



West Peoria News

Published by the West Peoria Residents' Association

February 2008

Meeting & Event Dates

WPRA: WPRA - 3rd Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.*
February 21 -- March 20 -- April 17
Educational Excellence Committee - Times To Be Announced

Around the Town: City Council - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m.*
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.*
Plan Commission - 3rd Tuesday @ 5:30 p.m.*
Township - 2nd Monday @ 7:30 p.m.*

What's Next: Rivermen Hockey - March 9 @ 2:00 p.m.***
Easter Egg Hunt - March 16 @ 1:30 p.m.***
Clean Up Day - April 16***

Location: *City Hall **United Disciples Christian Church ***See Article

Inside this issue:

WPRA	1 - 3
<i>Around the Town</i>	4 - 6
<i>Help Wanted</i>	8
<i>WP Military</i>	9
<i>What's Happenin' Next</i>	10
<i>What's Been Happenin'</i>	11
<i>Remember When</i>	12 - 13
<i>Officers</i>	14

WPRA President's Comments

The guest speaker for the WPRA's November membership meeting was Jacqueline J. Petty, a Peoria Park Board Trustee for the central district, which includes West Peoria. During this enjoyable and productive meeting, Petty provided general information about the park district and participated in a discussion, allowing our members the opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions about park district services and activities.

Petty briefly described the enlarged Glen Oak Park Zoo project, the Robinson Park hiking trail, and the Lake Avenue Park and Sports Field Complex. Speaking about the park district's \$47 million budget, Petty stated that the park district tax rate will not increase.

After this presentation, Petty and Val Marek--the manager of the Franciscan Recreation Center (FRC), a Peoria Park District facility located at 908 Sterling Avenue—responded to questions and concerns from the WPRA members. The topics discussed were the possibility of night lighting and winter maintenance for the FRC outdoor walking trail, wireless access for the FRC building, and possible park district sponsorship of a series of

outdoor events at the FRC in 2008 and 2009.

As a follow-up to this WPRA meeting, I joined with FRC Manager Val Marek, Peoria Park District Supervisor Steve Montez, and West Peoria's VISTA Volunteer Krystiana Bronny to further discuss these suggestions. In addition we entertained the idea of Peoria Park District-sponsored community computer classes to be offered at Calvin Coolidge in West Peoria. We agreed to meet monthly and to invite others from our community so that we can make any new park district projects a big success in West Peoria. If you want to get involved, please contact me or Val Marek at the FRC.

GOALS FOR THE WPRA in 2008

The goal of all WRPA programs for over 25 years has always been to offer our residents ways to enjoy living in West Peoria. West Peoria today is proof of the good things that can happen when neighbors come together for a common cause.

As residents we know that West Peoria now faces some difficult issues like improving the public school system for our students and finding ways to maintain public safety. We are asking for your help in these continuing efforts—important to all of

WPRA Reports

us—to create a better place to live.

The WPRA has been successful in 2007 because of hard work by volunteers working in our neighborhoods. Our *West Peoria News* provides a way to keep us connected, and our membership is growing. We hope to repeat the outdoor flower displays at Rohmann and Sterling in 2008. We will continue to work to improve the WPRA's communications with other community groups, City Hall, and the Township. As we continue to update our website at www.westpeoriaresidents.org, please feel free to check us out and email your favorite West Peoria digital photos. We plan to reduce the length of our membership meetings to one hour in 2008 unless we have a guest speaker. We will work to help any new park district programs at FRC succeed and to be supported by our community.

I hope you will find a way to join us as we continue our traditional programs and develop successful new ones. We will always try to find something that is of particular interest to you. There are plenty of projects, big or small, available if you are willing to get more involved. Please help us start a successful 2008 by renewing your membership. Mail your check to Maggie Moore, Treasurer, WPRA; 2305 W. Ayres; West Peoria, IL 61604. Together we will continue to make West Peoria a great place to live.

By Dave Pittman

Please Patronize our advertisers.
Their businesses support the West
Peoria economy and bring you the
West Peoria News

HEATING • COOLING • REFRIGERATION
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

DMI
Diversified Mechanical Inc.

Office: (309) 633-1313
(866) 463-1313
Fax: (309) 637-4263

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

329 N. WESTERN
PEORIA, IL 61604
e-mail: dmidavei@mtco.com

**"FREE ESTIMATES ON NEW
EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION"**

Flynn School of Irish Dance

Located In the Heart of West Peoria
At Sterling & Rohmann Avenues



620 North Sterling Avenue
Call or Email for Class Information
(309) 673-8544
PegFlynn@Insightbb.com

WPRA Website

As promised in our last newsletter, the website team has created a new history section and a new military section. If you know West Peoria history that you'd like to share or if you know a veteran or active duty military personnel, contact news@westpeoriaresidents.org. Don't forget to visit www.westpeoriaresidents.org often!

Educational Excellence Committee

Greetings from the West Peoria Educational Excellence Committee! As you know, the hot education topic in West Peoria is "What's going to happen at Manual High School?" There is much Manual pride in West Peoria, as many West Peorians are Manual graduates. I'm a proud 1990 graduate who has been teaching at the school for nearly fourteen years.

Over the past couple of decades, West Peoria's involvement at Manual has dropped significantly. It's my impression that issues of perception along with many very real issues have compelled West Peorians to choose other high schools. Who in West Peoria doesn't know someone who has moved, who has used a false address, or who has paid private school tuition to keep their children out of Manual?

It seems absurd to me that a community such as ours lacks a public high school option which our community members can eagerly embrace.

By next year, Manual High School is supposed to be "restructured." There are several changes that were presented to and accepted by the Board of Education. As conscientious community members, I feel it's our obligation not only to be aware of the

WPRA Reports

changes going on at Manual but also to be involved in making decisions based upon what those changes mean for West Peoria residents.

The Educational Excellence Committee has discussed this issue before. Now, though--because significant changes are taking place at Manual and because some of the West Peorians who were on the Core Restructuring Committee felt disenfranchised by the restructuring process that they were compelled to endure--it's time to revisit our options.

I'm proud to be a Manual graduate, but I'm more concerned about where my daughter is going to attend high school when she graduates from junior high next year. I know many of you have been or are currently in the same boat. In my opinion, the issue of education in West

Peoria is the issue that will largely determine our city's future.

The Reverend Linda Butler, a District 150 School Board member, will be attending our WPRA meeting on April 17, 2008. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. A significant number in attendance will certainly let District #150 know that West Peoria residents care.

If you have any thoughts regarding this issue or if you would like to join the Educational Excellence Committee, please e-mail me, Jeff Adkins-Dutro, at adkinsdutro@msn.com.

Thanks for Paying Your WPRA 2008 Dues!

**Peoria Park District's
Franciscan Recreation Complex
CHECK OUT OUR WINTER PROGRAMS!**

MOTOR MITES - OPEN GYM AGES 1-5
A GREAT WAY TO LET LITTLE ONES WITH LOTS OF ENERGY ENJOY THE FUN OF PLAYING FREELY WITH SCOOTERS, BALLS, HOOPS, PARACHUTES, OBSTACLE COURSES, AND MORE. PARENTS MUST ATTEND.

 **MON, WED, FRI: 9:15-11:15**
NEW: MON & WED: 1-3PM
\$2 PER VISIT OR \$20 FOR 12-VISIT PASS

EASTER EGG FESTIVAL AGES 1-12
EGG HUNT AT 10:15AM
PICTURES WITH THE EASTER BUNNY, COLORING CONTEST, FACE PAINTING, CANDY, AND PRIZES
SATURDAY, MARCH 15
9:30-11:30AM \$5/\$7

FRC OFFERS MORE THAN JUST CLASSES:

- COME HERE FOR YOUR NEXT PARTY!
WE HAVE VERY AFFORDABLE RENTAL RATES.
- WE HOST BIRTHDAY PARTIES. LET US DO ALL THE WORK WHILE YOU HAVE FUN.
- WE OFFER OPEN GYM BASKETBALL AND VOLLEYBALL. PLAY EVERY WEEK.
- JOIN US FOR YOGA, PILATES, DANCE, TAE KWON DO AND MORE!



908 STERLING AVE. WEST PEORIA
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 677-6705.
STOP BY TO GET ALL THE DETAILS ON KIDS AND ADULT CLASSES.

PICK UP A PEORIA PARK DISTRICT PLAYBOOK FOR ALL THE DETAILS ON THESE CLASSES!



**ROBERT STECHER
ROB STECHER**



STECHER'S AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE, INC.
*Engine & Transmission Repaired & Rebuilt
Tune-Up & Brake Service
Air Conditioning*

1006 WEST MAIN STREET
PEORIA, IL 61606


PHONE 673-5337

The One and Only The Original



428 N. Waverly 676-1533

No Appointment Necessary
Cindy and Diane



JOE'S BARBER SHOP

(309) 676-4219
2324 W. Rohmann
Park Across Street

Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:00
Sat. 8:00-12:00

Around the Town

Manual Speech Team - 1st in 15 Years

This year's Manual High School Speech Team, coached by West Peorian Karen Adkins-Dutro, has yielded Manual's most successful group of competitors in nearly fifteen years.

Speech Team Captain Jordan Brown and Alisha Williams, both juniors, achieved the greatest accomplishment of the season when they won the dramatic duet acting (DDA) event at Illinois Central College's Charles F. Rolinski Invitational on January 12, 2008. Their heart-wrenching portrayal of an alcoholic father and his mentally challenged daughter earned the duo the title as Manual's first speech team tournament champions in fifteen years.

Another season highlight includes a third place finish in the small schools division at the Bradley University George Armstrong Invitational in December. This award was the first team trophy for the speech team in more than twenty years.

The Manual High School Speech Team consists of the following members who have competed in meets this year: Juniors Jordan Brown, Melissa Foster, and Alisha Williams; Sophomores Takese Ambrose, Chris Carpenter, and Lester Hudson; Freshmen Lauren Dow and Alexandra Menke. Both Dow and Menke are from West Peoria.

The five-month season--October through mid-February--started out on a high note in November at Normal West High School. Takese Ambrose took fifth place in Verse (poetry) and Lauren Dow was awarded sixth place in Humorous Interpretation (HI).

Jordan Brown reached the final round at the Metamora Speech Invitational and was awarded second place in Special Occasion Speaking (SOS) and eighth place in Radio (RS). In December at

Woodruff High School's Ken Freeburn Speech Invitational, Jordan Brown and Alisha Williams were just warming up with their fifth place finish in DDA. Jordan placed sixth in SOS.

Members of the Manual High School Speech Team are honing their skills in hopes of an invitation to the big dance (STATE).

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"



Swing into Spring with a new Hair Style, Manicure, Pedicure, Tan or Massage!

New customers always welcome! Walk-in or call for an



Alisha Williams, Lauren Dow, Takese Ambrose, Jordan Brown, and Melissa Foster
Not Pictured: Chris Carpenter, Lester Hudson, Alexandra Menke

State Farm Insurance Companies



John Deal

Agent

674-4085

618 N. Sterling, West Peoria

Around the Town

Boy & Cub Scouts

Cub Scout Pack 11 will start its annual trash bag sale on March 3. Anyone wishing to place an order can contact any scout or Bob DeSutter at 674-6668.

Troop 11 Boy Scouts were recognized with either a merit badge and/or a rank advancement at their annual Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner during which a Court of Honor was held.

The newest members to be welcomed to the troop are Andrew and Thomas Gestrine.

In time for the 2007 Christmas season, Cub Scout Pack 11 rebuilt the Cub Scout Christmas float. The Christmas float—whose travels through our streets has been a West Peoria tradition for many years—had been destroyed during the snowstorm on December 1, 2006, when the township building collapsed on it.

A big thank-you goes to those who participated in this rebuilding project. The boys who helped were Jim Hoerdeman, Joseph Zikowski, Nate Taylor, Michael Garayalde, Frank Drew, Merritt Stott, Mathew Mooty, Tyler Mayer, Ryan Casey, and Michael Shanahan. They were assisted by adult leaders, Jeff Hoerdeman and Bruce Zilkowski.

Community Survey

The City of West Peoria and the WPRA would like to thank all the West Peoria residents who completed the community survey and returned it to City Hall. We appreciate your comments, time, and effort. The results were presented to all city officials and WPRA board members. We are now in the process of reviewing the results and developing action plans to address issues. Stay tuned for further communication and requests for your involvement.



**CCL ONE SOURCE
FIREPLACE**

Corey Lambin, Installer

**Maintenance, Installation and remodeling
Fireplaces, stoves, inserts and corn burners**

Chimney Sweep

FREE ESTIMATES

(309) 678-8418 or 678-9555

Lions Club

The West Peoria Lions Club's current fundraiser is the sale of soy candles, soaps, and air fresheners. The Lions Club wants to remind our readers to participate in its ongoing recycling program by contributing used eye glasses, hearing aids, keys, ink cartridges, cell phones, and aluminum cans.



Local civic-minded men and women of all ages join the Lions Club--which is not just a social or fraternal club--because they are willing and anxious to give of their time, energy, and resources to the community and to create an atmosphere of thinking about the "other guy," who may have physical and financial needs. To that end, the Lions Club regularly provides assistance to the Peoria Area Blind People's Center.

Those interested in joining the Lions Club, in buying any of the fundraiser products, or in providing items for the recycling program should contact Linda at 673-6409 or Jim or Carolyn at 673-6207



Geier Florist
2002 W. HEADING AVE.
WEST PEORIA, IL 61604
(309) 674-0047
1-800-845-8682

E-Mail: geierflorist@insightbb.com
Web Page: www.geierflorist.com
Hours: M-F 8am-5pm / Sat 8am-3pm

Dennis Beaupre, Proprietor






Garden Club

Looking forward to warmer weather and the flower-growing season of 2008, the West Peoria Garden Club will be building containers, learning about raised bed gardening, and touring local gardens.

Anyone interested in joining the Garden Club should make a check to Pat Sharp, 609 N. Swords Ave., West Peoria, IL 61604. Dues for 2008 remain at \$10 for individuals and \$18 for families.

Around the Town

Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch works to keep our community safe because residents assume a more active role by working with our community police instead of expecting them to solve all our problems.

In keeping with this kind of partnership, Deputy Watkins, VISTA volunteer Krystiana Bronny, and Maggie Moore visited residents who live on Bergan, Alice, Cedar, Clarke, Pierson, Richmond, Gentry, Kellogg, and Arthur Streets. Neighborhood Watch is working with these neighbors to establish block captains and a "watch program" on each block.

Any residents interested in starting a "watch" on their block are invited to call Maggie Moore at 673-0535.

All West Peoria residents are invited to attend Neighborhood Watch meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

831 N. Western
Peoria, IL 61604
(309) 676-7626



Code Enforcement Reminders

The Code Enforcement Office would like to remind residents they are responsible for cleaning and maintaining their alleyways and disposing of all garbage and debris. The Code Enforcement Officer will send out violation and/or fine notices 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.

With winter here, the city would like to remind all residents that--in the case of snow storms--our snow removal policy is curb-to-curb plowing, as there is a need to clear streets to provide for safe travel for fire and rescue vehicles and to make on-street parking available. It is unlawful to park any vehicles on streets at any time within twelve hours after a snowfall of two or more inches.



Emergency snow routes in West Peoria are: Heading, Rohmann, Ayres, Callender, and Waverly Avenues. After those routes are cleared, the street crew will focus its attention to clearing secondary routes and side streets. Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding. When a snow fall is imminent, you can help the city by parking your vehicles in your garage or driveway and by shoveling the sidewalks in front of your residence. Also, please assist us by shoveling out fire hydrants wherever you may see them. Thanks again and please drive safely this winter season.

Reminder: Visit www.cityofwestpeoria.com for information and updates about our community. Refer to the Code Enforcement/Zoning section on the website for further clarification of these laws.



DAVE'S
GOODTIME BILLIARDS



Pool & Games
Leagues

Pizza
Sandwiches
Drinks

2800 FARMINGTON ROAD

Drive-Thru Service Now Available!



- Prescriptions Filled in Minutes, Not Hours
- Hundreds of Insurance Plans Accepted
- Friendly, Knowledgeable Staff

Visit our Web site at:
www.medicineshoppe.com

Drive-Thru Open Regular Store Hours
Mon-Fri 9:00 - 5:30 • Sat. 9:30 - 1:00

The **Medicine Shoppe**
PHARMACY



West Peoria
925 N. Western Ave.
676-4421

VALUABLE COUPONS!

The **Medicine Shoppe** PHARMACY **\$10⁰⁰** Value

\$10⁰⁰ Off New or Transferred Prescription RA

\$10.00 worth of Medicine Shoppe® Brand Products (prescriptions)

Valid for drive-thru only. Not valid with other exclusively filled prescriptions plans or with any other offer required or required or deductible. Limit one coupon per customer. Tax-Cash option. Some state and local regulations apply. At participating Medicine Shoppe® Pharmacies only. Not valid in IL, HI, GA, MD, NJ and NY. Tax cash value. Expires 2/28/08

The **Medicine Shoppe** PHARMACY **FREE**

FREE Ice Scraper! RA

Courtesy of your friendly, neighborhood Medicine Shoppe® Pharmacy

No purchase necessary. Limit one coupon per household. 100% low to cash value and cannot be redeemed for cash. At participating Medicine Shoppe® Pharmacies. Not valid with any other offer. While supplies last. Some state and local restrictions apply. Amount value. Expires 2/28/08

The **Medicine Shoppe** PHARMACY **\$.69** (Reg. Retail \$1.00)

Cherry Cough Drops RA

Medicine Shoppe® Brand

Compares to active ingredients in Halls®

Do not exceed total per container use only on participating Medicine Shoppe® Pharmacies. Not valid with any other offer. Tax-cash value. Some state and local restrictions apply. Expires 2/28/08

The **Medicine Shoppe** PHARMACY **\$.99** (Reg. Retail \$1.50)

Germ Defense Personal Hand Sanitizer RA

Medicine Shoppe® Brand

15 ML

Do not exceed total per container use only on participating Medicine Shoppe® Pharmacies. Not valid with any other offer. Tax-cash value. Some state and local restrictions apply. Expires 2/28/08

The **Medicine Shoppe** PHARMACY **\$.49** (Reg. Retail \$1.00)

Lip Balm RA

Medicine Shoppe® Brand

Compares to active ingredients in Carmex®

Do not exceed total per container use only on participating Medicine Shoppe® Pharmacies. Not valid with any other offer. Tax-cash value. Some state and local restrictions apply. Expires 2/28/08

Help Wanted

Potential volunteers frequently hesitate to offer their services when they are not certain of what they will be asked to do. In an effort to be more specific about requests for volunteers, the *West Peoria News* will be publishing want ads for both the WPRA and the city.

WPRA

HELP WANTED: Short-term activity only. Three hours total--one hour per week for three consecutive weeks. Job requires walking into every store along Farmington Road in West Peoria and giving materials to the store owner or manager. During the initial visit, the volunteer will need to obtain a contact name and telephone number from each business for someone else to follow up. Work can be done any time of day between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Materials and further instructions will be provided by Dave Pittman, WPRA president.

HELP WANTED: Six hours total plus phone calls. One hour per month to attend a meeting at FRC on the third Tuesday of the month for the next six months. Meet with other people to help organize FRC events that will begin in 2008. Some telephone calling and emailing required. For further information contact Dave Pittman, WPRA president.

HELP WANTED: WPRA Board member position. Work requires two meetings per month, plus phone calls, and emails. Possible additional meetings--occasionally. Volunteer must be current member of WPRA. For additional information contact any WPRA Board member, see the back page.

City of West Peoria

HELP WANTED: The Jamboree Race is back and we want YOU! In order to give the race a running start, volunteers are needed to help coordinate and organize the June event. If you would like to be a part of this year's success, please contact Krystiana Bronny at 309-674-1993.

HELP WANTED: You can help make a difference in your community! West Peoria's Americorps VISTA, Krystiana Bronny, is starting a volunteer program to assist the elderly, disabled, or otherwise incapacitated. This program would help the elderly and disabled with outdoor tasks they may find difficult or impossible. Volunteers would be needed on a minimal basis to perform services such as mowing lawns, raking leaves, or shoveling driveways. If you would like assistance from this program or wish to volunteer for this program, please call Krystiana Bronny at 309-674-1993. Your minimal commitment can have a huge impact.

Brighten The Interior & Exterior Of Your Home Or Business Today

- Residential • Commercial • Industrial
- Texturizing
- Drywall Repairs
- Power Washing
- Quality Paints

Pure Painting Inc.

Serving The Entire Tri-County Area
Call For A Free In-Home Estimate
All Work Guaranteed - Fully Insured

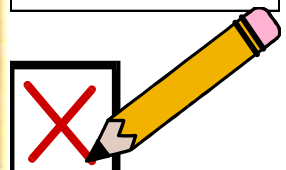
309-472-1681

Free Estimates

SENIOR'S DISCOUNT



Remember
To
Vote
February 5



West Peoria Military

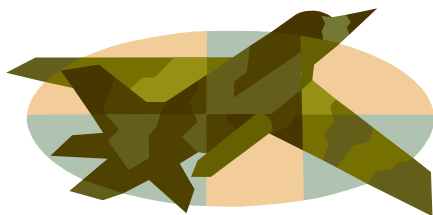
The WPRA website has added a military section. Please visit www.westpeoriaresidents.org for more complete information about these West Peorians who have served and those who are serving in the United States military. Please send information about other West Peoria veterans and active duty military personnel to news@westpeoriaresidents.org.

The *West Peoria News* and the WPRA website want to honor those West Peorians who have served are our serving our country. We are asking our readers to add more names and stories to the following list.

Active

Derek Foote, who is serving in the Air Force, is currently stationed in Spain with his wife Wendy (formerly Crook, also a West Peoria family) and their 2-year-old daughter Trinity. Derek, a Manual graduate, is the son of Judy Johnston, the grandson of Bertha Dutro, nephew of Sandy and Gary Dutro, and cousin of Jeff Adkins-Dutro, Kim Fisher, Shane Dutro, and Gina Dutro—all of West Peoria.

Randall (Randy) Peterson, who is a staff sergeant in the Air Force, is currently stationed in Baghdad. He is married and is located in Albuquerque, New Mexico when not in Baghdad. Randy, who is 27-years-old and graduated from Manual in 1997, has been in the Air Force for 10 years. His mother is Pricilla Peterson of West Peoria.



Veteran

World War II Veterans:

Bob Gish served in the U. S. Navy, enlisting in late 1942. He was on Iwo Jima and saw the flag raised there.

Major Landes (Major is his name), served in the Army Air Corps. He was on a B-24 and flew on 42 bombing missions in the South Pacific.

Robert C. Strassburger served in World War II from 1943-1946 with the 36th Infantry, Division 5 Army in Africa and Italy. He served again when called by the Reserves in December 12, 1948. He also served in Korea from Sept. 19, 1950, to Sept. 19, 1951.

Gulf War and War on Terror Veterans:

Dan Morse served on the USS Enterprise Aircraft Carrier in San Diego and on Virginia Beach during the Gulf War. Before retiring in 2004, he also served for 14 years in the Navy and Air Force National Guard with his home base for 182nd Airlift, ANG, Bartonville.

\$50 Referral Fee www.velde.com

Velde **GM SuperCentre**
Buick • Pontiac • GMC • Cadillac

Uncle Rich Roos
 Sales & Leasing Consultant

Velde GM SuperCentre
 2220 N. 8th St. Bus. Phone 673-3759 Fax 347-1708
 Pekin, IL 61554 or 346-1181, Ext. 247

"Proud To Be An American!"

**FAIRLANE AUTO
 SERVICE & TIRE**

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

What's Happenin' Next

West Peoria Township Events

The West Peoria Township annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday, March 16, at a location to be announced later. Registration will be held at 1:30 p.m. and the hunt will begin at 2 p.m. There is no charge to participate.



Another West Peoria Township event, Government Day, will be held some time in April. Students from St. Mark's, Calvin Coolidge, Manual High School, and Notre Dame High School will partner with West Peoria Township and City of West Peoria officials for this event.

The West Peoria Township Clean Up day will be held on April 26.

WASH - O - RAMA
CLEAN **SAFE** **FUN**
 Farmington Road & Sterling Avenue

Rivermen Hockey

West Peoria will have a "Community Night" with the Peoria Rivermen Hockey team at the Peoria Civic Center on Sunday, March 9.

A "Fun on the Run Family Fun" event will be held from 2-3 p.m. Enjoy \$1 Hotdogs, \$1 Cokes, and \$1 Chips. Also, there will be Fun-on-the-Run Inflatables along with the unique twist balloon animals and face painting by the Zoo Lady. Doors open two hours before game time.

Come watch West Peoria Mayor Jim Dillon drop the puck to start the game. The official start time for the game is 3:00 p.m. There will also be a post game skate with the Rivermen, so bring your skates and join your Rivermen players on the ice for 30 minutes after the game.



Admission for children under age 12 is only \$1. Exclusive West Peoria tickets (\$16 for lower bowl and \$11 for upper bowl) can be purchased at the West Peoria City Hall until Friday, February 15. Tickets at the Peoria Civic Center box office are \$18 for lower bowl and \$13 for upper bowl. See you at the game!

Serving West Peoria for 40 years

Haddad's Market

Deli Trays

Sandwiches

Fruit Baskets

Bakery
Produce
Fresh Meat
Catering Menu

* Great for Luncheons * Graduation parties
 * Weddings * Special Occasions

Phone: 674-0040

2407 W. Rohmann West Peoria IL 61604

 We now offer
 Home Delivery
 Please call and ask for details.

2801 Farmington Road
 West Peoria, IL 61604

Join us on

St. Patty Day for Irish

Drinks, Food, Music,

& Fun!

What's Been Happenin'

Christmas Past, 2007

WPRC Christmas Party

For the WPRC Christmas party on December 2, West Peorians gathered at the Franciscan Recreation Center to greet Santa Claus when he arrived via a West Peoria fire truck.

Santa started the festivities by lighting the Christmas tree and handing out gifts to the children. Entertainment included a sing-along led by West Peoria Mayor Dillon and the aldermen, a performance by Flynn's Irish Dancers, and a coloring contest for the children. Refreshments included a plentiful supply of hot chocolate, coffee, and Christmas cookies.

The hayrack ride was cancelled due to cold, windy weather. The weather also prevented the

Boy Scouts from their usual task of setting up the luminaries for the Christmas party.

Check out the pictures of the Christmas party on the WPRC website.

Boy Scout Float

The Boy Scout Troop 11 float escorted by the West Peoria Fire Department did add to the Christmas spirit as it traveled our streets playing Christmas music during the holiday season. The Boy Scouts also want to thank all those who purchased their Christmas wreaths and holiday breads.

Holiday Lighting Contest

These are the 2007 winners of the West Peoria Holiday Lighting Contest sponsored by Haddad's Super Market and the Medicine Shoppe of West Peoria:

Simplicity

"Short and Sweet"

1026 Holling Drive

Religious

"Overall Religious Theme"

2618 Ardmore

Holiday

"Who's Got the Spirit?"

643 N. Coolidge Court

Judge's Overall Favorite

"The Can't Miss House of the Year"

2908 Kenwood

Vegas Style

"Over the Top"

2619 Kenwood

The winners received a Holiday Lighting Contest certificate, a \$10 gift certificate and cookies from Haddad's, and a \$10 gift certificate and a basket from Medicine Shoppe.

WPRC News & Web Committees Celebrate



Nancy Carson, Sharon Crews, Loretta Fehl, & Lynn Dempsey

free checking

- NO Minimum Balance
- Unlimited Check Writing
- NO Service Charge



There is a Difference...

South Side Bank

Member FDIC / Equal Housing Lender Since 1922

www.southsidebank.com

WEST PEORIA

2427 W. Rohmann Ave • 671-4833

Personal accounts only. Only \$100 to open. Your checks will not be returned.
You may request one copy of a check per month at no charge.
All overdraft, NSF and stop payment fees apply.

Remember When

From West Peoria's



1957 Explosion Update

Reader responses to our Fall 2007 story about the 1957 explosion on Rohmann and Sterling warrant a few pertinent updates. Larry Traub, the son of Perry Traub who lost his life in this tragedy, has provided his mother's collection of clippings of all the relevant 1957 *Peoria Journal Star* stories and the pictures that appear in this issue and those posted on the WPRA's website.

Perry Traub was not working late in his store on the night of the explosion (as was reported in our previous story). Having already returned home, Traub was hosting a birthday party for his friend, Prentice Pickard of 2605 W. Hayes Street in Peoria.

When Traub received a call from Heitzman--the owner of the Rohmann Street property—to check out a gas odor, Traub asked Pickard to go with him since he might be of help due to his experience as a steamfitter for the Morrison Construction Co.

According to Pickard's inquest testimony (reported in the *Peoria Journal Star*), he had gone to the basement to shut off the gas meter when the explosion occurred. Traub and Einfeldt were still at the top of the stairs, and Heitzman may have been in another part of the basement (quite possibly having entered through the tunnel that connected the basement of his house to the basement of the store). These three were killed by the explosion.

Pickard said he was knocked unconscious by the explosion, came to, was able to move a few boards that had landed on top of him, and saw a hole created by the blast. He crawled through that

hole to the street, where Deputy Sheriff Robert Mowbrary saved his life by beating out the flames from his burning clothing. Severely burned, Pickard was then taken to the hospital.

Mowbrary and Frank Scherer, another deputy sheriff, had been on Farmington Rd. when they heard the explosion and arrived on the scene before the second blast—just in time to save Pickard.

Mrs. Opal Heitzman and her grandson, Kenneth Einfeldt, barely escaped the exploding house. They ran to the home of Mrs. Walter Knoll (then at 2410 W. Rohmann), who called an ambulance for them. Eleven-year-old Robert Einfeldt, who was separated from his grandmother and brother by the force of the explosion, died.

A 16-year-old unnamed Manual student was credited with helping in the rescue of two children and other occupants at 2421 W. Rohmann (see picture of this house later used as Dr. Dean Bordeaux's office). At the time Mr. and Mrs. Edward Franklin were two of the residents of that home.

The property damage caused by the explosion was reported to be \$300,000—including the site of the explosion and some 210 homes in the immediate area.

Richard Steenrod was the captain of the West Peoria Volunteer Fire Department at the time of the explosion.



Perry & Theresa Traub, Cecilia Voegle, and Millie ?????.

MARK'S MARKET	
LOTTO	ICE
COLD BEER	SODA
2705 W. Farmington Road	
West Peoria	673-2590

Full Service Family Salon		
The Hair Gallery		
Specializing in haircoloring and all the latest cuts & styles for guys & gals!		
Facial waxing & tanning also available!		
Plus, a full array of product lines!		
Open Tues-Fri 10am-7pm	671-HAIR (4247)	Campestrina Plaza
Sat 10am-6pm		1200 W. Main St. Peoria

Remember When

West Peorians Remember

Ron Cloat certainly remembers Perry Traub and Traub's Market. As a 14-year-old, Ron started working there in 1949 as a stock boy and continued until his graduation from Manual in 1953. He still has his work permit that allowed him to start work at that young age.



According to Ron, that experience more than any other shaped his life in very positive ways. While he worked at Traub's, he and his family lived first near the airport and later in 1948 moved to Peoria's south side. However, because of his day-to-day contact with West Peoria and its residents, he promised himself, "Someday I'm going to live there." He kept that promise when he and his wife Jane first lived on Laura in West Peoria in 1961 and later built their present home on Coolidge Court in 1967.

Their three children—Carrie, Fritz, and Max--all graduated from Manual.

A young Ron Cloat evidently impressed West Peorians as much as they did him. By the time he graduated from high school, he had several job offers from Traub's Market customers. The offer he accepted was to work for Ray Baker at his business, Baker's Sheet Metal.

More than any of these early contacts, however, Perry Traub had the greatest impact on Ron as a young man. He feels strongly that Traub taught him those basic work skills and ethics that carry over into any area of the world of work. Learning from Traub's example as Ron worked and talked with him every day, Ron acquired the skills to achieve success in life-- how to set goals and how to treat people and to network with them.

Cloat's story is a West Peoria story—similar to the ones that undoubtedly could be told by other West Peorians—and the West Peoria News would like to tell those stories. Always a gearhead, Cloat achieved his dream to have his own auto parts business in 1988. Walking into that business-- Standard Auto Parts located on Culdesac just off of Harmon Highway--is such a pleasant surprise. It is

a work place, but also a museum full of memorabilia (antique toy trucks and cars, car parts, etc.) neatly displayed—a place that holds many memories and stories to be told. Undoubtedly, Jane Cloat, who works at the business with her husband, has helped create this inviting atmosphere that is not at all typical of an auto parts business.

Believing strongly that Perry Traub was a very important mentor to him, Cloat--who became acquainted with Larry Traub long after the 1957 explosion--realizes more than most how that tragedy robbed Larry of a wonderful dad.

Only two years old at the time of the explosion, Larry--who never really knew his dad--has lived his life in the shadow of that tragedy. Ironically, never a West Peorian before, Larry's first move away from his mother's home in 1974 at the age of eighteen was to an apartment in a house at 1917 W. Rohmann. At that time the structure--built as a gas station in the 1960s--stood at 2427 W. Rohmann as a rather ironic reminder to Larry that his dad had been killed on that site by a gas explosion. Larry's mom, who died September 2007, lived her last five years with Larry in his Morton home.

A former West Peorian, Mike Brown--who now lives in Fairfield, Iowa--lived at 739 N. Clifton Court in 1957, approximately 200 yards across the empty field now known as the Franciscan Recreation Complex. After reading our story about the 1957 explosion, Mike wrote us the following, "I was four years old at the time and believe the incident to be my first memory which was waking to a shaking bed and my parents rushing in to the bedroom to comfort me. My father Dale brought out his 8 mm movie camera and shot about thirty seconds of film of the flames from our back yard. I have long ago transferred all the home movies to a disk and will attempt to redact the pertinent part and post to the site if you believe anyone may be interested. A very interesting story and I appreciate your contribution to my knowledge."

The photographs of Traub's market featured in this issue were given to the *West Peoria News* by Larry Traub. Others are on the WPRA website.

West Peoria Residents' Association

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PEORIA, IL
PERMIT NO. 618

W
P
R
A

West Peoria Residents' Association
c/o 2305 West Ayres
West Peoria, IL 61604

Dated Publication Please Do Not Delay



www.westpeoriaresidents.org

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.

President	David Pittman	president@westpeoriaresidents.org	676-5237
Vice President/Webmaster	Lynn Dempsey	vicepresident@westpeoriaresidents.org	
Secretary WP News Coordinator	Loretta Fehl	secretary@westpeoriaresidents.org wpnewscoordinator@westpeoriaresidents.org	637-0326
Treasurer WP News Advertisements	Maggie Moore	treasurer@westpeoriaresidents.org wpnewsadvertisements@westpeoriaresidents.org	673-0535
At Large	OPEN	If interested in the position, contact David Pittman	
WP News Copy Editor	Sharon Crews	wpnewscoeditor@westpeoriaresidents.org	676-8109
WP News Layout Editor	Nancy Carson	wpnewslayouteditor@westpeoriaresidents.org	676-5140
WPRA Photographer	Karen Adkins-Dutro		
TO JOIN WPRA, CONTACT MAGGIE MOORE			

Articles for WP News

The primary function of the WPRA's West Peoria News is to inform residents of the activities of the city's governmental agencies and officials, its committees, its organizations, and its businesses. Besides giving up-to-date reports of activities, the WP News also serves as a record of the people and events that have shaped our community's history.

The WP News staff appreciates all the help received from individuals (committee members, etc.) who actually serve as our reporters.

To make this task easier, our "reporters" can choose to give the WP News staff the essential information (the "who, what, when, where, how, or why" facts). The staff will then write the articles. Those who prefer to write their own articles are, of course, free to do so.

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