



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER



TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Patrick Urich, City Manager 

DATE: September 14, 2023

SUBJECT: Issues Update

The following are issues related to the City for the weekly Issues Update. Please let me know if there are additional items you believe should be included.



FEMA and FCC Plan Nationwide Emergency Alert Test for Oct. 4, 2023

Test Messages Will be Sent to All TVs, Radios and Cell Phones



FEMA

WASHINGTON -- FEMA, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), will conduct a [nationwide test](#) of the [Emergency Alert System](#) (EAS) and [Wireless Emergency Alerts](#) (WEA) this fall.

The national test will consist of two portions, testing WEA and EAS capabilities. Both tests are scheduled to begin at approximately 2:20 p.m. ET on Wednesday, Oct. 4.

The WEA portion of the test will be directed to all consumer cell phones. This will be the third nationwide test, but the second test to all cellular devices. The test message will display in either English or in Spanish, depending on the language settings of the wireless handset.

The EAS portion of the test will be sent to radios and televisions. This will be the seventh nationwide EAS test.

FEMA and the FCC are coordinating with EAS participants, wireless providers, emergency managers and other stakeholders in preparation for this national test to minimize confusion and to maximize the public safety value of the test.

The purpose of the Oct. 4 test is to ensure that the systems continue to be effective means of warning the public about emergencies, particularly those on the national level. In case the Oct. 4 test is postponed due to widespread severe weather or other significant events, the back-up testing date is Oct. 11.

The WEA portion of the test will be initiated using [FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System \(IPAWS\)](#), a centralized internet-based system administered by FEMA that enables authorities to send authenticated emergency messages to the public through multiple communications networks. The WEA test will be administered via a code sent to cell phones.

This year the EAS message will be disseminated as a Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) message via the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System-Open Platform for Emergency Networks (IPAWS-OPEN).

All wireless phones should receive the message only once. The following can be expected from the nationwide WEA test:

- Beginning at approximately 2:20 p.m. ET, cell towers will broadcast the test for approximately 30 minutes. During this time, WEA-compatible wireless phones that are switched on, within range of an active cell tower, and whose wireless provider participates in WEA, should be capable of receiving the test message.
- For consumers, the message that appears on their phones will read: "THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is needed."
- Phones with the main menu set to Spanish will display: "ESTA ES UNA PRUEBA del Sistema Nacional de Alerta de Emergencia. No se necesita acción."

WEA alerts are created and sent by authorized federal, state, local, tribal and territorial government agencies through IPAWS to participating wireless providers, which deliver the alerts to compatible handsets in geo-targeted areas. To help ensure that these alerts are accessible to the entire public, including people with disabilities, the alerts are accompanied by a unique tone and vibration.

Important information about the EAS test:

- The EAS portion of the test is scheduled to last approximately one minute and will be conducted with the participation of radio and television broadcasters, cable systems, satellite radio and television providers and wireline video providers.
- The test message will be similar to the regular monthly EAS test messages with which the public is familiar. It will state: “This is a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System, issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, covering the United States from 14:20 to 14:50 hours ET. This is only a test. No action is required by the public.

Mayor Ali to Announce Additional Participants for the Peoria Role Model Project



With support from PNC Foundation, 150 young people will be connected with local Black professionals

September 26, 2023 (PEORIA, IL) Mayor Rita Ali will announce the second round of Peoria Role Model Project participants on Wednesday, October 4 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the Peoria Civic Center, Ballroom A. The initiative, funded through a grant by PNC Foundation, is intended to help inspire and empower 150 local

youth by connecting them with local Black professionals who will serve as role models year-round.

“I am thrilled to announce the second round of role models to connect with area youth. Through the Peoria Role Model Project, we will connect young people living in

distressed areas of the city with role models who can positively influence their decision-making processes, their outlook and access to opportunities, and how they carve out a path for future success.,” said Peoria Mayor Rita Ali.

The Peoria Role Model Project will expose 150 aspiring youth from economically impacted areas of Peoria to accomplished and inspiring professionals from diverse fields such as business, education, arts, technology, healthcare, and more. The project will also engage other community partners, including Peoria Public Schools.

“It’s exciting to welcome a new group of students who will leverage this opportunity to grow, learn, and network,” said Brian Ray, PNC regional president of central Illinois. “Our hope is for these students to be empowered knowing there are people willing to be a meaningful part of their journey through school and life. Our support for The Peoria Role Model Project reflects PNC’s longstanding commitment to invest in initiatives that help drive real change for Peoria’s future workforce and economic success, particularly in underserved neighborhoods.”

Community Development – Illinois Housing Development Authority Awards Funds to Demolish Vacant and Abandoned Properties

The city of Peoria was awarded \$712,000 from the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) through the Strong Communities Program. This year, \$19 million dollars was distributed through the Strong Communities Program. Peoria was one of 68 units of local governments to receive funds. The money awarded will be used to demolish vacant and abandoned properties in 2024 within the 61603 and 61605 zip codes.

“Demolishing vacant and abandoned properties is not just about removing dangerous structures, but it’s also a commitment to make our city safer,” said Mayor Rita Ali. “Our core neighborhoods contribute to Peoria’s vibrancy. This funding allows us to remove blight and provide opportunities for new development.”

This award is part of the second round of funding through the Strong Communities Program. In 2021, the city of Peoria was awarded \$200,000 in the first round of funding through this program.

For more information, please contact Community Development Director Joe Dulin [by email](#) or by calling 309-494-8631.

Community Development – Community Development Staff Engage with Peoria High Students at Career and Job Fair

On Thursday, September 21st, Community Development staff attended Peoria High School’s Career and Job Fair. Staff spoke to students about potential careers in local government and shared information about jobs in code enforcement, planning, and building safety.

For more information, please contact Neighborhood Enhancement Coordinator Kaylee Drea [by email](#) or by calling 309-494-8624.



Peoria Fire Department - Fallen Firefighter Memorial, Thursday, October 5th

Peoria Fire Department will hold the annual Fallen Firefighter Memorial program outside of City Hall, on October 5th, 2023, beginning at 12:30 p.m. At this time, we will honor all fallen firefighters throughout the history of the Peoria Fire Department. This event is open to the public and we hope to see everyone there to honor our fallen Brothers and Sisters.



Peoria Fire Department - Division Chief of Training Roland Tenley Named ISFSI Instructor of the Year



PFD Division Chief of Training Roland Tenley was the recipient of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI) George D Post Instructor of the Year award. This prestigious award is awarded to an instructor who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in training as well as developing new and innovative ways to develop an effective and safe training program. Congratulations Chief Tenley. The Peoria Fire Department is proud of all your accomplishments.

Peoria Fire Department – Fire Prevention Week for Peoria Public Schools

Division Chief Nate Rice and his crew of Firefighters are starting their Fire Prevention Week tours through the Peoria Public Schools. This year’s program includes a Safe House where children can gain the experience of how to navigate a smoke-filled house. The program will touch on the importance of smoke detectors and having an emergency plan for families. Prevention week, which is usually the second week in October, will continue through October 9th.

Peoria Public Works - Public Works talks career opportunities with Peoria Public Schools students



Department of Public Works staff met with students at Peoria High School on Thursday, September 21 and Richwoods High School students on Wednesday, September 27. The two college and career fairs allowed Public Works to discuss various career pathways and opportunities. Public Works offers a wide variety of careers that range in requirements from a high school diploma to a four-year degree.

Public Works hosts Civic Leadership Academy

The annual Civic Leadership Academy kicked off on Monday, September 25, with a visit to the city of Peoria Department of Public Works. Academy participants learned about all aspects of planning, designing, building, maintaining, and operating public infrastructure throughout the city. Visitors engaged with Public Works staff and received a tour of the facility. Civic Leadership Academy is an annual program held each fall by the City of Peoria and Peoria County government to help citizens better understand how their local governments work, the resources they offer, and the challenges they face.



Planning and Zoning Agenda

- Please see attached



PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023
CITY HALL, ROOM 400 – 1:00 P.M

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 MINUTES

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

Deliberations will be held at the end of each case after public comment has been closed. No public comment is allowed during deliberations.

CASE NO. PZ 1523-2023 Hold a Public Hearing and forward a recommendation to City Council on the request of Kendall Stahl, of Authentic Oak LLC, to obtain a Special Use in a Class R-2 (Single-Family Residential) District for a Short-Term Rental, for the property located at 615 W Timothy Drive (Duplex Unit Address of 617 W Timothy Dr) (Parcel Identification No. 14-09-303-008), Peoria, IL (Council District 5)

CASE NO. PZ 1531-2023 Hold a Public Hearing and forward a recommendation to City Council on the request of Tom Armstrong of Armstrong Builders of Peoria, Inc. to approve the First Amendment to Annexation Agreement, including a Subdivision Plat, for the property located south of Cedar Hills Drive, north of Parcel Identification No. 08-24-400-002, west of Allen Road, and east of Parcel Identification No. 08-24-100-005. The property is identified as Parcel Identification Nos. 08-24-200-003, 08-24-400-001 (Address 12025 N Cline Road), and 09-19-100-002, Peoria County, IL

CASE NO. PZ 1533-2023 Hold a Public Hearing and forward a recommendation to City Council on the request of Asif Hussain of N. Hamilton Estates LLC, on behalf of Syed Ashraf of Nuhome Properties LLC, to obtain a Special Use in a Class R-3 (Single-Family Residential) District for a Short-Term Rental, for the property located at 5054-5056 N Lakeside Place (Duplex Unit Address of 5056 N Lakeside Pl) (Parcel Identification No. 14-22-105-015), Peoria, IL (Council District 5)

CASE NO. PZ 1539-2023 Hold a Public Hearing and forward a recommendation to City Council on the request of Doug and Eileen Lunig for Big Picture Peoria, on behalf of the County of Peoria, to obtain a Special Use in a Class B1 (Central Business) District to establish a mural above the maximum height of 30 feet, for the property located at 324 Main Street (Parcel Identification No. 18-09-230-002 and -003), Peoria, IL (Council District 2)

CASE NO. PZ 1540-2023 Hold a Public Hearing and forward a recommendation to City Council on the request of Joshua Rudd, to obtain a Special Use in a Class R-3 (Single-Family Residential) District for a Short Term Rental, for the property located at 605 W Ridgemont Road (Parcel Identification No. 14-28-104-022), Peoria, IL (Council District 3)

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW

CASE NO. PZ 1492-2023
Deferred from the September Meeting Hold a Public Hearing and forward a recommendation to City Council on the request of Camilla Rabjohns for Invictus Woods Inc., to obtain a Special Use in a Class R-4 (Single-Family Residential) District for a Group Care Facility, for the property located at 1018 N Parkside Drive (Parcel Identification No. 18-05-303-018), Peoria IL (Council District 1)

5. CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

6. ADJOURNMENT