or bring your own tables and set up outside in a 10' x 10' space for less. Sale will be held rain or shine!

**Register at FRC or Glen Oak Pavilion
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Fee-R/NR
Indoors w/ 1 table: \$12/\$17
Extra table: \$7.50
Outside/no tables: \$5

908 STERLING AVE. WEST PEORIA
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 677-6705.

Around the Town

St. Jude Runners

The 27th Annual St. Jude Memphis to Peoria Run, scheduled from July 29 – August 2, will once again count West Peorians—including Jimmy Dillon and Phil Roberts—among its participants.



This will be Dillon's seventh year. Dillon—West Peoria's county board member for District 7 and West Peoria Township Clerk—first began running in this 465-mile event after a conversation about the race with Jim Ardis at Peoria's Christmas parade. Dillon states, "I say every year will be my last, but then after being down there for a couple of days I realize it is the least that I could do. The hospital really is an amazing place. I have raised a decent amount of money over the years. It's not really about the run itself but about the fundraising and the kids."

Roberts, a West Peoria Ward 4 alderman, looks forward to his third year in the race, which he considers to be "an awesome experience, both physically and spiritually." He thinks that one of the highlights of the trip is running at night. Participants are on the road twenty-four hours a day.

Roberts' niece Michelle was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma, a type of bone cancer, at the end of 2004. She received treatment in Peoria as well as at the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis—giving Roberts a very personal reason for running in this race.

According to Roberts, "I spent a weekend in November 2005 with Michelle and my brother in Memphis. It is something I'm very glad I did. I was touched by the sight of the children and how positive and happy they seemed while enduring this terrible disease. Thankfully, Michelle is doing great; she is cancer free and will be attending Eastern Illinois this fall for her junior year."

In addition to Dillon and Roberts, runners for the 2007 race included West Peorians Carrie and Brandon Kleist, Terry Hackman, Jr., Christie Getz, and Angie Perrilles. The names of the 2008 participants were not available in time for this issue of the *West Peoria News*.

Begun in 1982, the St. Jude Memphis to Peoria Run was begun by co-founders Mike McCoy and Gene Pratt as a way to raise money for their favorite

charity—St. Jude. Participants drive to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis and then run back—relay style—to Peoria's St. Jude Midwest Affiliate.

The St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, opened in 1962 by entertainer Danny Thomas, is the largest center in the United States for the research and treatment of pediatric cancer and other childhood diseases. All children are treated regardless of race, religion or ability to pay. St. Jude shares their research with doctors and clinics all over the world.

The *West Peoria News* extends our best wishes for a safe and successful run to all of this year's West Peoria participants.

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* Special Occasions

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What's Happenin' Next



Book Signing - Martha Smith-Henderson

Martha Smith-Henderson, a 1978 Manual graduate, will be in Peoria for a book signing for her novel *Life Unraveling* to be held on **Saturday, August 2**, from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Holiday Inn at 500 S. Hamilton Street. Autographed books will be available for \$20 each.

Martha and her husband Roosevelt Henderson, also a 1978 Manual grad, live in California, where Martha is a managing partner for the labor group of Martin & Martin, one of the largest African-American owned law firms in Los Angeles. Having both a successful career and a happy twenty-three-year marriage with three bright, healthy children, Martha states, "There were still dreams that I had not yet fulfilled. Pulling out the beginning of a manuscript I had started nearly ten years earlier, I vowed to finish it, and to renew my dream of becoming a writer and published author."

Immaculate Conception Community Mass

The Sisters of the Immaculate Conception Convent would like to invite everyone to the third annual mass said for the intention of all West Peoria residents. The mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. on **Sunday, August 10**, at the convent, located at the corner of Heading and Sterling Avenues. A social time with coffee and doughnuts will follow the mass.



Cross Baptist Community Carnival

All West Peoria residents are invited to attend the Cross Community Carnival, sponsored by the Cross Baptist Church. The carnival will be held on **Sunday, August 10**, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the church at 2223 W Heading Avenue. Food, games, and fun will be provided. Everything is free.

Boy Scout Ice Cream Social

On **Thursday, August 21**, from 6 to 8 p.m., Boy Scout Troop 11 will hold its Annual Ice Cream Social at the United Disciples Christian Church on Kellogg Avenue.



Night Out Against Crime

On **Friday, September 5**, the eighth annual Night Out Against Crime—sponsored by the West Peoria Neighborhood Watch, the city of West Peoria, and the Peoria County Sheriff's Department—will be held at Franciscan Park from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



This family event will feature activities for all age groups, including a canine demonstration, a Child I.D. Program, a bicycle rodeo, and a drawing for a bicycle. Entertainment will include music by the Eclectic Living Room Band and Flynn's Irish Dancers. There will be hot dogs, sno-cones, and more.

To avoid the extremely hot August weather, West Peoria has changed the date of our event to the September date. Thousands of other communities nationwide will celebrate the 25th Annual National Night Out on Tuesday, August 5.

Please plan to attend America's Night Out Against Crime and help send a message to criminals that the city of West Peoria is organized and fighting back.

WPFDF Family Days

On **Sunday, September 28**, the West Peoria Fire Department will celebrate its annual Family Day from noon to 3 p.m. at the West Peoria Fire House, 406 N. Waverly. A full afternoon of activities for all ages will include fire truck rides, photos of children in fire gear, a bake sale, and other educational and recreational activities.



What's Been Happenin'

Jamboree Race Results

The top male winner of the 2008 Jamboree Race was Adam White (age 32) with a finishing time of 21:10. The top female winner was Mindy Elliot (age 36) with a finishing time of 27:23.

For their time and dedication, special thanks go to the Jamboree Race Committee--consisting of Sue Roos, David Dowell, Sharon McBride, Todd Kollar, and Chad Kennedy—and to all of the sponsors and volunteers who helped make this year's race a success.

The West Peoria Street Department, the West Peoria Fire Department, the Peoria County Sheriff's Department, and the Peoria County Auxiliary, and the numerous course monitors deserve special thanks for their aid in keeping the runners safe.

Jamboree



4th of July Parade

West Peoria's 39th annual Fourth of July Parade, followed by the Flag-Raising Ceremony, was once again a huge success with over eighty participants including a variety of organizations, churches, clubs, political groups, businesses, fire departments, and military/veteran groups.

This year's Grand Marshal was Jeff Reagan, known to West Peorians as the friendly, dependable Waste Management driver who has worked hard for the last eleven years to keep our city clean and is always willing to "go the extra mile" for his clients. Already considered part of our community, Jeff officially became a West Peoria resident this year when he purchased a home on Kenwood.



This year's trophy winners were as follows:

- Best of Show: The Cross Baptist Church's large Noah's Ark float (trophy donated by South Side Bank).
- Most Patriotic: The Red Hot Flutterbye's/Red Hat Society with several elaborately decorated red, white, and blue cars and trucks (trophy donated by the West Peoria Lion's Club).
- Best Youth Group: Kuk Sool Won of Peoria, a great youth group that performs martial arts tricks. This group featured a large decorated Hummer (trophy donated by the West Peoria Residents' Association).
- Best Service Organization: The POW/MIA float, a very impressive float that honors those who have served in all the wars in United States' history. This float, designed by Dennis Pickles, is especially fitting for the flag-raising ceremony (trophy donated by West Peoria Fire Department Women's Auxiliary).

A special thank you goes to Parade Chairman Mark Wrhel, who himself wishes to thank the following individuals who helped make the parade a success:

- Kim, Cindy, Linda, and Erika, who served as block captains
- Terry who operated the sound system at the

What's Been Happenin'

church

- Carol, who gave the invocation
- Henry, who provided the parking signs and barricades
- The Peoria County Police Department who provided crowd control
- Ann, Pat, and Bobby who served as parade judges
- Troop and Pack 11 and the Eagle Scouts for the color guard and flag raising ceremony.
- Gary and Matt from Jim McComb Chevrolet
- The West Peoria Fire Department
- Mayor Jim Dillon
- All others who helped and may have been missed in this list.



The Red Hot Flutterbye's/Red Hat Society, this year's winner of the Most Patriotic trophy, first participated in West Peoria's Fourth of July parade four years ago. The Red Hot Flutterbye's won "Best of Show trophy in the West Peoria Parade in 2005 and 2007 and won the Most Patriotic trophy in 2006 and 2008. Joanne Smith, a West Peoria resident since 1986, rides in the car.

Remember When

The History of Heading Avenue

By Skip Cravens

Heading Avenue is not your run-of-the-mill residential street. The unusual composite of its earliest inhabitants has had a direct effect on the sights and sounds of that particular part of the West Bluff.

The street was named after John Heading, who opened the area in 1853, when he built his home for his wife and two daughters at the same time that the Peoria Hebrew Cemetery was established. **St. Joseph's Cemetery was laid out in 1865 for the German inhabitants of the city.**

The bluff side of the street overlooking Farmington Road and the Kickapoo Creek bottom land to the west beckoned more than one early landowner, which included Dr. Warren Chapman and his wife Sarah, Weigand Heine, John Wenke, Oscar Meyer, and the Schoenbeck and Ringness families.

There was a narrow lane just east of the back yards of Edgehill Court that Mr. Heine used to reach his house on the edge of the bluff. He grew tobacco, and I am sure he dried the leaves in my **grandfather's greenhouse.**

The site of St. Joseph Home was the corn growing area for Mr. Meyer. That is where we gathered corn that we used on Halloween to throw on porches.

Long before any of us can remember, the 28 acres at the far west end of the street belonged to Gottlieb Oesterle—winemaker, gardener, supplier for the **Central Market downtown, and host to Oesterle's Wine Garden.** Although not a park, it was an out of the ordinary place for Peorians to meet. On a warm Sunday evening, the buggies lined up, and the patrons took their places under the shade of the big oak trees where they watched the sun set behind the next bluff and sipped their wine.

Bishop Dunne of the Peoria Diocese dedicated the new motherhouse and novitiate of the Heading Avenue Franciscan Sisters in 1912 and in 1913. Because the diocesan orphanage in Metamora had become crowded, Bishop Dunne **arranged for the purchase of Osterle's Grove, and the Guardian Angel Home was built on that spot and dedicated in 1914.**

Directly across from the Franciscan motherhouse was the novitiate for the Third Order of St. Francis sisters from St. Francis Hospital. The novices shared

the site with the hospital chicken farm and vegetable garden. There were chicken coops, garden areas, and a place to dump refuse from the hospital. Now this area belongs to Rosminian House.



Subdivisions were laid out; Julius Fisher planned Woodlawn Court and William Wittick laid out Edgehill Court, and people began coming from below the bluff. In 1926 John Schifeling built a two-story brick home with a sunken garden in the side yard and moved his family from their apartment above his wallpaper and paint store on South Adams. In 1928 the bottom fell out of the street, and the following spring the parkway was given up for the newly paved street.

As I said, certain sights and sounds were indigenous to the area. Walkers were plentiful—residents walked to the street car line at Main and **Western, mothers walked to Schafer's grocery, novices walked in groups as did the children from the orphanage.**

Sister Regina was a regular with her charges from the orphanage. How can I explain the feeling we had when she walked her group down Heading. Our play stopped; we drew back as they passed. They stared and we stared. Such an **ominous word "orphan!"** To be led down the street for their exercise while we were as free as the wind, with loving parents and maybe even a room of our own as compared to their dormitory situation.

No one seemed to mind the lack of sidewalks in some areas. There was a boardwalk just west of Cedar, and if you stepped on the wrong board, the other end came up to meet you.

Another familiar sight was Sister Adeline hoeing at the hospital farm. The bottom of her brown habit was caked with mud, her sleeves folded up to bare her forearms, and her rough sun-tanned hands around **her hoe were as strong as any man's.** She drove a flat bed truck and passed on the empty clay pots left at the hospital to my father.

A busy sight for the eyes was the Fall Festival and

Remember When

Chicken Dinner at Immaculate Conception. There were tents with games of chance and handiwork for sale. Down the street next to Edgehill Court, Mr. Harms grew his peonies and glads, and when he left, hoards of children used the space for flying kites over Farmington Road, playing a game of croquet or baseball, and sometimes even as a shortcut from the park after a day of sledding.

A few sounds could be heard no other place; the music and the drone of skaters from the roller rink behind Hunts or the curbie numbers being called from Hunts. Consider the wail of a motorcycle police escort in 1936 as it led Joe E. Brown out Heading for his visit at the orphanage. He was here for the world premier of *Earthworm Tractor*, a movie that had been partially filmed at Caterpillar. Neither Mr. Lewis nor the children that came out of the woodwork to watch him seemed to mind that it was 109.5 that day, after eleven days of over 100 degrees.

In August of 1943, the sound was hail breaking over two-thirds of the glass in both greenhouses (Becker and Geier florists on Heading). Not only did the panes have to be replaced, the soil in the beds inside had to be hauled outside, sifted, and returned to the beds. Small chrysanthemum cuttings already started were shredded.

During the war the sound was taps being played each time a soldier was brought home to rest at St. Joseph's and there was always the sound of the street car screeching around the corner of Main and Western.

Heading Avenue had its share of notables. John Noppenberger, who coached Spalding football from 1928 to 1934 and later at Central High School, was credited with being one of the first high school coaches that taught high school athletes not only the important basic fundamentals of the game but also the psychology and spirit of motivation. Two doors away was the home of Max Bosler, editor of the Peoria newspaper. Further down the street was the home of Russell Strout, who delivered that paper and later became vice-president of Madison Park Bank.


Skip Cravens lived the first seventeen years of her life in this area—much of it on Heading Avenue. Her grandfather, Peter Becker, and her father, Charles Becker, ran a florist shop on Heading Avenue for over thirty years. Skip has preserved her own memories and those passed down to her so that she could, in turn, pass them to her five children. In 1984 Skip's memories of Heading Avenue were published in the *West Bluff Word*. Now she is graciously sharing them with the readers of the *West Peoria News*. In an upcoming issue, the story will continue with the history of the two Heading Avenue florist shops—Becker and Geier.



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Membership is open to all residents of West Peoria as well as those nonresidents who have an interest in supporting this community.

The West Peoria Residents' Association is a private, nonprofit community organization registered with the Illinois Secretary of State.

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