



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER



TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Patrick Urich, City Manager 

DATE: February 28, 2025

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.

City of Peoria Seeking Artists for Public Art Initiative

The City of Peoria is excited to announce updates to the Banners and Boxes Beautification Program, making it easier than ever for local artists to showcase their work in public spaces. This initiative brings vibrant artwork to the downtown and warehouse districts, transforming electrical boxes and light pole banners into an outdoor gallery celebrating creativity and enriching the community.

The program will feature artwork from local artists on 15 electrical boxes and 100 banners. Artists may submit up to three pieces of art. Artists selected for the program will receive a \$500 honorarium for each piece selected. Artists who live in Peoria or have a studio in the city are invited to apply. Applications are open through March 22, 2025, at 11:59 p.m., and can be accessed on the city's website.



“This initiative reflects Peoria’s commitment to making public art more accessible,” said Stacy Peterson, Strategic Communications Manager and Staff Liaison to the Public Arts Advisory

Commission. “By simplifying the process, we’re ensuring that more artists have the opportunity to share their talent while enhancing the visual appeal of our public spaces.”

Peoria has long been recognized for its investment in public art, with sculptures, murals, and architectural designs shaping the city’s cultural identity. The Banners and Boxes Beautification Program continues this legacy, turning everyday infrastructure into striking works of art.

How to Apply:

1. Visit the city’s website to access the updated policy and online form.
2. Select whether you’d like your work featured on a banner or an electrical box.
3. Upload a high-resolution JPG of your artwork.

The program is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act. For more information and to apply, visit [the Banners and Boxes Beautification page](#) on the city’s website.

Demolition Begins on Fire Station 16

Contractors for the city of Peoria began demolition of Fire Station 16, located at 2105 W. Northmoor, on Wednesday, February 26.

The demolition process is expected to be completed in the middle of March. During this time, motorists traveling near the site should be aware of potential traffic delays, detours, and construction activity. Drivers are urged to proceed with caution.

“We appreciate the public’s patience as we take this important step toward improving our fire services,” said Shawn Sollberger, Fire Chief. “The new station will provide our firefighters with state-of-the-art facilities to better serve our community.”



Construction of a new Fire Station will begin at the same location once the demolition has been completed. The city is expecting the building to be completed by November 2025.

City of Peoria Hosts Equity in Procurement Expo to Empower Minority Business Owners

The City of Peoria, in collaboration with the Peoria NAACP Peoria Branch, Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce, Minority Development Business Center, Bradley Small Business Development Center, and other community organizations, is proud to host the Equity in Procurement Expo on March 27, 2025, at the Peoria Civic Center (Room 400) from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.



This event is designed to connect minority business owners, entrepreneurs, and construction professionals with valuable resources, partnerships, and opportunities to thrive in government contracting.



“This event is about breaking down barriers and ensuring that minority and women-owned businesses have access to the tools, knowledge, and networks they need to compete and succeed,” said Stacy Peterson, Strategic Communications Manager for the City of Peoria. “By fostering connections between business owners and key stakeholders, we are building a stronger, more inclusive economic landscape for our community.”

Why Attend?

Participants will gain insights into government procurement, learn how to register with the City’s [Minority and Women-Owned Business Registry \(PeAP\)](#), and engage with industry leaders through expert-led panel discussions on:

- Regulation & How to Register
- Finance & Banking
- Partnering with Prime Contractors
- Trades & Effective Bidding

Event Schedule:

- 5:00 p.m. – Vendor & Networking Session
- 5:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Breakout Panel 1

- 6:45 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – Breakout Panel 2
- 7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Closing Session

The Equity in Procurement Expo offers a unique opportunity for businesses to expand their networks, access contracting opportunities, and gain the knowledge needed to take their business to the next level.

The City of Peoria is committed to fostering economic growth, supporting small businesses, and ensuring equitable access to opportunities for all entrepreneurs in our community. Registration for the event is recommended. Please visit the [Equity in Procurement Expo webpage](#) for more information and to register.

Community Development – Applications for the 2025 Neighborhood Mini Grant Program Open on March 3

The Neighborhood Mini Grant Program provides neighborhood and homeowner associations funding for projects that improve neighborhoods and build community. First-time applicants may apply for up to \$5,000 and returning applicants may apply for up to \$2,500. Applicants must show proof of community support for their project. Projects must be completed, and all funds must be spent by Friday, December 12, 2025.

Eligible projects include:

- Security cameras
- Block parties
- Tree-plantings (non-fruit bearing) and landscaping
- Public space improvements such as benches, picnic tables, shelters, or pergolas
- Outreach
- Placemaking
- Public art

How To Apply

There are three ways to apply to the Neighborhood Mini Grant Program.

- Online: Visit the [Neighborhood Mini Grant](#) page
- Call: (309) 494-8600
- In-Person: Visit City Hall, 419 Fulton Street, Room 203, Peoria, IL 61602 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.)

The city of Peoria will accept applications for the Neighborhood Mini Grant Program from Monday, March 3 through Friday, April 4. Applications will be reviewed by city staff and funding decisions will be made in mid-April.

For more information, please contact Community Development Engagement Manager Kaylee Drea by [email](#) or by calling 309-494-8624.

Peoria Fire Department Mourns Loss of Captain Eric Scoby



On Tuesday, February 25, the Peoria Fire Department laid to rest Captain Eric Scoby. Captain Scoby was a 30-year member of the PFD who retired in July 2024. Throughout his career, Captain Scoby touched the lives of his brothers and sisters on the job and many in the community. His legacy of a strong work ethic, sharp mind, and willingness to perform his job to the best of ability will live on in the firehouses. His presence and adventurous spirit will greatly be missed by all who encountered him.

Peoria Police Department Hands Out Blankets to South Side Manor Apartment Residents

Peoria Police Department officers with the Neighborhood Services Unit (NSU) spent the afternoon last Thursday handing out brand-new PPD blankets to residents of South Side Manor Apartments. The officers had a great time handing out the blankets and having some one-on-one conversations with the residents.



Peoria Police Department Receives Girl Scout Cookies

For the past several years, a 12-year-old Girl Scout named Brooke has raised money to buy dozens of Girls Scout Cookies for Peoria Police officers and staff. On Tuesday, February 18, Brooke and her parents made their annual visit to the PPD headquarters to hand-deliver this year's haul, to the immense appreciation of everyone from the whole department.



Peoria Public Works – Jefferson/Adams Conversion Project Update

Beginning on Monday, March 3, weather-dependent, sidewalk removal work will begin at the intersection of SW Adams Street and N William Kumpf Boulevard.

While the work occurs, the sidewalks near 500 SW Adams Street will be closed. Pedestrians should use caution near this sidewalk closure and cross the street at the next available intersection.

Lane and parking restrictions will be in effect along SW Adams Street. On-street parking restrictions will be marked. Drivers should look for unbagged, available parking meters for on-street parking. **If parking meters are bagged with “No Parking” signs, drivers should not park in those spots.**

Additional parking, lane, and sidewalk restrictions will be forthcoming as the Adams Street and Jefferson Avenue One-Way to Two-Way (OWTW) Conversion Project progresses.

Drivers should be mindful of workers in the area and watch for no parking areas. Extra caution should be exercised in the area.

Peoria Public Works – Nebraska Avenue to be Reduced to One-Lane, One-Way Traffic from Sterling Avenue to Park Road

Beginning at 7 a.m. on Monday, March 3, W Nebraska Avenue will be reduced to one-lane, one-way traffic between N Sterling Avenue and N Park Road. This traffic configuration is necessary for the Nebraska Avenue Reconstruction Project and is expected to last through mid-summer.

Eastbound traffic on W Nebraska Avenue between N Sterling Avenue and N Park Road will utilize a one-lane, one-way traffic configuration. The current two eastbound lanes of W Nebraska Avenue will be closed to all traffic. Eastbound traffic will be rerouted to the current westbound lane.

Westbound traffic on W Nebraska Avenue between N Sterling Avenue and N Park Road will not be permitted.

Drivers should utilize all marked detour routes. Drivers should exercise caution in the area and be mindful of the road closure. The use of alternative routes is advised.



Road and Lane Closures

- The westbound traffic lanes of W Nebraska between N Sterling Avenue and N Park Road will be closed to all traffic.
- Left turns on W Nebraska Avenue from N Park Road will not be permitted.
- N Oley Road will be closed at W Nebraska Avenue. N Oley Road residents should enter and exit from N Park Road.
- Only right turns will be permitted onto W Nebraska Avenue from N Stever Avenue.
- Business access to the businesses located in the 2300-2400 blocks of W Nebraska Avenue will be from N Sterling Avenue.
- The northbound N Sterling Avenue drive lane will be closed from just south of the W Nebraska Avenue through the intersection. Caution should be utilized as right turns will still be permitted onto W Nebraska Avenue from northbound N Sterling Avenue.

Detour Routes

- Westbound through traffic on Nebraska Avenue should utilize W Forrest Hill Avenue from N Sterling Avenue or N University Avenue as the marked detour route.

Peoria Public Works – Roads to be Closed on March 1, for Bradley University Kappa Delta Shamrock Run

Beginning at 7 a.m. and lasting until 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 1, numerous roads around the Bradley University Campus will be closed due to the Kappa Delta Shamrock Run, sponsored by the Kappa Delta Sorority.

Drivers should exercise caution and patience along the race route. The use of alternative routes is advised.

Road Closures

- Bradley Avenue will be closed to through traffic between N. Cooper Street and N. Elmwood Avenue.
- Cooper Street will be closed to through traffic between W. Bradley Avenue and W. Ayers Avenue.
- Fredonia Avenue will be closed to through traffic between N. Cooper Street and N. Duryea Place.
- Barker Avenue will be closed to through traffic between N. Cooper Street and N. Duryea Place.
- Callender Avenue will be closed to through traffic between N. Cooper Street and N. Glenwood Avenue.
- Ayres Avenue will be closed to through traffic between N. Cooper Street and N. Glenwood Avenue.
- Glenwood Avenue will be closed to through traffic between W. Ayres Avenue and W. Fredonia Avenue.
- Institute Place will be closed to through traffic between W. Barker Avenue and W. Fredonia Avenue.
- Duryea Place will be closed to through traffic between W. Barker Avenue and W. Fredonia Avenue.



Race Route

Runners will start on Clarissa Court on the Bradley University Campus. Runners will race west on W. Bradley Avenue, south on N. Cooper Street, east on W. Ayers Avenue, north on N. Glenwood Avenue, east on W. Barker Avenue, north on N. Duryea Place, west on W. Fredonia Avenue, south on N. Glenwood Avenue, west on W. Callender Avenue, north on N. Cooper Street, east on W. Bradley Avenue, north on N. Elmwood Avenue, circle the W. St. James Street roundabout, south on N. Elmwood Avenue, west on W. Bradley Avenue, and finish back at Clarrisa Court on the Bradley University Campus.

Peoria Public Schools – Mardi Gras Speech and Debate Tournament Will be on March 1

I am thrilled to announce that our third Speech and Debate tournament of the year, the Mardi Gras, will be hosted at Lincoln K-8 on Saturday, March 1. This event is a celebration of our students' growth in public speaking, offering them a platform to reflect on their progress and set new goals for further development.

We are excited to see the incredible talent that our students will bring to the table, and we anticipate an engaging and inspiring event. With 300-400 guests expected, this tournament will highlight the dedication of our young scholars and their families.

Additionally, this tournament will be an important stepping-stone for selecting students to represent Peoria at the National Speech and Debate Association's Centennial Tournament in Iowa. This year marks a milestone as we are sending our first-ever travel team to this event, a new chapter for Peoria's Speech and Debate program.

Thank you to our community partners, including Bradley University and Advantage Communications, for supporting our students' success locally and nationally. We are grateful to everyone who has been part of this journey. Your ongoing support helps us build a strong future for Peoria's Speech and Debate program.

With gratitude,



Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat, Ed.D

Community Development Weekly Report

- See attached

WEEKLY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

CITY OF PEORIA – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Date: 02/20/2025 – 02/26/2025

This summary document is produced on a weekly basis. It is used as an agenda for the City Development Review Board and as a transparency tool to allow the public to be aware of development in Peoria.

1. Summary Information

- **One Stop Shop** is held every Monday at 1:30 PM virtually. We also offer an in-person option the first Monday of each month at Distillery Labs at 201 SW Adams St. This is a free service for anyone who wants to discuss development with staff from various city departments, local utility companies, the Peoria County Health Department, and CityLink.
- **Development Center Permits** can typically be issued immediately and/or do not require an extensive review period. These permits include most trade (electrical, plumbing, HVAC, etc.) permits, repair permits, new single-family residential construction, alteration/additions, and demolitions.
- Each permit application includes a self-reported value of the project. The **Total Value of Development (YTD)** is the sum of these reported values.

	This Week	YTD
One Stop Shop Customers	0	13
Development Center Permits Issued	48	363
Total Value of Development	\$2,522,178	\$35,917,476

2. Development Review Board Projects

- The **Development Review Board** is a group of City staff, local utility representatives, and other local government agencies that review and comment on more complex development applications and cases that are required to go to a public hearing.
- Items listed below with the prefixes HPC, PZC or ZBA in the first column are considered **Plans**. **Plans** are development applications that require multiple departments to review for compliance and include a public hearing before a City Commission; in some cases, **Plans** may also require a final decision by the City Council.
- All other items listed below are **Building Permits**. **Building Permits** are development applications that require multiple departments to review for compliance but do not require a public hearing or City Council review.
- The **Staff Assigned** to each item is the primary contact person for any inquiries.

Plan/Permit #	Address	Type	Description	Council District	Planner Assigned
COM 370-2025	1720 W Detweiller Dr	Commercial Alteration	Ext. Alteration – Syndigo	5	NM
HPC 57-2025	405 N William Kumpf Blvd	Certificate of Appropriateness	Window Replacement – Busey Bank	1	JN
COM 409-2025	114 Forrest Hill Ave	Commercial Alteration	Int. Alteration – St. Paul Baptist Church	2	KW

Additional Activity

- These projects are not subject to review by the Development Review Board.

Plan/Permit #	Address	Type	Description	Council District	Planner Assigned
SIGN 386-2025	3015 N Sterling Ave	Permanent Sign	Wall Sign – House of Beauty	1	JN
RES 382-2025	11227 N Stone Creek Dr	New Single Family Home	NSFD – Hunter’s Trail	5	NM

WEEKLY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORT CITY OF PEORIA – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

3. Certificates of Occupancy Issued

- **Certificates of Occupancy** are issued after the work authorized by a permit has been inspected and substantially meets all applicable codes and regulations.

Address	Type	Business Name	Council District
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4. Land Bank Activity

- The **City Land Bank** acquires properties to hold for future development, it transfers properties to new owners when possible, and it demolishes unsafe and abandoned structures to reduce blight in the community.

Properties Acquired			
Parcel Number	Address	Council District	Received Through
18-17-326-003	2814 SW Jefferson Ave	1	Judicial Deed
18-18-203-017	2308 W Ann St	1	Judicial Deed

Properties Transferred to New Owner			
Parcel Number	Address	Council District	Transferred Through
-	-	-	-

Properties Demolished			
Parcel Number	Address	Council District	Ownership Type and Reason
14-30-481-020	3120 N Gale Ave	1	Private - Emergency

5. Peoria City/County Health Department License Information

- The **Peoria City/County Health Department** licenses multiple types of food establishments. The information in this table is provided for informational purposes only

Address	Business Name	Description	Council District
3415 N Sheridan Rd	Christian Buehler Memorial Home	Plans Received	2
456 Fulton St Suite 170	Twisted Pasta Commissary and Mobile Truck	Plans Received	2

**WEEKLY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORT
CITY OF PEORIA – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

Community Development Department Contact Information

Staff who are typically assigned to manage development applications.

<p align="center">Leah Allison (LA) <i>Asst. Director of Com. Dev.</i> 494-8667</p> <p align="center">Josh Naven (JN) <i>Senior Urban Planner</i> 494-8657</p> <p align="center">Kerilyn Weick (KW) <i>Senior Urban Planner</i> 494-8606</p> <p align="center">Julia Rose (JR) <i>Urban Planner</i> 494-8649</p> <p align="center">Nolan Meyer (NM) <i>Urban Planner</i> 494-8612</p>	<p align="center">Rich Storm (RS) <i>Building Safety Manager</i> 494-8632</p> <p align="center">Matt Ziller (MZ) <i>Building Inspector</i> 494-8628</p> <p align="center">Craig Reid (CR) <i>Building Inspector</i> 494-8925</p> <p align="center">Issac Garcia (IG) <i>Building Inspector</i> 494-8921</p>
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