

West Peoria News

Published by the West Peoria Residents Association

October - November, 2023

WEST PEORIA'S HALLOWEEN "TRUNK 'N TREAT"

In a cooperative effort between the City of West Peoria and the West Peoria Residents' Association, a 'Trunk 'n Treat' is planned for

Tuesday, October 31st 5:00-6:30 p.m. City Hall



Any resident who would like to participate in the distribution of candy from the trunk of their vehicle, must register with City Hall (office@cityofwestpeoria.com or phone 674-1993) by Monday, October 30.

Be creative and decorate the trunks of your cars!

Have fun while distributing candy to our 'trick or treaters'! (Please be considerate of 'allergy free' food items.)

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY IS SCHEDULED

It's time to plan our fifth annual Christmas
Tree Lighting Ceremony!
Through the efforts of the City of West Peoria
and the Residents Association, the planting of
this tree has established a tradition
of an annual community event.

We invite you to join us for a short ceremony on

Monday, November 27, 2023 6:00 p.m. City Hall

Refreshments will be served, door prizes, crafts for the kids, and the arrival of Santa highlight the event!

Mark your calendars and join us at City Hall!

ATTENTION EVERYONE! WEST PEORIA HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTEST!



Yes, it won't be long before we're pulling out all the Christmas decorations, lights, garland, etc. The West Peoria Residents Association is again sponsoring a "Holiday Lighting Contest". Here's the opportunity for West Peoria residents to show off that great West Peoria Christmas spirit!

Start thinking and get those decorating ideas flowing!

Prizes will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

All details will be in the December issue of the newsletter!

Meeting and Event Dates

All event dates listed in this issue are subject to change. Check the City of West Peoria website, the West Peoria Community page on Facebook, or the Simplicity app.

Please note: All meetings are at City Hall unless otherwise noted. *Township Building, 2516 West Rohmann

<u>October</u>

Wednesday, October 4
Finance 5:30 p.m.
Land Use 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 10 City Council 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 11
Neighborhood Watch 6:00 p.m.
Maggie Moore, April Silver
Co-Coordinators

Monday, October 16 Garden Club 7:00 p.m.*

Wednesday, October 18 Transportation 5:30 p.m. Safety 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 24Planning & Zoning 5:30 p.m.
City Council 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 26 Seniors Afternoon 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 31 Trunk 'n Treat 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. City Hall

Packing Co. Since 1954 3000 W Farmington Road Winter Hours 8:30am-6:00pm Mon-Sat 9:00am-3:00pm Sunday We have milk, groceries, a full deli, and ALL of your meat needs covered! We can also cater your special event! www.raberpacking.com/catering-parties Raber Packing Co. @RaberPackingCo

November

Wednesday, November 1 Finance 5:30 p.m. Land Use 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 8
Neighborhood Watch 6:00 p.m.
Maggie Moore, April Silver
Co-Coordinators

Tuesday, November 14 City Council 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 15 Transportation 5:30 p.m. Public Safety 6:30 p.m.

Monday, November 20 Garden Club 7:00 p.m.*

Thursday, November 23
Thanksgiving

Friday, November 24 Offices Closed

Monday, November 27 Annual Tree Lighting City Hall 6:00 p.m.

Tuesady, November 28Planning & Zoning 5:30 p.m.
City Council 7:00 p.m.



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City News

The following information has been provided by Kinga Krider, West Peoria City Administrator. If you have any question regarding these topics or any other concerns, please contact City Hall, (309) 674-1993.

WELCOME!

Join us in welcoming Emily Huff and Charles (Chuck) Witkowski as new members of the Planning Commission/Zoning Board Appeals for the City of West Peoria! Both have shown interest in what happens in our community on a number of occasions. We look forward to their expertise and insight as we move forward to grow West Peoria.

NEW SIDEWALKS - The City continues with a new sidewalk project this year on Idaho Street. A number of streets and alleyways received sealcoating this summer as well. Such improvements make our community and neighborhoods look great and increase property values.

Never hesitate to reach out to an officer to thank them or report a concern. Also, the County has had its bike patrol covering our area, weather permitting.

To those of you who had the opportunity to know Deputy Tim Gilmore, our former 2nd shift officer, you will be pleased to know that he has been promoted to Investigations. Our congratulations!

LAWN WASTE - With the Fall season approaching comes mowing and a lot of leaves falling. Please be sure to keep yard waste off the sidewalks, streets and out of the storm sewers. Grass clippings and wet leaves can be very dangerous for bicycles and motorcyclists.

Waste Management continues to pick up yard waste every Friday through the last Friday in December. "Yard Waste Only" stickers for receptacles are free and available at City Hall.

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING

Do all you can to help deter crime! Lock doors... house, garage, shed and vehicles! Any type of tampering with your personal property needs to be reported to the Peoria County Sheriff's office at 309-672-6011. As the weather turns colder, be sure to lock your car at all times, and do not leave it running! If the thieves do not have opportunities, they will travel elsewhere to commit the crime. Help keep our community safe. Also, never hesitate to relay your concerns, as well as safety issues, to City Hall. Call City Hall 309-674-1993, email administrator@cityofwestpeoria.com, or go to our website www.cityofwestpeoria.org and hit "suggestions".

We are proud and greatly appreciate our Peoria County Deputies who help protect and serve our community: Drake Hart, 1st shift officer; Gavin Watland, 2nd shift officer; and Austin Cisna, 3rd shift officer.

City of West Peoria Resource Information

City Hall

Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Phone: 309-674-1993

Email: office@cityofwestpeoria.com

Mayor James R. Dillon

mayor@cityofwestpeoria.com

City Administrator Kinga Krider

administrator@cityofwestpeoria.com

City Clerk Margie Barnes

city_clerk@cityofwestpeoria.com

Code Enforcement & Zoning Officer Roma Wallace

code-zoning@cityofwestpeoria.com

City News

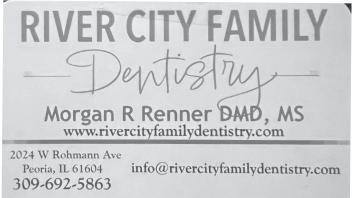
CONTAIN TRASH - Please remember that if trash is not contained properly, it can flow into storm inlets and ultimately into creeks and rivers. Not only is trash an eyesore and attracts rodents but it can also contain chemicals that are not environmentally friendly. Always put trash in proper containers and keep the lids closed to prevent blowing and to prevent intrusion by animals. Please pick up and dispose of any trash that you see in your neighborhood!

does NOT allow open burning. Do not burn leaves.
Recreational fires are only allowed in approved fire pits. Check with the Fire Department to ensure that your fire pit is in the right location and safe to use.

donated by Hoerr Nursery and planted/fenced/watered by FORG volunteers. Two apples, pears and persimmon were added and we expanded the overall size of the prairie garden for next year. A number of Peoria Public Schools are putting in our

SNOW FALL - Remember all streets in West Peoria are considered snow routes. When 2 or more inches of snow are "forecasted", ALL vehicles must be off the streets. Any vehicles obstructing snow removal will be towed at the owner's expense and will be ticketed. NO exception.





HORSESHOE BOTTOMS

By: Dave Pittman

Dramatic weather events on the Gulf, the West Coast and across the Canadian arboreal forest surround our Midwest. Yet we have had a dry but fairly decent weather pattern for the summer.

The Harold Dawson school prairie grew by six trees, donated by Hoerr Nursery and planted/fenced/ watered by FORG volunteers. Two apples, pears and persimmon were added and we expanded the overall size of the prairie garden for next year. A number of Peoria Public Schools are putting in outdoor gardens, part of the trend to expand part of the schoool into the real world. Young people need to be able to see and touch the outdoors if they are ever to become more comfortable in it.

Hike and workdays continue monthly but please call to confirm in case of bad weather cancellation. The free horseshoe bottoms hikes and workdays occur on: October 7, November 4, and December 2. . Both workday and hikes begin at 9:00 a.m., meeting at the far west end of St. Mary's Cemetery. Dogs on leashes are welcome. Please wear shoes and pants that can get muddy! Liability waivers are required. Hikes last about 90 minutes and workdays about 2-3 hours. Call or text David Pittman (309-573-2354) to confirm all events.

Rocky Glen Park workdays will be: October 8, November 5, and December 3rd. Volunteers meet at the Rocky Glen parking lot at 9:00 a.m. for 2-3 hours work.

FORG is an all volunteer non-profit with a goal of promoting the health and recreational value of the Kickapoo Creek watershed. Our educational programs include work with the Peoria Public Schools, private schools, and other non-profit groups. Volunteers alwayswelcome! Call or contact us via our website (www.friendsofrockyglen.org) for more information.

NEWS FROM THE PEORIA REGIONAL LEARNING CENTER

By: Teresa VonRohr, Principal

Peoria Regional Learning Center students returned to school on August 11, 2023. This was our first start to the school year in West Peoria at the Peoria Park District's Franciscan Recreation Complex. We have spent the first few weeks welcoming each other back and getting to know our new students. We are also enjoying our new water fountain with a bottle filler which was donated by Friends of Fatherless Sons and installed by Mayor Dillon. With the money raised during our open house, students received a stainless steel water bottle.

We would like to thank those who have made donations to PRLC. We greatly appreciate your support! Our students will begin fundraising for their prom which is held in the Spring each year. The money raised helps pay for a meal and/or snacks and themed decorations. First up will be Boo Grams which students and staff can purchase and send to their peers. The Student Life Advisory committee would appreciate help offsetting the cost of the Boo Grams and have compiled a list of necessary items. If you would like to help, donations can be dropped off at the Franciscan Recreation Complex Monday - Friday from 7:30-3:00 pm.

- Hot chocolate packets (or canisters)
- Cups
- Soda Fanta and A&W Rootbeer, Creme
 A&W Rootbeer
- Tootsie Roll Suckers
- Tissues
- Black yarn
- Bags of Assorted candy
- Halloween-themed or clear gift bags
- Black Sharpies

- Black Sharpies
- Little marshmallows
- Whipped cream
- Individually wrapped single-serving assorted candy

Peoria Regional Learning Center has openings. We offer a small high school environment that focuses on academics, personal development and college and career readiness. We strive for a community environment where we can build great relationships, provide support and develop a culture and climate where students feel they belong. If you know of a student who would benefit from PRLC, please have them reach out to Teresa VonRohr at tvonrohr@peoriaregional. com or call (309) 495-6800.





WEST PEORIA FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

By: Chief Terry Schadt

Members of the West Peoria Fire Department have been busy throughout the last several months with EMS and fire calls. In July the Fire Department responded to 76 emergency calls and to 63 calls in August. As an added note, the WP Fire Department established a new record in 2022 with a total of 812 calls!

Sandwich Days have ended for the year. We want to thank the Owl's Nest for all her support in allowing the Fire Department to have this fundraiser and we thank all the residents who stopped by to enjoy a pork chop sandwich!

Congratulations to Second Assistant Chief Bob Harris for being recognized as the Emergency Medical Responder of the Year! Harris joined the department in September of 1978 and has risen through the ranks as firefighter, engineer, first engineer, captain and Assistant Chief in 2012. Also, congratulations to the following for their years of service: 5 years - Firefighter and EMT Jennifer Strickler and Maddie Bozik. 35 Years - Captain Dan Kerns.

Cash Ladder is still going strong! Cash Ladder is held every Monday night from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the Owl's Nest. Tickets are only \$1! By supporting Cash Ladder, it aids in the purchasing of firefighting equipment for the West Peoria Fire Department.

Need to find that right quick meal? Save 30% on online orders at Papa Johns. Use promo code "WPFD40" when ordering online at papjohns.com. The West Peoria Firefighters' Association receives 10% of the discounted purchase and you save 30%!

The Fire Department is asking the citizens of West Peoria for help. We are in need of volunteers for the fire department and ambulance services. The Fire Department takes great pride in serving the residents of West Peoria for over 84 years! Join the dedicated volunteers of the West Peoria Fire Department! For further information or questions, contact Chief Terry Schadt at the Fire House 309-674-6615.

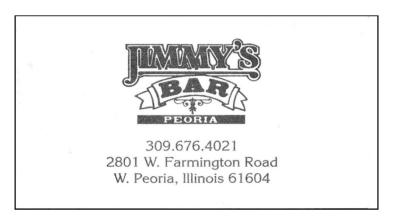
SCOUTING NEWS

By: Bob DeSutter

Boy Scout Troop 11 will again be selling Christmas wreaths and Butter Braid bread from October 17-31. Delivery will be in November before Thanksgiving. Contact any Boy Scout from Troop 11, Mary Menke @309-657-0309 or Bob DeSutter @309-369-8078.

Boy Scout Troop 11 is looking for boys interested in joining scouts. Meetings are on Monday night from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the West Peoria City Garage. We do camping once a month from October thru May. There are 120 different merit badges you can earn, i.e. hiking, family life, first aid, boating, swimming, robotics, music, and golf. We also do Eagle Scout and community service projects. Come to a meeting and check us out! Any questions, contact Bob DeSutter, 309-369-8078.

Also, if you have a K-4th grade child who would like to join scouting, West Peoria Cub Scout Pack #11 is looking for adults and children to join the Pack! As an adult leader you will have the support of other scout parents in leading a den of scouts during the school year while your child will make friends and memories. Meetings are held at Whittier School and Scout committee meetings are held at the former West Peoria Township building. Contact Bob DeSutter at 309-369-8078 or email robtdesutter@att.net for more information.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

By: Maggie Moore & April Silver, Co-Coordinators



A "Going Away Party for Crime & Drugs" was hosted by the West Peoria Neighborhood Watch and National Town Watch on August 1st at West Peoria City Hall. In conjunction with National Night Out, held annually on the first Tuesday in August, the annual community-building campaign promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live.

We are sincerely grateful for the generous support of Mayor Dillon, the City Council and City Staff, the Peoria County Sheriff's Office, the West Peoria Fire Department, Bob DeSutter, and Boy Scout Troop #11.

Additional thanks goes to April Silver, Casey's, Koenig Body & Equipment, McDonalds, Peoria Chiefs, Peoria Community Bank, Peoria Park District, and Raber Packing Company for their donations andgate prizes. Thank you to Carol Reid for face

painting, Sharon Craig and Loretta Fehl for helping at the ticket table, and to all the volunteers who helped make Night Out a successful event.

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BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS

By: Maggie Moore

Autumn colors are all around and the beauty of the flowers at the Welcome Wall and corners at Sterling and Rohmann are fading into fall. Plans are underway for the sparkling Christmas lights and garland for the holiday season! Thank you to the Beautification Committee for their many hours of care and work to make the City of West Peoria beautiful!

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SENIORS AFTERNOON

By: Maggie Moore & April Silver, Co-Coordinators

Seniors Afternoon is held on the fourth Thursday of every month. There is always something fun and interesting planned. In August, Barbara Brown from the Peoria Public Library gave a very interesting presentation on the history of trains. Then in September Edi Janes of Oak Street Health helped everyone make macrame butterfly nets, which was lots of fun. Coming up in October, join us for an enjoyable afternoon of bingo and in November, there will be a movie.

RUGBY IN WEST PEORIA

The Peoria Rugby Club was started in 1973. The "Piggies" practice on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 5:30 p.m. at the Catholic Charities site on Alice Street in West Peoria. Check their schedule for upcoming games.



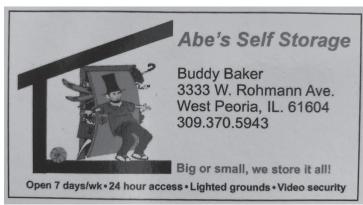
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GARDEN CLUB

By: Donna Schwab, President

At the October 16th meeting members will be making a Fall/holiday craft item and on November 20th, members will be making fleece scarves for a local charity. If anyone would like to join the Garden Club, meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the former Township building.

For more information, please contact President Donna Schwab at 309-256-8233.



2411 W Farmington Road 637-4722 Open daily 10:00 am - 2:00 am



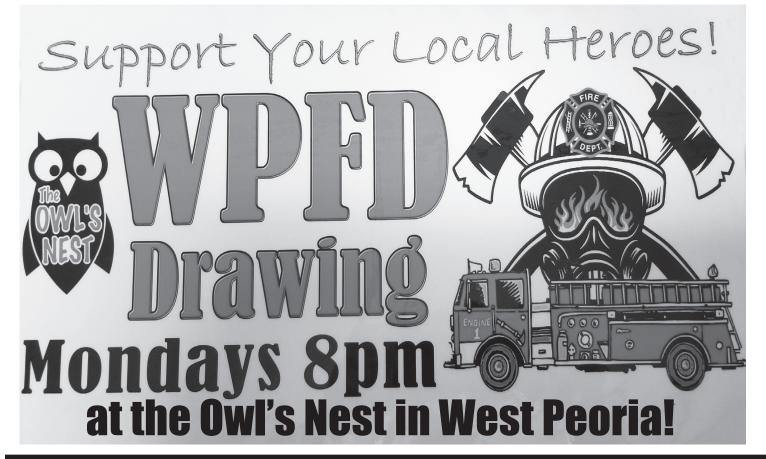


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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

By: Maggie Moore & April Silver, Co-Coordinators

The West Peoria Neighborhood Watch, a group of citizens dedicated to preventing crime and vandalism in their neighborhood, has been accepted into Peoria County TRIAD, a national community policing initiative that partners law enforcement professionals, seniors, and community groups to meet the crime-safety needs of seniors. The purpose of West Peoria Neighborhood Watch and Peoria County TRIAD is to work together to ensure the safety and well-being of senior citizens.



Our September meeting featured Carol Merna, Executive Director, for the Center for Prevention of Abuse. Her presentation focused on domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual abuse, family violence, and senior abuse, as well as the extensive amount of counseling and assistance available from the Center. To obtain any information, contact their office: 309-691-0551.

Peoria County is offering free classes and tours as a part of Illinois Central College's Adult Community Programs curriculum. These programs are available for individuals who are 18 years of age or older and require registration. Interested community members can register online at www.icc.edu, by calling ICC at 309-690-6900, or by visiting ICC's Hickory Hall, 5407 N. University Street in Peoria. The classes being offered are as follows:

- The Wisdom of Preparedness October 9
- Situation Awareness: A Life Skill November
 7, December 5
- Protecting Our Animals December 14

Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn and explore with Peoria County!

FRANCISCAN REC CENTER FALL PROGRAMS

A variety of classes have been scheduled at the Franciscan Recreation Center (FRC):

Baseball/Softball Clinics for ages 8-11, Happy Feet Soccer for ages 2-5, Youth Sports Sampler for ages 3-5 and 6-8, and Volleyball for ages 6-12. Pickleball is also available to all ages from October 3-April 29, 2024 on Tuesday & Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. For more information regarding these classes call: 309-682-1200 or go to the website: www.peoriaparks.org.

The FRC gymnasium can also be rented for \$50/hour and a \$50 cleaning deposit. To check availability, contact Angela at 309-681-2867.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT 2023 WPRA Membership Form

Membership is open to all residents of West Peoria and to non-residents who have an interest in supporting this community.

Circle the type of membership: Family \$15 NAME: ADDRESS: ______ E-MAIL: PHONE: I am also making the following additional donations:

General Fund: \$ West Peoria News: \$_____ American Flags: \$

Holiday Celebrations: \$

The West Peoria Residents Association (WPRA) is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

> Make checks payable to WPRA Mail to: 2506 W Rohmann Avenue West Peoria, IL 61604

For office use only:

Deposited_____ Newsletter Roster The West Peoria Residents Association has been established to help the residents of West Peoria come together and stay informed and involved in City of West Peoria activities.

Single \$10 Senior Citizen \$5 At the September 21st annual meeting, WPRA members reviewed updated bylaws and discussed how the association will be moving forward into 2024 co-sponsoring community events with the City of West Peoria staff. Along with expanded community events comes a request for volunteers and Board members. Volunteers to help at a specific event and Board members with ideas to create or expand on upcoming events in the year ahead. If you would like to be a part of this planning process, please contact any WPRA officer.

> I urge you to mark your calendars and sign up to participate in the upcoming "Trunk 'n Treat", greeting the excited trick or treaters with lots of treats! Also, our annual "Tree Lighting Ceremony" has been acclaimed as a special community event to kick off the Christmas season! I hope you will join us for both of these events!

Bonnie Farrell, President

2023 WPRA Board of Directors

Bonnie Farrell, President Nicholas Baker, Vice President Carole Stephens, Secretary Emily Waite, Treasurer

Newsletter Advertising

Contact: Sharon Kennedy (309) 208-7849

West Peoria Residents Association

WPRA

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West Peoria Fire Department Family Day!

Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of family activities at the Fire Department!

