

Meeting & Event Dates

WPRA:	WPRA - 3rd Thursday @ 6:30 p.m. * Dec None - Jan 20
City:	City Council - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m. * Economic Development Council - 2nd Thursday @ 12:00 noon* 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:	WPRA Christmas Party - Sunday, Dec 5 - 5:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. Holiday Lighting Contest - Dec 6 thru Dec 20 **
Location:	*City Hall **See Article ***Champs West

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Busy Lady About Town, Maggie Moore

The *West Peoria News* Committee is proud to feature Maggie Moore, a long-time resident of West Peoria and one of its most "involved" citizens. Anyone who has attended a West Peoria function is definitely familiar with Maggie. For the last ten years Maggie has been on the West Peoria Residents' Association (WPRA) Board of Directors serving as treasurer. She is responsible for and organizes the annual WPRA Christmas Party. The *West Peoria News* depends on Maggie's expertise in gathering the advertisements that fund approximately 75% of the newsletter costs. She is also active in and/or chairman of the WPRA Beautification and Social Activities Committees. This past summer, Maggie worked with Val Marek at the Franciscan Recreation Center to develop and present two "Concerts in The Park"; she is already working on next summer's line up. Along with these many WPRA duties, she has probably served most West Peoria residents a sno-cone at the West Peoria Jamboree.

If Maggie's involvement and dedication to the WPRA is not enough, her real passion is the Neighborhood Watch Program. In 2000, with the help of our past community policeman, Deputy Gaa,

she spearheaded the commencement of the West Peoria Neighborhood Watch. This year marks the tenth anniversary of this organization. Thanks to Maggie and her partnership with the Peoria County Sheriff's Department, the West Peoria Neighborhood Watch is a member of the National Association of Town Watch. Each year, she organizes the annual West Peoria Night Out Against Crime. Since the Neighborhood Watch is an ongoing program, it's no surprise that her goal is to have EVERY street in West Peoria in the block watch program and a block captain for each block. Maggie has been a Lions Club member for five



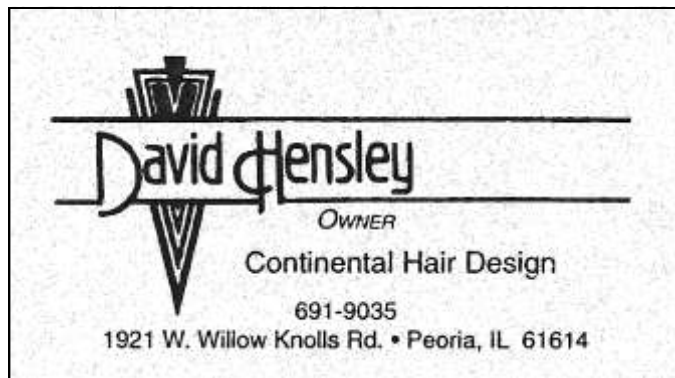
Maggie Moore

years, serving as First Vice President and Tail Twister. In 2005, Maggie was honored to be the Grand Marshall for the West Peoria Fourth of July Parade. She also is a past secretary of the American Business Women's Association, was active in the Pilot Club, and volunteered at the state mental hospital in Bartonville where she helped plan activities in the women's wards.

Maggie grew up in Carthage, Missouri and graduated from Carthage High School where she was a Lt. Colonel in the ROTC Program. She later attended Southwest Missouri Business College, Mid-State Business College and Illinois Central College. In 1967 she moved to West Peoria with her husband Harry and daughters, Carol, Alana and Kimberly. Maggie and Harry will soon be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. They have eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Maggie retired from Continental Insurance Companies, where she was a personal lines underwriter. But Maggie never stops – she later became a fragrance model for several years. She studied for and was certified as an activity director, working eight years in Alzheimer assisted living facilities before retiring in October 2009.

Maggie enjoys the performing arts, playing violin in her high school orchestra and trombone in the band. She also took piano and dance lessons. These skills and interests led her to Peoria Players where she worked backstage in properties. From there she became involved with the Peoria Civic Opera (now Opera Illinois). Maggie served as production manager for five years and general manager for one year.

Maggie, who recently celebrated her 80th birthday, says she likes to be busy, likes new adventures (her latest is taijiquan), and she enjoys living where "Living is Best...to the West of Peoria"!



WPRA News

WPRA 2010 Membership

In the October issue of the *West Peoria News* a new member name was reported incorrectly. Don & Joyce Topper were listed as "Toffer". The *West Peoria News* apologizes for this error.

Our newest member is Katrina A. Griffin. Welcome!

All new 2011 memberships will be published in the February issue of *West Peoria News*.

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West Peoria



Beautification Committee

The West Peoria Residents' Association (WPRA) Beautification Committee is busy planning for spring 2011. The committee has placed holiday decorations at the Welcome Wall at Main and Western and West Peoria City Hall. These decorations are funded by the WPRA.

A special thank you goes to Marilyn Anders for her continuing care of the plants at the Welcome to West Peoria sign on Swords Avenue hill.

The committee was given permission by the Peoria Park District to plant around the Welcome to West Peoria sign at Manor Parkway and Sterling. Committee members are also considering building up part of the ground in front of the Welcome Wall so that plants are more visible to passersby.

The WPRA Beautification Committee members are Angela Robinson, Bob DeSutter, Jim McCarter, Bev Karstensen and chairperson, Maggie Moore. The committee always welcomes help from any resident interested in the beautification of the city.

WPRA Holiday Greetings

It's no secret why "Living is Best...to the West of Peoria". Our small town atmosphere with the amenities of a large city creates a feeling of nostalgia in both long term and new residents. Establishing a safe and friendly environment, such as the one found in West Peoria, is no easy task. It takes many people working together to accomplish the numerous perks that make up West Peoria.

Continuing to serve the residents of West Peoria, the West Peoria Residents' Association (WPRA) has been hard at work the past year. Rain or shine, the two concerts in the park were well attended in July and August.

Citizens residing in or visiting West Peoria admired the flowers strategically planted on the corner of Rohmann and Sterling as well as the entrances to the city. The WPRA Beautification Committee's efforts made this possible, with the help of funding from the WPRA. The holiday decorations on the Welcome Wall on the corner of Heading and Western and at city hall were also provided by the WPRA.

Fifty people tested their endurance by participating in the four mile Jamboree Run in June to raise money for new computers for the students of Calvin Coolidge School. The total amount raised for this effort so far is \$1,500, 25% of the way towards the WPRA's goal!


The WPRA Newsletter Committee published six issues in 2010, providing the residents with a vast array of information including political news, homeowner tips and interesting history of our local area. Funding for this publication is a combination of our generous advertisers, city funding, and WPRA funding. We continue to upgrade and develop the WPRA website, www.westpeoriaresidents.org. We have recently acquired the ability to email members with reminders of membership meetings and events.

A special thank you is due to Loretta Fehl, a long term board member. Loretta was the secretary of the WPRA from 2006 – 2010. She not only provided guidance and organization to the board, but also helped coordinate several events. Loretta continues to serve the community by spearheading the WPRA Newsletter Committee. Her tireless volunteer efforts are greatly appreciated and she will be missed on the WPRA Board.

Thank you for your continued support of the WPRA this year. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Happy Holiday Season.

Sincerely,
WPRA Board of Directors

David Pittman, President
Lynn Dempsey, Vice President
Beth Reusch, Secretary
Maggie Moore, Treasurer



No Appointment Necessary
Cindy and Diane

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Park Across Street

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Sat. 8:00-12:00



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+ Fri: 1-3 pm


Seasons Greetings



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(309) 674-1993
<http://www.cityofwestpeoria.com>

April 2011 Elections

Election of the following West Peoria officials will take place on April 5, 2011: mayor, city clerk, city treasurer, and one alderman from each of West Peoria's four wards.

Anyone interested in running for one of these positions should contact the city clerk for a nominating packet. The packets will be available for pickup at West Peoria City Hall through December 20, 2010.

If you have any questions, call West Peoria City Clerk, Carole Stephens, at West Peoria City Hall, 674-1993.

City Council Meetings
2nd & 4th Tuesday Monthly @ 7:00

Televised The Following Wednesday
Channel 22 @ 8:00

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FRED – "Where Peoria Comes to Play"

The Farmington Road Entertainment District (FRED) began as a vision of Daryl Klusendorf's, owner of Sky Harbor Steakhouse. He recognized the fact that while there are many entertainment venues along Farmington Road, there has been little effort to capitalize on the brand and no cooperation among the businesses in the area of promotion. Daryl presented the FRED concept to West Peoria city staff who connected him with the West Peoria Economic Development Commission.

After several presentations, Daryl's vision began to take shape. As it stands now, the group is an association of merchants whose business is located on or adjacent to the two mile strip running from Kickapoo Creek Road to Main Street.

The group's first order of business was to design a logo. Participating organizations offered their patrons a chance to design the FRED logo on a bar napkin. The winning logo will receive a merchandise prize of \$150. The group is currently working on implementing advertising opportunities through social media to help market FRED.

The overall goal of the collaboration is to increase cooperation among the neighboring businesses, to help speak about Farmington Road with a unified voice and to promote business on the western entry way to the city. FRED hopes to encourage area residents and visitors to travel to Farmington Road for unique and exciting entertainment. There are many family-friendly, adult-oriented and adults-only options from which to choose.

Klusendorf's



SKY HARBOR
Steak house

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Available at City Hall
New Resident Welcome Packets
House Numbers for the rear of your house

Illinois American Water Partners with West Peoria to Provide Water Service to the Stever District Improvement Association

The plans for transferring water service from the Stever District to Illinois American Water began many years ago. As of November 1, the project was completed. The project involved the installation of 400 feet of new 8-inch water main, installing meters and transferring water service to approximately 62 customers.

Mayor Dillon said, "This project will provide the residents in this neighborhood with better water quality, water pressure and water service. He acknowledged several individuals for their commitment to the project. They are: Karla Teasley, Chris Johnson, Senator David Koehler, and Rick Earley.



Mayor Dillon and Rick Early both made a special comment about Pat Roedell. They wished that she had been able to see the transfer completed.

Rick Early also noted the contributions of Don Neill, Gene Cooper, Bill Board and Sharon Woiwode. When asked about the start of the Stever District, Rick mentioned that he had a copy of bylaws for the district dated August 8, 1944.

According to Mike Moler, operations manager for Illinois American Water, the project was necessary due to the age and condition of the current Stever water system. It will take three to five years for the upgrade of the entire system.

Reminders from West Peoria City Hall


- ALL residents are required to sign up for garbage service with Waste Management. Please call 1-800-796-9696. You will be charged for this service.
- Landscape Waste Pickup **IS INCLUDED** in your Waste Management bill. It ends on the last Friday in December. It will begin again on the first Friday in April.
- A **PARKING BAN** on ALL West Peoria streets will be issued whenever **TWO (2) OR MORE INCHES OF SNOW IS PREDICTED**. If vehicles are not moved, they could be fined.
- Do **NOT** shovel snow into the street. You can be fined.
- **STORM DAMAGE: LIMB PICKUP POLICY** – From January 1 through March 31, please check the city website or contact city hall for a copy of this policy.

To view the complete text of city ordinances, visit:
http://www.cityofwestpeoria.com/new_ordinances.asp

TO REGISTER A COMPLAINT OR REPORT A CODE VIOLATION:

Please email: code-zoning@cityofwestpeoria.com or
Phone: 674-1993 or 370-1142.

All information is confidential. You do not need to give your name when reporting a violation.



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CELL. (309) 472-9496



City News

Farmington Road Reconstruction

This project begins just east of the intersection of Swords Avenue and Farmington Road and extends to just west of the intersection of Red Bud Drive and Farmington Road. The project is scheduled for a November 2012 contract award.

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) has listed this roadway as part of their Streetscape Improvement Plan. The plan proposes the addition of the on-road bicycle lanes and will provide sidewalk accommodations along the north section of Farmington Road for the project length. The sidewalk may be constructed as part of the overall construction or may be deferred until the TCRPC has firmed up construction as part of the overall streetscape improvement.

A Public Hearing will be scheduled for late November or December 2010. The location, date and time of the hearing will be posted as soon as the city of West Peoria receives the information from IDOT.



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Peoria, Illinois 61604

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Seasons'
Greetings

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IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!
PULL OUT ALL THOSE HOLIDAY DECORATIONS.
STRING UP THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS.
IT'S TIME TO SHOW OFF THAT HOLIDAY SPIRIT.
THE JUDGES WILL BEGIN DECEMBER 6TH,
WITH THE WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED ON
DECEMBER 20TH.



5 WINNERS WILL BE DECIDED, ONE FROM EACH
OF THE FOLLOWING CATAGORIES



- SIMPLICITY-
- VEGAS STYLE-
- RELIGIOUS THEME-
- HOLIDAY THEME-
- JUDGES OVERALL FAVORITE-

WEST PEORIA
HOLIDAY LIGHTING
CONTEST
NOMINATION FORM:



STREET ADDRESS: _____

THIS YEARS CONTEST
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HADDADS WEST PEORIA MARKET
AND
WEST PEORIA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MAKE SURE YOU GET SEEN!
NOMINATION FORMS CAN BE FOUND AT HADDADS MARKET OR CITY HALL

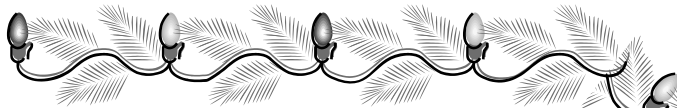
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT HADDAD'S MARKET

www.haddadsmarket.com

What's Been Happenin'

Bel-Wood Nursing Home in West Peoria

The Peoria County Board voted in favor of moving Bel-Wood Nursing Home to 2223 W. Heading Avenue. This property is currently occupied by The Cross Baptist Church and was formerly occupied by St. Joseph's Nursing Home.



West Peoria Fire Department Hog Roast

The West Peoria Fire Department (WPF) 2010 Annual Hog Roast was held on October 17. As usual, it was a great success. Congratulations to the big raffle winners: John Deal - \$500, H. Calliled - \$250, and Lawson Giles - \$100.

Winners of the Ladies' Auxiliary Baskets were: Brent Dean, Polly Baker, Yvonne Fleming, and Kim Stecher.

The WPF is always looking for new members. If you are interested, please stop in at the firehouse on Sunday mornings (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon) or Wednesday evenings (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.).

What's Happenin' Next

WPRA Christmas Party

The 2010 West Peoria Residents' Association Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 5, 2010, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Franciscan Recreation Center at 908 N. Sterling.

All residents are invited to join us for an evening of entertainment, refreshments, visiting with neighbors and a special appearance from Santa Claus. Bring your cameras to take pictures with Santa. Entertainment will be provided by the Flynn Irish Dancers and the "9 to Five" Singers.



2010 Holiday Lighting Contest

'Tis the Season! Time for West Peorians to take part in the Holiday Lighting Contest. Once again Haddad's Market and the West Peoria Residents' Association will be sponsoring the Holiday Lighting Contest. Please see the Haddad's advertisement in this issue for details and an application form.

Judging will begin on December 6 and winners will be announced on December 20.

Best Buds is "Growing" again!

West Peoria's outside garden center is now your houseplant and green holiday center!



We've gone inside with a great selection of:

- * unusual houseplants
- * terrariums
- * flower pots
- * bulbs to force to beat the winter blahs! (we'll show you how!)
- * unique gift items



Also available for the holiday season:

- * Christmas trees
- * poinsettias
- * Christmas cactus
- * amaryllis
- * garland
- * grave blankets
- * traditional wreaths
- * snowflake wreaths
- * Our "Exculsive" Peace Sign Wreath (Peace on Earth!)

Same Great Quality & fun service you've expected at Best Buds outdoors!

Cheryl & the crew look forward to seeing you again!

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Inside Country Hearth & Home
(2 blocks east of Sterling)



INSIDE: 309-671-BEST (2378)
OUTSIDE: 309-676-BUDS (2837)
Visit us on Facebook!

West Peoria Military

The *West Peoria News* and the WPRA's website will publish the names of all those West Peorians or their family members who are currently serving in the military or those who have served in any of this country's military endeavors in the past. We would like also to remember those West Peorians who may now be deceased. Please provide the following information:

- Name of the service person and his/her relationship to a West Peoria family
- Branch of the military in which he/she serves(d)
- Place where he/she is/was stationed
- The time period in which he/she serves(d) (a particular war, dates, etc.)
- Any interesting anecdotes related to his/her service

Call or e-mail information to any of the *West Peoria News* staff listed on the back page.



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New Business

Karma – The Hookah Lounge

A new business has opened in West Peoria: Karma – The Hookah Lounge. Hookah lounges are mostly found in college towns and urban areas and are a great way to socialize and embrace multiculturalism.

The lounge serves flavored tobacco. Karma offers about 50 different flavors of tobacco. No alcohol is served.

To comply with the state's smoking ban, the business must derive 80 percent of its income from the sale of tobacco products.

School News

Calvin Coolidge

On Wednesday, December 9, Calvin Coolidge School will be hosting a free seminar in the library. The topic is "Children's Mental Health Issues." To register for this seminar, please contact Elizabeth at Family to Family, 309-671-7919.

The last day before winter break is Wednesday, December 22, with a one hour early dismissal at 1:00 p.m. School resumes on Tuesday, January 4.

Calvin Coolidge is still collecting Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Soup labels. These items can be dropped off at the Calvin Coolidge office.

Calvin Coolidge principal, Mr. Blumer, is looking for old memorabilia from former students. Please contact the school office at 309-672-6506 to share your memories.

St. Mark

St. Mark School would like to wish all of our friends and neighbors in West Peoria a very Blessed Christmas and a Holy New Year.

Beginning March 1, 2011, we will be accepting registrations for the 2011 – 2012 school year. Applications for financial assistance are due no later than February 1, 2011.

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West Peoria Township

The West Peoria Township Office has moved to a new location. It is now located next to West Peoria City Hall, 2516 W. Rohmann Ave. Township office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.



Senior Tips

Beware of Health Care Reform SCAMMERS. Here are a few scams and tricks to avoid:

- If someone tells you health care reform requires changes in your insurance plan – **don't fall for it.** Under the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act there is no current requirement to change policies.
- Do not open the door to anyone with a health care sales pitch. Legitimate representatives do not come to your house without an appointment. Be aware that con artists often pretend to be federal employees.
- Medicare Part D beneficiaries whose prescription drug costs reach the expense threshold will automatically receive a rebate check. You do not **have to do anything to receive this check.** Don't be taken in by scammers who offer to get the rebate for you – do not give anyone your personal ID, banking information or your Medicare number.
- If you need help or have questions regarding your Medicare coverage just call 1-800-633-4227 or 1-800-MEDICARE.

If you suspect fraud, call Medicare Integrity Drug Contractor at 1-877-772-3379

Township Relief Office Hours
Tuesday—Wednesday—Thursday
9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
(309) 674-0462

Boy Scouts

West Peoria Boy Scout Troop 11 has had a very busy fall season. In October, they attended the 100th Anniversary of Boy Scouts in America celebration at Comlara Park in Hudson, IL. This large gathering of troops from all over central Illinois contained lots of great scouting activities including rock-climbing, fishing, paintball, and canoe races. There were many different exhibits from falconry to civil war re-enactments. Miss Illinois was there to congratulate the scouts on their 100 years and urge each boy to **continue to "Do Your Best"**. Nightly entertainment included musical acts, comedians and a fireworks show. Making the weekend even more special was having the **second year Webelo's** from Cub Scout Pack 11 join the Troop 11 scouts for the weekend.

Recent community involvement included helping the West Peoria Lions Club pick up trash along their stretch of "Adopted Highway". The troop also just completed their Butterbraids and Christmas Wreath fundraisers and would like to thank everyone in the area who helped to support these efforts.

In November, Troop 11 scouts and families came together for their annual "Turkey Dinner" celebration. This event was well attended and five scouts were recognized for their recent rank advancements. Brandon Langfeldt, Ted Lewis, and Nathan Wagner have each advanced to the Tenderfoot rank. Kane Hudson has achieved Star Scout, and Tyler Franciscovich has earned his Life Scout rank. During the celebration the troop was excited to learn that four new backpacking tents had just been donated to the scouts. The boys expect to put these to good use next year as they prepare for and journey to Isle Royale National Park for a week long backpacking adventure.



Greetings from West Peoria Lions Club

Did you notice that parts of Farmington Road and Route 8 are much cleaner? The Boy Scout Troop 11 and the Lions Club were out on Saturday, October 30 picking up trash. This was our last clean-up day for 2010, we will start again in April 2011. The Green Team sure could use your help with this project, so watch for dates in future editions of *West Peoria News*.

Do you know of a family or individual that could use a Christmas food basket? If so, call Carolyn @ 673-6207. The deadline for submitting names is December 10. If you would like to make a monetary donation or donate canned goods for the Christmas food baskets you may drop them off at West Peoria City Hall.

Need that perfect gift for that special someone? How about a Greater Peoria Dining Tour Book? These books are only \$30.00 and can be purchased at Haddad's Market. Also available at Haddad's Market, the "Really Big Coloring Books".

We need your help to continue serving our community. Become a LION. Just give an hour or two a month to help provide the services made possible by the Lions' Club. As a Lion you can help a child see, hear, or send them to camp for a week. You can also help conduct vision and hearing screenings and/or enjoy the companionship of friends and neighbors while working on projects together for the betterment of our community.

Save our "Planet Earth" by recycling glasses, hearing aids, keys, cell phones, ink cartridges, aluminum cans and tabs. These items may be dropped off at Haddad's Market.

The West Peoria Lions' Club would like to wish everyone the joy of family, the happiness of family and the love of Christmas.

Neighborhood Watch

The November Neighborhood Watch meeting featured a discussion and demonstration by Deputy Spears and partner Clyde, a bloodhound trained to search by scent. Topics at other meetings in 2010 were on self defense, home security, laws & safety of gun ownership, the duties of the Central Illinois Emergency Response Team (CIERT), scams, a demo by Deputy Briggs and partner Benny and updates of criminal activity in West Peoria by Deputy Middlemas.

Thanks to Nancy Meyers and her neighbors, Rohmann from Western to Sterling is now in the block "watch" program. The remainder of Rohmann and several other streets are in the process of joining in the program. Neighborhood Watch wants to remind all residents of the following precautions to help keep their neighborhood safe:



- Winter does not deter crime.
- Keep lights on at night.
- Keep house and garage windows and doors locked.
- Remember, if in doubt, call 911.

The next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be on Wednesday, January 12, 2011, 6:30 p.m. at West Peoria City Hall. The topic will be "Street Drugs".

Burglary - Break-Ins - Vandalism
It takes all of us to work together on this project
to prevent these crimes!

West Peoria Garden Club

The ground may be frozen, but the West Peoria Garden Club is busy thinking spring. We meet the third Monday of each month at West Peoria City Hall at 7:00 p.m. In December, we will be celebrating the holidays at a member's house, but in January, we'll start planning the 2011 programs. Join us Monday, January 17 to find out what exciting events we will have. The club displayed at ICC's garden day in September and made some great contacts for 2011 programs.

Memberships are \$10 for an individual and \$18 for a family. Send your dues to Donna Schwab, 2001 W Callender, West Peoria or contact us at 676-6912 for more information. Gardeners of all ages and thumb colors are welcome!

Heading Avenue Franciscan Sisters

Celebrating 120 Years

On February 2, 2011, the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception will celebrate the 120th anniversary of their founding. Their origins date from November 1890, when Mother Mary Pacifica Forrestal, their foundress, and a small group of companions responded to Archbishop Lancaster Spalding's request to staff the diocesan orphanage in Metamora. During the following years, the congregation grew in number and increased their works to include teaching in fourteen parish schools and staffing two homes for the aging.

When the motherhouse (headquarters) was built on Heading Avenue in West Peoria in 1912, the sisters became known as the "Heading Avenue Franciscans." That site was originally reached by traveling a dirt (or muddy, depending on the weather!) road and was numbered "500 Heading Avenue" until the change to "2408 West Heading Avenue" in the early 1950s.



The mission of the sisters is "to make God's compassionate presence known through their vowed life in community," expressing this mission in all they do. Their life of prayer supports and nourishes them as they serve others in their various ministries. Likewise, the sisters support each other by living their vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in community in order to be strengthened to minister to each other and to others.

Their ministries in the dioceses of Peoria and Springfield are varied and many. In addition to caring for the elderly through St. Joseph's Home Care of Peoria and St. Joseph's Home of Springfield, the sisters serve in areas of education (including Immaculate Conception Pre-School at the motherhouse), adult literacy, campus ministry, child care, counseling, social work, spirituality and massage therapy, pastoral care (St. Francis Medical Center), respect for life advocacy, and the Marriage Tribunal

and Permanent Diaconate program for the Peoria Diocese.

Also, the sisters consider their *ministry of prayer* to be a vital part of their vowed life and encourage people to make their prayer requests known to them. The sisters are particularly devoted to praying for the residents of West Peoria. For the past five years, the sisters have had a mass offered in early August in their motherhouse chapel for the West Peoria residents and all who have requested the prayers of the sisters. They ask to be contacted at the Heading Avenue address or stop in or call the motherhouse (674-6168) to express prayer needs.

The sisters have always considered West Peoria their home. They have expressed that commitment by their participation in the West Peoria 4th of July parade and the Night Out Against Crime activities held in recent years.

The sisters are in the midst of planning activities for the celebration of their 120th anniversary and are looking forward to this happy event. These celebration plans will be shared with the West Peoria community as soon as possible.





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Remember When

Family Trees Grow in West Peoria

By Marilyn Voss Leyland

A lawn of massive trees still distinguishes Joseph Schneider's home on the corner of Moss and Dixon, now 2320 W. Moss Avenue in West Peoria. In 1868, Schneider's parents purchased fully half of the block along the north side of what was then McDougal Avenue for their truck farm. By 1885, their son had added the entire area across the street, from Sterling to what became Dixon. There he established his home and eventually a wine garden, bowling alley and more extensive truck farm.

Later generations, including the current homeowners, Mike and Jan Powers, continue to cultivate those gardening interests. Along Sterling at Moss, the area still carries the name "Wine Garden Sub-Division," platted in 1917.



The little tree was but a sapling when Schneider posed near the front door of his home in 1896. A few years earlier he had completed a term as road commissioner. His wife Regina watches from the upstairs window, while on the porch his daughter Margaret sits next to her sister Emma and holds baby Marie.



Some 85 years later, two of his grandchildren – Marie's son Eugene Voss and Maggie's daughter Romaine Oberer Franzgrote – stand in that same yard in the shade of what grew to be a mighty oak. At that time (1981), Romaine lived in the home and Gene lived across the street.

Schneider's oldest daughter, Maggie, became the family matriarch after Joseph and Regina succumbed to typhoid fever – blamed on a polluted well – in 1903. Maggie and Emma's mother, Joseph's first wife, had died in 1893 at age 34 of TB. Maggie, barely 20 years old, took charge of raising Joseph and Regina's four young children – her half-siblings – aged two months to seven years. Later that year she married Adolph Oberer, a German immigrant and baker, who'd read about the family tragedy and had come to help.

The homestead housed not only Joseph's six children plus Adolph, but also became home to two Oberer girls. To meet expenses, land was sold and subdivided in various increments, though the orphans retained partial shares.

In 1937, Maggie and Adolph deeded the home property to her daughter Romaine and husband Joseph Franzgrote. The adjoining property along Dixon they deeded to daughter Lucille and her husband William Bosch, who built their home at 201 N. Dixon.

Across the street at 200 N. Dixon stands the home of Marie Schneider, who married John Voss. His father, a contractor whose family home was on West High St. near Western, built his son's home with assistance from younger son Alfred, who learned his brick-laying skills on the job there. Alfred's brick bungalow at 1916 W. Ayres reflects certain family similarities.



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Remember When

John Voss became well-known to a generation of Manual students as he taught biology and math there starting in 1924 and served as Manual principal from 1938 until his death in 1948.

In 1968, after Marie died, Gene moved his family from Edna Ct. to the home on Dixon. Descendents of Bob Kupper, one of his neighborhood friends, still live on Moss in a family home – on property once owned by the Schneiders.

Maggie and Adolph remained in the homestead with daughter Romaine and her German-born husband Joe as they raised their sons Ernie and Joey there. By the 1940s, Joe's brothers Henry and Conrad were living in West Peoria. Henry and his daughters were within a block on Moss; Conrad, who had lived on Laura, eventually built at 2314 W. Heading. In the early 1950s, Henry built a new home at 2222 W. Sherman – in the back yard of his home on Moss. After he died, his daughter Clara Strassburger's family moved in with her mom and an invalid sister – another multi-generational home.

At the times of their deaths, five of Schneider's children lived in West Peoria: Maggie and Emma at home, Marie across the street on Dixon, Bertha (Sr. M. Regina, OSF), at St. Joseph's Home, and Lona Leucht at 2022 W. Alice. Their brother Edwin lived off Western on Smith St. Lucille lived at 1022 Edgehill Ct. before she and Romaine later moved to Bel-Wood Nursing Home. Their homes were generally distinguished by their lovely gardens.

A vacant lot fronting on Moss adjacent to the Schneider yard was once owned by Marie and her sister Lona and used by Gene and his friends as their jungle playground. The properties sold to Art Mehlenbeck, who built a ranch home there.



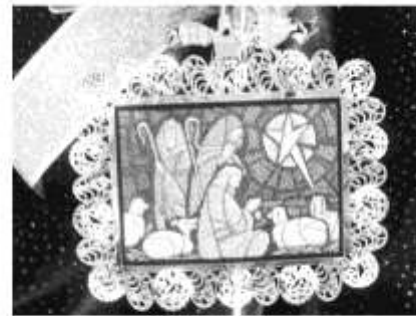
Today, the Schneider, Bosch and Mehlenbeck homes are owned respectively by Janice and Mike Powers, their daughter, and Jan's sister – truly continuing a family tradition. As children, the former Janice Marks and her sisters lived less than a block away on Moss. To accommodate Jan's aging parents, the Powers family enlarged the old Schneider homestead, demonstrating again that family trees have deep roots in West Peoria.

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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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