

Meeting & Event Dates

WPRA:	WPRA - 3rd Thursday @ 6:30 p.m. * Oct 21 - Nov 18
City:	City Council - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m. *
	Economic Development Council - 2nd Thursday @ 5:30 p.m. *
	Finance - 1st Tuesday @ 5:30 p.m. *
	Land Use - 3rd Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m. *
	Plan Commission - 3rd Tuesday @ 5:30 p.m. *
	Public Safety - 3rd Wednesday @ 5:30 p.m. *
	Transportation - 2nd Thursday @ 6:30 p.m. *
Around the Town:	Boy Scouts - Every Monday @ 7:00 p.m.
	Garden Club - 3rd Monday @ 7:00 p.m. *
	Lions Club Regular - 4th Monday @ 6:00 p.m. ***
	Lions Club Board - 2nd Monday @ 6:00 p.m. ***
	Neighborhood Watch - 2nd Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m. *
	Township - 2nd Monday @ 7:30 p.m. *
What's Next:	WPFH Hog Roast - Sunday, Oct 17 - 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. **
	WPRA Christmas Party - Sunday, Dec 5 - 5:00p.m. to 7:00p.m.
Location:	*City Hall **See Article ***Champs West

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Longtime West Peoria Resident & Businessman, John Deal

For over 50 years, John Deal has been a West Peoria resident and businessman. As a sophomore at Peoria High School, John ran cross country. He was the *first* Peoria High School runner to qualify for state, finishing 23rd in 1951. He graduated from Peoria High School in 1953. He and his wife, Trudy, moved to West Peoria in 1959 with their two daughters Dana and Debbie.

John became a State Farm insurance agent in 1959. He transitioned from working at LeTourneau (now Komatsu) to selling insurance from his office, the front porch of 2418 W. Barker. This property included two homes. John and Trudy lived in the front property and rented out the "little house" in the rear.

Early tenants were newlyweds Ray and Kathy Lahood.

Ray's future included becoming an Illinois US Congressman and current US Secretary of Transportation.

John worked diligently building his agency, outgrowing the front porch and eventually moving his office into the "little house" in the rear. Ten years later, they bought 2424 W. Barker from another West Peoria resident and business owner, Gerard Fahnestock. The family, which had grown to include a new daughter, Heidi, moved into the larger home. John and Trudy kept ownership of 2418 and later purchased 2420 W. Barker and continue to own all three properties.

Moving to a larger residence also included moving to a larger office. John rented office space in the rear of the current 618 N. Sterling office, also



from Gerard Fahnstock. This office was just across the street from his home. Carl's Barbershop occupied the front rental space.

Both John's family and business continued to grow. He and Trudy had two more daughters, Heather and Holly. Trudy had assisted John with his State Farm agency. When additional office staff was needed, John hired West Peoria resident Sue Roos in April 1975. Trudy continued to work part time and daughters Debbie, Heidi and Heather worked in the office during various school breaks. The business expanded in 1982 and became the sole occupant of 618 N. Sterling. In addition to Sue, Kathie Pierson joined forces in 1995 followed by Janet Logue in 1997.

John and Trudy have been married for 55 years. He also celebrated his 50th year as a State Farm agent in November 2009. John has built a 4400 customer Auto and Homeowner Policy Agency, and specializes in Commercial Business Insurance – Condominiums, Apartments, and Mercantile. He also proudly served on the boards of South Side Mission and Peoria Christian School.

John enjoys family time with Trudy, his daughters, son-in-laws and 16 grandchildren. He also enjoys music ranging from classical to the 30's and 40's. Most mornings John is out early and on the track at Franciscan Park walking 2 miles. Wave Hello!

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WPROA Presidents Message

As the end of summer nears, I feel grateful for all the good things that are happening in West Peoria. As we all endure these difficult economic times, it is a blessing to live in a place where people are always willing to help each other.

The two summer concerts in the park held on July 11 and August 8, 2010 were co-hosted by WPROA and the Peoria Park District. Both concerts were successful and very well attended. The Social Activities Committee and the Peoria Park District did a great job planning these events and have tentative plans for two more concerts for summer 2011. We welcome any suggestions you may have for the 2011 concerts.

November 2, 2010 is Election Day for the US Senate, US Congress and the Illinois State Legislature. The West Peoria Residents Association will host a Candidates Night on Thursday, October 21, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at West Peoria City Hall. State house incumbent Jehann Gordon is running against Jim Montelongo, Peoria City Councilman. Both have agreed to attend. Here is your chance to see and listen for yourself, then make up your own mind. Candidates for US Congress have also been invited.

Loretta Fehl has chosen to resign from her position on the WPROA Board of Directors. She will remain as chair for the *West Peoria News* committee. Loretta has done so much for the WPROA. Her devoted efforts are part of the reason WPROA has increased membership every year since she joined the board four years ago. While we will miss her at board meetings, we are happy she will stay involved with WPROA. Thanks, Loretta, for all you've done!

Sharon Crews has also chosen to resign as Copy Editor from the *West Peoria News* committee. Sharon has worked many hours helping make *The West Peoria News* a successful part of the West Peoria Residents' Association. Thanks, Sharon, for writing articles and correcting grammar for over three years!

These resignations leave a vacancy on the board of directors and also a vacancy for a copy editor on the newsletter committee. If you would like to learn more about joining the WPROA Board or the newsletter committee, please contact any of the people listed on the back page of this newsletter.



WPRA Website

The West Peoria Residents' Association encourages everyone to visit its website at www.westpeoriareidents.org.

Past issues of the *West Peoria News* have introduced several sections of the website. In this issue, the sections called "About WPRAs" and "Contact" are featured.

This website can be accessed through the above web address. Use the navigation menu on the left side of the page to click on "About WPRAs." The content page will display the latest WPRAs news. On the right hand side of the "About WPRAs" main page, an article describes the purpose of the WPRAs and explains how to join the organization. Also, notice that additional items appeared under "About WPRAs". Clicking on:

- Officers, displays a page that lists the officers along with a picture and brief biography of each.
- Committees, displays a page that lists the WPRAs committees along with a brief description of each. Clicking on any of the committees provides more information regarding that committee.
- By-Laws, displays a page with the By-Laws attached. Click on that attachment to read the By-Laws.
- Meeting Minutes, displays a list of past meeting minutes that have been approved. The most recent meeting is listed first.
- Membership, displays the membership application in the center. To the right of the page, you can click on "Click here for a complete list" under "2010 Member Names". A list of all current WPRAs members will be displayed.

Use the navigation menu to click on "Contact." Fill in the presented form to contact WPRAs.

WPRA 2010 Membership

The West Peoria Residents' Association now has 226 memberships for 2010. Although all residents receive the *West Peoria News*, we wish to thank our members whose dues help to finance this publication and other WPRAs projects. The WPRAs cordially invites all West Peorians to attend our meetings and to become active in carrying out projects that benefit our community. These are the names of new members since our last issue:

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West Peoria's New Era of Growth and Opportunity

By Mayor Jim Dillon

The future of West Peoria changed in September 2009. Since its inception in 1993, city leaders were under the assumption that the city was landlocked and further growth impossible. But information surfaced last fall that the city did have space to grow and that immediate opportunities existed to annex land for new developments.

Since then, city officials have maneuvered through annexation, Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Districts and other growth issues. Projects worth millions of dollars are moving forward with several more on the drawing board. The developments provide major opportunities for the city to add investment, revenues and commercial activity and change the nature and future of the community.

And now, after approximately one year of managing growth and considering new opportunities, we feel it is a good time to review where we've been, where we're at and where we're going. Our purpose is to inform citizens of West Peoria of what growth means for them and provide an opportunity for input into future economic development opportunities.

Doubling the Size of West Peoria

The past nine months have been a whirlwind as projects moved through decision phases involving a city government that previously did not deal with such issues. It has been a major adjustment for elected officials, staff and appointed boards and commissions. I feel city officials have adapted to new realities quite well and the process has gone smoothly for the most part. We've had some "growing pains" as we all learned new roles, responsibilities and processes but I'm certain other communities' wish they faced the challenges we have from economic growth.

We've set in motion two new projects that will double the size of West Peoria and were initiated by the developers. In other words, they came to us and wanted to be annexed into our community because of our infrastructure, excellent quality of life and our greatest asset—our people. In the first project, the city annexed 50 acres of land for a condominium complex for the elderly. This \$15 million project involves building 179 condos in the first phase. The owner of the property, Prakesh Babu, said, "The city

council has been terrific to work with – very professional – and driven by its own motivation to see the city grow."

The second project involved the annexation into the city of Peoria Speedway which has been providing dirt track racing in Peoria for the past 63 years. Owner Sherrie Hamilton said it's the "finest and fastest quarter mile dirt track in Illinois" – and, it is now located in West Peoria.

Bottom Line for West Peorians

The city has had other firms and developers express interest in annexing or locating in the city.

But what does all this mean for West Peoria residents?

Economic growth means more investment in the city, job opportunities, stable property values and a greater tax base for the city. We hope we will see more revenues down the road resulting from economic growth, especially from sales taxes. If we can increase our sales tax base, we'll be better able to maintain property taxes at current levels.

While the physical size of the city doubled through annexation, we won't be anywhere near doubling our population. Much of land that was annexed is off limits to development. But our population could grow in future years, which will increase income tax distributions from the state.

Looking to the Future

The reality of economic growth in the past year provided city officials with an opportunity to look into the future and develop a vision for future opportunities. Among the initiatives city councilpersons want to see focused on are:

- Beautification and development along Farmington Road and Main Street/Western Avenue
- Spin-off development opportunities near the newly annexed properties
- Further annexation along Farmington Road to Kickapoo Creek
- Attract new businesses in retail, restaurants, services, small manufacturing, transportation and "green" jobs

Our feeling is that West Peoria has a lot to offer. We are in close proximity to a major airport, a university, the interstate highway system and, of course, the city of Peoria. We offer all the amenities available in a major market like Peoria at a low cost of living. We are located in a major urban area but

retain a small town quality of life. And, West Peoria is an excellent place for families to raise their kids and where people still know their neighbors.

What do you think our development priorities should be? I invite you to complete the questionnaire located on page 6 in the newsletter and return it to West Peoria City Hall. Help us to plan an exciting future for our city and make West Peoria an even better place to live.

City Hall Office Hours
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Condominium Project Update

The City of West Peoria has been working with Prakash and Ratna Babu for over a year to annex and rezone property owned by them and the Hindu Temple of Central Illinois. On August 26, 2009, the West Peoria Plan Commission agreed to recommend a R-2 zoning classification for a 50-acre tract of land west of the city. The annexation agreement was completed on April 12, 2010.

The project includes two major components. The first is a 2,640 foot long, 30 foot wide access road off Kickapoo Creek Road that would be built by the developer, and then turned over to the city to be maintained. The plans for the road are complete and work could begin yet this year.

The new road would allow practical access to the temple, taking traffic off Hilltop Road and Prairie Lane. It will also benefit residents throughout the area with improvements to water, sewer, and fire-protection services. In addition, it will allow development of condominiums along the bluffs of the Kickapoo Creek.

The second component is the development of high quality condominiums and duplexes open to elderly regardless of race, color, national origin or religion; a "Green Development" nestled in Kickapoo Bluff. The plan is to build a 179 unit complex designed to accommodate baby boomers as they age. The de-

velopment will also include three lakes, a park with pavilions and jogging/walking trails.

These are high end, modern condos with "Age in Place" functionality for the Baby Boomer Generation. The concept of aging in place would provide the amenities for empty nesters who want to remain independent as they age.

"The demand for this type of housing is growing with the retirement of the Baby Boomer Generation," Prakash Babu said. "And this land is perfect for this use. It's picturesque, tranquil, close to health centers and shopping centers and great leisure activities."

Now that the annexation is complete, West Peoria City is moving forward with plans to create a second TIF district. This second district will be contiguous with the existing TIF district and extend west to include the Babu development.



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What's Been Happenin'

Catholic Charities Community Garden

The first year for our Community Garden was a great success! The goal of the garden was to promote community relationships, raise awareness of environmental stewardship, create opportunities for exercise, reduce family budgets and encourage healthy lifestyle choices. Catholic Charities staff members Sue Hirschman and Ruth Urbanc were surprised by response for the 16x16 plots, "we sold them for \$10 to cover the cost of water and all 16 plots went quickly. We even had a waiting list." Pat Nedza, a member of St. Mark's Parish, was excited about the opportunity to participate in this project. "We have no space for a garden at our house," Pat states. Not only did this give her an opportunity to grow some beautiful fresh produce, such as corn, peas, beans, potatoes, beets, spinach, carrots and cucumbers, it also gave her a chance to relive her childhood. "My parents always had a garden while I was growing up and it brings back so many memories of planting potatoes with my dad when I was a kid."

This year's garden wouldn't have been possible without the support of the Rotary Club North, Better Earth and 3 Sisters Antique Tractor Club. Sue and Ruth are already planning next year's garden. "In addition to the 16 plots, we would like to have three plots where the produce is dedicated to the food pantry. In order to do this, we will need the assistance of volunteers to plant and care for the garden," Sue explains. If you, your parish or group would be interested in volunteering for this project, please contact Sue at 309.636.7724.



Concerts in the Park

The West Peoria Residents Association and the Franciscan Recreation Complex (FRC) co-hosted two summer "Concerts in the Park".

In July, the front lawn of FRC was all set for picnicking, but because of the threat of rain, the Peoria Pops Swing Band moved into the gym where they entertained the crowd with wonderful "oldies but goodies" music from the 40's and 50's era.


The August concert was on a weather-perfect Sunday afternoon and the Peoria Pops Dixieland Band filled the park with jammin' music that made a person want to get up and dance the Charleston.

The "Concerts in the Park" were successful events, and hopefully we can do them again next year.



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What's Been Happenin'

Night Out Against Crime

The six lucky winners of the bicycle drawing at West Peoria's tenth National Night Out Against Crime were Khennedy Adkins-Dutro, Allyson Guyer, Kendra Stephens, Nash Ruby, Brad Guyer and Tyler Franciscovich. This event, held on Saturday, September 11, at Franciscan Park, was sponsored by the West Peoria Neighborhood Watch, the city of West Peoria, West Peoria Township, Franciscan Recreation Complex, and the Peoria County Sheriff's Department.

The bicycle rodeo was directed by Curt Burdett and included bicycle inspection, registration, and a safety course. Deputy Briggs and his canine partner Benny demonstrated how they search for drugs or chase criminals. Deputy Spears explained how her partner, a blood hound named Clyde, searches for lost persons.

Gate prizes and bikes for the drawing were made possible by donations from the West Peoria Township Town Fund and from West Peoria businesses: Ace Hardware, Casey's General Stores, Joe's Barber Shop, John Deal Agency, McDonald's, Peoria Chiefs, South Side Bank, Walgreens, Walmart and West Peoria Resident's Association.

Mayor Dillon grilled hotdogs, West Peoria Boy Scout Troop #11 baked monkey bread, and snowcones were served. Music by the Eclectic Living Room Band and wonderful autumn weather made the tenth West Peoria Neighborhood Watch Night Out Against Crime a successful evening.

Maggie Moore, the coordinator for West Peoria Neighborhood Watch and National Night Out Against Crime, also wishes to thank Deputy Middlemas, and the committee for their help in planning this event. She'd also like to thank the volunteers and civic leaders for their help. The support of all is recognized and appreciated.



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What's Happenin' Next

West Peoria Fire Department Hog Roast

The West Peoria Fire Department annual hog roast will be held at Crusen's on Farmington Road on October 17 from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. Tickets will go on sale on September 20 and members of the fire department will be going door to door selling tickets. Not only is this the only fundraiser for the WPFDD, but it's a great chance for West Peoria residents to socialize, enjoy good food, and show their support for the men and women of the WPFDD.



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West Peoria News

Boy Scouts

This summer a group of Scouts from West Peoria

Troop 11 traveled to the Northern Tier; to the Boy Scouts of America High Adventure Base located on the Minnesota-Canadian border. The crew consisted of scouts Tyler Francis-



covich, Jim Hoerdeman, Kane Hudson, Joseph Zilkowski and Matthew Zilkowski. Adult leaders Jeff VanNess, Joey VanNess and Bruce Zilkowski accompanied them. The group spent five days and four nights paddling canoes through the beautiful but rugged Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) covering over 60 miles on their journey. When the crew left base camp, they had to make sure they had all their equipment and food with them as there was no way to replenish supplies or pick up forgotten items after they took off. They navigated their way through the many lakes and rivers that make up the wilderness area, spending each night at a different campsite deep within the BWCA. They spent part of each day paddling crystal clear lakes or running river rapids. They even awoke one night at 2:00 a.m. so they could paddle under the beautiful night sky and watch the sunrise from their canoes. Along their journey they saw eagles, loons, turtles, fish and waterfalls. The area is so pristine they were even able to drink straight from the lakes without first having to purify their water.

During their trek, the scouts were able to earn the "Duty to God" and "Lake Monitoring" special patches. Their "Duty to God" award was achieved by attending a religious ceremony at base camp, having a daily reflection while in the BWCA and giving thanks before every meal. The "Lake Monitoring" patch required them to measure water clarity in five pre-assigned lakes. This was done by going to the

middle of each lake and lowering a white metal disk, known as a Secchi disk, until it could no longer be seen. They then measured the depth of the disk at that point by counting the one foot increments marked on the rope that was attached to the disk. They found water clarity in some lakes was greater than 20 feet!

Each scout had trained hard for this trip having gone on a couple of practice canoe trips at Turkey Run State Park and the Hennepin Canal, as well as completing the Canoeing Merit Badge at summer camp. Although the Boundary Waters was physically challenging, due to the miles covered and the many portages where they had to carry all their equipment (including canoes) over land from one lake to another, they were well prepared for the task. They had a mile long portage that was particularly memorable because of its length, rough terrain and abundance of mosquitoes. Each scout learned that they could not only survive such a trip but actually thrive in this rugged environment. They attribute their great time and tremendous success at Northern Tier to their ability to live up to the Boy Scout motto: "Be Prepared".

Senior Tips

To protect you from health scams:

- Question information you receive on the internet
- Verify any claims made in newspapers, magazines, on the radio, or on TV
- Do not be pressured into buying an unfamiliar product by a "pushy" sales person. Research the product before purchasing
- Check with your doctor before buying a new health product

Look for red flags in ads or promotional material that:

- Promise a quick or painless cure
 - Claim to be made from a special or secret formula - only available by mail or one sponsor
 - Claim to be effective for a wide range of ailments or to cure a disease that is not yet understood by medical science
 - Offers a "free" gift or requires advance payment
- Unproven health remedies may be harmful. "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!"

Around the Town

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Lions Club

This is a busy time of year for the Lions Club. We have several fundraisers and events going on:

- Peoria Area Dining Tour Books
- Bus Trip to Jumer's Casino on October 31
- Soy Candles
- Christmas Wreaths and other greens
- Volunteering at a fundraising dinner on October 1 for the Peoria Area Blind People's Center
- Candy Day on October 15 & 16
- Final highway clean-up for this year
- Bell ringing for the Salvation Army in November

The Lions Club needs your help. You get a "Warm Fuzzy Feeling" when a child comes to you and says "Thank You" for the special glasses, and tells you he saw his mother's face for the first time, or when a child can now hear someone speaking to him. We assist the visually and hearing impaired in our community, participate in many of the events in our area, and much more. The amount of time that you give to the Lions Club is completely up to you. Just come see who we are and what we do. We meet the 2nd & 4th Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. at Champs West on Western Avenue. For information on any of these projects or joining the Lions, please call 673-6207.

**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**

Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch programs have proven themselves to be effective not only in the fight against crime, but also by improving the well-being of entire communities. These programs are always ongoing projects. This year marks the 10th year anniversary of the West Peoria Neighborhood Watch Program.

The goal of the West Peoria Neighborhood Watch is to have a block captain for every street in West Peoria, and to encourage all residents to be the "eyes and ears" working with our community police. The West Peoria Neighborhood Watch is always working to achieve this goal.

Our past community police Deputy Gaa, who helped implement West Peoria Neighborhood Watch, as well as Deputies Breitbarth, Briggs, Watkins and Middlemas, continue to be very supportive and active in our community watch projects.


The West Peoria Neighborhood Watch is a member of the National Association of Town Watch and each year with the Sheriff's Department co-sponsors an annual "Night Out Against Crime" event.

At each "watch" meeting the deputy or a guest speaker discusses topics on anti-crime prevention, as well as informing the citizens on how to deter crime in our community. The support of the West Peoria citizens does help make our community a safer and better place to live. We want to thank all those who work and support our West Peoria Neighborhood Watch.

Neighborhood Watch meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at West Peoria City Hall. Topic for the October meeting is "laws & safety of gun ownership." Plan to attend and bring a neighbor.

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West Peoria Military

Jeff Goranson of West Peoria submitted the following story about his father, World War II veteran Ralph Goranson.

Some years back, while being interviewed about his participation in the Normandy Invasion, more commonly known as D-Day, my father Ralph Goranson told a reporter that “everybody had his own individual hell that day going across the beach”.

On the morning of June 6, 1944, Dad was a 22 year old company commander of the 2nd Ranger Battalion, C Company of the U.S. Army. They were to land on Omaha’s Dog Green Beach. Their orders were to take out the German cannon position at Pointe de la Percee, thus preventing the Germans from stopping the 29th Infantry Division’s efforts. General Eisenhower had hoped this plan would enable the 29th Infantry Division to take control of the vital Vierville Draw further down the beach. The Vierville Draw was a small valley that provided an ideal route for Allied forces to move trucks and tanks inland from the beach. However, not all went as planned.



Due to bad weather prior to the invasion, the air force was not able to bomb the beaches or soften up the German positions as hoped. Dad said that as they approached the beach, heavy fire rained over their landing craft. His craft was hit twice, with the second hit blowing off the landing door. He was tossed into neck deep water but was able to get to shore. Once on shore, things went from bad to worse. Without the planned bombardment, there were no craters in the sand for the Rangers to shelter them from the heavy German firepower coming at them from the cliffs above. Dad said, “The only way to escape the firepower was to get under those cliffs”. By the time Dad and the remnants of C company got to the base of the cliffs, there were only 29 men left from the original 68 that began the mission, the others were either wounded or dead. “I just got undressed by bullets. I lost all my extra ammo, my gear, my canteen, my rations—everything was shot off my back. I even had a bullet ding off my helmet but somehow I never got a scratch,” he said. My father then ordered three of his men to scale the cliffs. The three Rangers climbed about a 100 foot cliff with Dad and the remaining men giving them

cover fire from down below to keep the Germans from stopping their climb. The last ten or fifteen feet they chinned themselves up with their bayonets to pull themselves to the top, where they hooked up a rope so the others could follow. Once they reached the top, Dad and his men (now down to 21) cleared out a maze of German defensive positions. Although none knew it at the time, they were the first U.S. troops to fight their way off Omaha Beach and assault the German defenses!

Details of what my father and his fellow Rangers experienced got their own chapter in the late historian Steven Ambrose’s book, *D-Day, June 6, 1944: The Climatic Battle of World War II*. And Dad is the man whom actor Tom Hanks’ character in the movie *Saving Private Ryan* is loosely based on. In fact, the opening scenes of the movie focus on C Company on D-Day with Hank’s portraying Captain John Miller—my father’s real life assignment as commanding officer. Dad saw the movie and said it was somewhat realistic but that nothing can accurately describe what he experienced. “It was worse, much worse,” he said at the time. As he said then, “I don’t like to talk about it. It was a long time ago. It’s over.”

Dad has returned twice to Normandy. The first time was for the 40th anniversary of the landing in 1984 when he revisited France with my mother. During the ceremony at Pointe du Hoc, my Dad got to shake hands with President Ronald Reagan, who had come to speak at the event. I remember seeing the handshake live on TV. I couldn’t believe I was seeing my Dad on CNN as I ate lunch that day at the Old Silver Bullet. That was wild! Dad also went back in 2004 for the 60th anniversary, traveling with my brother and two of my nephews. They had a great trip and the boys came back with an even greater respect for their Grandpa Ralph.



My father never did talk about his war experience much with myself or any of my siblings. Most of what

West Peoria Military

we know we had to discover on our own. He never talked about his medals which include the Distinguished Service Cross, a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. And with all the to-do about D-Day, it is easy to forget that after Normandy, Dad was in four other major European battles, including the December Ardennes Offensive (the Battle of the Bulge). Sadly, my Dad, who turned 91 on the Fourth of July, currently suffers from dementia and his memories of that "dreamlike day" are probably lost. And perhaps, that is a good thing. I'm proud that my father was a part of the "greatest generation".



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School News

Calvin Coolidge

Calvin Coolidge is looking for old scrapbooks, yearbooks, or any historical items concerning Calvin Coolidge School. If you have any items you would like to share, please call the school office at 672-6506. The school office is also once again collecting Campbell's Soup labels, Box Top for Education points and Sunny D labels. These points will be used to obtain free supplies, books etc. for Calvin Coolidge Middle School.

There will be no school on Columbus Day, October 11 and a half day on Friday, October 29 with 10:30 a.m. early dismissal.

St. Mark

St. Mark School will be hosting two alumni reunions in October. The first reunion will be held on Friday, October 15 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. for alumni who graduated in the 1990's or later. The second reunion will be held on Saturday, October 16 from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. for all alumni. Guests of alumni are also invited. The cost of admission will be \$10 per person at the door. Light appetizers and drinks will be served. Alcoholic beverages will be served at the second reunion on October 16. Reservations are not required, but requested. Please make your reservations by contacting Brenda O'Russa at alumni@saint-mark.net or by calling the school at 676-7131.

St. Mark Stunt Show returns on November 12th and 13th. Plan to attend our longest standing tradition! Times will be announced at a later date. Call the school for details.



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Remember When

Peoria Hebrew Cemetery

Peoria Hebrew Cemetery is located in the city of West Peoria at 2807 West Heading Avenue, 61604. This Jewish cemetery that was known as Brith Israel was purchased January 21, 1873 from Thomas S. Dobbins and wife, Israel Bennett, Jacob Conigisky, Levi Meyers, Lewis Brim and Aaron Mittenthal for the purpose of a cemetery, where none but orthodox Jews could be buried. (Note: Reformed Jews are buried elsewhere, most of them in Mt. Sinai, Springdale.)



The purchasers of the tract deeded a quit claim in 1874, to the trustees of the congregation of Brith Israel and their successors in office. A clause was added in 1901 that appointed Sam Woolner, Moses Gumbiner and I. J. Levinson for life. During the year 1918 the name of the cemetery was changed to Peoria Hebrew Cemetery, owned by the Peoria Hebrew Cemetery Association. In December 1936 the officers of the association were: M. Wegner, President, Sam Ketay, Vice President, and Sol Lipkin, Treasurer. Roughly scratched in the cement drive at the entrance is the following:

J. Frankel)
John Levie) -life trustees
D. Walk)
July 28, 1922

To the left of the drive at the entrance gate stands a memorial building, the front of which is used as a chapel, and the rear as the living quarters of the custodian.

Over the door of the chapel entrance is inscribed "MIRAM AND EZRA KETAY MEMORIAL", in the base of the window at the left of the chapel door "PEARL RAFFELOUGH CATRON", and at the right of the door, in the window's base "JACOB SILVERMAN". In the northwest corner of the building there is a stone bearing the

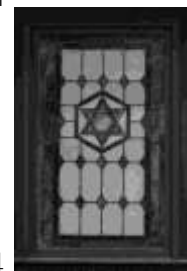


following: "ERECTED 1918 LAID BY S. MOSKOVITZ"

Above the door leading from the north side of the chapel may be seen, "In memory of our Beloved Son, Issidor Moskovitz, born February 28, 1903 - Died September 20, 1922". On the window base to the west of the door is inscribed "MR. AND MRS. I. I. FEINBURG" and the window base to the east of the door bears the name "ESTER SILBERSTEIN".

After entering the chapel, one of the first objects to attract attention is a small pulpit, which on the front may be seen in gold letters on black glass "In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Cohen". On the wall in the corner there is a board which shows the list of donors who made possible the erection of the building.

A blueprint is displayed showing a location in the northwest corner of the chapel building of a plotted 330 x 896 foot site, and a vault wherein bodies are placed temporarily. An orthodox Jew believes in burial services within 24 hours after death, so in case of an emergency, this site provides a temporary burial site.



In the cemetery, two grave markers can be found which show burial dates, June 18, 1851 and July 30, 1861. The remains buried in these two plots were transferred from the Old Jewish Cemetery on South Adams Street. There are other old stones with inscriptions in Yiddish.

A small section of the cemetery is set aside for the burial of persons having committed a major crime, particularly murder. Their remains are not allowed to be buried on consecrated ground.

This information is reprinted from http://www.peoriacountyillinois.info/cems/hebrew/hebrew_cem.html with the permission of Janine Crandell.

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**TO JOIN WPRA,
CONTACT
MAGGIE MOORE**

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

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

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