

# **West Peoria News**

Published by the West Peoria Residents Association

December 2024 - January, 2025

# WEST PEORIA GOLF CLASSIC RAISES OVER \$10,000

By: Zak Edmonds

The 5th Annual West Peoria Golf Classic was held on October 12th at Madison Golf Course and we were able to raise \$10,600 for the West Peoria Fire Department. The weather this year was darn near perfect, and we had 18 teams!

These funds would not have been able to be raised without the help of various sponsors: Premier Sponsor-City of West Peoria, Hole-in-One Sponsor - MUIR Omni Graphics, Beverage Cart Sponsor-Stecher's Automotive, Golf Cart Sponsors:CEFCU and Laborers Local 165, Hole Sponsors-Lisa Crocker/Keller Williams, Anytime Fitness, Friends of United Stroke Alliance, Bank of Farmington, British Automotive Specialists, AASAP Appliance, Luke Hoerr Independent Insurance Agent, Busey Bank, HomeMade HandyMan, INB Bank, Owls Nest, Pinnacle Guns and Ammo, Pinnacle Uniforms, The Getaway on Western, and Joey Olson Country Financial.

We had several raffle item donations as well from Z's Odd Jobs & Random Tasks (ZOJART), Par-a-dice, No Laying Up, WTVP/ Consider this with Christine Zak, Busey Bank, MUIR, Express Smoke Shop, Illini Golf, Chic-Fil-A East Peoria, BS Entertainment, Powers Law PC, and Jay Edmonds Attorney at Law. The Golfer Swag bags were made possible by Art's Ads, MUIR, DLD VIP - World Famous Gun Reviews, No Laying Up, GolfBalls.com, and COSTCO.

I'd like to thank all of the volunteers as well: Dan Morris, Haley Pettenger, Charlotte Thornton, Blind Matt Stein, Brooklyn Nelson, Jamie Silver, Amy Pelino and all of the WPFD volunteer firefighters that helped, including Chief Terry Schadt!

Special shout out to Scott Phegley, the Golf Events Guy and to Raber Packing Company for hosting the after-golf food and awards ceremony. We could not do this without the sponsors, donors, golfers and volunteers!

In just 5 short years, the WPGC has raised over \$50,000 for the West Peoria Fire Department and we look forward to raising even more money next year! Mark your calendars and join us on Saturday, October 4th, 2025!

#### **CHRISTMAS HIGHLIGHTS!**

#### SANTA'S MAILBOX HAS ARRIVED!



Santa's mailbox has arrived outside the entrance of City Hall! We invite all the kids to write out their Christmas lists and mail their letters off to Santa. He's a busy man these days but he will certainly do his best to answer all the letters received!



# WEST PEORIA HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTEST!

The West Peoria Residents Association is again sponsoring a "Holiday Lighting Contest".

Participation is easy! Hang the lights and decorate your residence for the holidays! Then, simply call City Hall (309-674-1993) to enter your residence (or another neighbor's residence) in the contest. Judging will take place the week of December 16th and prizes will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place!

YOUR RESIDENCE MUST BE REGISTERED IN ORDER TO BE JUDGED!!

# **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>December</u>

#### Wednesday, December 4

Finance 5:30 p.m. Land Use 6:30 p.m.

#### **Tuesday, December 10**

City Council 7:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday, December 18

Transportation 5:30 p.m. Public Safety 6:30 p.m.

# Tuesday, December 24 Wednesday, December 25

Offices Closed "Merry Christmas!"

#### Friday, December 27

Last Yard Waste Pick Up for 2024!

#### **January**

#### Wednesday, January 1

New Year's Day (Offices Closed)

#### Tuesday, January 14

City Council 7:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday, January 15

Transportation 5:30 p.m. Public Safety 6:30 p.m.

#### **Thursday, January 23**

Seniors Afternoon 2:00 p.m.

#### Tuesday, January 28

Planning & Zoning 5:30 p.m. City Council 7:00 p.m.

(Because of the holidays, some meetings in December-January have been cancelled. Always check the calendar on the City of West Peoria website: www.cityofwestpeoria.org for any meeting updates.)





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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.

# CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES FOR NEW CITY HALL



The new West Peoria City Hall, under construction at the corner of Rohman and Sterling, will serve as the hub of governance, administration, and community engagement for generations to come. This signifies a new chapter in the history of West Peoria, showcasing the city's commitment to progress and development.

#### **SNOWFALL**

With the arrival of winter weather, we wanted to remind everyone that all streets in West Peoria are considered snow routes. When there is a forecast of 2 or more inches of snow, make sure to move all vehicles off the streets. Stay informed about local forecasts. For alerts, check the City website: www.cityofwestpeoria.org. If you don't have a driveway, or space in your yard, ask a neighbor for help in clearing a space for your vehicle until the streets are plowed. Remember, any vehicles that are obstructing snow removal may be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense.

#### **WASTE MANAGEMENT PICKUP**

Kindly ensure that your trash containers are ready for collection by 6:00 a.m. on your scheduled pickup day. All waste should be properly disposed of inside the toter with the lid closed. For large items or if you require an extra cart, reach out to Waste Management directly.

#### **HOLIDAY HOURS**

Please note: City Hall will be closed on Tuesday, December 24th and Wednesday, December 25th for Christmas, and Wednesday, January 1st for New Year's Day.

#### POSTAL DROPBOX RELOCATION

With the construction of the new City Hall at the corner of Rohman and Sterling, the US Postal Service drop box will be relocated. In the near future, the dropbox will be moved to Rohman Avenue, between City Hall and Haddad's.

#### **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/Around the Town

#### **LAWN WASTE**

Waste Management Yard Waste pickup will continue every Friday through the LAST FRIDAY IN DECEMBER! Please be sure to bundle tree limbs and bag your leaves. If rain is forecasted overnight, please ensure that your bags are not getting wet. Waste Management is not responsible for cleaning up leaves from broken bags. Yard waste stickers are available at City Hall.

#### **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!**

Greetings from the City of West Peoria!

We want to wish you and your loved ones
a joyful holiday season filled with happiness,
laughter, and magic. Your support and
positivity as valued members of our community
mean so much to us. Whether you're
spending time with family or taking time for
yourself, we hope your holidays are abundant
with joy. City Hall is committed to serving you,
and we look forward to working
together to create a vibrant community in the
new year. May your holidays be full
of happiness that lasts long after the
festive season ends!

Holiday wishes from the West Peoria City Council and City staff!

# Great Food, Darts & Gaming A West Peoria Original since 1938 Open every day 11 am - 2 am Kitchen closed Monday, Tacos only Tuesday

# THE NEED FOR TREES IN A COMMUNITY

By: Alderman Clark Abraham

Trees are enormously beneficial to communities. Consider these tree facts from the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois:

- Trees contribute to reducing urban temperatures
- Trees provide infrastructure to support rainwater management by soaking and filtering rainwater through their roots and catching rain water on their leaves, which then evaporates.
   According to the US Forest Service, 100 mature trees intercept about 250,000 gallons of rainwater annually.
- Nationwide, trees provide about \$18.3 billion in annual value by removing air pollution and reducing building energy use.
- The return on investment for trees is huge -every dollar a community spends on planting and caring for trees returns up to 500% in property values and reduced energy costs.
- Trees increase home values. Neighborhoods with mature trees have home values about 10% higher than neighborhoods with fewer mature trees. On average, each front yard tree adds 1% to a home's sale price, and large trees can add as much as 10% to a home's value.
- Trees are good for mental health. The sight of trees reduces blood pressure and helps people be more productive. Exposure to trees and nature reduces children's stress. Treelined roadways help drivers relax. Hospital patients with views of trees recover more quickly, have lower blood pressure and experience less stress.

Any question or for more information regarding the planting of trees, feel free to contact me.

#### ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League of Christ Lutheran Church will hold their annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 14th, 9:00 a.m.-Noon. This event will be held in the church Parish Hall at the corner of Starr and Madison Park Terrace, one block off of Western Avenue. A large variety of cookies, candies, and fudge will be sold for \$7.00/pound. Craft items will also be available. Proceeds from the Cookie Walk will be utilized to further the organization's mission efforts, both locally and nationally, throughout 2025.

# ANNUAL CUB SCOUT CHRISTMAS CAROLING IS PLANNED!

Mark your calendars! On Monday, December 16th and Wednesday, December 18th, at 6:00 p.m., (weather permitting) members of Cub Scout Pack 11 will be riding the Christmas float and traveling the streets of West Peoria during the Christmas season)! An ongoing tradition for the Scouts, they will be excited to wish all the residents a "Merry Christmas"! Be "watching and listening" for this "motorized sleigh" full of young carolers!

(Thanks to WPFD for leading this sleigh through the community and sharing the Christmas spirit!)



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#### **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

Neighborhood Watch meetings are normally scheduled on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. However, due to the holidays, there will be no meeting in December and January. Watch the February issue of the newsletter for upcoming meetings in 2025!

# Morgan Stanley Experience has a local address.

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# WEST PEORIA FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

**By: Fire Chief Terry Schadt** 

As the West Peoria Fire Department strives to continue to meet the ongoing needs of the West Peoria community, the fire department responded to 46 calls in the month of September, and 51 calls in the month of October. Total calls year to date: 635.

The last Sandwich Day for the year was October 19th. There was a good turnout for this event all year. Thank you to the Owl's Nest for allowing us to use their parking lot to have the cookouts and to Raber's for supplying us with the chops, brats and buns. We're already planning ahead, and Sandwich Days will begin in April or May.

"Thank you" to the Residents Association, City of West Peoria, and all the other businesses who invited us to participate in the annual Trunk 'n Treat. A fun night for our community!

On November 6th and 10th, the new owner of the hardware store at Rohman and Sterling allowed the WPFD to utilize the building for practice exercises. The Fire Department was able to use the store to teach search and rescue techniques, SCBA air pack use for new members, ladder evolutions, and leadership/command activities for newer officers and those on the waiting list for officer positions.

We would like to thank the following people and organizations for their assistance: The new owner, John, for allowing us to use the store before he begins the remodeling process; members of the Peoria County Sheriff's Office for assisting us with traffic control; Peoria County Dispatch Center for assisting in radio communications and use of safety tones when requested.

Thank you to the West Peoria community for all your support this past year!

(Editor's Note: Also a "Thank you" to all the WPFD volunteers for your ongoing dedication and service to West Peoria!)

# UNDERSTANDING INSURANCE INCREASES ON HOME AND AUTO INSURANCE

By: Joey Olson, Country Financial Representative

Insurance premiums in Illinois were up 20-30% on average in 2024. Home and auto policies can fluctuate due to a variety of factors. Understanding these factors can help policyholders anticipate changes and make informed decisions.

- 1. Rising Costs of Repairs and Replacements: Advancement in vehicle technology and increasing costs of building materials and labor drive up the cost of repairs and replacements. This leads to higher claim costs for insurers.
- 2. Increased Frequency and Severity of Claims: Natural disasters across the country are becoming more frequent and severe leading to more home insurance claims. For auto insurance, factors such as distracted driving result in more accidents. Insurers adjust premiums to cover these increased risks.
- 3. Inflation: As the cost of living rises, so do the costs associated with insurance claims. Insurers must adjust premiums to keep pace with inflation and ensure they can cover future claims.
- 4. Changes in Underwriting Practices: Insurance companies periodically update their underwriting practices based on new data and trends. This can lead to changes in how they assess risk and price policies.

Understanding these factors helps policyholders navigate insurance premiums and take steps to mitigate potential increases. Talk to an insurance professional to make sure you're not over or under insured and take advantage of all available discounts.

#### NEWS FROM THE PEORIA REGIONAL LEARNING CENTER

By: Teresa VonRohr, Principal

In November, PRLC gathered together to give thanks for all of our students, staff, families, and community. Before taking our Fall break, the students and staff shared a fabulous meal. This has become a highlight for staff and students alike as we celebrate each other and enjoy one another's company.

PRLC is proud to announce we will have two students graduating in December! Our seniors are busy completing their last few activities before they graduate, such as applying to area colleges and for the Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA). We are so proud of their perseverance and ability to complete their high school journey with us. We will be celebrating them on Thursday, December 19, 2024.

As we look to the new year, PRLC is taking applications for new students for the second semester beginning Monday, January 6, 2025. We look forward to serving the students in Peoria County in a new and exciting way. If you know of anyone who would be interested in gaining more information about PRLC and its programs, please contact the school office at 309-495-6800.

#### **SENIORS AFTERNOON**

Seniors Afternoon events are held at West Peoria City Hall at 2:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month. Upcoming meetings include: January - Reminiscing and Sharing (weather permitting), February - Guest Speaker Barb Brown, Peoria Public Library.

Please note new time and we hope you will join us!

#### **WEST PEORIA HARDWARE**

As you may have noticed, the West Peoria Hardware store at the corner of Rohman and Sterling has closed. A new owner has acquired the property and after an extensive renovation, a new hardware store will be opened! More details will be coming!

The average Insurance premium increase in 2024 was 31%





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#### COMING SOON...Drive-Up Teller/ATM

We are looking forward to serving the West Peoria Community with the opening of a drive-up ITM/ATM this summer! Watch for construction activity in the lot West of the current city building.

- This new and convenient drive-up banking technology can accommodate 95% of your banking transactions from the comfort of your vehicle.
- Our drive-up ITM features our teller serving you: 8:00am-6:00pm Monday-Friday 8:00am-1:00pm Saturday
- 24 Hour ATM

#### Stay tuned for office hours



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**Bob Lakin** Owner

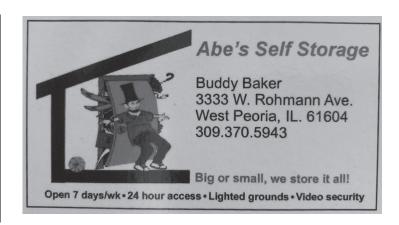


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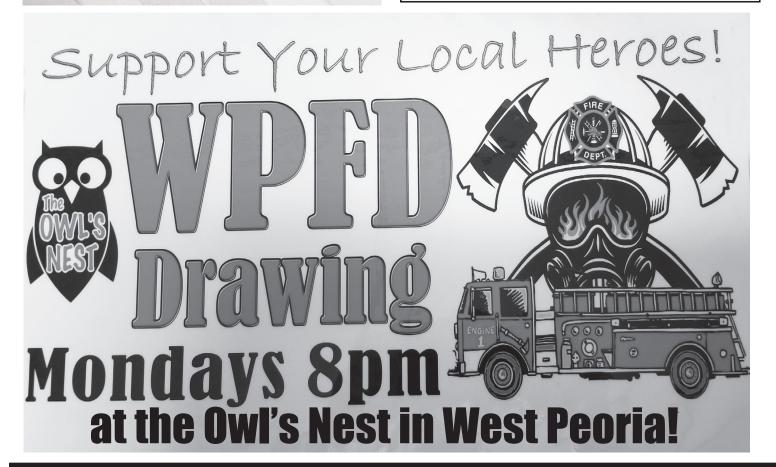


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# 30TH ANNUAL ROLAN JOHNSON CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT SALE

"Glad Tidings of Great Joy and Peace" Cost: \$39.00

Available at: Hometown Community Banks, Jones Bros. Jewelers (N. Grand Prairie Drive), Lagron-Miller, and the Convent

All proceeds to benefit the Sisters' Retirement Fund

#### HORSESHOE BOTTOMS

By: Dave Pittman

The inevitable cold has finally arrived, and the subtle late Fall browns set the stage for the wintry white we all know is coming. Plants that evolved in this climate not only expect the cold but depend on a good deep time of frozen ground for seed stratification and to help fend off the invasive warm loving plants.

Hikes and workdays at Horseshoe Bottoms continue on Saturdays, December 7, January 4, and February 1. Both the hike and workday begin at 9:00 a.m. at the far end of St. Mary's Cemetery on Sterling.

Rocky Glen Park workdays will be held Sundays, December 1, January 5, and February 2. Volunteers meet at Rocky Glen parking lot at 9:00 a.m., for 2-3 hours work. (Please call or text Dave Pittman (309-573-2354) to confirm all events in case of bad weather or to answer any questions.

FORG (Friends of Rocky Glen) is a volunteer nonprofit with a goal of promoting biological health of the Kickapoo Creek watershed. Our educational programs include work with the Peoria Public Schools, Peoria and Bartonville libraries, and other non-profit groups. Volunteers are always welcome. Check out our facebook or website: www.friendsofrockyglen.org.



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### **WPRA**

#### **THANK YOU**

We would like to thank the following WPRA members for their support in 2024! Your membership dues allow us to continue the publication of this newsletter as well as community activities throughout the year! We appreciate your support and look forward to your WPRA membership again in 2025!

**Bobbie Abbott** 

Robert & Cynthia Archer

Indravadan Arya
Chris Baker
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Judith Bianco
Peggy Bonner
Carol Borders
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Mike Bromley
Pat & Deb Bromley

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Kathy Kelly
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Randy & Marilyn Kleist

Sharon Knapp Edward Lamoureux Toby & Judie Lancaster

Nora Leman Gloria Lindsay Barbara Linehan Brent Lonteen Michelle Marvin Randy Massey Ardine Mathewson

Carol & Rocky Mathewson

Willie Bell McAfee Sharon McBride

Larry & Jeanne McMasters Tim & Edie McQuellon Matt & Chris Menke Mike & Mary Menke

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Diane Powell
Michael Powers

Nancy Powley

Rolland & Janet Reinhart

Alice Resneck

Bryon Rinkenberger

Dave Roberts
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Richard & Sue Roos

Ingrid & Isidor Ruscheinski

Kathleen Sarver

Terry & Cheryl Schadt

Beverly Schmidt John Schrodt

David Schwindenhammer Alan & Cynthia Servis Jamie & April Silver Vivian & Kathy Simerson Janice & Allen Skeels Jeanette Slama Teresa Smith

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Cynthia Sutter
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Mathew Timm
Pauletta Trammel
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Mary Venzon John Walker Pat & Bev Walker

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Amanda Watson John & Ann White Nancy White Jeannine Wilson Denna Wilt

Ross & Valerie Wolschlag

Edward Zell

Peoria Community Bank

# **West Peoria Residents Association**

WPRA

West Peoria Residents Association c/o 2506 West Rohmann Ave. West Peoria, IL 61604

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#### **WEST PEORIA'S TRUNK 'N TREAT WAS AN AWESOME EVENT!**



