TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Patrick Urich, City Manager
DATE: February 22, 2019
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.

Community Development Department--City of Peoria Neighborhood Reception Awards Announced

On Thursday, February 21st, the Community Development Department hosted the 2019 Neighborhood Reception at the George Washington Carver Center. This inaugural event celebrated the accomplishments and contributions of neighborhood associations and community advocates who have worked diligently with their neighbors, the City of Peoria, and the community at large to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

Over 150 residents, business owners, and community organizers enjoyed a night of music, food, and recognition. The night included a performance from Chloe Rose Jackson’s P413 Dance Academy, a brief presentation on Black History in Peoria’s neighborhoods from Garry Moore, and awards for several outstanding community advocates.

The Mayor’s Award was presented to Lueshand Nunn for her efforts in the East Bluff. Ms. Nunn was acknowledged by her nominators for her work in founding the East Bluff Lawn Order Program and her service as President of the East Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services. Her tireless volunteer work also connects residents with work, transportation, and financial education.

The Ted Bannon “Brick” Award was presented to Molly Cadigan for her commitment to maintaining green space for future generations. Ms. Cadigan is an exemplar advocate for litter collection and picks up litter and waste in her extended neighborhood. She also championed the green space at the Franklin School parking lot, located at the corner of Columbia Terrace and Bestor.

The Business Award was presented to JIMAX Corporation for their leadership in the Tireless Project. Additional volunteer work includes projects with Keep Peoria Beautiful and Habitat for Humanity. Upon accepting the award, Jim Kosner stated they firmly believe in the importance of giving back to the communities where they live and work.

The Richard “Fuzzy” Lenz Award was presented to Faw Lane for his contributions to his neighborhoods. His nominators noted that Mr. Lane contributes to meetings when needed, is a good listener and goes
above and beyond. He is a major asset to the Tireless project and he is well known for his efforts to eliminate litter in the City.

The Grassroots Award was presented to three winners who have contributed positive energy towards making effective change in our community. The first award was presented to Chama St. Louis. Ms. St. Louis currently serves on the board of the East Bluff Community Center and co-founded the Black Justice Project. Her nominators stated that she inspires many with her dedication to speaking the truth and uses her power to lift marginalized voices around her.

The second recipient of the Grassroots Award was Carl Cannon. Mr. Cannon has inspired over 1,200 young people through his ELITE High School program over the past 11 years.

The final recipient of the Grassroots Award was The Monday Gathering hosted by Sherry Cannon and Lynn Scott Pearson at the Ward Chapel Church. This weekly meeting brings people together to share information for better cooperation among people and organizations in Peoria. They work to break down barriers and provide solutions to some of Peoria’s most pressing issues.

The Youth Award was presented to Jay “Lil’ Jay” Pearson for his positive energy and leadership at P-Town Soup events and other community meetings. With a big heart and a bright smile, he is a rising star in the City of Peoria looking to help serve his community.

The Eric Turner Neighborhood Legacy Award was presented to LaVetta Ricca and Bernadine Nolan. This award was named for outgoing City Councilman Eric Turner who served 24 years on the council and was a longstanding advocate for neighborhood involvement.

LaVetta Ricca, a lifelong resident of the Southside of Peoria, has dedicated her life to improving her corner of Peoria and is a champion of volunteerism and community involvement.

After joining her neighborhood association years ago, Bernadine Nolan dedicated her time to clearing her neighborhood of litter and founded Dayspring Community Park in the Columbia Terrace North Neighborhood.

The City of Peoria Community Development Department thanks all who came out to celebrate our neighborhood leaders and their accomplishments and hopes to see everyone next year in the 2nd District for the 2020 Neighborhood Reception.

**Peoria Public Schools – Update from Superintendent Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat**

Think of somebody that was instrumental in your life as a child – someone who cared about you, pushed you and looked out for you. They were a mentor, and in all likelihood, you couldn’t imagine where you’d be in life without them.

All children should have a mentor to guide them through those day-to-day challenges and to show them that they matter. But research shows that one in three young people will grow up without this critical asset.

Our students in Peoria Public Schools should all have access to mentors, and Align Peoria has developed a pilot mentoring program called Connecting Champions to supply those mentors.

The numbers are eye-opening. According to mentoring.org, young people who are at risk of falling off track but had a mentor are 55 percent more likely to go to college, 78 percent more likely to volunteer,
90 percent more interested in becoming a mentor themselves and 130 percent more likely to hold 
leadership positions.

Connecting Champions will provide students with customized support and coaching from mentors in the 
community. Align Peoria is seeking mentoring candidates to fill the following categories:

- **Team Mentoring** – A team of five to six adult mentors meeting with a group of 15 middle school 
  students on a weekly basis at two schools (Von Steuben and Lincoln)
- **One-to-one Mentoring** – One-to-one mentoring for 15 adult mentors and fifteen middle school 
  students meeting on a one-to-one basis at two schools
- **Internship Mentoring** – One adult mentor supporting up to ten high school students in 
  internship experiences. Mentors will be expected to commit one hour of time per week, develop 
  supportive relationships with students, share life experiences, teach essential 
  (soft/employability) skills, and encourage/reinforce academic, social/emotional, and career 
  goals and successes. Mentors will receive training and ongoing support.

For those interested, you will need to complete a mentor application by **Friday, February 15** and turn it 
in to the Office of Innovation at the Peoria Public Schools administration building. Once accepted into 
the program, the mentor will attend training, participate in weekly mentor sessions at school with the 
assigned mentee or group and use the curriculum learned in training sessions.

For more information or to receive an application, contact Dr. Susan Grzanich at 
susan.grzanich@psd150.org.

Change the life of a child and be a champion to a future champion.

Serve Passionately,

Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat, Superintendent

**Code Violation Cases**

Please click on the link below for the most updated listing of upcoming cases.

[https://www.quicketsolutions.com/peoria/docket](https://www.quicketsolutions.com/peoria/docket)

**Development Review Board Agenda**

Please see attached
Building/Projects this Week

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Building Permits Issued

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY
The following information was provided by the Community Development Department and the Peoria City/County Health Department. This section is not intended for your review; the intent is to provide additional information.

Community Development Department

Total Construction Value for 2018

Certificates of Occupancy Issued

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Community Development Department

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Peoria City/County Health Department

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Planning Inspectors
Leah Allison: 494-8667; lallison@peoriagov.org
Kerilyn Weick: 494-8606; kweick@peoriagov.org
Wes Stickelmaier: 494-8608; wstickelmaier@peoriagov.org
Roberto Medina: 494-8623; rmedina@peoriagov.org
Scot Wolf: 494-8628; swolf@peoriagov.org
Kenny Preston: 494-8629; kpreston@peoriagov.org

Building Inspectors