

Meeting & Event Dates

WPRA:	WPRA - 3rd Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.* Aug 18 - Sep 15
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:	Annual WP Residents' Mass - Sunday, August 7 @ 10:30 a.m. Concerts in the Park - Sunday, August 14, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Night Out Against Crime - Sat, September 17, 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.**** WPFDF Family Day - Sunday, September 18, 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.**** WPFDF Hog Roast Fundraiser - Sun, October 16, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.****
Location:	*City Hall **Township Bldg ***City Garage ****See Article

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Nursing Home Plans Shared with West Peoria

On July 21, the Peoria County Board and board member Jimmy Dillon (District 7) hosted an informational meeting to give West Peoria residents an opportunity to learn more about the county's new elder care facility soon to be constructed at 2223 West Heading Avenue. More than 60 residents and Heading Avenue neighbors attended the meeting to learn about the facility's amenities, meet construction representatives, and have their questions answered and concerns addressed. Local officials from the City of West Peoria and West Peoria Township were also in attendance, joining county board members, administrative staff, and nursing home management.

Jimmy Dillon expressed the county's excitement about the home being built in West

Peoria, emphasizing: "Our number one goal is to be a good neighbor. This is your nursing home, your senior care facility, and I think you will be proud of this project." Indeed, the general feeling in the room was one of welcome. Inquiries included specifics of the new home, details of the construction project, and funding for the facility.

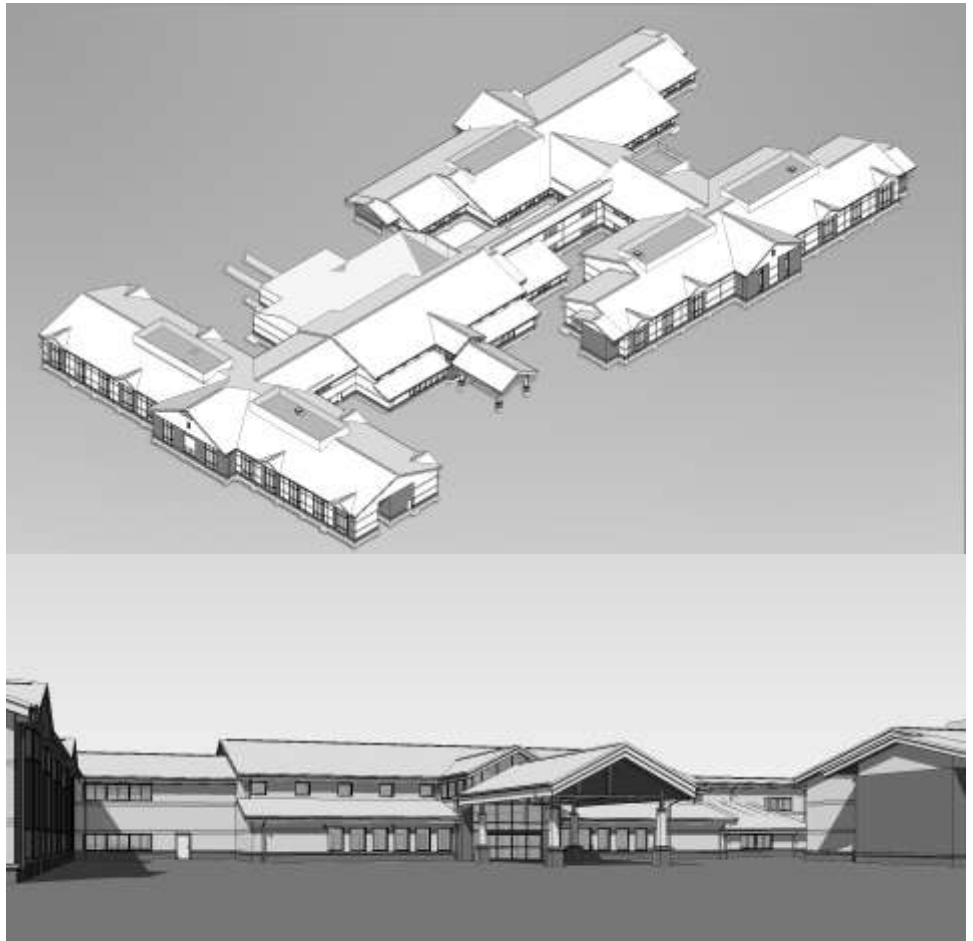
Peoria County's new 151,000 square foot elder care facility is being constructed on approximately 13 acres. It will have the capacity to provide care for 214 residents, including 80 Alzheimer's patients. The facility is two stories, with housing for Alzheimer's and rehabilitation patients on the ground floor, and long-term care and private rooms on the upper level. Rooms will be situated in a neighborhood setting, with a center court that

Nursing Home Plans Shared with West Peoria

offers laundry, dietary, and physical therapy services as well as an activities area and chapel. Dining rooms will be located in each of the residential pods to allow easier access for residents at meal time. Anyone interested in seeing renderings of the new facility is encouraged to stop by West Peoria's City Hall during the month of August.

Peoria County has been providing nursing home care to residents since 1848 and is committed to continuing to serve the older population in our community, particularly those less fortunate. Therefore, all beds in the new home will be licensed for Medicaid patrons, with all lower-level beds additionally licensed for Medicare patients. Construction of the new facility is funded by a property tax increase approved by the voters in 2003. For every \$100 in equalized assessed value, up to six cents goes toward the nursing home. For a \$100,000 home, this equates to \$60 annually. As nursing home administrator Matt Nieukirk explained, "We (the nursing home) have to be self-sustaining. The property tax pays the mortgage and we're able to sustain the rest of the operation by managing our expenses."

So when can we expect to see the high-quality building our taxes are supporting? River City Construction expects the building to be completed and open to provide service in spring 2013. Currently, asbestos abatement is underway. This will be followed by demolition of the existing building on the site. Construction representatives anticipate



groundbreaking to coincide with Labor Day weekend. Eighteen months is the time frame for completion. Neighbors and West Peoria residents with questions or concerns about the construction project are encouraged to visit River City's trailer on site between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Questions may also be directed to Peoria County's project manager Scott Sorrel at 672-6056.

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West Peoria residents who are interested in giving back to their community now have a chance to become a member of the **West Peoria Residents' Association Board!** Two positions are available, and your actual address within West Peoria is not important. The time commitment includes attending two meetings each month – currently held on the same day – the third Thursday of each month, from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at West Peoria City Hall. The work will consist of discussion and decision-making about a small budget, and involvement with various community projects within West Peoria. Ability to use the internet will be very helpful. Informal training is available. For more information, please contact David Pittman, WPRA President, at 2422 West Moss Avenue, by phone at 676-5237 or email dvdptmnn@aol.com.

It is with great sadness that the WPRA Board of Directors must report that Lynn Dempsey has decided to step down from the WPRA Board after six years of activism. Lynn has been a great help in many activities and her enthusiasm will be missed. All good things must come to an end, and Lynn will certainly find many other outlets for her tremendous energy and skills. No one person can possibly claim complete responsibility for helping WPRA become such a vibrant, positive and well-organized effort, but Lynn should feel proud for her significant contribution over the years. Among her many efforts, Lynn worked with the state grant and the WPRA website. She served as a liaison with the City of West Peoria Plan Commission and Economic Development Commission and the Rebuilding Together project. The Board of Directors and WPRA members would like to wish Lynn the best of luck as she pursues other activities in her life.



The WPRA Board is now faced with two vacancies that need to be filled. We welcome anyone who feels they might be interested in the position to contact anyone on the Board. Volunteers are a special group of people who choose to give without pay that most precious commodity - their time. WPRA will do all we can to make every volunteer feel satisfied with their donation and recognize every person as unique with a special set of skills to offer. If you know of someone that might be interested please encourage them to contact any member of the Board for more information.

The WPRA was in charge of the Sno-cone booth at the West Peoria Jamboree. We would like to thank all who helped with the booth and also extend a special thank you to Home City Ice Company and Circle K for their generous donation of ice for the Sno-cones.

Also, a big thank you to the members of the Beautification Committee for taking care of the flowers at the Welcome to West Peoria signs, corners of Sterling and Rohmann, and the Welcome to West Peoria Wall. The hard work of the Beautification Committee certainly adds to the beauty of living in West Peoria.

Beautification Committee

Thanks to Mother Nature's spring rains, the Beautification Committee wasn't worried about watering our plants, but members have been very busy pulling weeds, trimming and pruning. We thank the businesses who are tending the planters at their locations.

In honor of Independence Day, the Beautification Committee placed American flags at the corners of Sterling and Rohmann, the city sign locations, the planters and the Welcome Wall at Western Ave. Fall and winter decorating plans will be discussed at our next meeting. Volunteers and critiques are always welcome!

2011 WPRA Membership

The West Peoria Residents' Association now has 231 memberships for 2011. Although all residents receive the *WP News*, we wish to thank our members whose dues help to finance this publication and other WPRA projects. The WPRA 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 *WP News* issue:

Adams, Charles	Lamoureux, Edward & Cheryl
Andrews, George & Sandy	Persich, Tom & Minnie
Bain, Ernie & Marily	Stecher, Karen
Cox, Nathan & Nicole	Stephens, Carole

WP News Welcomes New Copy Editor

Karen Stecher joined the *WP News* this month as copy editor. Stecher is a West Peoria native and a graduate of Peoria Manual High School. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

Stecher worked as an Associate Producer and Assignment Desk Editor at the NBC affiliate in Charlotte, N.C. before moving home to West Peoria. She spent six years as the Assignment Desk Manager at the NBC affiliate, WEEK-TV, leading day-to-day news coverage and managing special projects.

Stecher is currently a Communications Manager for the Mid-America Blood Services Division of the American Red Cross, managing media relations, public relations and internal communications for a 12-state area. She's excited to help bring the *WP News* to her hometown.

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City Council Meetings

2nd & 4th Tuesday Monthly @ 7:00

Televised The Following Wednesday
Channel 22 @ 8:00

Bel-Wood Nursing Home Update

The West Peoria Plan Commission approved the request from Peoria County to rezone the property that will be the location of the new Bel-Wood Nursing Home at 2223 West Heading Avenue. The zoning classification will change from R-1 to R-2. In addition, the Plan Commission approved a request to subdivide the property. A nearly one acre parcel was subdivided. The zoning classification change and subdivision request was approved by the City Council, and this parcel was transferred to West Peoria

The West Peoria Zoning Board of Appeals approved the request from Peoria County to issue a Special Use Permit to allow the property to be used as a nursing home. The request for the Special Use was approved by the West Peoria City Council at the meeting on Tuesday, June 28.

The property on Heading Avenue has been transferred to Peoria County and work is underway for the new Bel-Wood Nursing Home. Peoria County officials expect the work to take approximately 18 months.

West Peoria City Committees

West Peoria City Council Members serve the citizens on the following committees. Residents are welcome to attend City Council meetings and Committee meetings and to contact their Council Members with questions.

Finance Committee

(meets the first Tuesday of the month
at 5:30 p.m.)

Jerry Meisner, Chair
Andy O'Neill
Brian Ganson

Public Safety Committee

(meets the third Wednesday of the month
at 5:30 p.m.)

Tom Dwyer, Chair
Andy O'Neill
Hazel Thomas

Transportation Committee

(meets the second Thursday of the month
at 6:30 p.m.)

John Venzon, Chair
Brian Ganson
Jeff Reagan

Land Use Committee

(meets the third Wednesday of the month
at 6:30 p.m.)

Leroy Dohm, Chair
Hazel Thomas
Jeff Reagan



City News

TO REGISTER A CODE VIOLATION COMPLAINT OR OBTAIN A BUILDING PERMIT :

Code Officer: Bill 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.

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 is picked up on Fridays.
- **GARAGE SALES** are only permitted once each quarter and for no more than three (3) days at one time.
- The city does sponsor a **PAINT REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM**.
- **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.
- **NO OPEN BURNING** of trash or landscape waste is permitted. To report a violation of this policy, please call the Peoria County Sheriff at (309)672-6011.
- **STORM DAMAGE: LIMB PICKUP POLICY** – From April 1 through December 31, Waste Management, as part of the Landscape Waste Pickup, will pick up storm debris on Friday's.
- **BUILDING PERMITS** are needed for several projects: additions, porches, decks, sheds, pools, garages, new driveways or sidewalks, and new homes. Most residential permits are \$25 and can be obtained at City Hall.
- **PETS** must be controlled by a leash no more than 6 foot long when not on the owner's property.

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



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What's Been Happenin'

Memorial Day Service



Jamboree Run



Jamboree



Fourth of July Parade

See Page 12, Lions Club under Around The Town for Fourth of July Parade pictures.

What's Happenin' Next

Night Out Against Crime

The 11th annual West Peoria Night Out Against Crime will be held Saturday, September 17, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. at Franciscan Park. Special events will include a bicycle rodeo, a bicycle drawing, a Peoria County Sheriff's Department canine demonstration, and music by the Electric Living Room Band. Boy Scout Troop 11 will participate in the events, and there will be gate prizes and food—including sno-cones and hotdogs.



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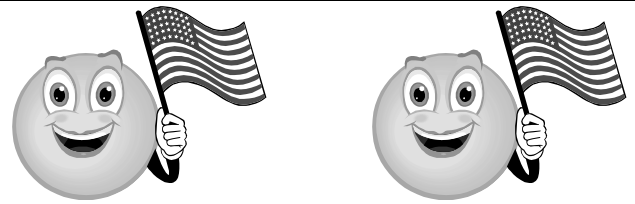

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Calvin Coolidge Mothers Club Reunion

All past members of the Calvin Coolidge Mothers Club are invited to a reunion on August 29, at 5:00 p.m. at the Lariat Club on Glen Avenue in Peoria. Please share this information with anyone that is not in the West Peoria area.

R.S.V.P. is requested by August 15. For reservations, contact Mary Hamm at 697-4118, Guydeen Roos at 258-1258, Alice Nash at 674-4308 or Diane Craps at 633-0669. If leaving a message, please make sure to leave your name, phone number and number attending. Come and reminisce about old times!



WP News spotlights two special veterans this month.

U.S. Army Cpl. Glenn E. Ogden lives on Bluffcrest Court and is a 46-year resident of West Peoria. Ogden served his country from November 1952 to November 1954 as a Dental Technician at the 5th Army Area in St. Louis. Ogden was still in training when the Korean War ended in 1953, which kept him from serving overseas.

U.S. Army Capt. James L. De Loatche lives on West Moss Avenue. He served his country from 1967 to 1975, completing two tours in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969 and 1971 to 1972. De Loatche was awarded two Purple Hearts, three Bronze Stars including "V" for valor, two Army Commendation medals, the Republic of Vietnam service medal, the National Service medal, seven Campaign Battle Stars and four overseas Combat Bars.

We thank Ogden and De Loatche for their service.

Do you know a current or former member of the military living in West Peoria that we could recognize? Please email information to wpnewscoordinator@westpeoriaresidents.org

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Boy Scouts

What do you call a week without computers, television, or video games? If you're a Troop 11 Boy Scout, you call it one of the best weeks of the year, because it must mean it's Summer Camp week again!

The last week in June, Troop 11 scouts traveled to Ingersoll Scout Reservation near London Mills for a week of rediscovering the simple joys of life, playing outside, hanging out with friends, and enjoying chocolate chip or blueberry pancakes cooked outdoors in the early morning. Long, warm, summer days gave the boys plenty of opportunity to work on merit badges ranging from Basketry, Woodcarving, Swimming, Geology, Indian Lore, Leathercraft, Astronomy and even Oceanography. There was plenty of time during the day to hang out by the lake and go fishing, or catch frogs and turtles (and even a snake or two). The boys spent one of their lunch breaks kayaking on the lake and another one rock-climbing and zip-lining from the Ingersoll Climbing Tower. The week-long camp ended on Friday night, when the Troop 11 boys were once again one of only three troops chosen to perform a skit—a tribute to Pancake Santa (one of their favorite Ingersoll characters)—for the closing ceremony.

Want to join the fun? Troop 11 is always seeking new members! Any boy between the ages of 11-18 is welcome to join at any time. Call Robert DeSutter 674-6668 for more information.

Neighborhood Watch

Criminal activity was relatively quiet this spring in the West Peoria area, except for a business and several unlocked vehicles that were the target of burglaries. Peoria County Sheriff's Deputy Middlemas advises residents to keep their vehicles locked and yard lights on to help deter crime.

At the July Neighborhood Watch meeting, Ashley Bauer from the American Red Cross presented a program on Disaster, Preparedness and Response. The program was very informative and instructive, sharing tips on how to be prepared for a disaster and explaining what action the Red Cross takes for different types of disasters.

Some great topics are on tap for the next few meetings. In August, a member from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) will speak about their involvement with children and crime in the area. The September meeting will feature Lt. Hartwig with information on self-defense. He will also give many tips on how to avoid potentially dangerous situations.

Deputy Middlemas now has an email address for the purpose of reporting criminal activity and related information. Residents can email him at

jmiddlemas@peoriacounty.org. But remember—in case of emergency always call 911!

Reminder—Neighborhood Watch meets the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is Wednesday, August 10, at 6:30 p.m. at West Peoria City Hall.

Burglary – Break-Ins – Vandalism

It takes all of us to work together on this project



Around the Town

News from the West Peoria Fire Department

The West Peoria Fire Department held its annual Appreciation Dinner on May 21, taking time to honor some special members of the Department who have gone above and beyond to serve the community in the last year.

Assistant Chief Terry Schadt was honored as EMT of the Year, and Jack Aylward was recognized as Firefighter of the Year. Both Aylward and Schadt exemplify dedication to the mission of the West Peoria Fire Department, helping to save the lives and property of the citizens of West Peoria. The West Peoria Fire Protection District presented Chief Robert Stecher with a special plaque and Chief's ring to honor him for more than 41 years of service to the Department as he enters his 25th year as Fire Chief. The Firefighters Association also recognized Stecher's service, presenting him with a commemorative fire axe.

The WPFDD responded to 38 calls in the month of June, including 31 ambulance/rescue calls and two hazardous response calls.

Mark your calendars for some upcoming WPFDD community activities. Family Day at the Fire Department will be Sunday, September 18, from noon to 3 p.m. All residents are invited to take a tour of the fire house, ride on a fire truck and learn about fire safety! Tasty treats will be available for purchase at the bake sale sponsored by the West Peoria Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. Sunday, October 16 will be the annual Hog Roast fundraiser at Crusen's on Farmington Road. As always, West Peoria Firefighters will go door to door to sell tickets in advance of that event.


The West Peoria Fire Department is always looking for volunteers who want to serve their

community. If you're interested in joining the WPFDD, please contact Chief Robert Stecher at 696-0895.



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Around the Town

Lions Club

Sunny skies and crowds of people greeted the 42nd Annual West Peoria Fourth of July Parade this year. The parade has come and gone, but the memories will last a lifetime for our community. The West Peoria Lions Club would like to extend a big thank-you and congratulations to Parade Coordinator Mark Wrhel for a job well done!

2011 Fourth of July trophy winners are:

- Best of Show (donated by South Side Bank) Model A Fords
- Best Youth (donated by West Peoria Residents Association) Erin Feis
- Best Service Org. (donated by WPFD Ladies Auxilliary) Sheriff Posse
- Most Patriotic (donated by West Peoria Lions Club) The Stecher Family

Special congratulations to the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, the 2011 Parade Grand Marshals!



The parade is not the only activity that kept the Lions Club busy in July. On Saturday, July 9, and Saturday, July 16, four members of the Lions Club walked Farmington Road (Route 8) and picked up 11 bags of trash. Highway clean-up is to be done four times a year along a two-mile stretch. It usually takes the volunteers two days each time to complete the two miles. The Lions Club could use



some volunteers to help clean up our community. We welcome you to visit our Club meetings anytime. During July, August and September, we only meet on the second Monday of each month. We begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner, and the meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. at Champs on Western Avenue in the banquet room. Have a great summer!

Around the Town



West Peoria Library Update

Support for the West Peoria Library has been amazing! Book and material donations have been pouring in, as well as volunteer support. Thank you to those residents who have helped already! There is a lot of work ahead, but with community help and support, the library will be a source of pride for West Peoria.

The "new" home of the West Peoria Library will be the "old" home of the former United Disciples Christian Church at 2018 West Kellogg Avenue. The hours of operation are still largely undetermined; volunteers willing to staff the library for an hour or two a day will help ensure a flexible schedule. With additional help and support, the tentative opening date is August 1 at 9:00 a.m.

The West Peoria Library is 100 percent volunteer staff, so any persons or organizations needing service hours for a project are welcome to help. The library is still in need of shelves, books of every genre, materials such as VHS tapes, DVD's and CD's to rent, magazines and children's books. Monetary donations are also welcome to help cover utility costs and buy library cards and pocket supplies. A donation can be made at South Side Bank and donation jars are out at many local businesses.

If you are interested in donating time or books, please contact Emily Huff at 453-8139 or through email at westpeorialibrary@yahoo.com. For up-to-date hours of operation and the latest news on the library project, check the West Peoria Library page on Facebook. Come get a library card and support the West Peoria Library!



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Remember When...

Kramer's Drive-In

Welcomed Visitors from Far and Wide

The smell of golden brown fried chicken and butter-fried hamburgers brought hungry visitors in droves to Kramer's Drive-In for nearly 40 years. Opened at the corner of Moss Avenue and Western Avenue by Erwin Kramer in 1936, the popular restaurant drew diners from all over Peoria and other towns across central Illinois.

Born in St. Louis, Kramer managed a chili restaurant in the Chicago Loop before moving to Peoria in his early 30's. He opened his first business, Kramer's Grill, in downtown Peoria in 1933. Kramer sold that restaurant in 1936, and opened Kramer's Drive-In at the top of the Western Avenue hill. The restaurant at the edge of West Peoria quickly grew in popularity.

"He used only quality food," remembers daughter Barbara Kramer Walton. "There were many specialties, like the butter-fried hamburgers and mushroom burgers. Everything was made on the premises."

"The fame of Kramer's... has spread far and wide," wrote a restaurant reviewer for a local newspaper. "And, during recent weeks there have been times when the food supply was exhausted and the number of customers so great they couldn't be waited on."

The drive-in's popularity led to an expansion

and the addition of an inside dining room. The dining room was large enough to



comfortably seat 75 patrons, and it took approximately 45 employees to keep up with the demands of the hungry.

"With ample parking space, and speedy service on the part of well-trained attendants," wrote the restaurant reviewer, "hungry patrons may expect fulfillment of orders within fifteen minutes after the order is given." In the article, Kramer recommended diners phone their orders in advance to help ensure that speedy service.

Of course, while service was important, it was the food that kept bringing people back. There was an assortment of sandwiches and fountain drinks, hamburgers, pork tenders

and barbecue ribs. Kramer's Drive-In was a popular hang-out in the evenings, but also



Remember When...

had a regular lunch crowd. When the local newspaper wanted a photograph to accompany their review, they had to send a photographer early in the morning. It was the only way they could get a clear picture of the

at the drive-in, Irma's brother, Horace Davis, became a part owner of the restaurant in the late 1940's.

After running the drive-in for 24 years, Kramer sold the business to Jim Jumer in



building without a crowd of patrons waiting to get in the door.

"When the inside dining room was added, there was one woman who did all the salads and a long-time professional chef," says Walton. "There was one woman who did all the baking, and Kramer's was famous for their cinnamon rolls.

That's right – cinnamon rolls. According to Kramer's daughter, those famous "Jumer's cinnamon rolls" that all West Peorians know and love, actually originated with Kramer's. She says the recipe passed to Jim Jumer when her father sold the business.

"A bread basket was brought to each table with assorted rolls," she remembers. "People always asked to take the uneaten cinnamon rolls home."

Kramer was on-hand to personally supervise the drive-in. He and his wife, Irma, lived on Moss Avenue in Madison Manor, raising their daughters Susan and Barbara. While none of the Kramer ladies donned an apron



1960. The restaurant stayed open under the Kramer name until 1970, when Jumer's Castle Lodge became a new landmark entrance to West Peoria. Erwin and Irma Kramer eventually moved away from Peoria to find a warmer climate in Lighthouse Point, Florida. They stayed in touch with Jumer over the years, and always stayed at the Castle Lodge whenever they visited town. The two Kramer daughters also left Illinois. Today, Susan Kramer Edgar lives in Deerfield Beach, Florida, and Barbara Kramer Walton lives in sunny Sebastopol, California.

Kramer's Drive-In is now only a distant memory for long-time West Peoria residents. The aroma of fried chicken and butter-fried burgers no longer lures the hungry. Jumer's Castle Lodge also is now only a memory. The iconic hotel will soon re-open its doors as Courtyard Estates of Peoria—a retirement community offering a full range of services to its residents. According to a spokesperson for the Courtyard Estates, the Kramer's little cinnamon rolls will still be on the menu.

West Peoria Residents' Association

WPRA

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Dated Publication Please Do Not Delay



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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.

WPRA Thanks West Peoria City for their financial assistance with the *WP News!*
News Deadline: 10th day of each odd numbered month
Publication: 1st week of each even numbered month

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WPRA UPCOMING DATES

August 14
Concert in the Park

August 18
WPRA Monthly Membership Meeting

September 15
WPRA Monthly Membership Meeting

October 20
WPRA Monthly Meeting Speaker
Gene Pratt
West Peoria Economics Development