



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Patrick Urich, City Manager *Patrick Urich*
DATE: December 28, 2012
SUBJECT: Issues Update

NOVEMBER 2012 CRIME STATISTICS: Attached is the report of the November 2012 Crime Report which shows overall crime down (-3%) through November.

PEORIA FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 50 CAROL FOR KIDS: On Wednesday, December 19th, about twenty members of Peoria Firefighters Local 50, some accompanied by their spouses and children, went to The Children's Hospital of Illinois and sang Christmas Carols to the patients. The Firefighters went from room to room singing the patient's favorite Christmas song to them and their families. The Firefighters also passed out a stuffed animal to the patients as they listened to the songs. This is the second time Local 50 Caroling for Kids has been done and it has become so popular with the patients we were asked to make this a yearly event.

CITY OF PEORIA'S NEW WEBSITE: The City's new website is in its final stages of production. Testing has begun to ensure it is compatible with different browsers, all of the links work, pictures are showing up properly and the navigation is correct. This testing phase will take place until Jan 14th. The Information Systems Department will preview the site for Department Heads at the staff meeting on January 2nd. The week of Jan 14-18, all department editors will be trained on WordPress, the new content management system. After each department is trained, they will have one week to review, update or correct any content. The new website will be available to the public on Monday, January 28, and will be formally presented to Council on Tuesday, February 12.

FIRE SAFETY HOUSE: The Peoria Fire Department concluded the 2012 Children Fire Safety House season with over 30 events. The majority of these events were scheduled for primary and middle school venues. More than 5,000 students were able to take part in the presented fire and life safety lessons. This informative and interactive experience, held in conjunction with the American Red Cross Central Illinois Chapter, was a prevalent educational tool in teaching exit drills in the home.

METH LAB TRAINING: The Peoria Fire Department invited the Illinois State Police to conduct in-house training on the dangers associated with Meth labs, meth lab response and meth users. This program conducted December 18, 19, and 20, focused on clandestine laboratories, identification of the most common meth manufacturing methods and processes, and recognizing meth users and the dangers they present to public safety personnel.

BIDS FOR TIGER II – WAREHOUSE DISTRICT INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS: The TIGER II – Warehouse District Infrastructure Improvements project was on the November 9, 2012 IDOT bid letting. Two bids were received, with R.A. Cullinan being the low bidder at \$9,877,627.99. The City of Peoria received an award letter from IDOT on December 11, 2012. This past week, IDOT signed a contract with Terra Engineering for performance of the phase III construction engineering services on this project. A pre-construction meeting will be held in January. The TIGER II project includes Walnut to Maple between Jefferson and Adams.

PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY USAGE NUMBERS CONTINUE TO RISE: The various locations of Peoria Public Library reopened throughout 2011 and into 2012, so comparisons of year-to-year numbers for many categories cannot yet accurately be made. In fact it will take until the end of April 2013 before valid system-wide comparisons can be made. However, Main Library opened quietly in December 2010 and door count numbers show that 138,308 Peorians used Main Library in 2011, while year-to-date at the end of November, 181,619 library users entered the door. With a month to go that is an increase of about 31%.

Another category that can be accurately cited is online renewals of materials, as this service is used from outside the library through the website or through cell phone text messages. It shows a 42.5% increase as the public has grown accustomed to this simple-to-use feature. Last year, with only two locations open for the majority of the year, the Peoria Public Library circulated one million items for the first time, and that landmark occurred in early December. This year that milestone was reached toward the end of September. Although there is no valid comparison for 2011, it is noteworthy to see that 102,814 public computer sessions have been recorded and many are taking advantage of the free Wi-Fi with their own devices.