



Office of the City Manager

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**FROM:** Patrick Urich, City Manager *P. Urich*

**DATE:** March 2, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Issues Update

The following are issues related to the City for the weekly Issues Update. If there are additional items you believe should be included, please let me know.

**ROAD CLOSURE.** The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announced that work is scheduled to begin Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> to widen and replace the decks of two bridges carrying I-74 over a railroad crossing, just west of Sterling Avenue in Peoria. Traffic on I-74 will be reduced to one lane in each direction during this project. Crossovers will be built to allow eastbound and westbound traffic to share two lanes of I-74 while work on each bridge structure is completed. The project is expected to be completed by the end of October, 2012. Attached for your review **(Electronic Copy Only)** is a copy of a News Release from IDOT.

**CITY RECEIVED 2012 ALLOCATION OF VOLUME CAP.** Each year the City of Peoria receives, from the State of Illinois, an allocation of Private Activity Bonds, also known as Volume Cap. The amount of allocation is calculated by multiplying \$95 by the population of the City of Peoria as listed in the *State of Illinois Guidelines and Procedures for the Allocation of Private Activity Bonding Authority*. On February 28, 2012, Peoria City Council passed Ordinance # 16,798 reserving its 2012 Volume Cap of \$10,925,665.

Private Activity Bonds are exempt from federal income tax once they are in possession of the holders, thus lowering the cost of capital to the borrower. Another benefit of the Bonds is long term financing, usually more than 20 years. Projects that may be eligible to use Private Activity Bonds are: industrial, manufacturing, and low or moderate income housing projects. While City staff works with developers and businesses throughout the year to identify projects that qualify for Private Activity Bonds, we would invite recipients of the *Issues Update* to contact the Economic Development Office at 494-8640 if they are aware of businesses who are interested in utilizing the bonds or who would like to know more about the bonds.

**WILLIAM H. SPURGEON III AWARD.** The Peoria Fire Explorers Post #2050 recently celebrated its 15th anniversary where the Peoria Fire Department was awarded the William H. Spurgeon III Award for an organization through its partnering with the Peoria Fire Explorers Post Program.

The William H. Spurgeon III Award is the highest recognition for individuals and organizations contributing significant leadership to the Exploring program.

During the 15 years of the Explorer Post's existence, seven (7) of the past Explorer's have become firefighters with the Peoria Fire Department. Several others have been hired at other local Fire Departments. The Peoria Fire Department supplies the Post with a meeting facility at the Butch Gudat Fire Training Academy, as well as fire apparatus, equipment, and turnout gear. The Peoria Fire Department also enables the Peoria Fire Explorers Post #2050 to host four (4) regional Fire Explorer Conferences on an annual basis.

**SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATION.** The City of Peoria Office of Emergency Management, on February 18, 2012, at the request of the Peoria County Emergency Management Agency, dispatched four (4) volunteers to assist with the search and rescue operations for a missing persons operation. Upon arrival, the OEM volunteers were directed to the Unified Command Post-10 where they set up radios in the communications room.

During the event, the Peoria OEM managed communications for the thirty (30) teams in the field. One position managed the teams in the field, one position managed the transportation vehicles, and one positioned managed the incident command and operations, while the last position functioned as a runner. These volunteers switched off positions and remained at their post until the search and rescue operations were complete.

The County EMA also requested the assistance of the Peoria Fire Department's Dive and Rescue Team, consisting of four (4) divers and one (1) command personnel, to perform search operations in designated lakes and ponds.