



West Peoria News

Published by the West Peoria Residents' Association

May 2008

Meeting & Event Dates

WPRA:	WPRA - 3rd Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.* May 15 -- 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.*
What's Next:	WPRA Parking Lot Sale - May 3*** Jamboree: Run / Scout Carnival / Family Fun - June 7***
Location:	*City Hall **United Disciples Christian Church ***See Article

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WPRA - *President's Comments*

Survey Results

In October 2007 the city of West Peoria and the WPRA sent out a survey, asking residents to express their opinions and concerns. Responding to five possible priorities for the WPRA, the 91 who returned the survey ranked the items as follows:

- 70% To continue the work of the WPRA's committees
- 66% To communicate with residents via the *West Peoria News* and website
- 50% To lobby the West Peoria City Council on behalf of WP residents
- 50% To continue to sponsor the Christmas party and new social events
- 50% To provide volunteer services

When asked what would encourage them to become WPRA members, the majority of responders indicated that the cost of dues is least important, and 18-21% felt that membership would increase if members could limit participation to attending short, occasional meetings and to working on specific, time-limited, effective projects.

Nearly one-third of the respondents were already WPRA members. These survey results and the

additional written comments (most of which were positive encouragements for the WPRA to keep up our good work) cause me to feel that we are on the right track with our current activities and that our current emphasis on communication is well-supported. The WPRA share of the survey cost was \$89.

Ranking the top five of thirteen city of West Peoria projects, the survey responders chose as follows:

- 70% To increase efforts to reduce crime
- 60% To provide stricter code enforcement
- 58% To renovate dilapidated houses and/or commercial buildings
- 50% To provide infrastructure improvements
- 49% To develop main roadways and business districts

School Choice

West Peoria students who will be freshmen in the 2008-2009 school year may choose not to attend Manual High School. Consideration for attending another District #150 high school will be given only to those whose parents file a "Manual High School Alternative Attendance Request" form (available

WPRA

online at <http://www.peoria.psd150.org/> or by calling Mrs. Cheryl Sanfilip @ 672-6791 for further information). Applicants will be asked to select their first, second, and third choices of schools. The placement process will be subject to a space available lottery to be conducted by District #150.

Manual will be undergoing some very major challenges this year as the district begins several ambitious programs there. As WPRA President, I believe this option of choosing an alternate school is a very positive development for West Peoria families and homeowners.

As parents make their choices, they should also know that each school has a special area of emphasis: Peoria High's is music, Woodruff's is the arts, and Richwoods' is the International Baccalaureate Program.

WPRA Membership

I am very pleased to report that WPRA now has 163 paid memberships. I believe, the largest membership in our twenty-four years of existence was around 170. The response to our latest membership drive has been overwhelming. Our sincere thanks go to all who have paid their dues and to all those who volunteer their time to help with WPRA projects. Your dues will help pay for publication of the *West Peoria News* and to maintain the Welcome to West Peoria signs owned and maintained by the WPRA. These signs are located on North Sterling, Swords Hill, and Western, and a new one will be installed this year on Sterling on the Madison Golf Course. Due to landscaping construction by the city of West Peoria, the sign at Main and Western has been removed and will be relocated at a later date.

If you are not a member, please consider joining us. Membership is a simple, direct way of showing your support.

The WPRA also invites volunteers to help with our May 3 Parking Lot Sale, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Deal Insurance Parking lot, corner of Sterling and Barker Avenue. If you have any items to donate to this event call Maggie Moore @ 673-0535 or Loretta Fehl @ 637-0326.

By Dave Pittman

SUMMER CAMP!

Feel Like Having Some Fun
This Summer!?!?



Let the Peoria Park District's
Franciscan Rec. Complex
Camp Zone
Summer Camp
entertain you!

- for Ages 6-12

- Each weekly session will include various activities: sports, games, field trips and more.
- Camp will vary weekly with new trips and activities.
- Extended care hours (6:45-8:30am and 3:30-5:30pm) and are included in the fee.

Camp runs weekly June 2- Aug 8 • 8:30am - 3:30pm.

Fee is \$99 for residents, \$106 for non-residents.
Sign up for only the weeks you want or the entire summer!

FRC is located at 908 Sterling Avenue in West Peoria.

For more information call 677-6705.

Sign up now!!!!



PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS!!

WPRA - West Peoria Beautiful Committee

Once again the West Peoria Beautiful Awards, sponsored by the West Peoria 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, or the nomination form at the end of this article can be cut out and mailed to the committee. These nominations must be turned in at City Hall or to any member of the West Peoria Beautiful Committee by June 30. Awards will be presented at the July 17 meeting of the West Peoria Residents' Association at City Hall.

The West Peoria Beautiful Committee appreciates the efforts of all residents who help maintain a clean, beautiful community and asks that all work together to uphold higher standards for our city by

recognizing the hard-working and committed residents who go that extra mile to set the bar higher for the rest of us to imitate.

Planters of annual flowers will again appear at the Rohmann-Sterling intersection, thanks to the efforts and commitment of the West Peoria Beautiful Committee and several business owners in this area. Maintaining these planters—especially the watering—was a challenge in 2007. This year the committee is looking for individuals or groups to participate in an "Adopt a Planter" program to be sure that each of these planters gets the proper care for this growing season. Anyone interested in helping with this project, please call Jan Powers at 674-1781 for more information.

The West Peoria Beautiful Committee is still working to finalize the installation of several welcome signs at key locations around our city. Watch for this to be completed in the summer of 2008.

Nomination Form for the 2008 West Peoria Beautiful Awards

Name and address of residential property:

Brief Description of why you are nominating this property:

Your name and phone number:

For further information, contact Jan Powers, 674-1781.


Please return by mail or in person to: Beautiful Awards, West Peoria City Hall, West Peoria, IL 61604 by June 30, 2008



Geier Florist
2002 W. HEADING AVE.
WEST PEORIA, IL 61604
(309) 674-0047
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E-Mail: geierflorist@insightbb.com
Web Page: www.geierflorist.com
Hours: M-F 8am-5pm / Sat 8am-3pm

Dennis Beaupre, Proprietor



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*Main St., Peoria
671-HAIR (4247)*

Open Tues-Fri 10-7 Sat 10-6 Walk-in's or appointments!

WPRA 2008 Membership

The West Peoria Residents' Association wants to thank all of you who have paid your 2008 dues. Your membership dues will help the WPRA fund its projects, including the publication of the *West Peoria News*. Paying your dues entitles you to special mailings or notices that WPRA may have in the future. Of course, those residents who still want to join this year are most welcome (See the Membership Form on next page). Membership dues are for the calendar year. All members will be asked to pay next year's dues in January 2009. If you paid your 2008 dues and your name has inadvertently been left off the following list, please call Maggie Moore @673-0535. These are the WPRA's 2008 members:

Adkins-Dutro, Jeff & Karen	Dow, Bruce & Dianne	Landes, Major & Ruth	Roggy, Gerald
Aitken, Willis & Mary	Dozard, Geneva	Lane, Ruth	Roos, Ronald & Guydeen
Alouan, Maureen & Maurice	Dutro, Gary & Sandy	Langen, Mike & Joy	Rose, Bud & Margaret
Anders, Marilyn & Morse, Dan	Eaton, James	Leman, Nora E.	Ruckle, Mary
Anderson, Bette	Eckstein, Ronald & Ethel	Lermack, Paul & Annette	Ruhaak, Pat
Applegren, Theresa	Ehringer, Elmer	Lescallett, Dan & Candice	Ruscheinzki, Ingrid
Archer, Robert & Cynthia	Evans, Mary	Linehan, Barb	Sample, Jerry
Baker, Dorothy	Farrell, Bonnie	Lowe, Kevin	Sarver, Kathleen
Barden, D.M. Knebel	Fehl, Jim & Janet	Maras, Don & Shirley	Schmidt, Dean
Beetler, Earl & Janet	Fehl, Walt & Loretta	Martindale, Rick & Jan	Schwindenhammer, David&Jane
Beltramini, Mrs. Ambrrose	Feinholz, M. L.	Martinez Sr., Lupe	Scott, Robert & Victoria
Beyer, Beverly Brown, Michael	Fisher, Robt. & Kim	Masters, Terry	Shaw Family
Blanco, Dorothy	Fouts, Miriam	McAtee, Bob & Pat	Shelton, Terri
Blimling, Barbara	Frickleton, Joan	McAvoy, Timothy	Shepherd, Don & Cassie
Bobell, Jo Brasheears, Wiley	Gangloff, Bill & Norma	McCarter, Jim & Carolyn	Stark, Harold & Jean
Bonner, Peggy	Getz, John & Christy	McGrew, Millicent	Stecher Sr., Robert
Bowker, Garneida	Gish, Robert	McMurray, Lou	Stecher, Jim & Mary
Boyer, Patricia	Glasper, Janice	McWhirter, Revina	Steinbach, Betty Jean
Brady, John & Mary Ellen	Godsill, Kevin & Julie	Meismer, Jerry & Sue	Stephens, Carol
Bromley, Pat & Deb	Gorman, Ellen	Menke, Jerry	Strassburger, Robert
Budd, Robert	Gorsich, Carolyn	Meyers, Nancy & Rick	Stuff, Mary Evelyn
Burdett, Patricia	Guntor, Tom	Montgomery, Bob & Allison	Swearinger, Michael&Diana
Carson, Max & Nancy	Hanks, Kim & Joe	Moore, Maggie	Szabados, Marvin & Judy
Carter, Marlene	Harrell, Shirley	Morris, Marty & Sandi	Taylor, Scott & Kristel
Caughey, Connie Dries, Jack Jr	Harris, Tracy	Nelson, Dale & Maggie	Terrini, Joseph
Cloat, Ron & Jane	Hasty, Patricia	Nixon, Betty	Thierer, Joe & Sue
Colgan, Jerry & Phyllis	Hayden, Dan & Tammy	Ogden, Connie	Tracy, George & Jean
Cook, Wm. & Muriel	Hayden, Jim & Judy	Ogden, Joann & Glenn	Trammel, Pauletta
Crews, Sharon	Heppner, Edward	Ohl, Roger & Kathleen	Venzon, John & Mary
Crotz, Bill	Humkey, Henry	Onyun, Jim & Margaret	Vinovich, Martha
Daily, Dolores	Hutcheson, Mariam	Osmulski, G. J.	Wagner, Wm. & Sandra
Daily, Joan	Ingolia, Anna	Palmer, Bruno	Walters, Lindsey & Micahel
Daily, Madalyne	Johnson, Beth & Ryan	Pascual, Lourdes	Webber, Rebecca
Davis, Robert	Jorgensen, Rosie	Payne, Lillilan	Wehrli, Richard & Christine
Deets, Rita	Kellems, Randy	Persich, Thomas & Marian	Wiersema, Dora
Demmin, Elsie	Kennedy, Pat	Pierson, Kathleen	Willadssen, Marge
DeMoss, Tony & Robin	Kennedy, Sharon	Pittman, David Smith, Teresa	Williamson, Jack & Betty
Dempsey, Lynn	Klohr, John & Jennifer	Quine, Wanda	Witkowski, Chuck & Barb
DeSutter, Robt. & Sandy	Knapp, Sharon	Reid, Carol	Wright, Adell
Dillon, James (Jimmy)	Kollar, Todd	Roberts, Dave	Wright, G. Ronald & Marlene
Dohm Jr., Leroy	Kroll, Karen & Tom	Roberts, Phil	



Thanks for Paying Your WPRA 2008 Dues!



WPRA 2008 Membership

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

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Your Home Or Business Today*

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SENIORS DISCOUNT

Parking Lot Sale

West Peoria
Residents'
Association
Parking Lot Sale

Saturday, May 3, 2008
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

John Deal Insurance
Parking Lot
Corner Sterling and
Barker Avenues

May 3, 2008

New Garage Sale Ordinance

The West Peoria City Council recently approved these regulations for conducting garage sales:

- A resident can conduct a garage sale only one time each calendar quarter.
- A garage sale cannot last longer than three consecutive days.
- A garage sale must begin after 7 a.m. and end no later than 7 p.m.
- Signs advertising a garage sale must include the date, time, and address.
- All signs advertising a garage sale must be removed within 24 hours after the end of the sale.
- All public works projects will proceed as planned regardless of scheduled garage sales. To avoid such conflicts, contact City Hall before scheduling a sale.



Reminders of City Ordinances and Services

- Curbside landscape waste pickup for 2008 has begun.
- All garbage cans must have lids.
- Residents are expected to pick up their pets' waste from others' property.
- A pet must be controlled by a line or leash no more than 6 feet long when the pet is not on the owner's property.
- Residents are responsible for cleaning and maintaining their alleyways and disposing of all garbage and debris.
- Each year all owners of West Peoria businesses operating within a residential building must complete a Home Occupation Permit. This permit can be picked up at City Hall or found online at: <http://www.cityofwestpeoria.com/permits.asp>. The accompanying fee is \$75 for the first year. A home occupation annual renewal permit and a \$25 fee are required each year thereafter.

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

An advertisement for 'the Olde HAIR SHOPPE' by Theresa Powers. It features a black and white photo of a man in a leather jacket on the left and a woman on the right. The text includes 'New Customers Welcome!', 'the Olde HAIR SHOPPE', 'Theresa Powers', '2128 Rohmann', and '309.676.8664'. At the bottom, it says 'Walk In or Call'.

Enforcement of City Ordinances

The Code Enforcement Officer will issue violation notices and fines to all who fail to comply with city ordinances in a timely fashion. Most fines start at \$50; legal action will be taken against violators who fail to pay the fine.

In keeping with West Peoria's desire to maintain a beautiful, clean, and safe community, the city has implemented a program to focus on one target area at a time. A code enforcement officer, a community police officer, and an animal control specialist will inspect each neighborhood, provide resources, issue violations if necessary, and be available to answer any questions.

WESTERN AVE. CLEANERS

309-673-1920

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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"

Paint Program to Help Residents

The City of West Peoria has established a Paint Program to help residential property owners pay for their exterior painting projects. The program's guidelines are as follows:



- Partial reimbursement will be provided for painting only the exterior of homes or accessory structures (sheds, storage units, or garages).
- Participants will receive a 50% reimbursement of total costs up to a maximum of \$250 if the paint (exterior only) is purchased from either of two West Peoria businesses: Ace Hardware at 2504 W. Rohmann Avenue or Farmington Road Hardware at 2600 W. Farmington Road.
- If the paint is not purchased in West Peoria, only 30% of the cost will be reimbursed up to a maximum of \$250.
- Paint costs will be reimbursed when a project is completed and receipts are submitted to the city.

This Paint Program is just one of the many ways that West Peoria strives to maintain the city's reputation as an attractive place to live.

"Start Your Own Business" Workshops

The city of West Peoria would like to encourage anyone interested in starting a business to attend a free monthly workshop sponsored by Bradley University's Turner Center for Entrepreneurship. Visit www.bradley.edu/turnercenter/events for more information and/or to register for upcoming workshops on Starting a Business in Illinois.

Tree Care Guides Available

"Under the Canopy: Creating Personal Green Space," a guide to selecting, planting and caring for trees in Illinois, is available at West Peoria City Hall. Anybody interested in those topics should pick up a copy today.

Household Hazardous Waste Event

A Household Hazardous Waste Event, sponsored by the Illinois EPA, will be held on Saturday, May 3 from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Expo Gardens, 1601 W. Northmoor Road in Peoria.



The One and Only The Original

428 N. Waverly 676-1533

MARK'S MARKET

LOTTO ICE
COLD BEER SODA

2705 W. Farmington Road
West Peoria 673-2590

Materials Accepted: Oil-based paints, paint thinners/mineral spirits/solvents, stains/varnishes, aerosol products, hobby chemicals, insecticides/pesticides/herbicides, garden/lawn chemicals, pool chemicals, cleaning products/drain cleaners, auto (lead-acid) batteries, mercury/thermometers, old gasoline, used motor oil, antifreeze, household batteries, fluorescent lamps/CFL bulbs, cell phones, driveway sealer, pharmaceuticals/medications

Materials Not Accepted: Ammunition/gun powder, explosives/fireworks, agricultural wastes, business/institutional wastes, biological/medical wastes, tires, smoke detectors, farm machinery oil, fire extinguishers, propane tanks.

For further information, contact recycling @ 309-681-2550 or visit www.peoriacounty.org/recycle.

Around the Town

Lions Club

The West Peoria Lions Club is currently selling 100% Soy Candles and Tart Warmers. These candles that come in many fragrant scents will be available at the WPRA's garage sale on May 3 at Sterling and Barker. The Lions Club continues to sell giant coloring books.

On May 24 at Haddad's Super Market, the Lions Club will hold its Tootsie Pop Day, the proceeds from which will help the hearing and visually impaired in our community.

Plans for the West Peoria Fourth of July Parade, sponsored by the Lion's Club, are well underway. To suggest someone to serve as this year's Grand Marshall, call Lion Linda @ 673-6409.

The Lions Club, one of the largest service organizations in the world, offers help to youth who are visually and/or hearing impaired. This year the West Peoria Lions Club will once again send one of these young people to Camp Lions for a week of summer camp.

The West Peoria Lions Club would like to invite new members to enjoy the company of friends and neighbors while working on projects that serve to better our community.

The Lions Club is also actively involved in recycling eyeglasses, hearing aids, keys, cell phones, ink cartridges, and aluminum cans and tabs.

The Lions Club meets the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7 p.m. at the United Disciples Christian Church. For more information call Linda (673-6409), Jim (208-3516), or Carolyn (208-3815).



Scouts

On March 18, Boy Scout Troop 11 welcomed its newest members. These young men, who advanced from WEBELOS to Boy Scouts, are Joseph Zilkowski, Jim Hoerdeman, Frank Drew, Mathew Mooty, Merritt Stott, Michael Shannahan, and Tyler Meyer.



From March 28-30 for their spring outing, members of Troop 11 visited Wright Patterson Air Museum in Dayton, Ohio. They saw aircraft ranging from World War I planes to stealth bombers. An added treat was their visit to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame Museum in Indianapolis.

The eight Scouts who went on this trip were Joe Hoerdeman, Thomas Gestrine, Andrew Gestrine, Tyler Franciscovich, Ian Beckler, Evan Murphy, Kane Hudson, and Jesse Patterson. Their adult chaperones were Bob DeSutter, Rich Murphy, Monica Franciscovich, and Ken Beckler.

In May members of this troop will be enjoying Camp-O-Ree at Camp Wokonda near Mossville.

Trash bags from the annual sale will be delivered early in April. Anyone interested in purchasing a box of 100 for \$14.00 should call Scoutmaster Bob DeSutter at 674-6668. Remember it's always a good time to join scouting.

Neighborhood Watch

The Neighborhood Watch signs have been ordered by the Peoria County Sheriff's Department for the West Peoria's block watch program and will be placed at the following streets: Moss, Dixon, Fairway Drive, Melrose Place, Manor Parkway, Edna Court, Bergan, Callender, Kellogg, Barker, Iris, Alice, Ardmore, Kenwood, Pierson, Gentry, Richmond, Clark, Arthur, and Ayres.

Posted "watch" signs alert would-be criminals that any suspicious activity will be reported to the police by citizens involved in the Neighborhood Watch program. The program's goal is to have "a watch on every block" in West Peoria.

This is the season of con and scam artists. Don't be a victim. If a stranger asks if you need help with home repairs or odd jobs, it would be wise to call the Better Business Bureau or to check with West Peoria City Hall to see if the company or person is legitimate.



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PEORIA, IL 61606

PHONE 673-5337

Catholic Charities - Services to Seniors

Senior citizens (age 60 or older) have a significant source of help right in West Peoria's "own backyard" at the Catholic Charities located at 2900 W. Heading Avenue.

Seniors living in their own homes or apartments can avail themselves of either of two Catholic Charities' programs designed to help them maintain their independence, to improve their quality of life, and to delay or prevent nursing home care.

The Senior Counseling Program—a professional counseling service—helps seniors cope with issues such as isolation, depression, chronic illness, housing, and financial matters.

The Caring Companions Program—a volunteer program—is designed to improve the quality of life for seniors who live alone. These volunteers provide socialization, transportation, training on safety issues, and assistance with activities of daily living.

Referrals to receive these free services are accepted from the seniors themselves or from their families or from community service providers on their behalf. These services are offered to seniors from Peoria, Woodford, Tazewell, Fulton, Marshall, or Stark counties.

To make a referral or to seek more information, contact Ruth Urbanc, Senior Services Program Coordinator, at 309-636-8071 or email her at atrurbanc@ccdop.org.

SeniorStrength Elder Abuse Program

West Peorians have a reputation for looking out for the welfare of their neighbors. Often some older residents—who are not able to protect themselves from harm—may need the help of neighbors who may have to do no more than to report the possibility of elder abuse.

A phone call to SeniorStrength (309-637-3905) may save a victim of elder abuse that can be emotional, physical, or sexual abuse; confinement; passive neglect; willful deprivation; or financial exploitation.

SeniorStrength caseworkers are authorized and mandated by the Illinois Department on Aging to investigate all such reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of the elderly (age 60 or older) who reside either in their own homes or in their

caregivers' homes.

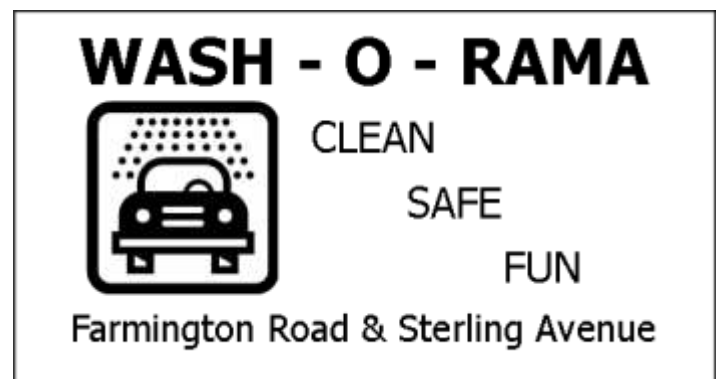
SeniorStrength adheres to the following provisions of the Illinois Elder Abuse and Neglect Act of 1998:

- People who in good faith report suspected abuse shall be immune from criminal or civil liability. This act further provides that the identity of the reporter shall not be disclosed except with the written permission of the reporter or by order of the court.
- An older person has the right to self-determination; no decisions are made with a competent adult without his or her involvement and consent.

This SeniorStrength program stresses the desire to work with the older adult and his or her family to resolve any problems by putting into place a range of interventions.

George & Martha Graves Retirement Party

A retirement celebration for George Graves, Jr., and his wife Martha will be held on Saturday, May 24, from 2 p.m.-7 p.m. at the United Disciples Christian Church at 2018 W. Kellogg in West Peoria. George will retire as Manual High School's band director, a position he has held since 1977. Martha, a Manual graduate, will retire from Glen Oak Primary School, having taught in District #150 for 33 years. George's and Martha's friends, colleagues, students (past and present) and their parents are cordially invited to show their appreciation for the exemplary careers of these two people who have touched the lives of many Peoria and West Peoria students. George, Martha, and other family members have always been strong supporters of West Peoria's Fourth of July Parade (always on the sidelines even when the band was not performing). Please call Dianne Dow @ 676-1370 for further information, if needed.



West Peoria Military



The *West Peoria News* and the WPRM 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.



Active

Michael Jewell has recently completed 2 years training in the Nuclear Propulsion program of the US Navy. He is currently serving as a nuclear engineering laboratory technician aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln based in Everett Washington. He is a 2004 graduate of Manual High School and the son of Jim and Chris Jewell of West Peoria.

Tom Dwyer presently serves with the Illinois Air National Guard as the Budget Officer for the 182nd Airlift Wing, Peoria, IL. Tom enlisted in 1992 and was commissioned in 2001.

Sgt. Stephen Pragovich has served in Afghanistan and is currently deployed to Kuwait. He has served with the Illinois Air National Guard since 2003 (Peoria ANGB - 264 CBCS).

Veterans

World War II:

Betty Jean Steinbach served in the WAVES in the United States Naval Reserves during World War II.



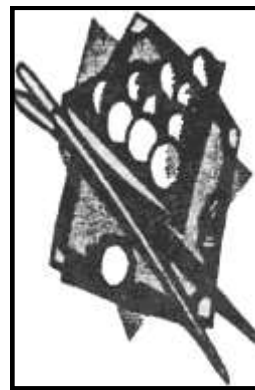
Drinks,
Food,

2801 Farmington Road
West Peoria, IL 61604

DAVE'S

GOODTIME BILLIARDS

* * * * *



Pool & Games
Leagues

* * *

Pizza
Sandwiches

Drinks

* * * * *

2800 FARMINGTON ROAD

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Pekin, IL 61554 or 346-1181, Ext. 247

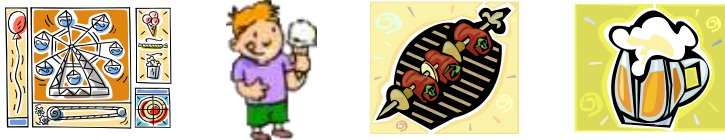
Jamboree Run - June 7

Volunteers and participants are needed for the Jamboree Race on Saturday morning, June 7. Please call Krystiana at 674-1993 to volunteer as a course monitor or to help with registration, refreshments, or trophy distribution.



Racers should pick up registration forms at one of these area locations: 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.

All volunteers and racers will receive a free Jamboree Race t-shirt. West Peorians and their friends and families are invited to help make this revival of a West Peoria tradition a success.



Jamboree - June 7

The 23rd annual West Peoria Jamboree and the Scout Carnival (sponsored by West Peoria's Boy Scout Troop 11) will be held on Saturday, June 7, from 3-10 p.m. at Franciscan Park. This is a family-oriented event offering fun, food, and entertainment for all.

During the Scout Carnival, running from 3-7 p.m., young people of all ages can participate in games for which the winners will receive prizes. There will be music from 6-10 p.m.

Food, drink, and snacks—including sandwiches, popcorn, snow cones, and soft drinks--will be sold all day by these sponsoring agencies: the West Peoria Fire Department and Ladies' Auxiliary, the West Peoria Lions, and the West Peoria Residents' Association. For adults, beer will be available from 5-10 p.m.

The West Peoria Fire Department's tent, some picnic tables, and benches will be available. Bringing along lawn chairs and/or blankets is suggested.

For additional information, look for information that will be distributed later this month. Plan now to enjoy this day when West Peoria families and their neighbors get together.

Government Day



On April 11, 2008, West Peoria and West Peoria Township held their annual Government Day with the participation of thirty-nine students from Manual High School, Notre Dame High School, Calvin Coolidge Middle School, and St. Mark's Grade School.

Government Day, which lasted from 9:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., was divided into two sessions: one held at West Peoria City Hall with West Peoria city officials and the other held at the United Disciples Christian Church with West Peoria Township officials. Each session was held twice—once with the high school students and once with grade school students.

At West Peoria City Hall, students had their pictures taken with Mayor Dillon and then listened as city officials spoke about their offices and duties. The students then held a Mock City Council Meeting with "Recycling" as the topic.

At the United Disciples Christian Church, they met with the West Peoria Township Supervisor and the Township Trustees who explained the official duties of their offices. The students then held a Mock Township Meeting with "Township Caucus" as the topic.

In keeping with the recycling theme, each student received a ballpoint pen made from blue jeans and old tires and post-it notes from recycled paper. They also received a book on Illinois Local Government.



Remember When

Before and After the Explosion

The present site of the South Side Trust and Savings Bank's West Peoria branch began its history as a commercial site in the late 1920s or early 1930s.

This property from 2421 to 2427 W. Rohmann was owned by the Lammers family from at least 1908 until it was sold by Henry J. Lammers and his wife in the 1920s, when it was divided into three parcels of land. This land continued as three separate parcels until all three were eventually acquired by South Side Bank.

The largest parcel of land at 2423-2427 W. Rohmann (once the 400 block of Rohmann) was sold to Michael Martin in 1920, to Allen S. Hile in 1925, and to Eugene Brown in 1927. Its commercial history began when it was purchased by John J. Heitzman in September 1927.

In 1927 Heitzman leased part of this property to Roxana Petroleum Co. and in 1932 to Shell Petroleum Co. If any of our readers know about a gas station or any other structure on this site at this time, the *West Peoria News* would like to update this information. In 1931 the Central Illinois Light Co. acquired (as a right of way agreement) a portion of this site on which to build a gas distribution center.

According to the 1930-1935 Peoria City Directories, Heitzman was a grocer at 431 W. Rohmann. Before or during that period, Heitzman probably built the structure--later destroyed by the 1957 explosion. From 1930 until at least 1940, John Heitzman, his first wife Mabel, and their daughter Margaret lived at 429 W. Rohmann (either on the first floor in the part of the building not occupied by the grocery store or in one of the two upstairs apartments).

Larry Traub, whose father Perry lost his life in the explosion, believes there is a possibility that his father worked for Heitzman at his store before Perry became the owner of the store, which then became Traub's Market. However, Perry probably learned the grocery business from relatives who also operated Peoria grocery stores at the time.

The February 27, 1939, entry in Mrs. Perry Traub's (Theresa) journal reads, "Perry started working at his own store (business) at 431 Rohmann." Only twenty-four at the time, Perry continued as the store's owner for seventeen years before the tragedy

occurred. Theresa Traub, who worked at Traub's Market with her husband, kept journals throughout her lifetime—records from which her son has graciously shared pertinent information with the *West Peoria News*.

Traub's Market was the only business on this site until about 1943, when the part of the building attached to the market (on the right—address 429 W. Rohmann) was occupied by the Iva-Kay Beauty Shop and a barber shop owned by Leo Cline. From about 1950 until the 1957 explosion, this part of the building housed the Aaron Hardware and Paint Store owned by Ralph Aaron and the West Peoria Beauty Salon, operated by Aaron's wife Leona.

A series of renters lived in the two upstairs apartments, one of which became the home of Margaret (Heitzman) Enfieldt and her husband Robert by 1954.

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Remember When

Heitzman remained as the landlord of the Rohmann property until the 1957 tragedy that also took his life and leveled the building.

By 1942 Heitzman had built his own home on the back portion of this property, facing Sterling Avenue—at 708 N. Sterling Avenue. An underground tunnel connected the basement of the house to the basement of the commercial building on Rohmann. Heitzman continued to live in this house after the death of his first wife in 1943. He and his second wife Opal were living there at the time of the 1957 explosion.

Both the commercial building and the house were destroyed by the explosion. The site remained vacant until 1960, when John Heitzman's widow Opal sold the property. From 1960-1963, John Sakadat operated a Marathon gas station on this site (address listed as 2423 W. Rohmann). According to

West Peorian Shirley Camacho, her uncle, Walt Headley, and her cousin, Jim Headley, ran this gas station in 1964. Shirley has a memento from this business—an ice scraper advertising the Headley Marathon Gas Station.

During the 1960s and early 1970s, several people --including Roger M. Stephens, Lloyd S. Gilmour, Disque D. Dean, Thomas A. Kenny, Mitchell J. Maloof, and Gerard A. Fahnestock—either held the deed to this property or had some connection to its ownership.

During this time period, the only building on the property—the gas station—



remained vacant from about 1965 to 1970. From about 1971 until 1974, this building was used by the United States Post Office as a repair shop or warehouse for its vehicles. At about the same time, a Post Office Annex occupied the building that today is Haddad's Super Market.

In 1974 Donald Muir purchased the gas station building and converted it into Muir Omni-Graphics, Inc. This business begun by Donald Muir in 1963 had first been housed at 1245 W. Main Street on the second floor of the building now occupied by One World Cafe, then at 200 W. Second Street in Peoria, and then in East Peoria. The business maintained its West Peoria location from 1974-1976 before moving to its present Peoria location at 908 W. Main Street.

In 1975, Muir Omni-Graphics was chosen by the city of Peoria to prepare the red, blue, and gold color scheme for Peoria's city logo—the "stylized" American Indian head. This company's present owner, Andrew Muir--a 1973 Manual graduate and 1982 graduate from the University of South Florida—had worked with his dad for twenty years before taking over the business in 1998.

In 1976 this property was sold to South Side Trust and Savings Bank. The original gas station building remains hidden within the present bank building—the bank having been built around the shell of the old gas station.

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Remember When

advantage of the Illinois legislation in the 1970s, allowing the establishment of branch banks. The West Peoria branch, which opened August 26, 1977, was South Side Bank's first branch and probably one of the first branch banks in Peoria.

When the Lammers property was divided into three parcels in the 1920s, the lot at 2421 W. Rohmann became residential property. This property was sold in 1911 to Winfield Turner and in 1918 to Michael J. Martin, who resided in the house that was eventually built there. The Martin family continued to own the house until after the 1957 explosion when Gerard A. Fahnestock purchased the house from Margaret Martin.

Although damaged by the explosion, this house--which proved to be structurally sound--was purchased in 1964 Dr. Dean Bordeaux. Having graduated from Manual in 1945, Bordeaux went to Bradley University and then to the University of Illinois Medical School from which he graduated in 1951. After his internship at St. Francis Hospital and two-year service in the army, he began his practice in an office above the Casey drugstore on Lincoln and Western and then moved his office to the corner of Ann and Western in 1955.

When Bordeaux moved his office to the 2421 W. Rohmann site, he was returning to his West Peoria roots--actually on the same street (at 1924 W. Rohmann, formerly 112 W. Rohmann) where he had grown up with his parents John and Johanna Bordeaux and his brother Richard, a 1956 Manual grad. Many from Peoria's south side and from West Peoria were Dr. Bordeaux's patients--particularly young people who made periodic trips to his office for their required school physicals.

West Peorian Rosemarie "Rosie" Murdock (who died in 2003) was Dr. Bordeaux's staff nurse from 1956 to 1976. Her daughters Kristie and Kelli were Manual graduates.

In 1976 Dr. Bordeaux gave up his private practice to become one of the founding community faculty members for the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Peoria. There he became the Director of the Family Practice Residency Program and still maintains his position as a clinical professor.

In 1976 he sold the house on Rohmann to South Side Bank. At the time of the grand opening of the South Side Bank's West Peoria branch, this house

was still standing. It was subsequently torn down to provide the bank with a parking lot and access to its drive-up facility behind the bank.

By April 1977--having already acquired the largest parcel of land originally owned by the Lammers family in 1908 (and owned by Heitzman at the time of the explosion) and the second parcel of land from Dr. Dean Bordeaux--South Side Bank also acquired the portion of land held by Central Illinois Light Co. Finally, South Bank acquired the final portion of the original Lammer property. This small portion of the property had been purchased in 1924 by St. Joseph's Home and in December 1957 by the Sisters of St. Francis from whom South Side Bank purchased it in 1980.

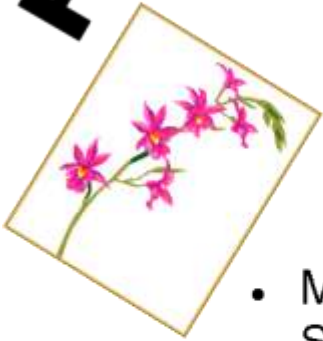
If any of our readers have stories to share with us about the people and places mentioned in this story, please contact Sharon Crews (676-8109) or at SharonCrews@hotmail.com. Our thanks to all those who contributed information for the history articles in this issue. Special thanks go to Larry Traub and to Linda at the Peoria County Recorder of Deeds office for their help. Historical pictures for this issue and the website were provided by Larry Traub, Andy Muir, and Sharon Kennedy.



South Side Bank and Dr Dean Bordeaux Office
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TO JOIN WPRA, CONTACT MAGGIE MOORE			

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.

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.


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