

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Patrick Urich, City Manager 

DATE: December 17, 2020

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.

There will be no Issues Update for the last two weeks of December. Issues Update will resume on January 7, 2021.

Weekly COVID-19 Press Briefing at 3:30 Today

***Please note: next week's briefing will be held on Tuesday, December 22 at 3:30 pm.**



Public Health
Peoria, Peoria County
Peoria City/County
Health Department
www.pcchd.org

**WEEKLY TRI-COUNTY
COVID-19 LIVE BRIEFINGS
Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.***

Livestream can be viewed on the Peoria
City/County Health Department's Facebook Page:
[www.Facebook.com/PeoriaHealthDepartment](https://www.facebook.com/PeoriaHealthDepartment)

**Unless otherwise noted* www.pcchd.org/289

Community Development-Community Development- Accepting Site Nominations



The Community Development Department is accepting site nominations for Phase I environmental studies to be conducted at commercial properties.

In 2019, the city of Peoria was awarded \$300,000 by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to remove barriers to redeveloping industrial and commercial land through contamination assessment and cleanup planning. Due to limited funding, not all nominated sites may receive funding for assessments. Brownfield redevelopment saves developers and local taxpayers on cleanup and

infrastructure costs creating a healthier, sustainable, and more vibrant Peoria.

More information about the Assessment process can be found at http://www.peoriagov.org/content/uploads/2012/11/Peoria-Trifold-Final-Assessment-Grant_1604341110_add.pdf.

Interested parties can complete the site nomination form found at http://www.peoriagov.org/content/uploads/2012/11/Peoria-Assessment-Grant-Site-Nomination-Form_1604341103_add.pdf. Completed nomination forms can be emailed to grants@peoriagov.org.

For more information, please contact the Grants Division at grants@peoriagov.org

Economic Development— Business Recovery Grant Program

The Business Recovery Grant has been developed to specifically provide financial support for small businesses based on Business Sustainability, Business Capacity Building and Business Transformation efforts during the pandemic. Businesses with losses related to COVID-19 that incurred expenses related to any of the efforts listed above should expect to make an application for reimbursement of the related expenses.



Business may apply for grants in three strategic areas: sustainability, capacity building, and transformation. Grants up to \$15,000 for businesses and hotels up to \$25,000 are available for “Qualified Business” for “Eligible Expenses”.

You can Review Program Materials [Information](#)

You can Apply for a GRANT [here](#)

Reminder: Deadline to Apply is December 28, 2020 5:00 p.m.

You can find more business resources at GrowPeoria.com. Also please contact us at 309-494-8640 or economic.development@peoriagov.org for any questions or assistance. We look forward to rebuilding Peoria together.

Peoria Police Department- REMINDER-Warm-up Thefts

Peoria Police would like to take a moment and remind residents to lock ALL unoccupied vehicles at ALL times. Vehicle thefts and vehicle burglaries know no geographical boundaries. Officers have taken multiple stolen vehicle reports this past month attributed to “warm-up” thefts. Simply put, a warm-up theft occurs when an individual warms-up his/her car AND leaves the vehicle UNLOCKED, RUNNING, UNATTENDED WITH THE KEYS INSIDE. Please do not be left without your car. Remember, LOCK your vehicles at ALL times. This does not include remote start technology; as with a remote start, the keys are NOT in the vehicle.

Other vehicle burglary/theft prevention tips:

- LOCK your vehicle, residence, garage, etc.
- Never leave your vehicle running with the key in the car. If your vehicle is equipped with a proximity key fob and the car is left running, the car can still be driven until the vehicle is turned off from inside the vehicle.
- You may also consider using a visual anti-theft device like a steering wheel lock.
- If the vehicle is equipped with GPS tracking through the manufacturer (i.e. OnStar), consider keeping the paid subscription once the trial period has ended. These systems are fairly accurate and can speed up the recovery of the vehicle.
- DO NOT tempt a thief! Even if your car is locked, the only thing stopping a thief from stealing your valuables is a window smash away – if you must store valuables in the vehicle, do not leave them in plain view.

- DO NOT leave spare vehicle keys in the vehicle. If you are a multiple car owner, do not leave a spare key to other vehicles in your car.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- If your residence has a garage, park your vehicle inside the garage and still take all keys and valuables with you.
- Common items stolen in vehicle burglaries: cellphones, laptops, iPods, iPads, wallets, purses, loose change, GPS devices – or otherwise small, easily concealed items.
- Report suspicious behaviors, people, and/or vehicles.
- DO NOT leave firearms in vehicles unsecured.
- Look out for your neighbors - if you see something suspicious around their home/vehicles – call 9-1-1.

What to do if you see a suspicious person or activity:

- Call 9-1-1. Report what you see. Describe the subject. What is he/she wearing? Are they on foot? Where do you see them? Any information you can give the dispatcher will be helpful to the responding officer.

Remember, vehicle burglaries are almost always a crime of opportunity. Do not make a thief's job easier by leaving your vehicle unlocked.

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

In the weeks leading up to the holidays and the Peoria Public Schools winter break, many school and district staff members including Glen Oak Community Learning Center, Knoxville Center for Student Success and The Wraparound Center have delivered baskets of food, household items and toys to students' families.

It's a sign of the times – a year marred by a pandemic, business closings and widespread unemployment.

Besides the generous efforts of school staff members, Peoria Public Schools has several ways to help our families in need.

- **Little Free Pantries** – each PPS primary, middle and K-8 building has a Little Free Pantry outside its entrance. These pantries allow citizens to leave non-perishable food and household items for school families and other neighborhood residents. Just leaving a few jars of peanut butter or cans of soup can make a difference.
- **The 6099 Roundtable** – this effort spearheaded by members of the local union representing PPS support staff, collects new and gently-used clothing for children and adults, toiletries and household supplies and non-perishable food for school families. Donations are stored at Richwoods High School and Roosevelt Magnet School and distributed by school staff to families. One key component of the Roundtable project is the “no questions asked” policy. If a student or a family member makes a request for items, they need not complete a form or answer questions. This is particularly important because students may be hesitant to share with school adults the needs their family faces. Donations of food, clothing or household items can be dropped off at the PPS Administrative Office, 3202 N. Wisconsin Ave., Richwoods High School, or the Roy Rickets Warehouse on Lake Street. Monetary donations can be mailed to: AFT-IFT, 733 SW Washington St. Peoria IL 61602 Attn: Roundtable.
- Donating to the **Peoria Public Schools Foundation** is another way to help our families. The PPS Foundation accepts monetary donations for its emergency fund for families and to purchase essentials like winter coats and its classroom grants and scholarships. To make an online donation, go to www.ppsfoundation.org/donate.

Peoria Public Schools is fortunate for the generosity of our community. On behalf of the Board of Education, PPS administrators and staff, we wish you a peaceful holiday season and we feel confident that 2021 will be a Happy New Year.

Serve passionately,



Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat, Superintendent