



# West Peoria News

Published by the West Peoria Residents' Association

June 2008

## Meeting & Event Dates

WPRA:	WPRA - 3rd Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.* June 19 -- July 17
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 - 1st Tuesday @ 7:00 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.*
<b>What's Next:</b>	Jamboree: Run / Scout Carnival / Family Fun - June 7*** 4th of July Parade 10:00 a.m.***
Location:	*City Hall      **United Disciples Christian Church      ***See Article

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## WPRA News

### President's Corner by David Pittman

Our guest speaker for our April WPRA meeting was District #150 School Board member, the Reverend Linda Butler. She was accompanied by Jorge Carballido, Calvin Coolidge Middle School principal; Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat, the recently appointed Manual High School principal for 2008-2009; Sandra Burke, coordinator for the Manual High School restructuring process; and Jim Stowell, District #150 School Board member for District 3.

Rev. Butler opened the evening's discussion with remarks about the proposed school closings and other changes to take place within District #150. She then gave a brief summary of the national achievements of Whittier Primary School.

She also announced that Whittier's new acting principal is Renee Andrews, who was this year's Glen Oak Primary School administrative assistant and previously served on the faculty at the Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Education Center. Andrews' main challenge is to maintain Whittier's current high quality programs and high academic achievement.

Principal Carballido began his comments by stating that Calvin Coolidge has never been sanctioned for low tests scores and, furthermore, that the school has

been recognized for its above average test scores as an Illinois Spotlight School for three consecutive years.

New computers at Calvin Coolidge will bring dramatic improvements in 2008. Hopefully, the school's computer lab will also receive some kind of upgrade. WPRA has written to District 150 in support of this computer upgrade, and we are very pleased to help in the efforts to improve computer access for the students.

Although the nearly 300 students attending Calvin Coolidge are from various areas of Peoria, many are from West Peoria. Carballido emphasized that residents should notify him directly if any of his students act inappropriately walking to or from school.

The second half of the meeting featured a wide-ranging discussion about the big changes proposed for Manual High School for 2008-2009. Kherat, known by many in the audience as principal at the highly successful Whittier Primary School, commented on her new position at Manual in the context of what she stated is a crisis in education in America, where students are not as well-prepared as are foreign students.

Kherat expressed her belief that all non-achieving students will show academic improvement as a result of the Manual restructuring efforts. According to Kherat, her efforts will focus on creating high school graduates who will be global competitors. She emphasized that she wants all West Peoria families to send their children to Manual and that higher achieving students will be challenged academically.

Furthermore, Kherat hopes to establish student partnering programs with Bradley University, Illinois Central College, and Caterpillar—projects she hopes to develop in the next twelve months.

## WPRA Membership Update

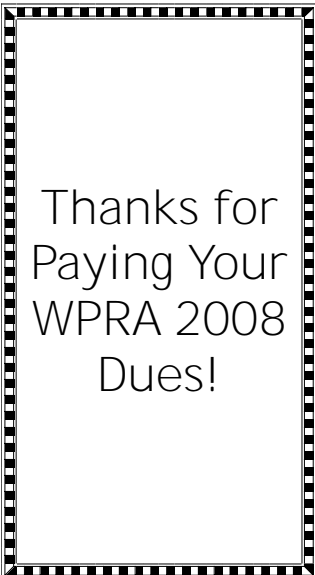
Membership in the WPRA continues to climb with 176 households having paid their 2008 dues. In the nearly twenty-five years of our association's existence, we are very close to the largest membership ever. I am proud to be a part of this exciting and motivated organization that is committed to improving our community. There is always plenty of work to go around so if you would like to get involved, please contact one of the board officers to find out what task will best fit your interests and talent.

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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.

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Deal, John & Trudy  
Gilbert, Beth  
Glodkowski, Stacy  
Goranson, Pat & Jeff  
Hayes, Ron & Donna  
Hesh, Tyler & Donna  
Hubble, John  
Jones, Orvillene  
Koch, Donald  
Koenig, Lacey Lee  
Shane, Eleanor  
Tockes, Diane  
Vodisek, Marie  
Walker, Patrick  
Wraight, Joshua & Bobbie



Thanks for  
Paying Your  
WPRA 2008  
Dues!

## New Officer

The WPRA wishes to welcome **Beth Gilbert**, who was recently elected to the Board of Directors. Also, she presently sits on the Plan Commission.



Currently the Director of Marketing and Development for the Peoria YMCA, Gilbert has also been involved in development work for Goodwill and OSF Home Care and as a volunteer on the Peoria Economic Development Council. She now looks forward to using these experiences to benefit West Peoria.



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DISTRICT SALES MANAGER

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## More Issues!

The *West Peoria News* committee is pleased to announce that the newsletter will now be published six times a year instead of just four. Issues will be published in February, April, June, August, October, December (all even numbered months).

The West Peoria Residents' Association has received a \$2000 grant from the city of West Peoria to be used for the publication of the *West Peoria News*. The addition of two issues per year is made possible by the grant from the city and by the great response from the residents to our recent membership drive.

The WPRA Board of Directors would like to thank both the city of West Peoria and the residents for their support.

Although deadlines for turning in information for articles will be the 10<sup>th</sup> of the odd numbered months, the committee would appreciate receiving the latest news as soon as possible.

**West Peoria Beautiful Committee**

Once again the West Peoria Beautiful Awards, sponsored by the WP Beautiful Committee, will be given for the improvement of an individual residential West Peoria property. Residents are encouraged to start looking around their neighborhoods for nominees for these awards.

Nomination forms may be picked up at the West Peoria City Hall on Rohmann or at several businesses around the city. These nominations must be turned in at City Hall or to any member of the WP Beautiful Committee by June 30. Awards will be presented at the July 17 meeting of the West Peoria Residents' Association at City Hall.

Anyone interested in participating in the "Adopt a Planter" program to help maintain the planters at the Rohmann-Sterling intersection, please call Jan Powers at 674-1781 for more information.



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**Parking Lot Sale**

On Saturday, May 3, the West Peoria Residents' Association held a successful Parking Lot Sale at the corner of Sterling and Barker even though it was a cold windy day. The WPRA would like to thank all the members who donated items to be sold and the residents who attended the sale. A bigger and better sale is planned for the spring of 2009.



## Flynn School of Irish Dance

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Meet Your City Council Members - Ward #1

Leroy Dohm, Jr., has served as a Ward 1 Alderman on the West Peoria City Council since 1996. Born and raised in West Peoria, he has lived in this city for all but three of his forty-eight years.



Prior to his election to the city council and later as an alderman, Dohm served on the Plan Commission. As an alderman, he has served on and chaired the Public Safety Committee. He has served on the Land Use Committee and is presently its chairman. He has also served on the Transportation Committee.

During his tenure as an alderman, Dohm has been involved in the development of the first zoning code, the sidewalk program, and the first city-wide garbage contract. He also helped to create the position of code enforcement officer and to codify the city codes. He is currently working on a property maintenance ordinance.

Dohm, who resides at 1601 Vaughn Avenue, chose to raise his family in West Peoria because of the small town atmosphere, great community support, and lower taxes. He can be contacted at 674-1014.

Hazel A. Thomas, who has served as a Ward 1 Alderman since 1994, has lived in West Peoria for forty years. She currently serves on both the Land Use and Public Safety Committees. She resides at 2712 W. Richmond Ave. and can be reached at 676-7882.



Thomas, who has a Master's of Art Degree from Illinois State University in Springfield, Illinois, enjoys golf, gardening, and bridge. Also, she is a Sunday School teacher .



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Grass and Weed Code Reminder

Now that spring is here nature is coming back to life, but with the lovely flowers and blossoms come weeds indigenous to this area. West Peoria residents are asked to be on the lookout in their yards for nuisance weeds such as poison ivy, mock strawberry, thistles, dandelions, pennycress, creeping Charlie, common cocklebur, and pokeweed. For a detailed description and pictures of weeds and wildflowers in Illinois, please visit [www.illinoiswildflowers.info/index.htm](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/index.htm) and click on "Weedy Wildflowers."

Please remember that grass and weeds in excess of 9 inches tall will be in violation of our city code.

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## Sidewalk Replacement Program

The city of West Peoria's Sidewalk Replacement Program is available to the city's residents. However, sidewalks are replaced one block at a time. To be eligible for consideration for this program, residents who live on the same block (either on one side or both sides of the street) must file a petition, showing their intent to comply with the terms of the program.

To obtain a Sidewalk Replacement Program petition letter and form and to learn about the program guidelines, go to [http://www.cityofwestpeoria.com/sidewalk\\_program.asp](http://www.cityofwestpeoria.com/sidewalk_program.asp) or contact City Hall at 674-1993.

Residents who wish to participate in the program in 2009 must turn in their petitions to City Hall by 5 p.m. on September 30, 2008.



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## Property Maintenance and Occupancy Code

To promote the public health, safety, morals, comfort, and general welfare of the citizens of West Peoria, the city has initiated a Property Maintenance and Occupancy Code. This code, serving to prevent and control blight, pertains to the upkeep of residential and commercial structures and property in West Peoria. If you have any questions, please call West Peoria City Hall at 674-1993 or go to [http://www.cityofwestpeoria.com/code\\_pdfs/property\\_maintenance\\_4\\_11.pdf](http://www.cityofwestpeoria.com/code_pdfs/property_maintenance_4_11.pdf).



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## Reminders of City Ordinances and Programs

- Guidelines for the city's new garage sale ordinance were published in the May 2008 issue of the *West Peoria News*. Before scheduling a garage sale, be sure all plans comply with these rules. To view the entire ordinance, visit [http://www.cityofwestpeoria.com/new\\_ordinances.asp](http://www.cityofwestpeoria.com/new_ordinances.asp) or contact West Peoria City Hall with any questions at 674-1993.
- The city of West Peoria's new Paint Program was discussed in the May 2008 issue of the *West Peoria News*. The details of this program, offering residents a 50 percent reimbursement of paint costs for painting the exterior of their homes or accessory structures, can be obtained by contacting the West Peoria City Hall at 674-1993.
- 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 issue violation notices and fines (starting at \$50) to all who fail to comply with city ordinances in a timely fashion.
- Curbside landscape waste pickup for 2008 has begun.
- Please have lids on your garbage cans as required by the city ordinance.
- Remember, if it poops, the pet owner scoops! Please be courteous to fellow residents and pick up your pet's waste.

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

## Neighborhood Watch

Communities that are able to obtain the assistance of their citizens in observing and reporting suspicious or criminal activities are able to keep crime rates down. The West Peoria Neighborhood Watch works because people have assumed a more active role in making their blocks safe by working with the local community police.

Neighborhood Watch signs are now in place on nineteen streets with active watch programs on each block. Neighborhood Watch continues to expand throughout West Peoria with the assistance of citizens working together to combat criminal activity in our community.



## Optimist Club Oratorical Contest

Congratulations go to two West Peoria students who won honors at the Noon Optimist Club Oratorical Contest held in March. Washington Gifted Middle School seventh grader, Mahliyah Adkins-Threats--daughter of Karen and Jeff Adkins-Dutro--placed second. Manual High School freshman, Alex Menke--daughter of Mary and Michael Menke--placed third. Both spoke on the topic of "Why Me, Why Not."

## Manual Top Ten

The *West Peoria News* wishes to congratulate the following five West Peoria students who are ranked in Manual High School's Top Ten.

- \* No. 1 is Elyse Menke, daughter of Michael and Mary Menke.
- \* No. 5 is Brittany Glenow, daughter of Mark and Sarra Sherman.
- \* No. 5 is Jillian Ashley Tockes, daughter of Geri Tockes and Steven Tockes.
- \* No. 8 is Jesse Post, son of Cheryl Post.
- \* No. 9 is Aaron Stephen Broomfield, son of Allen D. Broomfield and Holly Lee Hasty.

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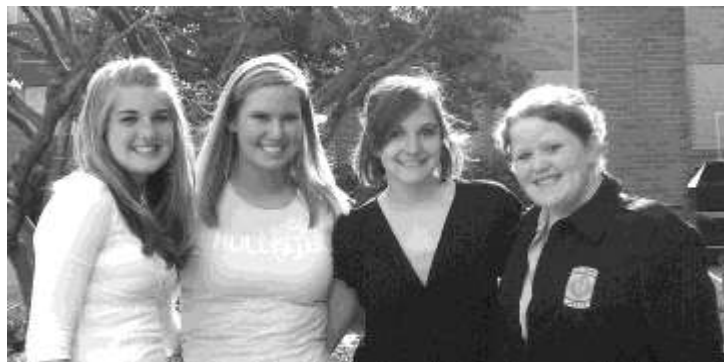
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## Spanish National Honor Society

West Peoria Manual students—Tori Menke, Lauren Nelson, Jenna Tockes, and Gwen Roberts (left to right)—were inducted into the Spanish National Honor Society in May. All of these students were also graduates of Calvin Coolidge Middle School.



Congratulations  
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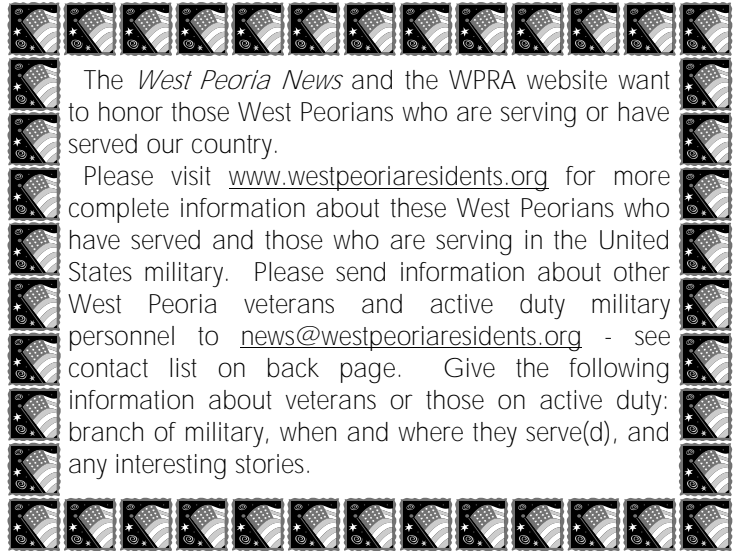


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## West Peoria Military



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

Please visit [www.westpeoriaresidents.org](http://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](mailto: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.

### Vertans

Nora Leman served as a World War II nurse, stationed in the Philippines. She is a charter member of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, which is located in Arlington National Cemetery and was dedicated in 1997 to honor all military women (past, present and future). Leman belongs to American Legion Post 979 in Bartonville and is very active in the VFW Post 814 in Peoria.

## DAVE'S GOODTIME BILLIARDS

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## What's Happenin' Next

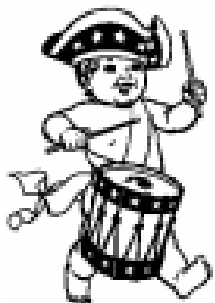
### Jamboree Run & Jamboree Reminder/June 7

Anyone who wishes to participate in the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Jamboree Run/Walk, which starts at 7 a.m. on June 7, can pick up flyers--providing race information and registration forms--at Haddad's, West Peoria City Hall, South Side Bank, Franciscan Recreation Center, Alwan Pharmacy, Geier Florist, Joe's Barber Shop, Farmington Road Hardware, Running Central, the Riverplex, or Bradley University.

For information about the race, contact race director, David Dowell, at 673-1119.

Plan now to enjoy all the activities planned for Saturday, June 7-- the Jamboree Run and the 23rd annual West Peoria Jamboree and Scout Carnival to be held from 3-10 p.m. at Franciscan Park. This is a family-oriented event offering fun, food, and entertainment for all.

### 2008 Fourth of July Parade



The community of West Peoria, Boy Scout Troop #11 and Cub Scout Pack #11, and the West Peoria Lions Club extend an invitation to all to join the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Fourth of July Parade and Flag Raising celebration. These sponsors proudly coordinate the longest-running Fourth of July parade in central Illinois and

would be honored if you and/or your organization would march along with them. Come be a part of this special day that brings with it a feeling of community togetherness and heartfelt patriotism that truly touches the spirit.

To be a part of this event, groups (commercial or non-commercial) or individuals need only fill out an entry form to be submitted by June 18. Forms are available at Haddad's Market at 2407 W. Rohmann or by calling Mark Wrhel, this year's parade chairperson, at 309-472-4258 or e-mailed at [mwrhel@insightbb.com](mailto:mwrhel@insightbb.com). Your early response is appreciated.

Parade position information will be sent to all entrants in advance so that parade participants need only to report to their block captain (volunteers walking around with bright green t-shirts identifying them as such) on the morning of July 4.



Trophies will be awarded for the following: Most Patriotic, Best of Show, Best Juvenile, and Grand Marshal along with a new category this year for Service Organizations. All entries should be decorated in a patriotic theme. Furthermore, incorporating patriotic music into entries would certainly add to the festivities.

Traditionally, parade entries have included marching bands, classic cars, walking groups, dance troupes, groups on bicycles, and prestigious floats.

The parade steps off at 10 a.m. on July 4 with line-up beginning at 9 a.m. at the corner of Waverly and Moss Avenues. The parade travels down Waverly to Moss, across to Sterling, up to Rohmann, continuing on to Cedar and concludes at the United Disciples Christian Church at the intersection of Cedar and Kellogg. The parade information center will be on the corner of Rohmann and Waverly.

After the parade, everyone is invited to gather for the Flag Raising Ceremony at the community flag pole located at the church.

Individuals and groups who have never participated in this parade are invited to join the "old-timers" to make this the biggest and greatest West Peoria Fourth of July in its history.

No parade is successful without crowds of onlookers to wave and cheer on the parade participants. All West Peoria residents, their families and friends, and visitors to this community are invited to enjoy this annual Independence Day celebration.

## Heading OM Yoga Studio

An Open House for West Peoria's new Heading OM Yoga Studio was held on Saturday, May 31. This studio, operated by Lisa Zell and Tammy Mitchell, is located in the Woodridge Professional Building on Heading Avenue.

Heading OM offers a comforting and educational yoga practice environment for adults and children equipped with a variety of earth conscious and homemade yoga props and many other amenities.

For further information about this new business, see the ad or visit the website at [www.headingom.com](http://www.headingom.com).

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## Patient Paws

Patient Paws, located at 620 N. Sterling at the corner of Rohmann and Sterling, offers group dog training and puppy classes as well as private lessons. Patient Paws can even train your dog for you. All training and behavior consultations are done by Ava Kamm M.S., a certified dog trainer and member of the International Association of Canine Professionals. Ava, her husband Nate, and her dog Shadow live in Madison Manor and love being a part of the West Peoria community. Please visit the website [www.PatientPawsLLC.com](http://www.PatientPawsLLC.com) or call (309) 673-0125 for further information.



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## Shelter Insurance

West Peorian Seth Rediger, the District Manager in the Peoria area for the Shelter Insurance Company, recently opened an office in the building on Rohmann Avenue next to Haddad's parking lot.

Founded in 1946, Shelter Insurance is an auto, home, and life insurance carrier that currently conducts business in fourteen states through the Midwest. Shelter has more than 1,300 agents and over 1,400 employees.

Rediger is currently accepting applications for a sales representative. Anyone interested in learning about a career with Shelter Insurance should contact Rediger (815) 878-3248.



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## Wash-O-Rama -- Self-Service Dog Wash

Wash-O-Rama carwash at Sterling and Farmington Road has added a Self-Service Dog Wash to its business. This coin-operated service provides a stainless steel tub in which to place a leashed dog and heated or air-conditioned rooms (depending on the season).

The services available are a choice of shampoos (specifically designed for dogs) and conditioners, a flea and tick treatment, a fragrance, a rinse cycle, and even a blow dryer. All appropriate tools for washing a dog are also provided. Dog owners do need to bring their own towels.

**WASH - O - RAMA**

**Self Service Dog Wash -- Opened**



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**Farmington Road & Sterling Avenue**

# Remember When

## Origin of West Peoria July 4th Parade

By Sharon McBride

When asked to do a brief history of the origin of the West Peoria Fourth of July Parade and Flag Raising Ceremony, I experienced many fond memories of many very good people. In the early summer of 1970, Pack 11 leaders were looking for some sort of patriotic celebration suitable for their boys and families. When none in the area could be found, we decided to start our own. We finally settled on the idea of a parade and simple patriotic flag ceremony at West Bluff Christian Church, our sponsor.

Simple was the operative word. Clarence Clark, Cub Master, had a convertible that he drove around West Peoria prior to July 4 with patriotic music coming from speakers in the rear of the convertible, announcing the first ever Fourth of July event.

Some of the leaders involved at that time were Norma Goett, Glenn Chipman, Ron and Jane Cloat, Bob and Barb Summers, The Seitz family, and my family. We included Troop 11 and their families and basically marched from the firehouse, behind the convertible, down Callender and up Kellogg to the church for our first flag raising ceremony. Probably fewer than thirty people gathered at the Cedar St. side of the church by the front doors for a brief speech by a Marine recruiter.

For a couple of years, we followed this pattern but later included the West Peoria Fire Department and changed presenters each year. For those of you who remember the flooding problem at Kellogg and Cedar, one year we had to have the ceremony in the rear parking lot with Scouts wading to the flag pole in front.

I don't recall how early on, but we started having the Cub Scouts build a parade float. Ron Cloat loaned us a wagon on which to build the float, and the Cubs would come one den at a time to my driveway to work on the float. (In a brief stroke of genius, we all decided to have the boy who worked the hardest in each den ride on the float. That word went out and we were blessed with many more good workers than we expected). My favorite float was Washington Crossing the Delaware, which held more than a few scouts.

At the beginning, it was easy to have the participants come to my house for coffee and rolls after the parade. I still invite the same people who

participated in the early parades, as well as new participants, for a picnic after the parade. Today, some kids of the first scouts come, making the Fourth a true family celebration.

I do not recall the complete evolution of the parade but remember the pride that showed each year. I remember a veteran who would stand on his porch on Rohmann Ave. and salute us all as we passed. He is missed as are many others who loved the event. I am proud to be a part of this event that continues to bring great recognition to our community and still stirs patriotism in our hearts and souls. I never dreamed it would become as large as it has and be so well attended. It makes one think of the saying that from the small acorn a mighty oak will grow.

My family: Matthew and Paula Ciota and Ben, Liz and Rich Faron, Sean and Joe, Tom and Karen and TJ Ciota, Nathan, Julie and Cannon, Morgan and Sharadyn Ciota, and I all wish you a truly enjoyable, patriotic and proud Fourth of July. God Bless America.

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## West Peoria Flag Pole History

West Peoria's flag pole was a gift from the Civil Works Administration Laborers as a gesture of gratitude to the United States government for providing jobs after the Stock Market Crash of 1929.

The location for the pole (the corner of Cedar and Kellogg in the front yard of the United Disciples Christian Church) was chosen as the "symbolic center" of the West Peoria Township.

The first flag displayed from this pole was presented by the Women's Relief Corps. If any of our readers know the exact year when the flag pole was erected, please inform the *West Peoria News*.

# Remember When

## Fourth of July Parade Grand Marshals

Eventually, in the history of West Peoria's Fourth of July Parade, the selection of a grand marshal to lead the parade became a tradition. The list of those selected reads much like a "Who's Who" in West Peoria history.

Each of the following grand marshals contributed to the history of this city in many ways:

Conrad "Cooney" Best	Edward Madden
Glenn Chipman	Sharon McBride
Elmer Coulter	Marge McGaughey
Robert DeSutter	Delores Spears
Elmer Ehringer	Robert Stecher
Fred Haddad, Jr.	Richard Steenrod
Emil Henrich	Helen Tabor
Fred Huber	Hoy Turner
Ed and Rose Kelly	

A record of the year in which the above people (listed in alphabetical order) served is not available. If any of our readers can supply that information, the *West Peoria News* will add the dates to West Peoria's archives.

The following is the list of grand marshals for whom dates have been recorded:

- 1996 - John Seabeck
- 1997 - Mary Ellen Schmitt
- 1998 - Carolyn McCarter
- 1999 - "Rocky" Mathewson
- 2000 - Sharon Kennedy
- 2001 - Terry Capps
- 2002 - Jim Dillon
- 2003 - Guydeen Roos
- 2004 - Sharon McBride
- 2005 - Maggie Moore
- 2006 - Dan Kerns
- 2007 - Sue Roos



Note: Historical pictures provided by Sharon Kennedy.

## West Peorians Remember

Jim Eaton, a West Peoria resident for all of his 86 years, indeed does remember that John Heitzman installed one or two gas pumps by his grocery store on Rohmann Avenue in the late 1920s or early 1930s—long before an actual gas station was built on the site in the 1960s. In fact, Jim remembers pulling up to the pump and filling his car with gas. These pumps were no longer on the site at the time of the 1957 explosion.



# West Peoria Residents' Association

W/P  
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](http://www.westpeoriaresidents.org)

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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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**Have A  
Safe & Fun  
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See Ya'  
at the  
Jamboree,  
Parade,  
& in the  
August Issue!**