

West Peoria News

Published by the West Peoria Residents Association

December - January, 2023

WEST PEORIA GOLF CLASSIC RAISES OVER \$11,000

By: Zak Edmonds

The FOREth Annual West Peoria Golf Classic (WPGC) teed off September 30th, a beautiful fall day and by far the best weather we've had in the four years

of the event.



The WPGC featured 16 teams this year, with a majority of the teams playing for the 4th time! The West Peoria Fire Department was on hand again for the infamous 'dress-like-a-firefighter-and-hit-a-golfball" challenge. All the proceeds from the WPGC go directly to the West Peoria Fire Department and wouldn't be possible without our sponsors. Our Eagle Sponsors this year were Sun Collectors and the City of West Peoria. Prairie Home Alliance sponsored the Hole-In-One contest and sadly no one got one but we appreciate their sponsorship. Stecher's Automotive was once again our beverage cart sponsor, which all the golfers appreciated. Ray Tribe, the Home Made Handyman, and Josh Edmonds of Legacy Wealth Partners were our golf cart sponsors. Once again we had several hole and raffle sponsors: Jay Edmonds Law, British Automotive Specialists, Hoagland Construction, Stanley Steemer, Anytime Fitness, Slater Wealth Management (thanks for the coozies too!), Pinnacle Guns and Ammo, Pinnacle Uniforms, Owls Nest, AMT, Fairfield Inn, Muir Omni Graphics, Friends of United Stroke Alliance, Illini Golf, No Laying Up, CEFCU, Par-a-Dice, Four Points Sheraton, Clubhouse Indoor Golf and the Peoria Park District.

A very special thanks to Scott Phegley, the Golf Events Guy, who built the new registration page. And once again, a very special thank you to Raber Packing Company for hosting the post game awards ceremony. (Continued on page 11.)

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! Decorate your residence, fill out the coupon below to enter your own residence (or another residence of friend/neighbor) and drop the coupon off at City Hall. Judging will be the week of December 18th and prizes will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place!

YOU MUST REGISTER!

(The registration form can be found on page 11.)

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 6

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

Tuesday, December 12

City Council 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 20

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

Monday, December 25

Christmas
Offices Closed

Tuesday, December 26

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

Tuesday, December 28

Seniors Afternoon 1:00 p.m.

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

<u>January</u>

Monday, January 1 New Year's Day

Offices Closed

Wednesday, January 3 Finance 5:30 p.m.

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

Tuesday, January 9

City Council 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 10 Neighborhood Watch 6:00 p.m.

Maggie Moore, April Silve Co-Coordinators

Wednesday, January 17

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

Tuesday, January 23

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

Thursday, January 25

Seniors Afternoon 1:00 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.

WINTER IS COMING - Please remember that all streets in West Peoria are considered snow routes. When 2 or more inches of snow are predicted in the forecast, ALL cars must be removed from the streets. Stay tuned to local forecasts, and for alerts, check out the City website at www. cityofwestpeoria.org., the Community Facebook page, or our Simplicity app. If you do not have a driveway, or space in your yard, reach out to a neighbor so you can get your vehicle(s) off the roads until cleared. ALL vehicles obstructing snow removal may be towed at the owner's expense and will be ticketed.

survey. Your input is invaluable to us as we strive to shape the future of West Peoria. By completing the survey, you are helping us gather important information about the needs, priorities, and goals of our community. Your involvement in this process plays a crucial role in guiding our decisions and allocating resources effectively. The data collected from the survey will help us better understand where we should concentrate our efforts to create a vibrant and sustainable West Peoria.

LAWN WASTE - Waste Management Yard Waste pickup continues every Friday through the last Friday in December. Please remember to bundle your tree limbs and bag your leaves. If rain is forecasted overnight, please ensure that your lawn bags are not getting wet. The collector is not responsible for cleaning up leaves from broken bags. Stickers for yard waste containers are available at City Hall!

KEEP GAS METERS CLEAN - Air must circulate freely around the equipment that brings natural gas into your home or business to operate properly. In the winter, if snow has accumulated on the meter, use a broom to gently sweep it off. Don't hit or shake the meter or use tools with sharp edges. Also, be sure to keep furnace and water heater vents clear of snow and ice as well.

TRASH SET OUT GUIDELINES -

WEST PEORIA SET OUT GUIDELINES

Service Guidelines

Proper Cart Placement

 Remember to place your cart on the sidewalk or driveway at least 3 feet away from any obstacles (trees, cars, mailboxes, etc.) to allow the automatic arm to lift and empty the cart. Place the wheels of the cart toward your house.



 Have your carts at the curb the night before or no later than 6:00 a.m. on your collection day and remove them after collection.

6:00

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

OUR CITY - Many projects have taken place in 2023 and more to come in 2024! New sidewalks on Idaho Street, mill and overlay on several streets, and many more streets were seal coated. We have been working very hard developing plans for the new city hall. As we move forward, we hope to share the progress on our website and through open house/special council meetings.

We've had multiple economic development projects, including demolition of the old car wash building, remodeling of "The Getaway" on Western, a possible dispensary location, and a huge remodeling of the property at the corner of Sterling and Rohmann. The owner is still working on this property but hopes to occupy the space with a business that everyone in the community will like.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

We want to take a moment to send our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones thisholiday season. As the heart of our community, we are grateful for the support and positivity you bring throughout the year. Whether you're celebrating with family and friends, or taking a moment for self-care, we hope your holidays are filled with joy, laughter, and the magic of the season!

City Hall is here to serve you, and we look forward to continuing to work together to create a thriving and vibrant community in the coming year. Wishing you all the happiness this holiday season and beyond!

Happy Holidays from the West Peoria City Council and City Hall Staff!

HORSESHOE BOTTOMS

By: Dave Pittman

A warm fall now behind us, winter comes with its own beauty. The field corn in Horseshoe Bottoms has been harvested and many wild creatures are paused in their own life cycles, waiting for the warm weather to return. Monarch butterflies have flown south but other butterflies are around us in West Peoria either as eggs, larvae or in chrysalis. Some butterflies actually stay all winter as adults, and go into a type of hibernation. Nature is diverse and amazing.

The six HB Dawson school trees, donated by Hoerr's Nursery, seem to have survived, although the deer always present a big challenge. We plan to have several workdays in the coming months.

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: December 2, January 6, and February 3. . 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: December 3, January 7, and February 4th.. 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: Theresa VonRohr, Principal



Peoria Regional Learning Center is excited to announce the return of Student Ambassadors. Students had to apply and interview to earn a spot on our team. We ended up with seven ambassadors after very impressive interviews. Their first official duty was at our counselor luncheon, and they also provide insight to students and families that tour our school. If you are interested in learning more about our school, we would be happy to have our ambassadors speak with you.

We hosted our School Counselor Luncheon on October 30, 2023. We had 29 guests including our own Student Ambassadors, the Regional Office of Education from Peoria, as well as Tazewell County and the following high schools were represented: Farmington, Peoria Heights, Dunlap, Richwoods, Peoria High, Manual, Limestone. Lunch was served and Dr. Derrick Booth from Trillium Place provided an overview of services.

The students and staff at Peoria Regional would like to send out a big thank you to the community for the donations we received for our Spirit Week fundraiser. The Student Advisory Committee works hard all year to raise money for prom at the end of the year. They do this by selling treats and goodies during the week. Your donations of the hot chocolate, cups, marshmallows, candy, help to keep the profits of this endeavor up and are overwhelmingly appreciated!

Our next project is to have emergency buckets in each of our four classrooms. We are looking for 5-gallon buckets with lids, first aid supplies, flash lights, batteries, decks of playing cards, emergency blankets, hand sanitizer with snap closed lids, etc.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY WEST PEORIA!

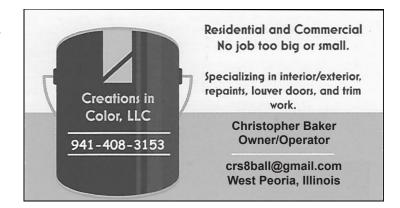
This past November marks the 30th anniversary of the incorporation of West Peoria as a City!



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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 September the Fire Department responded to 76 emergency calls and to 67 calls in October.

Sandwich Days have ended for the year. We want to thank everyone who supported us during Sandwich Days in 2023! It was good to see everyone enjoying a summer meal! We will start up again in January 24, Cindy Wamack, Senior Benefits April, 2024. We also want to thank the Owl's Nest for all her support in allowing the Fire Department to have this fundraiser!

Cash Ladder is still going strong! By supporting cash ladder, it aids in the purchasing of firefighting equipment for West Peoria Fire Department. Cash Ladder is held every Monday night from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the Owl's Nest. Tickets are only \$1! We thank the generous support of our West Peoria, Peoria County, and Peoria citizens who support us through our fundraising efforts.

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

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.

SENIORS AFTERNOON

Hosted by West Peoria Neighborhood Watch

Maggie Moore & April Silver, Co-Coordinators

West Peoria seniors are in for a treat on Thursday, December 28th! Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of games, refreshments, and a showing of the classic holiday movie "White Christmas."

Advisor with Humana, will lead a watercolor workshop. All supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring your own watercolors and brushes if you have them.

In October, we played bingo and learned new varieties of the game. Everyone who attended won at least one round! Rosie Jorgenson was the recipient of the afternoon's beautiful door prize, a handmade lap quilt.

Join West Peoria seniors for activities, light snacks, and conversation on the 4th Thursday of each month. For more information about this Senior's Afternoon event, please contact the West Peoria Neighborhood Watch at 673-0535.

We hope to see you there!



ANNUAL CUB SCOUT CHRISTMAS CAROLING IS PLANNED!

Members of Cub Scout Pack II will be riding the Christmas float and traveling the streets of West Peoria during the Christmas season (weather permitting)! 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!

ADVENT CAROLS AND LESSONS

The Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception will host Advent Carols and Lessons Sunday, December 3, 2023
4:00 p.m.
Immaculate Conception Convent 2408 West Heading
West Peoria, IL





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BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS

By: Maggie Moore

The City of West Peoria is decked out in Christmas lights and garland, reflecting the holiday spirit. The Welcome Wall, City Hall, and Rohmann & Sterling are all decorated with festive lights and greenery. The beautiful Christmas tree at City Hall is a sight to behold, and the Beautification Committee deserves a big thank you for making the city such a cheerful place to celebrate the holidays. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

COMMUNITY SAFETY

One year ago, the West Peoria City Council voted to increase police protection in our community and contracted with the Peoria County Sheriff's Department for 24/7 coverage. We continually see and appreciate the presence of our Community Officers on all three shifts! As a matter of information, these officers are issuing many citations for speeding, parking violations, and vehicular violations, as well as attempting to resolve other residential issues. "Thank you" to our Community Officers for your service to West Peoria!





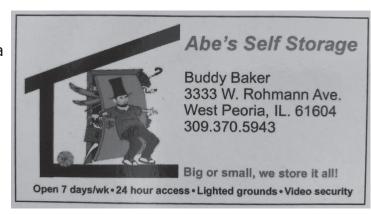
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GARDEN CLUB

By:Priscilla Peterson

The garden tools are cleaned, sharpened and put away for winter! Garden Club members would like to extend best wishes to everyone for the holidays! We will resume our regular monthly meetings in February, 2024, to plan the year's programs and community projects.





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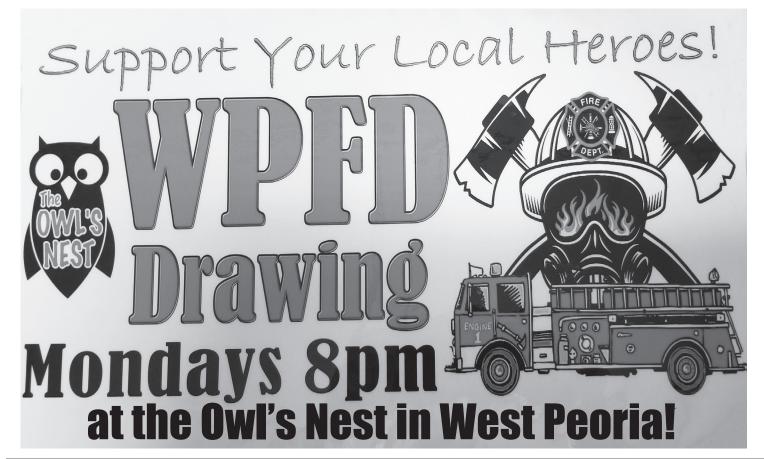


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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

By: Maggie Moore & April Silver, Co-Coordinators

We all know that it is important to be prepared for emergencies. But if you only have 10 minutes to evacuate your home, how prepared are you, really?

At the October 25 meeting of West Peoria Neighborhood Watch, attendees were shown a video of a family being put to the test by the Placer Hills Fire Department and PG&E's Public Safety Specialist team. The family had only 10 minutes to evacuate their home. While this was only a disaster readiness drill, the family learned reallife lessons on what essential items to grab, what actions to prioritize, and how to get out safely with every member of the family, including pets.

It is important to be prepared for both an emergency or a disaster and the specific measures taken will depend on the nature of the event. Be prepared and have a plan for the safety of your family. Watch the video on YouTube by searching "Emergency Preparedness | How Ready Are You, Really?"

Deputy Drake Hart of the Peoria County Sheriff's Office gave an informative update on various crime and safety statistics throughout West Peoria at the November meeting. Deputy Hart highlighted the Unattended Motor Vehicle Statute as winter sets in. This statute states that no person driving or in charge of a motor vehicle shall permit the vehicle to stand unattended. While this does not apply to locked vehicles with the engine running after being started by a remote starter device, it does have ticketing implications for anyone leaving their vehicle unlocked while warming them up. He also advised residents to be aware of their surroundings and to report any suspicious activity to the police.

The next meeting of West Peoria Neighborhood Watch is scheduled for January 10 at 6 p.m. at West Peoria City Hall. There will be no meeting in December.

Please join us for these important meetings to learn how to keep your family safe. Stay safe, be alert and aware, report suspicious persons and vehicles, keep yard lights on at night, and lock doors windows, and vehicles.

NEW CITY HALL IS COMING!



The Busey Bank building at Rohmann and Sterling will soon be demolished to make way for the new West Peoria City Hall!

Construction is scheduled to begin in Spring, 2024!





WEST PEORIA GOLF CLASSIC RAISES OVER \$11,000 cont...



WP Fire Chief Terry Schadt and Zak Edmonds

Thank you again to everyone! The hard work, dedication and participation were greatly appreciated and we were able to raise \$11,056 for the West Peoria Fire Department!

The tentative date for the 5th Annual WPGC will be October 12th, 2024. If you are interested in being on the planning committee, please contact Zak Edmonds at 309-303-3882.

HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST Name:_____ Addrss:_____ (Drop off at City Hall, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.)

MESSAGE FROM WEST PEORIA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Residents Association officers and Board members have continued to meet throughout the past year, working with the City of West Peoria in planning and coordinating many community events. As discussed at our September annual meeting, more community events are being planned in 2024! New ideas are always welcomed!

It has been our goal with each edition of the newsletter to continually keep you informed of West Peoria news and events. We hope we have achieved that goal!

In addition, I would like to extend an invitation to all West Peoria residents to attend City Council meetings, Committee meetings, and Neighborhood Watch meetings. Attendance at any of these meetings will keep you informed about governmental decisions and actions, as well as ongoing activities in the City of West Peoria.

On behalf of the West Peoria Residents Association officers and Board members, we extend best wishes for a "Happy Holiday Season" and may 2024 be a happy, healthy, and prosperous year for you and your family!

Bonnie Farrell, President

2023 WPRA Board of Directors

Bonnie Farrell, President Nicholas Baker, Vice President Emily Waite, Treasurer

Newsletter Advertising

Contact: Sharon Kennedy (309) 208-7849

West Peoria Residents Association

WPRA

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Halloween Highlights!

Decorated houses.... a "Trunk 'n Treat" co-sponsored by the West Peoria Residents Association and the City of West Peoria...as well as the generosity of homeowners throughout West Peoria in distributing special treats... Halloween was a fun event in West Peoria!

