



**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**



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

**FROM:** Patrick Urich, City Manager 

**DATE:** November 12, 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.

**Weekly COVID-19 Press Briefing at 3:30 Today**



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Peoria City/County  
Health Department  
[www.pcchd.org](http://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](http://www.Facebook.com/PeoriaHealthDepartment)**

*\*Unless otherwise noted*

[www.pcchd.org/289](http://www.pcchd.org/289)

### **Community Development- 2021 CDBG Public Services Application Available**

The city of Peoria receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding each year from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Up to 15% of the annual funding amount can be used to fund public services that serve City of Peoria residents residing in low-income households. This funding is available to not-for-profits, 501(c)3 organizations, and government agencies.

The application period for 2021 CDBG Public Services funding opened at 8:00 am on Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> and will close at 3:00 pm on Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Eligible applications will be reviewed by the CDBG Public Services Advisory Commission, and agencies will be notified of funding decisions following City Council approval.

To learn about program eligibility, access the application, or view a recording of the online application training session, please visit <http://www.peoriagov.org/community-development/neighborhood-development-division/> > “Applications & Forms” > “CDBG Public Services.” For other questions, please contact Cassie Belter, Grants Coordinator, at [cbelter@peoriagov.org](mailto:cbelter@peoriagov.org) or 309.369.2060.

### **Economic Development—Business Recovery Grant Now Available to Help Businesses Recover Faster**



businesses.

The City of Peoria has established a new program, named the Peoria Business Recovery Grant (BRG) Program, to assist businesses with responding to the economic losses caused by COVID-19. This new grant program would provide financial assistance of up to \$15,000 to local

The Peoria Business Recovery Grant will reimburse businesses for COVID-19-related expenses related to the sustainability of the business, capacity building of the business, or transformation of the business to meet the changing demands due to the pandemic. A \$5000 grant is available for each category. Businesses may apply for a grant in each of the categories up to the maximum of \$15,000. Grant applications will be considered on a first come, first serve basis until the funds are exhausted. Businesses may begin submitting applications immediately.

Businesses can learn more about the Peoria Business Recovery Grant program by contacting the Economic Development Department of the City of Peoria via email at [economicdevelopment@peoriagov.org](mailto:economicdevelopment@peoriagov.org) by phone at 309-494-8640.

**Peoria Police Department-Help With Leaves!**



Resident Officer Jake Bradford had some extra help this week while raking leaves. Wonder how many times he jumped in the leaf pile?!



**Public Works -Sunny Skies Mark Winter Weather Preparedness Month**

Warm weather earlier in the week made it hard to believe that it is Winter Weather Preparedness Month in Illinois. Illinoisians know that looks can be deceiving when it comes to forecasts and it is best to be prepared for the unknown.

**Winter Weather Straight Ahead**

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), National Weather Service (NWS) and City will highlight winter weather preparedness throughout November to help residents prepare for potentially dangerous winter weather.

“By failing to prepare we’d just be preparing to fail. We all remember last year’s first snowfall on Halloween. The unpredictability of midwestern weather is all the more reason to prepare for the unexpected,” said Deputy Director of Operations, Sie Maroon. “Ensure your family is in the best position

to handle the uncertainties of the winter season by preparing now.”



One way to get ready is by reviewing the City’s winter weather planning webpage: [peoriagov.org/public-works/winter/](https://peoriagov.org/public-works/winter/). The site offers emergency contact information, maps of 2020-2021 snow routes and more.

Plus, the Illinois EMA and NWS have developed a winter weather preparedness guide to help people understand winter weather risks, along with tips for staying safe at home, in the car and at school. The guide also includes lists of suggested items you should have in your home and vehicle in the event of an emergency. Read and review those resources here: [weather.gov/ilx/winter-prep](https://weather.gov/ilx/winter-prep).

“Most winter time traffic accidents occur with minor amounts of snow or ice on our roads, particularly when it has been a long time since we’ve faced those types of road conditions,” said Maroon. “The key is to go slow, keep your distance and be patient when behind the wheel.”

More news and information is shared on the Public Works Department’s Facebook page [@peoriapublicworks](https://www.facebook.com/peoriapublicworks).

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

To account for what will likely be a Winter Break filled with travel and gatherings, we want to be proactive in keeping our buildings safe following break. I recommended to our Board of Education members at Monday’s meeting to start the second semester following Winter Break with our Winter Remote Learning plan.

With the board’s consensus, we will be implementing that step and going to a Distance Learning for from Jan. 5 through Jan. 15 for the PreK-12<sup>th</sup> grade traditional calendar schools with in-person instruction resuming Tuesday, Jan. 19.

Balanced calendar students (Valeska Hinton and Knoxville Center) may return to in-person learning on January 26, 2020 following Distance Learning for the first two weeks following their intersession.

This Winter Remote Learning (WRL) period will allow any individuals who may have been a close contact or who have contracted COVID-19 during Winter Break time to isolate. The WRL period will help mitigate any spread of the COVID19 virus within Peoria Public Schools due to travel or large family gatherings over the holiday break.

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We also plan to combat the recent surge in cases locally through our robust testing program, which was made possible due to a pair of generation \$200,000 donations from two Peoria Public Schools alumni: Bob Gilmore of the Gilmore Foundation and Dr. Aaron Rossi of Reditus Labs. The donation and partnership with Reditus will allow students and staff to receive swift results of their tests, typically within 5-7 hours.

The testing program will begin with “Peace of Mind” testing for staff at the Administration building starting on Nov. 16. It will then begin at the three high schools – Manual, Peoria High and Richwoods – on Nov. 23. Peoria Public Schools will also be partnering with UnityPoint to offer localized testing at our Wraparound Center for students and staff.

COVID-19 has altered almost everything about our current school year, but Peoria Public Schools has tackled the pandemic using the same tactics it does in other areas of its operation: through innovative practices and collaboration with the community.

Serve passionately,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sharon" being the most prominent.

Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat, Superintendent