



**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**



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

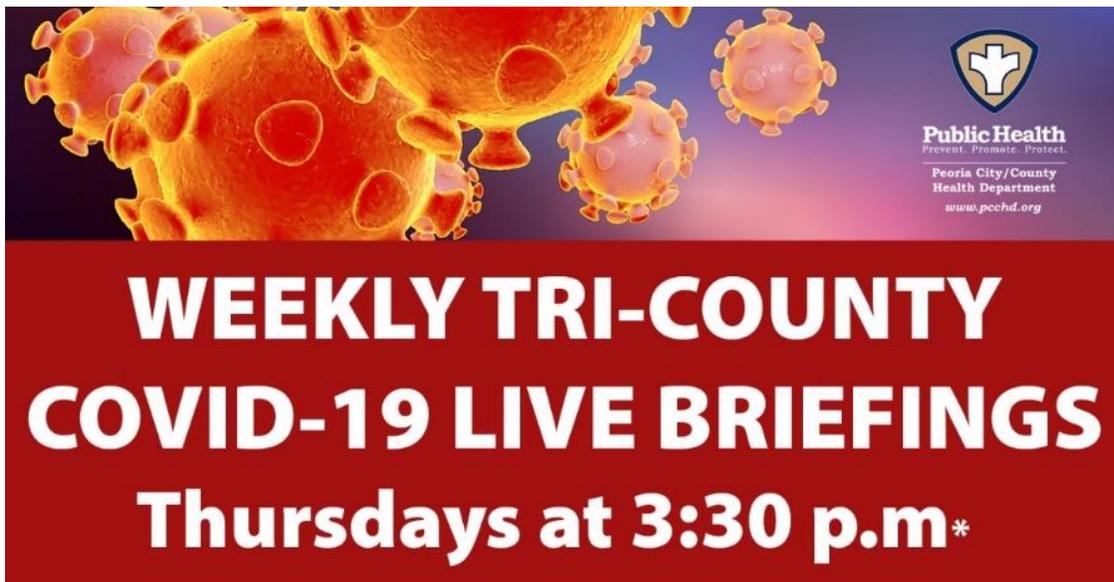
**FROM:** Patrick Urich, City Manager 

**DATE:** January 28, 2021

**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**

A banner for a weekly COVID-19 live briefing. The top half features a blue background with several orange and yellow virus particles. On the right side, there is a logo for the Peoria City/County Health Department, which includes a shield with a white cross and the text "Public Health Prevent. Promote. Protect." and "Peoria City/County Health Department www.pcchd.org". The bottom half of the banner has a red background with white text that reads "WEEKLY TRI-COUNTY COVID-19 LIVE BRIEFINGS Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.\*".

**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
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](https://www.pcchd.org/289)

### **Community Development-Community First Recruits Successfully Complete Training at Police Academy**

Earlier this month, the first Community First class of police recruits graduated from the Police Training Institute in Champaign, Illinois. These four police recruits served the city of Peoria as Code Enforcement Aides in the Community Development Department for over 4 months this year where they gained experience working with residents, meeting neighborhood leaders, helping to beautify the City, and participating in neighborhood events. The recruits also met social service providers, faith-based leaders, emergency service providers, and other community members.

The Community First Pilot Program was designed by the city of Peoria Community Development Department, in partnership with the Peoria Police Department and the Human Resources Department, to introduce law enforcement recruits to the issues facing our neighborhoods and the strengths and struggles of Peoria residents to encourage better future engagement and relationships with the community.

This program aims to connect law enforcement recruits with the people in the neighborhoods they are serving. Assistant Director Joe Dulin said, “We are incredibly proud of the 2020 Community First cohort. Our hope is that by becoming familiar with our neighborhoods and the many social service agencies and other community organizations that these officers will have a greater understanding of the people they serve and the resources available for residents in need of assistance.”

For more information on the Community First pilot program, please contact Assistant Director of Community Development Joe Dulin at [jdulin@peoriagov.org](mailto:jdulin@peoriagov.org) or (309) 494-8631.



(Left to Right: Jia Hao Zheng, Terry Lair, 74 to Spring Neighborhood Association President Molly Beth Rice, Neighborhood Enhancement Coordinator Kaylee Drea, Cody Erwin, and Demetrius Harper)

## **Community Development - 2021 Roof Repair Program**



Lottery entries for the 2021 Roof Repair Program Lottery will be collected starting **Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM** through **Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 PM**.

This annual program assists low-income homeowners who are unable to afford needed roof repairs. There is a limit of one entry per household, but there is no limit to the total number of households that may enter the lottery.

Interested applicants can enter the lottery one of the following ways:

- <http://www.peoriagov.org/community-development/neighborhood-development-division/> (scroll down to “Home Rehabilitation Programs,” then “Roof Program”)
- <https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/PEORIAIL/Participant> (click “Register,” then follow the prompts)
- Call 309-369-2060 to have a City staff member enter your lottery information

The lottery drawing will be held virtually on **Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM** and can be viewed at:

- <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/239035725>
- [866-899-4679](tel:866-899-4679) (enter Access Code 239-035-725)

All entrants will be contacted via phone or mail by City staff in the days following the drawing. The list of selected households, as well as the waitlist, will be posted at <http://www.peoriagov.org/community-development/neighborhood-development-division/> (scroll down to “Home Rehabilitation Programs,” then “Roof Program”).

The first 20 selected entries in the lottery must provide all the required documentation by **5:00 PM on Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**. If the appropriate documentation is not submitted by that time, City staff will contact the next household on the waitlist.

Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements, including owning the home for at least one year, passing an interior and exterior inspection, and having active homeowners insurance.

For questions, please contact Cassie Belter, Grants Coordinator at 309-369-2060 or [cbelter@peoriagov.org](mailto:cbelter@peoriagov.org).

**Community Development- Community Development Awarded \$200,000 Strong Communities Program Funding**



The Illinois Housing Development Authority announced that the city of Peoria will receive \$200,000 in grant funding through the Strong Communities Program. Over the next three years, this will allow the City to demolish 15-20 vacant and abandoned residential properties in the 61605-area code that are beyond rehabilitation or repair.

Over the last five years, the Community Development Department Grants staff has worked tirelessly to find over \$1.3 million dollars in state and federal grant funding to demolish vacant, abandoned, and blighted properties

across Peoria. Their hard work has given the city of Peoria more tools to fight crime and raise property values through demolition.

The Strong Communities Program is an opportunity offered by the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) that empowers local governments to address safe and affordable housing issues while providing opportunities for community revitalization. Under the program, only abandoned residential properties are eligible for demolition. While this is a new grant opportunity offered by IHDA, similar programs have demonstrated effectiveness in reducing crime, increasing local tax revenue, and increasing neighborhood property values.

For more information on the Strong Communities Program funding, please contact Assistant Director Joe Dulin at (309) 494-8631 or [jdulin@peoriagov.org](mailto:jdulin@peoriagov.org).

**Economic Development-Peoria Business Recovery Loan Program**

The Peoria Business Recovery Loan Program was created to provide critical gap financing to small businesses and entrepreneurs adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic within the city of Peoria. The program features both individualized loans up to \$250,000 as well as standardized loans of up to



\$100,000. Each loan type has been designed with ease of access. Key features of both programs include interest rates as low as zero percent and deferred payments of up to 12 months.

The BCC and B2LP loan instruments can be used separately or together for a given project and layered with other financing provided the funding used for a given loan is not duplicated with other financing instruments. The BCC loan is geared towards businesses needing working capital and the B2L Partnership Loan is geared for businesses and landlords partnering via their leasing agreement to encourage repayment, reinstatement, forbearance, and/or modification of their lease.

These new funds will provide more capital for businesses adversely affected by COVID-19. This also provides greater capacity to support social and economically disadvantaged business enterprises. The program seeks to preserve and create jobs by making capital more accessible.

For more information on this and other incentives you can contact Economic Development via email @ [economicdevelopment@peoriagov.org](mailto:economicdevelopment@peoriagov.org) or by phone at 309 494-8640

**Peoria Police Department-8 New Officers and the Retirement of Chief Marion**

Congratulations!!! These 8 officers were sworn in on October 5, 2020 and graduated from the Police Training Institute in Champaign, IL on January 15, 2021. Welcome, Officers!

Officer Jumar Ball, Officer Cody Ervin, Officer Andrew Fuller, Officer Demetrius Harper, Officer Kyle Jackson, Officer Terry Lair, Officer Patrick Nesterowicz, Officer Jia Zheng will now begin the Field Training Program where they will spend the next several months working alongside Field Training Officers before eventually being on Patrol solo. Welcome, officers!





Chief Loren Marion III is officially retired and on to a new adventure. Friday, January 22, 2021, he passed on his “garrison cap” to a future generation!

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

We are thrilled to announce an amazing opportunity for Peoria Public School students that will prepare them for high-growth, lucrative careers.

PPS Online Academy is offering an AP Computer Science course for students in grades 9-12.

The online course is offered in collaboration with the Illinois Math Academy through the Amazon Future Engineer program and uses AP-approved curriculum focused on Java programming.

Issues Update  
January 28, 2021

Students who take AP Computer Science in high school are eight times more likely to take computer science in college. Among Black and Hispanic students, those who take AP Computer Science in high school are seven-to-eight times more likely to take computer science in college, and among women, they are 10 times more likely to do so.

Students can take the AP computer science course at their own pace and choose whether or not they want to take the class for credit. Weekly class check-ins will be held virtually, and small in-person class sessions may be arranged.

The course will be taught by Richwoods High School business teacher Will Smith and Caterpillar Inc. Engineer Karen Raab.

Amazon Future Engineer is providing funding to more than 1,000 high schools nationwide for the AP Computer Science class. The virtual curriculum is provided by Edhesive and funding provides preparatory lessons, tutorials, professional development for teachers and live online support for students and teachers.

The Amazon Future Engineer program initiative seeks to dramatically expand access to high caliber preparatory courses, curricular resources, and programs for schools and districts to help prepare and propel high school students forward in their pursuit of AP Computer Science education.

Peoria Public School students may still sign up through this link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=UitZkGDxb0a7JTCYp8-A4MRUbvnrnuldKpS4jHly67vBUNFo5VzNVTVIDN1ZUSUhBOVYwSVBKN0daQS4u>

With Gratitude,



Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat, Superintendent