

## Meeting & Event Dates

<b>WPRA:</b>	WPRA - 3rd Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.* Oct 20 - Nov 17
<b>City:</b>	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.*
<b>Around the Town:</b>	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.**
<b>What's Next:</b>	WPFH Hog Roast Fundraiser - Sun, October 16, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.**** West Peoria Library Grand Opening - Sat, Nov 5, 10:00 to noon**** WPRA Christmas Party - Sunday, December 4
<b>Location:</b>	*City Hall    **Township Bldg    ***City Garage    ****See Article

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## Former Hotel Becomes Comfy Home

Most West Peoria residents still call it "Jumer's," but the castle at the corner of Western and Moss Avenues has a new name and some new tenants. Courtyard Estates of Peoria has opened its doors, bringing new life and neighbors to an old landmark building.

Petersen Healthcare purchased the building after being approached by the City of Peoria. "It's a great fit for us," said Amanda

Hendricks, Admissions and Marketing Director for Courtyard Estates of Peoria. "We have made some 'life and safety updates' to the building, but overall, we've kept it very much the same. It still has the same charm."

In fact, the main lobby has retained the same look and feel that West Peorians will remember. Comfy sofas and chairs, some stained glass and a shiny piano greet visitors and residents alike, and the former registration desk still has a smiling face behind it to offer assistance. The hallway that leads from the main lobby toward what used to be the conference center is now called "Main Street," and that short stroll brings residents to the Director's Office, the theatre, the beauty parlor and the lounge.

Residents will enjoy a whole host of amenities without ever leaving the building. Pampering is available at the new beauty parlor, which transformed the space where the old



## Former Hotel Becomes Comfy Home

gift shop used to be. A cosmetologist offers a full range of services – residents just have to schedule their appointments to get a manicure, pedicure, haircut or color.

The main dining room is a cheerful, bright space with a tempting menu combining comfort foods like chicken pot pie and meatloaf with dishes like parmesan encrusted tilapia. A small private dining area is available for residents to reserve for parties with friends and family. Courtyard Estates will regularly offer movies for viewing in the theatre (along with fresh, hot popcorn), but residents can also bring in their own films to share.

The Lounge area feels familiar and cozy for those who frequented Jumer's. German beer steins still line the mantle above the fireplace, and the dark shiny wood of the bar still catches the eye. Residents can gather around the small four-seat tables and play cards or chess.

"It's the historical aspect of the building that has drawn people in," said Hendricks. "For many of our residents, this was the place to

be when they were growing up. They married here, some started their honeymoons here. They remember the hotel and have so many fond memories attached to 'Jumer's' that they are excited to call Courtyard Estates of Peoria home."

The building is already home for many, with approximately 50 of the rooms already occupied. There are 100 rooms total, including one bedroom suites, one bedroom deluxe suites and efficiency suites. More than 50 employees are already on staff, offering varying levels of care for residents.

Hendricks says it's important to Courtyard Estates to promote an active lifestyle for its residents. An event coordinator will help arrange activities both inside the building and out in the community, and Hendricks says they look forward to opportunities to partner with West Peoria for some fun events in the future. "We're still in ramp-up mode right now," Hendricks said, "but once we're really up and running, we're going to look for ways to get more involved in our community."

West Peorians won't have to wait long for that to happen. Courtyard Estates of Peoria is opening its doors to the public for a Grand Opening on October 18 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 5:00 p.m. and there will be entertainment. For more information about Courtyard Estates of Peoria, visit [CourtyardEstates.net/Peoria](http://CourtyardEstates.net/Peoria) or call 674-2400.

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Beautification Committee

Throughout July and August, the flowers welcoming residents and visitors to West Peoria received some special tender loving care from a dedicated volunteer. Jim McCarter, long-time member of the Beautification Committee, has a unique watering system in his pick-up truck - a 50 gallon water tank with a motorized hose. Several times a week in July and August, Jim watered the flowers at the West Peoria signs, the Welcome Wall and the corner at Sterling and Rohmann. The Residents' Association and the Beautification Committee thank Jim for helping keep the flowers beautiful all season!

The Beautification Committee's fall agenda includes collecting and cleaning the planters for storage and preparing the flower beds for spring planting. We will also make decorating plans for the upcoming holidays. Volunteers are always welcome

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2011 WPRA Membership

The West Peoria Residents' Association now has 233 memberships for 2011. Nancy Duetsch and Jamie and April Silver joined WPRA since our last WP News issue.

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673-0535.

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

City Council Meetings  
2nd & 4th Tuesday Monthly @ 7:00  
Televised The Following Wednesday  
Channel 22 @ 8:00

TO REGISTER A CODE VIOLATION COMPLAINT  
OR OBTAIN A BUILDING PERMIT :  
Code Officer: Bill O'Neill  
Please email: [code-zoning@cityofwestpeoria.com](mailto: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 ends on the last Friday in December. It will begin again on the first Friday in April.
- 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.
- Do NOT rake or blow leaves into the street. This causes the storm sewers to back up.
- 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.
- 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.

To view the complete text of city ordinances, visit:  
[http://www.cityofwestpeoria.com/new\\_ordinances.asp](http://www.cityofwestpeoria.com/new_ordinances.asp)



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## Haddad's West Peoria Market Update

A message from owner, Mark Wrhel:

My friends and neighbors,

Well, we have walls and a roof! It will not be long now before I can finally put an end to a very long year. It's been a year of shopping at Krogers, Hy-Vee and Schnucks. I know that many of you share my feelings – these places just don't feel like home the way Haddad's West Peoria Market always did.

Soon, a common phrase can once again be belted from your lungs..."I'll just run up to Haddad's and get it." A quick trip to the store will once again be a bonus to living in West Peoria.

So, when will we open our doors? I know it's the big question in town right now, and I was hoping to have the answer for this letter. We will be open before the end of November! That's the good news, although it pains me to say that we will not be able to open our doors for Thanksgiving week. We will be very close, but the time frame just does not fit. We have been gone for almost a year, so when we open our doors we want to make sure that we do it right. The last thing we want to do is ruin anyone's Thanksgiving holiday the first week back because we rushed into something. We will spend that week putting the finishing touches on the store and bringing new staff up to speed. The following week, we plan to swing open the doors and allow in the masses.

But who will be the first? Who will be the first customer to shop the New Haddad's West Peoria Market? How in the world do I figure out who that will be?

Well, I came up with an idea that's fair to all and will raise some money for the brave men and women of the West Peoria Fire Department. I'm calling it "The Good Neighbor Bar." The idea is based loosely on *Willy*

*Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, a book I read years ago, and a pretty good movie, too. It goes a little like this: Inside the label of one of these candy bars is a Golden Ticket. This ticket will allow the winner an exclusive shopping experience at Haddad's West Peoria Market the night before doors open to everyone else! This is a full-access pass to the entire store and staff. The



night will be filled with great food, door prizes and lots and lots of freebies. There will be 1,000 "Good Neighbor Bars" for sale. There are only 20 golden tickets hidden in the candy bars. Each ticket will allow the winner and five friends to enjoy this exclusive experience.

Some of our favorite "good neighbors" will be selling these candy bars for us. Watch for them at South Side Bank, West Peoria City Hall, Joe's Barber Shop and other West Peoria businesses. The bars will cost \$3 each, and all of the money collected will be donated to the West Peoria Fire Department.

Get started now! A special Golden Ticket entry form is printed in this issue of *West Peoria News*. Fill out this special entry form and mail it in for a chance to win! One winner will be drawn from all newsletter entries.

I can't wait to see everyone again soon. Thank you for supporting us this year and good luck to each and every one of you as you search for a Golden Ticket.

Mark Wrhel  
Haddad's West Peoria Market

## What's Been Happenin'

### Concerts in the Park

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

In July, the FRC front lawn was filled with a crowd enjoying the music of the Peoria Pops Dixieland Band playing favorite toe-tapping Dixieland tunes. We enjoyed watching one couple dancing in the park, and as the afternoon stretched closer to evening, we heard the cicadas harmonizing with their version of Dixieland.

The August concert was held on a picture-perfect Sunday afternoon. The Peoria Barber-shop Chapter filled the air with their wonderful barbershop harmonies to the enjoyment of the biggest crowd ever. Many in the audience couldn't help but sing along with some of the old favorites. Audience participation rose to a new level when one young man joined the group to add his voice to a song he knew from his school days.

The *Concerts in the Park* were enjoyed by many, and the WPRA looks forward to working with the FRC to bring the series back next summer.



### Night Out Against Crime

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Night Out Against Crime in West Peoria brought residents of all ages to Franciscan Park on Saturday, September 17. Sponsored by the West Peoria Neighborhood Watch, the City of West Peoria, West Peoria Township, the Franciscan Recreation Complex

and the Peoria County Sheriff's Department, the evening was filled with camaraderie, education and fun!

Some highlights for the kids included a bicycle rodeo directed by Curt Burdett and bicycle inspections by Deon and Andrew from Little Ade's in Pekin. There was also a bike safety course to navigate. A drawing was held, and six lucky winners won new bikes. Congratulations to our winners, Kayla Alexander, Malachi Johnson, Ayden Juers, Jerrya McFadden, Hunter Vecchio and Shayla Wessler! Special thanks to the West Peoria Township and Wal-Mart for making the bike drawing possible.



A canine display by the Peoria County Sheriff's Office was enjoyed by everyone. Deputy Spears and her partner, Clyde the bloodhound, demonstrated how they search for drugs and chase criminals. Clyde lived up to the reputation of a bloodhound, tracking and finding a "missing person" for the crowd.

The wonderful autumn weather was complimented by music from the Eclectic Living Room Band that filled the air, and neighbors



## What's Been Happenin'

enjoyed watching Mayor Jim Dillon grill up hot dogs. The Mayor's skills at the grill were lauded, but if it had been needed, a fire engine from the West Peoria Fire Department was on display nearby. Sno-cones were served, and special thanks go out to Home City Ice for providing the ice.

The Night Out Against Crime received support from a number of businesses that donated gate prizes, including Joe's Barber Shop, John Deal Agency, McDonald's, the Peoria Chiefs, South Side Bank, Walgreens, Kartville and Koenig Body & Equipment.

Maggie Moore, the coordinator for the West Peoria Neighborhood Watch and Night Out Against Crime, also wishes to thank Peoria County Sheriff's Deputy Middlemas and the Neighborhood Watch committee for their help in planning this event. She also extends her appreciation to West Peoria Boy Scout Troop #11 and the volunteers and civic leaders for their help in making the event such a wonderful success!

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## School News

### Watch out for the kids!

Pencils are sharpened, lunch boxes are packed and book bags are crammed full. School is back in session, so drivers in West Peoria need to keep an eye out for kids, especially in the hour just before and after school. And, don't forget to slow down on Rohmann Avenue in front of Calvin Coolidge Middle School when children are present!



### Calvin Coolidge Middle School

Students, teachers and staff have filled the classrooms and hallways at Calvin Coolidge Middle School for a new academic year. Here are some things you need to know:

- Please don't forget to send your Box Tops for Education, Coke Rewards, and Campbell's Soup labels.
- Show your pride in our school by ordering your Calvin Coolidge Spirit Wear! For details, contact Angie Robinson by phone at 672-6506 or by email at [angela.robinson@psd150.org](mailto:angela.robinson@psd150.org).
- CCMS is collecting change for Haitian Hearts. Last year, we collected more than \$1,300 and this year we are striving for \$2,000. Please send in your loose change to support our efforts in helping Haitian Hearts.
- October 10 is Columbus Day – no school!
- October 19 is a half day – dismissal at 10:30 a.m.
- November 3 is Parent Teacher Conference Evening – Times will be released soon.

## Around the Town

**Township Relief Office Hours**  
Tuesday—Wednesday—Thursday  
9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON  
(309)674-0462  
2516 W Rohmann Avenue

### WPFDF Celebrates Family and Community

The West Peoria Fire Department held its annual Family Day at the fire station on Sunday, September 18. The cloudy skies couldn't keep away the young and the young-at-heart, who enjoyed fire truck rides, tours of the station and sliding down a fire pole set up in the middle of Waverly Avenue. The West Peoria Fire Department's Ladies Auxiliary tempted the taste buds of all in attendance with their bake sale, and many visitors stopped at a nearby table to see a slide show of pictures from the Haddad's West Peoria Market fire and hear a recording of the initial 911 call from that night.

The annual WPFDF Hog Roast fundraiser is quickly approaching. Join the dedicated men and women of the West Peoria Fire Department at Crusen's on Farmington Road on Sunday, October 16 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale now, and firefighters in uniform will be selling them door-to-door in the coming weeks. Dine-in and carry-out options are available.

The summer months were busy ones for the WPFDF. The Department responded to 41 calls in July, including one residential fire and 32 ambulance/rescue calls. The number of calls went up to 49 in August, including 38 ambulance/rescue calls and one hazardous material response.

Fall is here, and soon it will be time to turn back our clocks one hour. The WPFDF reminds all West Peoria residents to "Change

Your Clock, Change Your Battery!" As you move from room to room changing clocks on your walls, VCRs and microwave ovens, take an extra minute to pop a new battery into your smoke detectors and your carbon monoxide detectors. These devices can save your life and your property in an emergency!

The West Peoria Fire Department is always looking for volunteers who want to serve their community. If you're interested in joining the WPFDF, please contact Chief Robert Stecher at 696-0895.



**Robert Stecher**

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## Around the Town

### West Peoria Community Center in the Works

The old West Bluff Christian Church site is owned by the Cross Baptist Church, formerly located on Heading Avenue. Cross Baptist Church intends to repurpose the 2018 West Kellogg Avenue location into a West Peoria Community Center. However, the building is in need of cleaning and repairs, so a volunteer work party is being planned for Saturday, October 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The old West Bluff Christian Church building is already home to the West Peoria Library and the West Peoria Food Pantry, opening mid-October every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon for West Peoria residents. Other ideas being considered for the building include a coffee shop, classroom space for art, music, dance, exercise and craft classes, drop-off childcare, tutoring and a meeting room. Residents are welcome to suggest additional ideas for building uses and can consider renting space at the center for their endeavors. Together, we can build a Community Center that West Peoria can take pride in and create a facility that provides many services for residents.

To get more information about plans for the Community Center, to ask questions, or to volunteer for the volunteer work party, please contact Emily Huff at 453-8139 or send correspondence to the West Peoria Library at 2018 West Kellogg Avenue.

### Visit the New West Peoria Library

The West Peoria Library is now open! A big thank-you is extended to the residents who donated books, materials and time to help get this project going.

Hours of operation vary from day-to-day, so a monthly calendar will be placed on the rear entry doors into the building to let residents know when the library will be open. The library relies entirely on volunteer staff, so any one interested in helping with the staffing can contact Emily Huff by phone at 453-8139 or by email at westpeorialibrary@yahoo.com.

A grand opening celebration at the library is planned for November 5, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Tour the room and get a library card for the family. Refreshments will be provided.

*Klusendorf's*



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### Support Local Scouts

West Peoria Residents can help support local Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts! Starting September 24, Cub Scout Pack 11 starts their annual popcorn sale. Beginning October 24, Boy Scout Troop 11 will sell Christmas wreaths and Butterbraids. Contact your neighborhood scout or call Bob DeSutter at 674-6668 to place your order!

## Around the Town


### Lions Club

Some busy months are ahead for the West Peoria Lions Club, which has several fundraisers and events scheduled.

- Walk for Sight at Lake Storey, Galesburg, IL, on Sunday, October 16
- Candy Day, Fridays, October 21 and 28
- Farmington Road and Route 8 clean-up on October 8 and 29
- Peoria Area Dining Tour Books – on sale now for \$30 (Great gifts for the holiday season!)

Starting in November, Christmas Wreaths, a Garland & Table Center Piece Basket, and other greens will be available for purchase. On Sunday, November 6, the Lions will make a trip to Catfish Bend Casino in Burlington, Iowa. Also in November, the West Peoria Lions will be bell ringing for the Salvation Army. Christmas Baskets are on the agenda for December. The November 14, Lions Club meeting will feature speaker Andreas Heim with *Magnified Vision*. He'll provide an update on improved magnified equipment and the latest research and progress being made to help the blind.

The West Peoria Lions Club meets the second and fourth Mondays each month at Champ's West. Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m., and the meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. For information on any upcoming service projects or to learn about joining the Lions Club, please call 673-6207 or 673-0535.



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### Neighborhood Watch

The September West Peoria Neighborhood Watch meeting brought residents some interesting information about self-defense. Lieutenant Hartwig gave tips on avoiding potentially dangerous situations and reminded everyone to be alert of their surroundings at all times.


Cooler temperatures tempt us to throw open our windows. But, last year about this time, several homes were burglarized when a thief gained access through open windows while the resident was sleeping. Make certain that windows are secured in a way that does not permit them to be opened widely enough for a person to gain entrance to your home.

At the Neighborhood Watch October meeting, Peoria County Sheriff's Deputy Middlemas will give a review of the specialized training sessions that he attended over the spring and summer. The specialized training is in addition to his work with the Tactical Team, Bicycle Patrol, School Safety Planning and the West Peoria Neighborhood Watch. Deputy Middlemas also will give an update on any criminal activity in the area and answer any questions or concerns residents have.

The Neighborhood Watch meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at West Peoria City Hall. Please join us!

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Sat. 8:00-12:00

## Around the Town

### Tips for Seniors

Every second counts in life-threatening situations. That's why the *File of Life* was developed by TRIAD, made up of the Councils on Aging, the City of Peoria Police Department, the Aging Network and the Peoria County Sheriff's Department. TRIAD is a senior safety organization that focuses on reducing criminal victimization of the elderly.

The *File of Life* has two components - a mini-medical history packet you post on your refrigerator door and a card you can carry in your wallet or purse. You fill out your information on the *File of Life*, including all emergency medical contacts, insurance information, health problems, medications, known allergies, recent surgeries, your religion, your doctor's name and a health care proxy. This information enables medical personnel to obtain a quick medical history when you are unable to give one, especially in a life-threatening situation.

West Peoria seniors can call 673-0535 to request a *File of Life* packet by mail.

## West Peoria Military

The *West Peoria News* is proud to publish the names of all those West Peorians or their family members who currently serve in the military or those who have served in the past.

This month, we turn our spotlight on Ernie Bain who lives on Pierson Avenue. Bain was a member of the Illinois National Guard and also served as a Supply Sergeant in the U.S. Army. We thank Bain for his 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](mailto:wpnewscoordinator@westpeoriaresidents.org). Remember to include the person's name, relationship to a West Peoria family, branch of military service, place stationed, and honors achieved.



### West Peoria Residents Association Newsletter Golden Ticket Drawing

Must be returned by: 10-31-2011.. Winner to be posted in next newsletter.

### Haddad's West Peoria Market

Name:

Address:

Phone #

Return to: Haddad's 2407 W. Rohmann Ave West Peoria IL 61604

## Easy Steps to Recycling

Waste Management (WM) encourages its customers in West Peoria to recycle because it helps to conserve natural resources and preserves our environment. The process to be followed is called single-stream recycling. All paper and commingled items to be recycled can be placed in your recycle bin, and the separation takes place at the recycling sorting center.

**Newspapers:** All newspapers, plus any inserts from inside the newspapers are acceptable. No plastic bags.

**Mixed Paper Products:** Most other type of paper may be recycled as long as it is not contaminated with food or packing material liners. This can include: cardboard boxes that are flattened and cut down to 2 feet in diameter or less, and chipboard boxes, including cereal and shoe boxes. Also included are paper tubes, magazines, telephone books, paper grocery bags, white paper and junk mail. Shredded paper may be recycled by placing it in a paper grocery bag and stapling it closed.

**Glass:** Food and beverage containers only. They must be free of food contamination. Paper labels do not have to be removed. Please remove lids. If a lid is metal, it may be recycled. Otherwise the lid is trash. Glass recycling services do NOT include—window glass, dishes, glasses, ceramics, Pyrex or light bulbs.

**Aluminum:** All beverage containers.

**Steel Cans:** All steel and other metal cans that food or drink came in, free of food contaminations. Paper labels do not need to be removed.

**Plastic Bottles:** Any plastic food, drink, or detergent containers labeled with a #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 or #7 may be recycled. This includes milk and water jugs, laundry and

household detergent bottles, and one- and two-liter beverage containers. Again, no food residue. All lids must be removed and, if plastic, discarded in the trash. Check the bottom of rigid household containers for the recycling

triangle and number. WM does not recycle #6 plastic; these should go in the trash.

### General Recycling Information:

- Place your recycling at the curb on your pickup day. There is a separate recycling truck that picks up the recycling.
- Never throw plastic bags in your recycling bin. They will degrade the sorting process and clog up the sorting machinery. Plastic bags should be returned to stores with special collection bins.
- Look for the triangle with the number inside it to identify the type of plastic. WM can recycle numbers #1 through #7, with one exception - #6 should not be placed in recycle bins. It needs to go in the trash.
- All food must be removed from anything to be recycled; if contaminated, discard as trash.
- WM now does single-stream recycling so nothing has to be sorted by the consumer. It will all be separated at the sorting center.
- Please do not recycle gutters, siding, lawn chairs, toys, pots, pans, ceramics, etc. These are trash.

Any further questions, please contact your Waste Management Customer Service Representative at (800)796-9696.



96-gallon recycle carts are on the way to all current West Peoria recyclers.



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## A "Royale" Adventure...

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It was about 8:15 a.m. on July 30, when the "Queen" motored past the Copper Harbor buoy, and headed out into the cold, deep waters of Lake Superior. Among the many passengers on board were seven Troop-11 scouts and their two adult leaders. For months, they had prepared for this ultimate adventure and now the time had finally arrived. The *Isle Royale Queen 4* was taking them to Isle Royale National Park for six days and five nights of backpacking on this Great Lakes' jewel.

The Troop-11 scouts enjoy the challenge of going to an area of pristine wilderness known both for its beauty and its ruggedness. Isle Royale is the smallest of all the National Parks in the United States and is the least visited of all the National Parks. The park is located in Lake Superior about 15 miles east of the Minnesota-Canadian border. Isle Royale is known as a hiker's paradise and is famous for its populations of moose and wolves.

The boys once again had to carry with them all their supplies for the week. Tents, sleeping bags, clothes, food and cook gear all had to be stowed into their backpacks. Their itinerary was ambitious; they had to hike between seven and 11 miles per day, staying at a different campsite each night. In total they would hike 50 miles on some of the roughest, ankle-twisting, foot-punishing trails to be found anywhere in the Midwest.

DAY 1: As the ferry pulled into Rock Harbor, each scout wondered if their months of practice hiking at Forest Park Nature Center had prepared them for what was ahead. After disembarking, the group received an orientation from a park ranger who talked about the principles of "Leave No Trace" camping and being good stewards of the land. Following the presentation it was time to

grab their gear. "Packs On" was the cry from group leader Jim Hoerdeman. His second in command was Chaplin's Aide Joseph Zilkowski. The rest of the group included Life Scout Tyler Franciscovich and First Class Scout Kane Hudson. Nate Wagner, Ted Lewis and Brandon Langfeldt were the "adventure" new-comers having joined the troop just the year before. They were joined by two adult leaders; Jeff VanNess and Bruce Zilkowski. After arriving at the island, the first order of business was to hike a short ways down the trail and then lunch. The first day's hike was more than seven miles to Daisy Farm, their assigned campsite for the evening, which they reached by early evening. Tents were pitched and supper prepared in short order. After dinner, the group headed for the shoreline to purify water (all water at Isle Royale must be filtered or boiled to make it safe for drinking) or to have a swim in Superior's frigid waters. That evening the campers at Daisy Farm were treated to a special presentation on the Wolf-Moose, predator-prey relationship.

DAY 2: Only an eight-mile hike and all day to do it meant that this day should have been one of their easier ones. The group's destination was the McCargoe Cove Campground. To get there, the group had to cross the width of the island, which included hiking over the ridges that run the length of Isle Royale. By afternoon the warm weather had almost exhausted their water supplies and a short side trip was needed to Chickenbone Lake to filter more water for the remaining few miles. They arrived at camp by mid-afternoon, and the rest of the day was spent down near the water of the cove.

DAY 3: More than 10 miles along part of the mighty Minong Trail was the planned route for the day. The Minong travels up and down a ridge offering up beautiful vistas of Lake Superior and Canada in the distance. It became obvious that these boys are becoming a pretty good hiking team as they began to complete a mile about every 30 minutes, a good pace considering the tough terrain and heavy packs. The destination for the day was Hatchet Lake, an inland lake located almost in the center of Isle Royale. Their early morning departure and quick pace got the group



## For West Peoria Troop-11 Boy Scouts



into camp by mid-afternoon. They found their campsite surrounded by red ripening thimbleberries, and the boys helped themselves to this special treat.

DAY 4: Another early start was the order of the day as the group tackled their longest hike during the whole trip. An 11-plus mile hike to Lake Richie took them along a portion of the famous Greenstone Trail. The Greenstone runs almost the entire length of Isle Royale and follows the high ridge that travels the middle of the island. The trail offers spectacular views and as an added bonus ripe blueberries seem to follow the entire length of the path. By now, with most of the food eaten, packs were considerably lighter and the group was moving like a well-oiled machine. A rainstorm drenched everyone just before lunch, but clear skies came out as the food is unpacked. After lunch a light rain again settled in, but stopped when the boys reached their campsite. Lake Richie turned out to be a truly beautiful setting, and the clear skies and late sunset allowed ample time to dry out wet equipment. The evening ended with a special performance from the loons out on the lake.

DAY 5: A 10-plus mile hike took the group back towards their starting point. The boys arrived back at their first night's campground, Daisy Farm, in time for lunch and a well-deserved rest. After lunch, they repeated four miles of trail along Superior's shoreline, the only stretch of trail that they would repeat the whole trip. They arrived at Three Mile Camp and spent the afternoon hanging out in Superior's cold, clear water. That evening there

was eager anticipation of the short three mile hike back to the civilization of Rock Harbor.

DAY 6: The last day. The Troop-11 hiking machine hit the trail with a very brisk pace toward Rock Harbor along the beautiful Tobin Harbor Trail. The Rock Harbor area contains a small lodge, a restaurant, gift shop and indoor plumbing. It is also where the ferry would pick up the boys in the mid-afternoon to begin their journey home. In short order, they arrived at Rock Harbor and completed their Isle Royale journey. While they waited for the arrival of the ferry, each group member had a chance to grab some snacks and souvenirs and reflect on what they accomplished. The team never got a chance to see a moose or wolf, and mosquito bites and sore feet were shared by more than a few. But, each member felt a well-deserved sense of accomplishment and a real confidence that they were true adventurers.

The focus of Scouting is to turn boys into leaders. Leadership, teamwork and the outdoor skills they had learned back home allowed this group to successfully complete a very challenging week and give them an adventure none will ever forget. The troop would like to thank the many people who helped them, including the donor who provided the troop with four brand new backpacking tents and another who contributed the water filtration equipment. They would also like to thank their troop sponsor, the West Peoria Lions Club, who purchased two new lightweight backpacking stoves used on the trip. Finally, they also thank all those in the West Peoria area who offered support through the purchase of fundraiser items or by words of encouragement.



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

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

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**WPRA UPCOMING DATES**

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

**November 17**  
WPRA Monthly Meeting

**December 4**  
WPRA Christmas Party