

Meeting & Event Dates

WPRA:	WPRA - 3rd Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.* Feb 17 - Mar 17
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:	Haddad's Employee Fundraiser - Sun, Feb 13 1:00-7:00 p.m.** WPRA Madison Park Hike - Saturday, Feb 19 @ 11:00 a.m.**

Location: *City Hall **See Article ***Champs West

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Haddad's Market: We're Still Here

By Brittany Wrenn

"I never thought I'd be so upset over a grocery store," a West Peoria resident stated. This was the feeling of not only one, but many West Peoria residents, as the news broke of a devastating fire. The realization occurred that our good friend, our neighbor, was gone.

Haddad's West Peoria Market is known for its kind employees, generous support to the community and friendly atmosphere where you always seem to see a familiar face. This store moved to its current location in West Peoria in 1980. Since Garrett and Mark Wrhel took ownership in 1996, they have maintained the store's friendly atmosphere and continue the history of Haddad's in West Peoria.

On December 31, 2010, the beloved Haddad's West Peoria Market burned down.



While residents could not believe this store was gone from our community, owner Mark Wrhel, reassured us with a sign stating "We're Still Here". These three words brought some peace to the community, knowing that the store would be physically brought back as soon as possible, but the spirit of the store never left.

While we all wait, trying to be patient, to taste Haddad's famous chicken salad from the deli, or to pick up your favorite home-made dessert, there are things you can do to

show your love and support to Mark, his family, and all the employees that kindly showed us where the sugar was and brought our groceries to the car. South Side Bank has an employee fund, started by Mike Slaughter, for all of the Haddad's employees. Although Slaughter is not a West Peoria Resident, he is from the area. Your donations will be accepted at any South Side Bank in the Peoria area; however, the West Peoria location is preferred. Ann White, a Haddad's employee, will be administering the fund. There are bracelets and sweatshirts for sale to help raise money for the 35 full-time and 15 part-time Haddad's employees. In addition, Wrhel has assured us that the employees would be taken care of through the rebuilding process. Not only will the employees be taken care of, but the 100+ residents within and outside of West Peoria that receive Haddad's grocery delivery service will be accommodated.

Haddad's West Peoria Market is not just a grocery store; it is a staple in our community. It generates an "old-school" spirit that makes you feel welcome right when you walk in the door. To the store that has given so much to our community throughout the years, here's to you, it's our turn to give back.

To the residents of West Peoria, the *WP News* will be sure to keep you informed and up to date on changes and progress in the rebuilding of Haddad's.



WPRA President's Message

West Peoria is not the same without Haddad's Market. I want to let the community know that the WPRA is ready with its support for Mark and Erika Wrhel and the Haddad's employees in any way needed.

I want to welcome new WPRA board member, Katrina Griffin, and our new copy editor for our newsletter, Brittany Wrenn. Bios for these new volunteers appear later in this newsletter. Thanks to Katrina and Brittany for offering to accept these positions.

WPRA recently donated funds to purchase two laptop computers for Calvin Coolidge Middle School. It has been two years since the WPRA Board made this commitment and we are very proud to have gotten the job done. Most of the \$2,400 came from the Jamboree Run in 2009 and 2010, with additional dollars from the various snow cone sales, yard sale and membership dues. I want to thank everyone who has participated in our fundraising efforts. In early January we gave a check to Principal Tom Blumer. When the computers arrive from the school district contractor we will have a public gifting at the school to celebrate the connection between the neighborhood, the school staff, and the 70 years Calvin Coolidge has taught the young people of West Peoria.

Our February 17, 2011, membership meeting will focus on Madison Park. Bill Woolard, Superintendent of Golf for the Peoria Park District, will speak about his nearly 50 years of experience on this 170-acre parcel that includes the oldest golf course in central Illinois. Bill was a caddy at Madison and he is a great story teller. Madison Park was purchased in 1894 by the Peoria Park District. There is a great deal of history in Madison Park. I hope you will come to our

meeting to share your memories and talk about the future of this great asset to West Peoria.

On Saturday, February 19, 2011, beginning at 11:00 a.m., I will lead a hike into Madison Park to see for ourselves some of the history and beauty it offers. In the first half hour we will walk around the 100-year-old clubhouse, examine the foundations of the former "swinging" suspension bridge and offer a close-up look at some of the largest trees in Peoria County. This part of the walk will be completely level. The remainder of the hike will be more physically demanding and take approximately one hour. We will traverse hilly terrain to examine the Madison Park hillside, view the year-round spring and hike into Horseshoe Bottoms, a former oxbow lake. The hike will look closely at several 10,000-year-old glacial hill prairie sites as we return to Madison Park through St. Mary's Cemetery. The hike is open to children if they are accompanied by a parent or guardian and will occur no matter the weather, so dress ac-

cordingly. If you want to join the fun, plan to meet in the parking lot of the clubhouse accessed from Martin Luther King Drive. Please arrive a few minutes before 11:00 a.m.

In the next newsletter, I will discuss a parcel of land near Madison Park called Rocky Glen, which was recently annexed into West Peoria and may become, in time, another beautiful addition to the parks of West Peoria. We are truly lucky to live in this area and are blessed with each other as our most important resource.

Beautification Committee

"Hanging of the Greens"

On the last Monday in November, four WPRA Beautification Committee members, Maggie Moore, Bev Karstensen, and Bob and Sandy DeSutter, were out trying to beat the snowy forecast. Amidst blustery winds, they went about the "Hanging of the Greens". Happy Holiday signs and large red velvet bows were placed on the City of West Peoria Welcome Wall and on the front of city hall. The fresh garland, wreaths, and other holiday decor are funded by the WPRA. A special thank you goes to Maggie Moore and Bev Karstensen for the making of the bows.

With the holidays now over, the WPRA Beautification Committee will again be meeting to plan for spring. All residents are welcome to share ideas and comments with the committee.



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Dennis Beaufre, Proprietor



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



Classes are starting **NOW!** Pick up the latest
Playbook or visit www.peoriaparks.org/frc

EASTER EGG FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

A huge hunt with activities for
ages 1-12. \$6/R, \$8/NR. Sign up at FRC today!

Easter Bunny • Face Painting • Fun On the Run • Balloon Animals

FLASHLIGHT EGG HUNT

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

A nighttime hunt with a pizza & prizes for
twens 10-13! Must register by 4/13.

8:00-9:30 p.m. \$8/R, \$10/NR.



Katrina Griffin



Katrina has joined the WPRA board of directors. Katrina purchased her house in West Peoria in 2007. She liked West Peoria because it is affordable, close to St. Marks, and has that small commu-

community feel, but is still close to the hustle and bustle of Peoria. She likes to live around people she knows, and at the time she purchased her home, she had several friends living in West Peoria. Katrina enjoys eating out with friends at restaurants nearby such as Aachi's, Thanh Linh and Happy Fish. She also enjoys being active in the community. Katrina is very involved with several youth soccer teams in the area and greatly enjoys the sport. She is a big Cowboys fan. Although they had a rough season this year, she looks forward to watching the Super Bowl in their new stadium. When she's not traveling for work, she enjoys taking the dog and kids on walks or bike rides around West Peoria. They especially enjoy activities at the Franciscan Recreation Center.

Brittany Wrenn

Brittany has joined the *WP News* committee as copy editor. Brittany is a new resident of West Peoria. She moved to the area seven months ago to take a position at the American Red Cross-Central Illinois Chapter. At the Red Cross, she works with Authorized Providers around Peoria and the surrounding areas for CPR/AED/FA training in the workplace. Brittany is originally from the Chicago area and first moved to central Illinois for college. She is a Redbird Alumni, having graduated in 2008 from Illinois State University with a Bachelors degree in Communication. She is excited to be a part of the West Peoria Community and *WP News*.



Thanks to
West Peoria Street Department
Great Job Removing Snow!

An advertisement for South Side Bank. It features a large magnifying glass over the word 'checking'. The text reads: 'options. features. free!' followed by 'open a checking account that's just right for you with NO service charges! call or stop by today!'. It includes the address 'WEST PEORIA 2427 W. Rohmann Ave • 671-4833' and the bank's logo with the slogan 'There is a Difference'. The website 'www.southsidebank.com' is listed at the bottom. Fine print at the bottom states: 'Personal accounts only. Only \$100 to open. Your checks will not be returned. You may request one copy of a check per month at no charge. All overdraft, NSF and stop payment fees apply.'

2011 WPROA Membership

Aitken, Mary Ellen
 Allison, Jackie
 Anders, Marilyn
 Applegren, Theresa
 Archer, Richard Dr. & Cynthia
 Baker, Dorothy
 Barden-Knebel, Dorothy
 Beetler, Earl L & Janet G.
 Beltramini, Irene A
 Bertha, M. Dutro
 Blimling, Barbara J.
 Bonner, Peggy
 Boyer, Patricia A.
 Brashears, Wiley/Bobell, Jo
 Burdett, Patricia
 Carson, Max & Nancy
 Carter, Marlene
 Caughey, Constance & Dries, Jack Sr.
 Clarke, Lawrence D.
 Cloat, Ron & Jane
 Cook, William & Muriel
 Colgan, Phyllis
 Crews, Sharon
 Crotz, Bingo
 Daily, Dolores K.
 Daily, Joan K.
 Daily, Madalynne
 Dare, John D.
 Deal, John & Trudy
 Dillon, Jimmy
 Dozard, Geneva
 Dutro, Gary & Sandy
 Eckstein, Ronald W. & Ethel I
 Ehringer, Thelma
 Evans, Mary
 Fehl, Jim & Jan
 Fehl, Walter & Loretta
 Fuller, Charles R & Jo L Fuller
 Getz, John, Christy, & Maggie
 Gish, Robert E
 Godsill, Kevin M. & Julie E.
 Gorman, Ellen
 Griffin, Katrina
 Gunter, Thomas A.
 Hanks, Joe, Kim & Dustin
 Happ, Annamarie
 Harris, Tracy K.
 Hasty, Patricia A.
 Hawksworth, John L. & Doris A
 Hayden, Jim & Judy
 Heintz, Steve & Judy
 Hubble, John M.
 Humkey, Henry F.
 Hutcheson, Jim & Mariam
 Irwin, Mary
 Joe's Barber Shop
 Johnson, Ryan & Beth
 Jones, Charles & Louise

Kilgus, Judy
 Knapp, Sharon
 Koenig, Lacey Lee
 Kroll, Tom & Karen
 Landes, Major & Ruth
 Lane, Ruth
 Langfels, Bob & Rosie
 Larson, William & Catherine
 Leman, Nora
 Lermack, Paul & Annette
 Linehan Barbara
 Lonteen, Bob & Mary
 Maris, Dan
 Maurice, Bob & Judy
 McAvoy, Tim
 McBride, Sharon
 McCarter, James & Carolyn
 McDonald, John
 McMasters, Larry & Jeanne
 Meisner, Jerry & Sue
 Menke Jerome
 Montgomery, Robert & Allison
 Moore, Maggie
 Morris, Marty & Sandi
 Nelson, Dale & Maggie
 Nixon, Betty J.
 Ogden, Glenn & Joann
 Onyun, Jim & Margaret
 Osmulski, Gerald & Sally
 Payne, Lillian
 Pelini, Kathy
 Phenix, Muriel B.
 Pittman, David & Smith, Teresa
 Platt, Russ & Betty
 Powell, John & Diane
 Reid, Carol
 Reinhart, Rolland & Janet
 Roberts, Dave
 Roberts, Phil & Nancy
 Robinson, Ronald & Virginia
 Ruppman, JoAnn
 Sample, Jerry & Linda
 Saver, Kathy
 Schmidt, Dean
 Schmidt, Ron & Donna
 Shane, Eleanor
 Shaw, Laura
 Shepherd, Don & Cassie
 Sisters of St. Francis
 of the Immaculate
 Conception
 Stark, Harold & Jean
 Stecher, Bob & Carol
 Stecher, Jim & Mary
 Steinbach, Betty Jean
 Stuff, Evelyn
 Sutter, Terry & Cynthia
 Teague, Leon

Terrini, Joseph & Patricia
 Titus, Jack E
 Tracy, George & Jean
 Trammel, Pauletta F.
 Venzon, John & Mary
 Vinovich, Marty
 Wagner, William & Sandra

Wailladsen, Marge
 Walker, Pat & Bev
 Walters, Michael & Lindsey
 Wehrli, Rich & Christine
 White, Brian & Nancy
 Wright, Adell L
 Zingaro, John Rev.

2011 WPROA Membership Form

Check Payable to:

West Peoria Residents Association

Mail to:

Maggie Moore

WPROA, 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

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

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

April 2011 Elections

The last day to register voters before the April 5, 2011 Consolidated Election is March 8, 2011. You can register at West Peoria City Hall with the city clerk.

Early voting will be at West Peoria City Hall on Friday March 18, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The offices up for election are: mayor, city clerk, treasurer, and one alderman in each of the four wards.

Running are:

- Mayor, Incumbent, James R. Dillon
- City Clerk, Incumbent, Carole Stephens
- Treasurer, Incumbent, Jennifer Main
- Ward 1, Incumbent, Hazel Thomas
- Ward 2, Write In
- Ward 3*, Incumbent, John Venzon Jr.
- Ward 3*, Candidate, Gus Mason Jr.
- Ward 4, Incumbent, Thomas S. Dwyer

* You may only vote for one.

Also on the ballot:

Question: Shall the City of West Peoria impose a retailers' occupation tax of up to one-half percent (1/2%), on the gross receipts from sales at retail of tangible personal property excluding the sale of food for human consumption that is to be consumed off the premises where it is sold (other than alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, and food that has been prepared for immediate consumption) and prescription and non-prescription medicines, drugs, medical appliances, and insulin, urine testing materials, syringes, and needles used by diabetics and on the gross receipts from the selling of all tangible personal property transferred by such servicemen either in the form of tangible personal property or in the form of real estate as an incident to a sale of service as provided by Illinois law, to wit: 65 ILCS 5/8-11-1.3 and 8-11-1.4, as may be amended from time to time.


If you have any question call the West Peoria City Clerk at 674-1993.

West Peoria TIF District I Expansion

In 2005 the City of West Peoria established a Tax Increment Financing District (TIF I). The TIF District enables the city to apply TIF revenues for public infrastructure and other eligible improvements within the TIF I Project Area. Since the establishment of the TIF I District, the city has made commitments of time and money to address its goals and to encourage conservation and redevelopment of the area. The proposed expansion will enable the city to make additional public improvements to further enhance the redevelopment of the area throughout the remaining life of TIF District I.

The proposed timeline for the TIF I Amendment is available at West Peoria City Hall. The public hearing is scheduled for March 1 at city hall at 6:00 p.m.

A map showing the existing TIF I properties and the properties to be added is available at city hall.




No Appointment Necessary
Cindy and Diane

JOE'S BARBER SHOP

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West Peoria TIF District II

The city proposes to establish West Peoria TIF District II by redeveloping property that is currently underutilized for commercial, residential and light industrial types of development in order to increase its population, increase employment opportunities, expand and diversify the local tax base, manage growth and increase the overall value and quality of life of the community for its residents. The properties to be included in the TIF II District were annexed to the city in 2010.

The proposed timeline for the establishment of TIF District II is available at West Peoria City Hall. The public hearing is scheduled for March 1 at city hall at 6:00 p.m.

A map showing the existing TIF II properties is available at city hall.

City Council Meetings

2nd & 4th Tuesday Monthly @ 7:00

Televised The Following Wednesday
Channel 22 @ 8:00

City Hall Office Hours

Monday - Friday / 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
(309) 674-1993

<http://www.cityofwestpeoria.com>

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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 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.
- All vehicles without an up-to-date license sticker are considered inoperable and are in violation of City Code. Any vehicle without said sticker must be stored in a garage.

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: (309) 674-1993 or (309) 370-1142.

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



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Message from Mark Wrhel, Haddad's

My friends and neighbors,

Wow, what a New Years surprise the entire West Bluff was greeted with on the first day of the year. I stood, as did quite a few of you, in the cold winter's night, and watched as a friend was laid to waste in front of all of us. We were helpless to do anything but watch as brave firemen from all over the area battled to confront an enemy they themselves hoped to never see. An unbelievable job done by all involved that night. Thank you. Not only did you ensure the safety of everyone that night, you made certain the fire did not harm anything else.

What next? Well that is a much harder question than its simple two word approach. Rebuild, which will get us the simple one word answer. But does it really answer the question? What about the rest I need to know: **who, what, when and where?** Well, I can't speak to those yet, next time I write you, yes. But this time, being my first freehand open letter, I want to speak personally to the "W" missing from the list above. The why?

Why do I want to rebuild? With the long and growing number of independent grocery stores closing due to poor business or the onslaught of big box stores mainly in urban areas, Why do I really want to rebuild? I mean **we are not talking about a "little" amount of money** here. Amounts I never dreamed of hearing, cartoon numbers almost. Take the money and run! Someone said to me. Really, I thought? I had to pause for a moment. To be honest, the thought had not crossed my mind. Nor did it stick but for a second. Then I came to the sudden realization that I was never really in it for the money. Sure it paid the bills, but it also ensured employment for at least 40 other people. Those 40 represent people like part time kids learning a first job, sure, but also people whose livelihoods depended on **coming through the doors of Haddad's every day.** I owe it to all of us to rebuild.

Why do I want to rebuild? With society as a whole moving toward a more price-conscious spending approach to groceries allowing the big box stores to gain more and more market share, Why do I really want to rebuild? Big box stores are just that - a big giant box you buy everything in. TVs to bananas, a gallon of milk and a gallon of paint. Do we really need to sort through all the other stuff to buy food? It can take a **half hour to "run in" to buy a simple item.** I'm a rather young man; I can move freely about those long never-ending aisles. My mother and father cannot. Bigger is not always better. To the large senior population that the store serves through our store front and our home

delivery service, this store and its services have added to their ability to live a much fuller and higher quality of life. I owe it to all of them to rebuild.

Why do I want to rebuild? With a loss comes a rebuild so you can't expect people to not find a new store and move on, Why do I really want to rebuild? In a community as small as West Peoria and its surrounding Peoria neighborhoods, a small friendly grocery store works well. People tend to know each other, interacting in a much more personal way than merely trading goods for money. They traded goodwill and support. This city and area has watched me grow up in front of them. From a young high school kid bagging groceries, to an owner adding new programs and expanding departments. I was just there helping in any way I could. The kind outpouring of support and letters has made this a very humbling experience to my family and **the employees of Haddad's.** We were just there helping when asked. Thank you for always being there for us in our times of need. I owe it to all of you to rebuild.

Why do I want to rebuild? With a growing number of businesses moving toward prepackaged and selling to **the masses, what does Haddad's do so differently that I feel it is justified to make this kind of capital investment,** Why do I really want to rebuild? Well, if you really believe in something it should work, right? How many times have I read in the newspaper a grocery store or big box retailer can't survive without selling liquor? **Haddad's never did and we've already outlived most.** We knew food. Not tobacco, not lottery, not liquor. We sold to only one vise, your hunger. Our deli made almost everything in house. Our salads were made fresh with ingredients that were the same as the ones on the shelf for the customer to buy. Ever wonder how it tasted so fresh? Now you know. Our meat was hand cut and trimmed in house, open for our customers to watch and make requests. Ever want something cut special at a big box store? Good luck. When you buy produce, **how much do you waste? Don't you wish you could buy just half a head of lettuce, a couple stalks of celery, fresh sliced peppers, cucumber slices, all cut fresh daily? You always were able to at Haddad's.** I believe in what we do as a company, not only our way, but the right way. I owe it to myself to rebuild.

Truly yours,

Mark Wrhel
Haddad's West Peoria Market

What's Been Happenin'

WPRC Christmas Party

The 2010 WPRC Christmas party was held on December 5 at the Franciscan Recreation Center (FRC). Luminaries at the entrance to FRC cast a soft glow as Santa arrived on a West Peoria fire truck and started the festivities by lighting the Christmas tree and greeting the children with gifts.

Everyone enjoyed the entertainment and refreshments, especially the sing-along led by West Peoria Mayor Dillon.

For Photos, please visit:
<http://www.westpeoriaresidents.org/>
Click on Image Galleries

2010 Holiday Lighting Contest

Although the holidays have come and gone and we have started a new year, we want to send a special thank you to all that helped make West Peoria look a little bit brighter this holiday season.

The 2010 Holiday Lighting Contest Winners are as follows:

- Simplicity Winner: 2706 Heading
- Vegas Style Winner: 1324 Rhodora
- Religious Theme Winner: 643 Coolidge
- Holiday Theme Winner: 2320 Dixon
- Judges Overall Favorite: 2216 Barker

We would like give a special mention to the following residents:

- 2005 Ayres
- 2400 Callender
- 2224 Kellogg
- 2521 Barker
- 2211 Alice
- 2103 Kellogg
- 2507 W. Del Ct.
- 3018 Alice
- 2712 Wendarm
- 2705 Wendarm

The winners of this years contest received a plate of cookies and a gift certificate from Haddad's.

What's Happenin' Next

Haddad's Employee Benefit Fundraiser

A benefit will be held on Sunday, February 13, 2011 from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Crusen's on Farmington Road. A "free will" donation at the door includes pizza, soft drink, and silent auction along with \$1 drafts. From 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., there will also be music provided by "Generations". All proceeds will be deposited into the fund at South Side Bank.



Jimmy's Bar - Trip to Ireland

Join us for an unforgettable adventure in Ireland with your friends from Jimmy's Bar. This will be an opportunity to experience parts of the Emerald Isle that most tourists never get to see. We'll visit our friends in Carey's Bar, Clonmel (Jimmy's sister-bar) and embark on a pub crawl in Dublin's fair city! This tour is not to be missed!

Your tour includes:

- Transport by luxury motor coach with a driver/guide for 5 days
- Superior hotel accommodation for 4 nights
- 4 full Irish breakfasts
- Tour of Dublin
- Visits to: Guinness Storehouse and Cliffs of Moher
- Hotel portorage, service charges, and government taxes
- Flight bags, ticket wallets, baggage tags and strap

The trip will take place April 7-12, 2011. Land price is \$795.00 per person sharing a twin room and single room supplement is \$220.00. Air price to be confirmed or you can book your own air.

For more information contact Jim Spears at (309) 635-3759 or NACTA Travel at (866) 622-2244.

School News

Calvin Coolidge

On Thursday, January 13, 2011, Calvin Coolidge hosted a carnival to raise money for the Haddad's Employee Fund. The students were able to "buy out" of classes for \$1 to attend the carnival. AMT was a corporate sponsor for this event and will be matching all funds raised. There were concession stands at the carnival to raise additional money for the fund.



the Olde
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SHOPPE
Theresa Powers
2128 Rohmann
309.676.8664



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**Inside Country Hearth & Home
2401 W Farmington Road**

671-Best (2378)

New Business

Best Buds

Best Buds, formerly a seasonal garden shop located on Farmington Road, has extended their season and moved inside for the winter. Best Buds indoors is located at 2401 W. Farmington Road, adjacent to their outdoor garden center inside Country Hearth & Home.

Cheryl Becker, owner and operator of Best Buds, has brought her "green thumb" indoors to offer you a unique variety of houseplants with all the accessories. Pots, soil, fertilizers and plenty of plant knowledge is available to help you with the care and maintenance of your plants.

Best Buds will once again be open across the street in the spring with all your flowers, herbs, veggies, perennials, trees & shrub needs.

Best Buds strives for top quality, unique plants at a fair price and informational, fun service.

Letter to the West Peoria Community from Mark Wrhel, Haddad's

Dear Friends,

On behalf of my wife, Erika, and myself, and all of the employees of Haddad's West Peoria Market, I want to acknowledge and thank the entire community for its generous outpouring of condolences, support and love that we have received since the tragic fire destroyed our building on New Year's Eve.

While the fire has temporarily interrupted our ability to operate, it has not ended our commitment to our customers. Our home delivery service continues, and I have established a temporary office in the parking lot that I plan to visit each weekday, to answer any questions you might have. Hours I am present are posted at the lot, and we can still be contacted by phone at the store's decades-old phone number, (309) 674-0040.

The support we have received has included offers of money and the promise of fundraising events. We very much appreciate this. The fire has caused many of our employees to become unemployed. Because these employees depended on their paychecks to support their families, they now unavoidably suffer financially because of the fire.

An account to benefit the employees has generously been established by various West Peoria individuals and businesses at South Side Bank. Thank you for your generosity to this fund. While offers of financial support have included offers to benefit my wife and I, and offers to pay for expenses connected with the rebuilding of the business, we are choosing not to personally accept any such mon-

ies. We greatly appreciate these offers of support, and the love and friendship that they represent. However, we prefer to have the monies that are donated by the community be available to support our employees and their families, rather than ourselves.

If monies are contributed beyond the needs of our employees, we will ask the organizers of the fund to donate excess monies to the West Peoria Fire Department. We recognize and appreciate the risks and the sacrifices that the West Peoria Fire Department--and the other fire departments that assisted them--made in fighting the fire. We are grateful that they were educated and equipped to fight a fire of this magnitude. We want to help maintain this valuable resource for the future.

We also appreciate the efforts of the utility companies, City of West Peoria employees, the Peoria County Sheriff's Department, and all the other persons and organizations who have contributed so much of their time and effort to help since the fire was discovered.

The fire destroyed our building. The fire did not destroy our business, our spirit, or our resolve and desire to serve our customers and the community at large. We know that we can never adequately express our gratitude for the many kindnesses that we have received in response to this tragedy. However, we will rebuild and will return stronger than ever. We look forward to again greeting our friends and serving them at "Haddad's West Peoria Market."



Gratefully,

Mark A. Wrhel

Neighborhood Watch

The West Peoria Neighborhood Watch is looking forward to the new year. We aim to add more blocks to the Watch Project and plan topics of interest that are requested by the participants.

Nancee Brown, The Center for Prevention of Abuse, will be the guest speaker for the February meeting. The topic will be on safety and self-defense techniques. Deputy Middlemas will give an update on any criminal activity in the area.

All residents are invited and encouraged to attend the meeting on Wednesday, February 9, at 6:30 p.m. at West Peoria City Hall and bring a friend.

Burglary - Break-Ins - Vandalism

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



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

West Peoria Lions Club

The Lions, as well as all of the community, are reeling from the loss of Haddad's Market. It really hits our club as Mark, Erika and one of their employees, Dorothy, are all members. The club will be there to lend our support in any way needed to help rebuild the heart of our community, "Haddad's Market". Our prayers go out to all of Haddad's employees.

This Christmas, our club delivered a record number of food baskets in West Peoria. As we feel the need will only continue to increase over the next couple of months, we will be looking at new avenues to fund this program for 2011. One of our very successful fundraisers, "Really Large Coloring Books", have been sold at Haddad's over the last couple of years. Since that outlet is now lost until they rebuild, we are open to any ideas to help us continue to sell these books.

The 2011 Highway clean-up is from 8:00 a.m. to noon on the following dates: April 9, June 11, August 13 and October 8. Please consider giving an hour or two to help in this much needed project.

Remember we recycle: glasses, hearing aids, cell phones, ink cartridges, keys, and tabs. Boxes are at Alwans to drop off recycled goods, or call (309) 208-3815.

Check out the Lions Club website at WPLions.org and see what a great difference you can make by becoming a Lion. Or ask any one of us, we will be happy to talk to you.

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Garden Club

Are you counting the days until you can get back in your garden? So are we! The West Peoria Garden Club would love to have you join us as we plan our 2011 schedule. We are looking forward to some exciting Mondays throughout the year. Everyone is welcome, so stop by and give your input. Whether you are experienced or just starting out, the West Peoria Garden Club has something to offer you.

Meetings are the third Monday of each month at West Peoria City Hall at 7:00 p.m. 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 (309) 676-6912 for more information.

Dinner and Auction

The Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception, also known as the Heading Avenue Franciscans, will present the 11th year of "YOUR TABLE IS READY" Dinner/Auction. This event will take place on Saturday, February 26, 2011, at the ITOO Banquet Hall in Peoria. Tables will be decorated by the hosts of each table according to this year's theme, "There is a Season." Guests are invited to attend, and may sign-up to host a table and invite friends.

Over three hundred guests will enjoy a fun evening with a social hour and silent auction beginning at 5:30 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. there will be a dinner buffet followed by a live auction.

The cost per ticket is \$45, and tables of eight are \$360. Checks are payable to Heading Avenue Franciscans and the mailing address is: 2408 West Heading Avenue
West Peoria, IL 61604

The proceeds help the Sisters of St. Francis



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of the Immaculate Conception in their ministries such as:

- Pre-k and elementary education
- Campus ministry
- Adult literacy
- Child care
- Pastoral care
- Spirituality
- Care of the elderly (St. Joseph Homecare in Peoria and St. Joseph Home in Springfield)
- Diocesan diaconate program.

For more information on this exciting evening, please contact Joyce or Sharie in the Development Office at (309) 674-2005.



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Remember When

Joe's Barbershop – A True Family Affair

By Mike Baumgardner

If you have lived in West Peoria for any length of time, odds are your grandfather, father, or brother has stopped in for a haircut at Joe's Barbershop.

Joe and Doris Baumgardner moved to West Peoria in 1946. They had lived on Kellogg and Idaho Streets and in 1959, moved to their home on Rohmann Avenue. In 1950, Joe began his barbering career at Fred's Barbershop on Western Avenue. This led to the opening of Joe's own barbershop on January 20, 1963. With the temperature at 20 below zero, in what was the 12' X 15' sunroom of their home on Rohmann, his dream to open his own business in front of the house became a reality. Since it only took three steps from his front door to the barbershop door, Joe always boasted he had the shortest walk to work of anyone.

Joe and Doris raised four daughters, Judy, Diane, Cindy, and Janet, and one son, Mike. In 1967, Mike joined his father in the business and worked with him until he went to work for Hiram Walker in 1972. Joe had part-time help until he convinced



Diane and Cindy to get their barber license; they joined him in 1985. While his daughters worked in the shop, this allowed Joe to enjoy his favorite game of golf. Although he retired in 1998, he still enjoyed sitting in the shop and talking with his former customers until the girls would get busy and need his seat.



Joe was a great fan of the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team and always loved a good discussion with a Chicago Cubs fan. He loved West Peoria as well. He was the West Peoria Township Supervisor and served on the Peoria County Board.

When Joe passed away in 2001, many customers feared the shop would close. However, he always said, "as long as the good Lord is willing and the river don't rise--we will be here". Diane and Cindy just celebrated 25 years at the shop. If you want to enjoy a shave around your ears like your dad used to get, and the feel of an old time barbershop, stop by and see the girls.



West Peoria Residents' Association

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A

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

Dated Publication Please Do Not Delay



www.westpeoriaresidents.org

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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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February 17
Bill Woolard
Superintendent of Golf for PPD
April 21
Principal Tom Blumer
Calvin Coolidge Middle School

WPRA Activity
February 19
Madison Park Hike