

RIVER CITY REVIEW



CITY OF
PEORIA

SPRING 2009

MAYOR'S LETTER

This edition of "River City Review" provides information you will find both interesting and useful, especially as you plan for springtime cleanup and a quickly approaching summer season. In preparing the City's official newsletter, our Communications Director, Alma Brown, and her volunteer cadre of "reporters" around City Hall, draw not only on the expertise of fellow employees but on our partners in the community as well.

I am pleased with the article on City and Peoria County cooperation in sharing crime information and providing access to the community to assist improved crime prevention and enforcement. A new crime mapping tool, **CrimeView**, will directly support neighborhood stabilization initiatives. Special thanks go to Sheriff Mike McCoy and Police Chief Steve Settingsgaard for their leadership in making this happen. We also should tip our hats to the folks behind the scenes in the City and County IT and Emergency Communications departments who make sure all this high technology actually works!

Speaking of cooperation, there is a good set of **emergency preparation tips** provided by our friends at AmerenCILCO. Recognizing that the tornado season is upon us makes this list of items particularly handy. You will also find a very worthwhile article on safety training for neighborhood watch groups. The City's Community Development Division, within the Planning and Growth Management Department, has teamed up with the Police Department to offer **S.W.O.T.** (Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunity-Threats) training, for registered neighborhood watch groups.

The City will conduct its first **Public Works Open House** in honor of National Public Works Week, May 17-23, showcasing the people who engineer and maintain Peoria's extensive network of streets, alleys, storm sewers, street signs and other public infrastructure and associated support services. Of course, the workhorse equipment that our Public Works team uses will be available for up-close public inspection. The Open House will be on Thursday, May 21, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

We are also pleased to announce that again this summer the City, with significant support from Workforce Development Director Bashir Ali, will sponsor a **Mayor's Summer Youth Program**. We will announce more specifics later, but we anticipate at least 75 high school youth will be engaged in public right-of-way brush and debris cleanup. As was the case last year, the program will be coordinated by Public Works Director David Barber and Communications Director Alma Brown, with Council engagement led by Councilman George Jacob.

I know you will enjoy reading the other articles in the newsletter and invite you to let me know future subjects you would like us to report on through this specifically tailored communication tool.

In closing, let me simply say that our community has a great deal of which to be proud. Even though we all face some extraordinary economic challenges, I am confident that the inherent strength and character of Peoria's citizenry will pull through. I pledge to continue to do my very best to work with you in making our city the finest it can be.

Warm regards,

Jim Ardis
Mayor
309-494-8519



TIPS FOR ANY EMERGENCY

Emergencies are unpredictable, but you can be better prepared for the unexpected if you have the following items in a designated place in your home or business:

- ▶ Emergency telephone numbers
- ▶ Flashlights and fresh batteries
- ▶ Extra keys for your garage and home
- ▶ Battery-powered radio
- ▶ Battery-powered or wind-up alarm clock
- ▶ Supply of bottled water (one gallon per person per day)
- ▶ Non-perishable foods that don't require heating
- ▶ Blankets, bedding or sleeping bags
- ▶ First-aid kit and medications
- ▶ Hand-operated can opener
- ▶ Special items for infants, the elderly or family members with special needs
- ▶ Hand tools, such as a screwdriver, scissors, duct tape, plastic utensils, paper plates, waterproof matches and household bleach
- ▶ Identification and copies of important family documents
- ▶ Extra cash, since an extended electrical power outage may prevent you from withdrawing money from automatic teller machines or banks



Tips provided by **AmerenCILCO**. Visit their Web site, www.ameren.com, for more ways to be prepared.



SAFETY TRAINING AVAILABLE FOR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUPS

An active watch group can prevent and reduce neighborhood nuisance such as loud music, loitering, vandalism, environmental blight, ordinance violations and crime. The City's Community Development Division is collaborating with the Police Department to offer safety "Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunity-Threats" (S.W.O.T.) training for reg-

istered neighborhood watch groups to aid in the identification of human, social and infrastructural assets in a neighborhood. To register for training, a neighborhood watch group must submit a request to the Neighborhood Division.

For more information, contact Steve Fairbanks at 494-8603.



2009 ALLEY LIGHT PROGRAM

The City has earmarked money for the purchase and installation of 200 alley lights for its 2009 alley light program. Applications are now available to Peoria homeowners and property owners who want a free alley light installed on their house or garage. The alley light is a 70-watt, high-pressure sodium, metal wall unit with a heavy-duty light cover that will be hardwired to

an existing electrical system. The only requirements are that an applicant's house or property is served by an alley and an applicant must not have participated in a previous alley lighting program. The applicant is responsible for the care and maintenance of the light after it is installed.

Applications can be downloaded from the City's Web site: www.ci.peoria.il.us or call 494-8603 for more information.



CITY AND COUNTY LAUNCH CRIME MAPPING TOOL

In an effort to provide crime transparency, the Peoria Police Department and Peoria County Sheriff's Department have launched CrimeView, a crime mapping tool which allows the public to view neighborhood crime mapping details via a user-friendly Web site. CrimeView allows the public to search 16 different crime types throughout the county or search by specific addresses, police districts, neighborhood association boundaries, City Council districts or school locations. Search results show icons ranging alphabetically from aggravated assault to weapon charges where the crime has occurred. A Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the state provided \$112,000 of the \$127,920 startup cost. The City of Peoria, Peoria County and the villages of Bartonville and Peoria Heights are participating in the program and will share the annual \$12,000 fee to The Omega Group to host and maintain the site. To visit the site, go to <http://peoria.il.crimeviewcommunity.com>.

BUSINESS WATCH

Business Watch is a program that encourages business owners to work together to watch out for each other's businesses, employees and customers, and to call the police when something or someone appears to be suspicious. Business Watch window signs and educational materials are available to Peoria businesses that organize a Business Watch. For additional information, contact Officer John Williams at 494-8246.

REGISTER NOW FOR THE GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP

Saturday, April 18 • 8:00 a.m.–Noon
GAC applications can be downloaded
from the City's Web site: www.ci.peoria.il.us.

Keep Peoria Beautiful coordinates the distribution of bags, gloves and other materials to citizens and neighborhood associations. To register for materials, call Sue Dewey at 672-6288. The City of Peoria coordinates all dumpster requests. To register for dumpsters, call Steve Fairbanks at 494-8603.

You're Invited!

PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE

In celebration of National Public Works Week, May 17–23, 2009, the City of Peoria's Public Works Department will host an Open House on Thursday, May 21, from 3:00–6:00 p.m., at its Operations & Maintenance facility, 3505 N. Dries Lane. The public is invited to the Open House which will feature an Equipment Show 'n Tell exhibit, information on how Public Works maintains Peoria infrastructure as well as demonstrations on sign making and wood chipper operations. Refreshments, door prizes, giveaways and face painting are also planned. For additional information, please contact Patti Pitcher at 494-8805 or Bob Tyler at 494-8885.

FREE DUMPSTERS FOR CLEANUPS

The City offers free trash and landscape dumpsters to registered neighborhood associations for cleanups scheduled between April 1 and November 7, 2009. Waste Management will deliver and pick up dumpsters on any Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to noon.



Associations may request one dumpster for landscape waste and one for trash, or two for trash, or two for landscape waste. Upon request, the City will provide 100 cleanup announcement flyers, three signs advertising the cleanup date and time, and five "Pride in Peoria is Picking Up!" yard signs. Applications can be downloaded from the City's Web site, www.ci.peoria.il.us, or requested from Steve Fairbanks at 494-8603.



CITY OF
PEORIA

419 Fulton Street
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Moving Peoria forward one call at a time.

- Police, Fire or Medical Emergency: 911
- City Service Requests and Information
Peoria CARES: 494-CARE (494-2273)
- E-mail: PeoriaCARES@ci.peoria.il.us
- Web Site: www.ci.peoria.il.us

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