

Meeting & Event Dates

<p>WPRA: City:</p>	<p>WPRA - 3rd Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.* Apr 21 - May 19 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.*</p>
<p>Around the Town:</p>	<p>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.*</p>
<p>What's Next:</p>	<p>Election Day - Tuesday, April 5 Annual Township Meeting - Tuesday, April 12 @ 7:30 p.m. ** Government Day - Friday, April 15 ** Cleanup Day - Saturday, April 30 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Rebuilding Together - Sat, April 30 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Memorial Day Service - Saturday, May 28 @ 10:00 a.m. Jamboree - Saturday, June 4**</p>
<p>Location:</p>	<p>*City Hall **See Article ***Champs West</p>

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Four Generations of Stecher's in West Peoria

Joseph Francis and Marie Gertrude (Ober) Stecher immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1913 and 1914 respectively. They were married soon after and settled in the Peoria area. While Marie stayed at home to raise the family, Joseph continued his career as a master brewer at Leisey

Brewery until prohibition. His strong entrepreneurial ethic eventually led him to open "Stecher's Machine Shop" in 1923. His son, Joseph George Stecher, eventually joined him in the family business. Today, "Stecher's Automotive Service" is run by the founder's grandson, Bob, and great-grandson, Rob.



Seated: Mary & Joe Stecher Standing Left to Right: Mark, Rick, Ann, Jim, Pat, Bob, & Tom

Another immigrant, James Joseph Cotter, came to this country from County Cork, Ireland, and settled in Bureau County. In 1923, he married Anna Marguerite O'Neill from Tiskilwa. They raised their family on a farm in Tiskilwa that remains in the Cotter family today.

Their daughter, Mary Gertrude, met Joseph George Stecher. They married and settled in Peoria in 1946. They came to West Peoria in 1952 and moved into a home that Joe built on West Laura Avenue. Joe and Mary



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WPRA President's Message

The February Membership meeting was an eventful and memorable one with Bill Woolard, Peoria Park District Superintendent of Golf, as the guest speaker. He spoke about the history of Madison Park and that the golf course is one of the oldest in Illinois. Bill also answered questions about how the sand traps are maintained and how the golf course is used. He made a point that young golfers are very important, and that Madison was a place where he became a caddy as his first job with the Park District, back in the 1960s.

The first rounds of golf were played at Madison in 1909. Although all the early records of Madison were lost in a fire, Bill did show a map of the golf courses from the 1940s. Everyone seemed to have a memory of Madison, with lots of conversation about playing there as kids, many years ago.

Following the presentation on Madison Park, over 25 people showed up on Saturday, February 19, for a hike I led through the golf course. We looked at the big trees and historic features of the park, as well as the ruins of the old "Swinging Bridge". We also measured what may be the biggest tree in Madison Park. It is a red oak tree with a diameter of nearly 40 inches, maybe 150 years old. Then we hiked down into Horseshoe Bottoms, stopping at a spring along the way. We crossed over to the hill prairies in St. Mary's Cemetery, and then walked back by way of Sterling. It was a great day, and everyone got plenty of good, healthy exercise.

We are always looking for speakers for the membership meeting. Calvin Coolidge Principal Blumer will be our guest at our April 21 membership meeting.

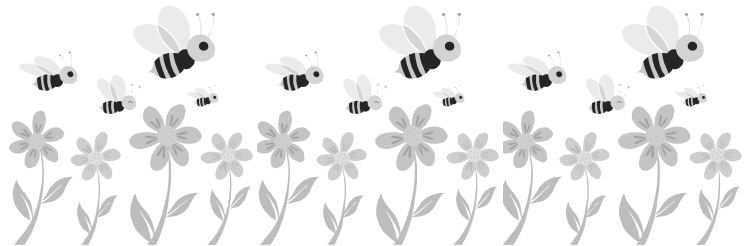
Beautification Committee

Like so many West Peorians, the Beautification Committee is ready for the colors of spring and warmth of the air. After a few months off, the committee met on March 8 to plan and go over the choice of plants for the beautification of the public areas in West Peoria.

The areas of responsibility are as follows: the welcome wall at Western and Main, the welcome signs at Manor Parkway/Sterling and the top of Sterling and Swords Hills, and the corners at Rohmann/Sterling.

Marilyn Anders has again agreed to take care of the area around the Swords Hill sign. However, the committee could use some extra hands throughout the summer for watering as needed at other locations.


The Beautification Committee would like to welcome its newest member, long-time West Peorian, Mimi Evans. All residents are welcome to help out in anyway they can. If you are interested in flowers, dirt, watering, transplanting, bugs, exercise, and fun, enjoyable people, please contact Maggie Moore at (309)673-0535.



Help Beautify West Peoria Fundraiser

Make the planning of your garden easy this year and help beautify West Peoria. The West Peoria Beautification Committee is selling various summer-blooming bulbs now through April 30. The different bulbs will flower at various times throughout this summer and many summers to come. The selection of bulbs and plants is excellent for our area and the price is fair. Red Cannas, Freesia, and Dahlias bulbs; and Peony and Phlox plants are just an example of some of the bulbs and plants available.

For more information or to take a look at the colorful brochure, please call Maggie Moore at (309) 673-0535, Angie Robinson at (309)637-0740 or Bev Karstensen at (309)966-0539. All proceeds will go to the new plantings and upkeep at West Peoria Wall and other public areas in West Peoria.



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2011 WPRA Membership

2011 WPRA Membership Form

Check Payable to:
 West Peoria Residents Association
 Mail to:
 Maggie Moore
 WPRA, Treasurer
 2305 Ayres Ave.
 West Peoria, IL 61604

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

e-Mail: _____

Membership Options:

_____ \$15 Family

_____ \$10 Single

_____ \$ 5 Senior

Donations:

_____ General Funds

_____ American Flags

_____ West Peoria News

_____ Christmas Party

WPRA is a tax exempt organization
 with 501-3-c federal status

***** Thank You for Your Support *****

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- Miller, Dorothy A
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- Robinson, Steven & Angelia
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- Rubin, Margaret Brandt
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- Szabados, Marvin & Judy
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- Vickroy, Laurie & Trowitzki T
- Vodisek, Marie
- Walters, Kenneth & Susan
- Weirsema, Dra & Suzanne
- Williamson, Jack & Betty
- Wolford, Andrea

 Let's get grubby!

BEST BUDS

West Peoria's
 DIRTY little secret!

Friendly Fun Service

NEW THIS YEAR - Horticulture Plastic Recycling Program

Annuals	Shrubs	Perennials	Trees (yup, fruit too!)
Herbs	Hanging Baskets	Mixed Pots	Veggies (Heirlooms too!)



Opening 3rd week of April, but stop by anytime for a visit.

Gift Certificates available for the garden junkies on your list!



Inside 671-BEST (2378)
 Outside 671-BUDS (2837)

Cheryl & the crew look forward to seeing you!

Visit us on Facebook and become a "best bud"

2301 W. Farmington Rd.
 (2 blocks east of Sterling)

City Hall Office Hours
 Monday - Friday / 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 (309)674-1993
<http://www.cityofwestpeoria.com>

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

Televised The Following Wednesday
 Channel 22 @ 8:00

Residents of West Peoria to Vote on a Referendum to Increase Sales Tax

On April 5 the City Council of West Peoria is asking residents to approve a referendum for a .5% increase in Sales Tax.

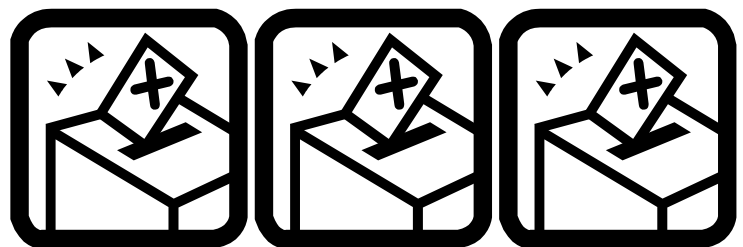
The economy in Central Illinois is still in the throes of an economic recession and a structural change. The business cycle combined with local, state, and national government budget deficits dominates the current state of affairs.


As you know, most if not all municipalities are faced with declining revenues. The same is now true for West Peoria. Fortunately the city has enjoyed many years of surplus budgets. However, it is unlikely that this will happen again anytime soon. Therefore it is time to consider an increase in our local retail sales tax.

It is important to point out that this is the first time West Peoria has ever proposed a sales tax increase. In addition, the State Income Tax Revenue received by West Peoria decreased significantly last year. The increase in taxes will be used to help pay for public safety – police protection.

The additional tax would add 5 cents to a \$10 purchase or 50 cents to a \$100 purchase. The tax increase would affect most tangible personal property including sales of soft drinks, alcohol, prepared food purchased at restaurants, and repair parts. Groceries, prescription, and non-prescription drugs are exempt from the tax increase.

City	Sales Tax Rate
West Peoria	6.75
Proposed Increase .5	7.25
Peoria	8.25
Hospitality	9.25
East Peoria	8.00
Bartonville	6.75
Peoria Heights	7.75
Hanna City	6.75
Princeville	6.75
Washington	8.00
Metamora	7.25
Dunlap	6.75
Chillicothe	7.25
Bellevue	6.75
Pekin	8.00
Morton	6.75



 No Appointment Necessary
Cindy and Diane

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Warm, Safe, Dry Home

A West Peoria home will be included in the *Rebuilding Together Peoria* program this April. The West Peoria City Council, West Peoria Township, and West Peoria Residents Association have agreed to jointly sponsor a house this year. The home is located at 2515 W. Downs Circle.

Rebuilding Together Peoria has been repairing homes in the Peoria area for 17 years; in East Peoria for 13 years; and in Richwoods Township for 5 years. A partnership with Peoria County began in 2010.

Rebuilding Together is the nation's leading non-profit organization working to preserve affordable homeownership and revitalize communities. This organization believes we can preserve affordable homeownership and revitalize communities by providing free home modifications and repairs, making homes safer, more accessible, and more energy efficient.

This is a great opportunity for local government, businesses, and volunteers to team up together in order to fill a pressing need in our community. To volunteer, please call (309)674-1993.



WEST PEORIA RESIDENT SINCE 1959

John T. Brady

ATTORNEY - MEDIATOR

Vonachen, Lawless, Trager & Slevin

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Reminders from West Peoria City Hall

- **ALL** residents are required to sign up for garbage service with Waste Management. Please call (800)796-9696. You will be charged for this service.
- Landscape Waste Pickup **IS INCLUDED** in your Waste Management bill. It will begin on the first Friday in April. It ends on the last Friday in December.
- **GARAGE SALES** are only permitted once each quarter and for no more than three (3) days at one time.
- **STORM DAMAGE: LIMB PICKUP POLICY** – From April 1 through December 31, Waste Management, as part of the Landscape Pickup, will pick up storm debris on Friday's.
- **RESIDENTS** are **RESPONSIBLE** for keeping their property, from the middle of the street to the middle of the alley, free of weeds, debris, animal waste, and trash. Trash cans must have tight-fitting lids.
- **PERMITS** are needed for the following: erecting or replacing fences, sidewalks, or driveways; adding onto or building garages, sheds, porches, or decks. A one-time permit is also needed for swimming pools. Most permits are \$25.
- Funds are still available for the **PAINT REIMBURSEMENT** Program.
- **PETS** must be controlled by a leash no more than 6 feet long when not on the owner's property.

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:

Code Officer: Billy O'Neill
Please email: code-zoning@cityofwestpeoria.com or
Phone: (309)674-1993 or (309)370-1142.

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

What's Happenin' Next

West Peoria Township News

The **Annual Township Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m. at 2516 Rohmann in the West Peoria Township Building. This annual meeting is mandated by state law to be held on this specific day. It is an opportunity for all citizens to come and have a say in their local government.

Government Day is Friday, April 15. This is a program for local students to visit both the township and the city to learn how local governments operate.

Clean-up Day will be held on Saturday, April 30 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and is for West Peoria residents only. We will take automobile tires for \$3.00 each and truck and tractor tires for \$5.00 each.

The following items **will not** be accepted: food garbage, hazardous waste, paints, varnishes, oil, cleaning agents, chemicals, antifreeze, batteries, yard waste, or brush. Volunteers are always needed to help at this event. If you have any questions or to volunteer, please call Kelly Abraham at (309)673-6919.

Congratulations
Township Supervisor and Scoutmaster
Bob DeSutter
Earned the Silver Beaver
National Scout Highest Honor Award

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Jamboree Run

The thirteenth annual Jamboree Run will be held June 4 at 7:00 a.m. This popular event, sponsored by the West Peoria Residents' Association, is a scenic 4-mile run through a portion of West Peoria. All participants must register by 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 4.

Applications can be picked up at West Peoria City Hall. Information about the race will be posted on the West Peoria Residents' Association website at www.westpeoriaresidents.org

Those who wish to help sponsor this event and volunteers who wish to help in any way are asked to contact Beth Gilbert at (309)339-9731 or by email at secretary@westpeoriaresidents.org.

Scout Carnival/Jamboree

The 25th annual West Peoria Jamboree and Scout Carnival will be held on Saturday, June 4, at Franciscan Park from 3:00 to 10:00 p.m.

The Scout Carnival, sponsored by Boy Scout Troop 11, will be in the afternoon. Food and drink will be sold all day by the Jamboree sponsors—the West Peoria Fire Department and Ladies' Auxiliary, the West Peoria Lions, and the West Peoria Residents' Association. As usual, music will be provided in the evening to add to this day of family fun when West Peorians get together.

More details will be available in flyers.

What's Happenin' Next

The West Peoria 4th of July Parade

The Community of West Peoria, Scouts' Troop & Pack 11, and the West Peoria Lions Club extend to you an invitation to join our 4th of July Parade and flag raising celebration. This special day brings with it a feeling of community togetherness and heartfelt patriotism that truly touches the spirit. We proudly coordinate the longest-running 4th of July parade in Central Illinois and would be honored if you and/or your organization would march along with us.



Trophies will be awarded for the following: Most Patriotic, Best of Show, Service Organizations, Best Juvenile, and Grand Marshal. All entries need to be decorated in a patriotic theme. If you've never participated in a parade before, your patriotism is more than welcome in the West Peoria Parade! In previous years, the community has enjoyed viewing marching bands, classic cars, walking groups, dance troupes, groups on bicycles, and prestigious floats.

The 42nd annual parade steps off at 10:00 a.m. the morning of the 4th. Line-up begins at 8:30 a.m. on Rohmann Avenue. Groups should be in place and ready to step off no later than 9:45 a.m. City streets will be closed at that time in preparation for the start of the parade. The parade will go on rain or shine, so please be prepared for the weather as it can be extremely hot or pouring rain in July.

Once again we urge you to join us in West Peoria for our annual salute to and celebration of our country. Please feel free to call Jim McCarter at (309) 673-6207 or email at jimmccarter@sbcglobal.net. You can also contact Mark Wrhel by e-mail at mwrhel@comcast.net with any questions.

For up to date information, please visit our website: www.wplions.org

School News

Calvin Coolidge

The nice weather is just around the corner and before we all know it, summer vacation will be here for schools around the Peoria area. With the snow and winter storms we experienced this year, schools have had to tag on make-up days. Calvin Coolidge would like to announce that **Friday, June 10** is the new date for release for summer vacation for students due to snow days. We are also continuing to accept donations for the following: Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Soup Labels.

If you would like to contribute to any or all of the donations, please contact Angie Robinson at (309) 672-6506.



St. Mark School

St. Mark School is a place "Where Christ is Loved, Excellence is Expected, Character Counts, and Traditions Thrive." We are now taking registration for the 2011-2012 school year. Enrollments are for students Pre-K through 8th grade. If you would like more information or would like a tour of the school, please contact the office at (309)676-7131.

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Message from Mark Wrhel, Haddad's

My Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you to all that have given to the Employee Benefit Fund. My employees and I are very humbled by the love and friendship each one of your donations represents. We thought so highly of so many of you; it is nice to be reminded, ourselves, just how much some of you thought of us. Thank You.

"April showers bring May flowers."

Oh, how sweet it is to know spring is just around the corner. This year we will have a lot more growing than flowers! Haddad's West Peoria Market will begin to sprout up also. Haddad's is more like a shade tree than a flower; it will take longer to grow and become whole and mature, but the seeds have been sown. Now it's just a matter of time.

Our grower for Haddad's tree is Peoria Metro Construction. They have been planting trees all over Peoria for years and are thrilled at the opportunity to plant such a beautiful new shade tree in West Peoria. I am thrilled with whom we have selected; they have the experience, logistics, and manpower to complete this project in time for the fall holiday season. Plus, they seem to be just genuinely nice people. Clearing out the old and leaving a clean flat canvas to start from was Chris Ohl from C.D.O. Trucking. What a great guy (and lifelong West Peorian)! Thanks to Chris for cleaning up a big mess during two major snow storms, on time and on budget; no easy task. While Chris was finishing up his work, a (former) West Peorian, also named Chris, was just starting his job. Chris Baker is with Thomas Steen and Associates and is the architect for the new building. He also has the distinction of being the first person that

trained me for work my first day at Haddad's back in high school. Notice a theme here? I like to hire people local, people I know, and people who have vested interest in seeing me and this store come back bigger and stronger than ever before. I'm positive we have done just that so far.

With one Chris clearing the canvas, the other Chris was just starting to draw up a new building. The new building will be a little bigger (about 4,000 square feet). This extra space will be enough room in the store to add a new aisle, add a couple feet to a few cases, and add a small seating area in the deli. The flow of the store will be nearly the same. The only major change is the produce and dairy departments will trade places. Soon Chris will be finished, and the building plans can be turned over to Peoria Metro Construction to begin their part in all this. Once that happens, we'll be able to see some progress quickly.

Over the next few months we will watch this new building begin to take root and grow into the wonderful shade tree, again, that we all enjoyed gathering under. It will look new, probably too new, but to those that worked under the tree and gathered under it before, the feel of it will be quite at home. The rest of it will come with time.

Unlike May flowers, our tree is hoping for a very dry April this year!

Thank You,

Mark Wrhel
Haddad's West Peoria Market

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West Peoria News

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Balloon Animals
Candy and Prizes!

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FLASHLIGHT EGG HUNT FRIDAY, APRIL 15

A nighttime hunt with
pizza & prizes for tweens 10-13!
8:00-9:30 p.m.
Must register at FRC or on-line by 4/13.
\$8/R, \$10/NR

Mark Your Calendars for the

CRAFT & VENDOR SALE

Saturday, May 21
Outside - rain or shine!
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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Peoria Park District's
Franciscan Recreation Complex
908 Sterling Ave. West Peoria • 677-6705

Find us on facebook!

West Bluff Garden

Spring is upon us and as many know, that means it's time to dig out your gardening tools and get some dirt on your hands.

The Peoria County Master Gardeners are in the process of establishing a vegetable garden in the West Bluff area of Peoria. We are partnering with "Plant a Row" for the hungry and the Western Greenway. The vegetables will be donated to local food pantries.

Whether you are a beginner wanting to learn about vegetable gardening, or you are a veteran gardener, we invite you to join our highly spirited, fun-loving group. If you would be interested in volunteering one or two hours a week, we would love to hear from you. For more information contact Corinna at (309)657-4229.



Senior Tips: Beware of Scams and Frauds

With spring just around the corner, it is important to know what to be aware of when it comes to scams and fraud. The following warning signs should be on your radar when making business deals, speaking with door-to-door salesman, or simply speaking with a seemingly friendly stranger.

Warning Signs:

- When something "Sounds too good to be true", watch out! It probably is.
- If you feel "pressure to act now", step back, don't jump in to anything!
- Don't ever agree to something that requires **money "up-front"**.
- If something "doesn't look like a real business", it may not be, do your research first.
- If "something just doesn't sound, look or feel right", trust your instincts!

Most Common Spring Scams to look out for:

- Someone who offers to repair the driveway.
- Replace storm damaged shingles.
- Clean carpeting – it's an excuse to get in your house.

These are just examples of some scams and fraud that can happen to anyone, at anytime. Always remember to trust your instincts and research companies or people before committing to a project.

Don't be a victim. When in doubt – check it out!
Always call 911.

Catholic Charities Plans

Community Garden for Second Year

Catholic Charities will once again be providing gardening opportunities for West Peoria residents due to a very successful year last year and continued strong interest this year. The Community Garden is located near the corner of Alice and Swords. Each plot is approximately 12'x12' in size with a 3' easement between each section. The garden contains 16 plots, with very few still available this year. Tilling is provided by the Central Illinois Farm Heritage Tractor Club and compost is provided by Better Earth Compost. While water is accessible for all, there is a charge of \$10 per plot to cover the cost of water.

The Community Garden supports Catholic Charities' mission to empower individuals, families and communities to achieve their potential by growing nutritious foods and participating in healthy lifestyle choices. Surplus from the garden is donated to the Catholic Charities Food Pantry.

Anyone interested in one of the remaining plots may contact Sue Hirschman at (309)636-7724, or email at shirschman@ccdop.org.



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Boy Scouts

Camping in winter? "Snow problem!" say West Peoria Troop 11 Boy Scouts. January snows were welcomed by the scouts as they joined 28 other area troops for a Klondike Derby at Camp Wakonda. This day-long outdoor event featured a number of competitions where each Troop could test their scout skills. The boys competed in such events as the 4-man ski (4 people on one ski), snowshoe racing, first aid preparedness, shelter building, and many other fun events. A few scouts even took the opportunity to earn a Polar Bear award by spending 24 hours outside, including sleeping in a tent in below freezing temperatures. Other scouts opted for the warmth of one of Wakonda's barrel stove heated cabins. Either way, the boys had a great time and proved that no matter what the season you can always find adventure outdoors.

The outdoor fun continued in February with a trip to SnowStar Winter Ski Area. This annual Troop 11 event gives the scouts an opportunity to do some downhill skiing. SnowStar is a great place for beginners to learn but still provides enough challenge for those who have mastered the basics. Many Troop 11 scouts have become proficient skiers through their annual trips to SnowStar. February also gave the troop a chance to spend an evening with their troop sponsor, the West Peoria Lions Club. After dinner, the Troop entertained the Lions Club with a presentation of recent scout activities and told them about this summer's big backpacking adventure to Isle Royale National Park. The Lions Club generously offered to donate two new backpacking stoves for the troop to use on this outing and other future trips.

Troop 11 would like to congratulate their own Scoutmaster, Robert DeSutter, who was recently awarded the Silver Beaver. The Silver Beaver, a national award presented by the local council, is the highest honor a local council may bestow upon a volunteer. This award is given to those involved in the Scouting program that have given distinguished service to youth and performed community service through hard work, self sacrifice, dedication, and many years of service. Bob has been involved in scouting in West Peoria for over 29 years and his level of community service, especially to the West Peoria area, is second to none. Troop 11 is very

proud of our Scoutmaster and hopes that everyone will join us in congratulating Bob.

Do you know a young man who enjoys the outdoors and has a sense of adventure? Troop 11 is always looking for new members, and springtime is an especially good time to join. Any boy from 11-17 years old, or has completed 5th grade, can join. Previous Cub Scouting experience is not necessary and there is no residency requirement (membership is open to any boy from around the area). Troop 11 has a long history of being able to work with youth who participate in sports to still give them a successful and fun Scouting experience. We also have a lot of fundraising opportunities available that can make your scouting experience very affordable. Troop 11 normally meets on Monday evenings from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. For further information, call Bob DeSutter at (309)674-6668.

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Grand Marshal Nominations:

West Peorians are now invited to submit their nominations for a Grand Marshal to lead the 42nd Annual Fourth of July Parade. Each year, West Peoria honors a person who has had an impact on this community through social work, public service, or volunteer work.

The application process requires that anyone wishing to nominate a particular person write a short letter explaining his/her choice. Anyone writing a letter is asked to include his/her contact information.

Please send the nominating letters to:

West Peoria Lions Club

Attn: Grand Marshal Nominations

2407 W. Rohmann Ave.

West Peoria, IL 61604

Or e-mail to:

mwrhel@comcast.net or

jmccarter@sbcglobal.net

Neighborhood Watch

The residents of West Peoria want to take part in making and keeping our community safe. This is why our West Peoria Neighborhood Watch program works. Residents within a neighborhood know who belongs there and who doesn't. This helps when deciding what activity is suspicious. Statistics show that the crime rate drops in communities with an active "watch" program. According to the Crime Statistics Report from the Sheriff's Department, the year ending 2010 confirms these statistics to be true for the city of West Peoria.

The watch meetings are well attended and continue to grow as streets are added to the block watch project. Meetings are planned with program topics on how to protect your home and property, and to develop awareness and proper response to suspected or actual criminal activity.

Just as a reminder, with spring come scams, fraud, burglary, break-ins, and vandalism. The next Neighborhood Watch meeting is on Wednesday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. The guest speaker will be Captain Dan Kerns from the West Peoria Fire Department who will talk about "Fire Safety in the Home". Please plan to attend and bring a neighbor!

Burglary - Break-Ins - Vandalism

It takes all of us to work together on this project to prevent these crimes!

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Honoring Those That Serve Our Community

The Peoria Jaycees Seventy-First Annual "Distinguished Service Awards" was held on February 24 at the Hotel Pere Marquette. Deputy James Middlemas of West Peoria was presented with the "Outstanding Young Law Enforcement Officer for 2010".

Every year, the Jaycees selection committee chooses a resident to honor. This year, Chief Deputy Needham nominated Deputy Middlemas. The selection committee then found out more information about Middlemas by talking to his peers, family, and others familiar with him.

At the award ceremony, the committee talked about Middlemas' assignments as West Peoria Community Policing Officer and his involvement in Neighborhood Watch. They also mentioned his work with the tactical teams, bike patrol team, and school safety planning. It is those members of our community like Deputy Middlemas that deserve to be honored. It is people like him who keep our community safe.

Congratulations, Deputy James Middlemas, and thank you for all you do for our community!



Rocky Glen

Rocky Glen is a special place near Kickapoo Creek Road. It is a steep, box canyon with two small waterfalls that cascade over limestone walls 60 feet high. The walls are covered with carved names and dates—the oldest dates are nearly 150 years old. Rocky Glen has been a place for local Peoria residents to visit for a very long time. Its native plants, mostly ferns and mosses and other moisture loving plants, add to the unique atmosphere. The state of Illinois lists Rocky Glen on their Illinois Natural Area Inventory, a listing reserved for less than 0.1 percent of surviving high quality natural land in the entire state that has escaped development.

In the 1940s, the Peoria Journal Star ran several guest columns about Rocky Glen, talking about its popularity as a hiking destination. The property has been much less visited since the 1960s, when it became private land and off-limits to hikers. The owner of the 60 acres, Jim Connoughton, would like to sell the land, although its potential for development is limited. Instead, a group of volunteers has established a non-profit group called "Friends of Rocky Glen" to fundraise and buy the land for permanent, public protection. Public access to Rocky Glen is now limited by the owner to hikes conducted once a month. Please mark your calendar and bring your children for a great local adventure.

Who:

This is organized by the Friends of Rocky Glen and is free to anyone who wants to come.

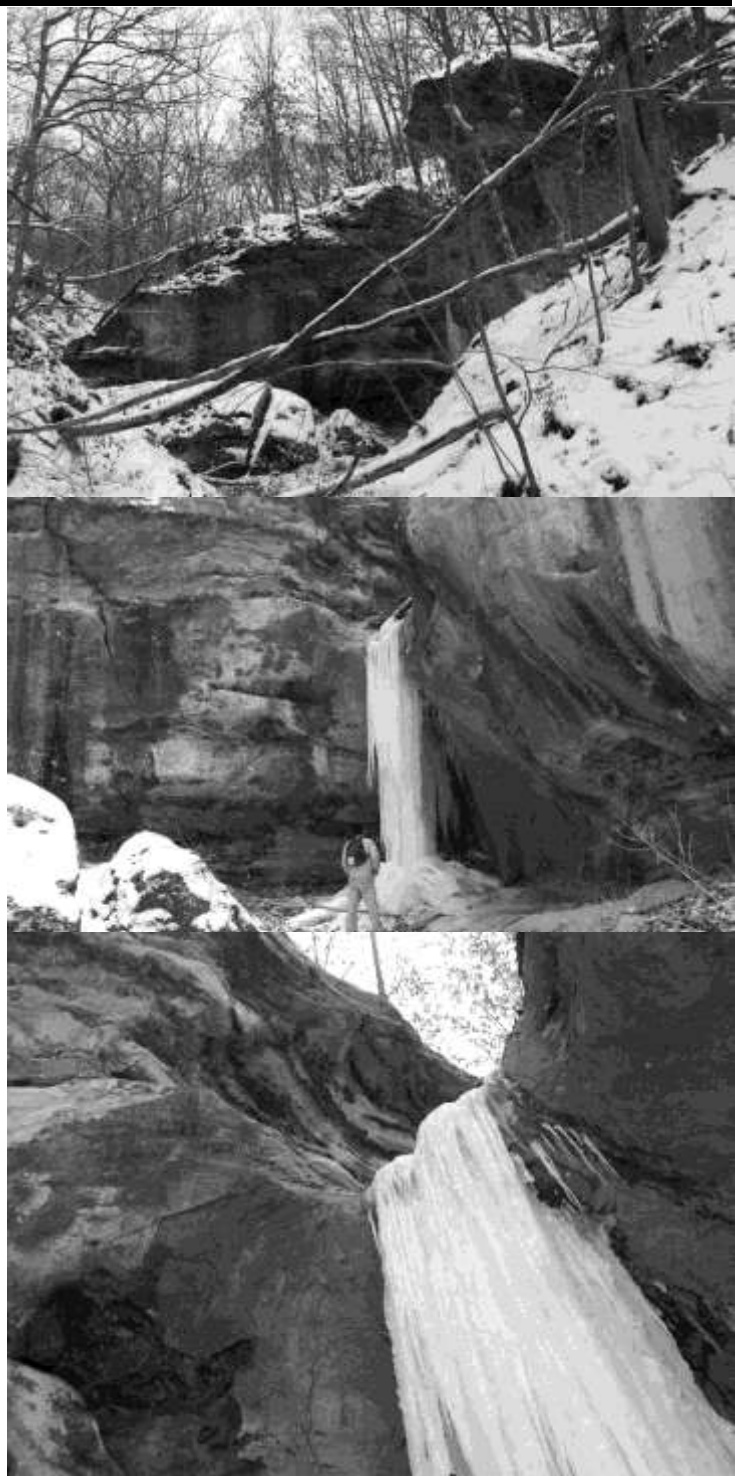
Where:

Meet in the parking lot of Jimmy's Bar on Farmington Road. We will carpool from there to the trailhead due to limited parking near the trail.

When:

Saturdays - April 16, May 14, and June 11. Hike begins at 9:00 a.m. and lasts until 11:30 a.m.

The hike is of moderate difficulty and occurs rain or shine. Wear sturdy shoes, and you might want to bring a camera. There are monthly hikes scheduled for all of 2011. For more information, please contact Dave Pittman at (309)676-5237 or dvdptmn@aol.com.



309/ 676-4021
2801 W. Farmington Road
Peoria, Illinois 61604

West Peoria Residents' Association

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

Dated Publication Please Do Not Delay



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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.

WPRA Thanks West Peoria City for their financial assistance with the *WP News!*
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