

HEADLINES IN THE HEIGHTS



PHOTO BY HATHOOK MEDIA

VILLAGE OF PEORIA HEIGHTS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 3

VILLAGE CALENDAR

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, Jun. 16, 6:00 PM

Zoning Board of Appeals
Monday, Jun. 22, 5:30 PM

Departmental Meeting
Tuesday, Jun. 23, 6:00 PM

Neighborhood Watch
Monday, Jun. 29, 6:30 PM

Village Hall closed for Independence Day (Observed)
Friday, Jul. 3

Departmental Meeting
Tuesday, Jul. 7, 6:00 PM

Zoning Board of Appeal
Monday, Jul. 20, 5:30 PM

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, Jul. 21, 6:00 PM

Departmental Meeting
Tuesday, Jul. 28, 6:00 PM

Departmental Meeting
Tuesday, Aug. 4, 6:00 PM

Zoning Board of Appeal
Monday, Aug. 17, 5:30 PM

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, Aug. 18, 6:00 PM

Departmental Meeting
Tuesday, Aug. 25, 6:00 PM

TOWER TALK

Tune in to Tower Talk webcasts at www.peoriaheights.org/tower-talk-webcast

PANDEMIC-INSPIRED MORTGAGE/LEASE GRANT PROGRAM A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

The final numbers are in on Peoria Heights' mortgage/lease loan program to help local businesses get over the hump of the coronavirus crisis, and they show that 82 businesses received more than \$110,000 in assistance, an average of more than \$1,280 apiece. The maximum grant was \$1,500.

Village government launched the program in early May, with an application deadline of June 5. About 40 percent of the businesses eligible for the subsidy in the Heights' two Business Development Districts (BDD), including those in the busy commercial corridors of Prospect Road and War Memorial Drive, received the assistance. Many had been largely shuttered since mid-March with much-diminished revenue streams, even as the bills kept coming.

"From what we've been able to gather anecdotally, it came just

in the nick of time for many," said Village Administrator Dustin Sutton, who called the effort a resounding success.

"We've received quite a few compliments from our business leaders that Village leaders were willing to step up, to be a safety net, when their situations seemed most dire," said Sutton.

Hearth owner Hugh Higgins estimated in a recent Tower Talk broadcast that his revenues were 80 percent off and that his restaurant was "clawing and scratching to eke out a living" when both his most loyal customers and the Village stepped into the breach.

"I couldn't be happier than being in the Heights. It's just such a wonderful place to do business and to have a business. It's just explosive. It's a great community to be a part of," said Higgins. "We're still here."

"We're still here."

The overall breakdown of businesses that received help was 55 percent service industry such as restaurants, 41 percent retail, and the rest other, said Sutton.

The Village had been prepared to spend as much as \$330,000, which came out of funds generated within the two BDDs rather than out of the general operating budget. The dollars left over now go back into the designated BDD accounts, which not only means that they're available for their original intended purpose, but that the Village could respond to another emergency, if need be, though Sutton said he hopes it doesn't come to that.

"We hope the worst of this is behind us," he said, "but we're prepared, just in case."

HELP US WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Last fall the Peoria Heights Village Board entered into contracts with Chicago-based urban planning consultant Houseal Lavigne and with Farnsworth Group in Peoria to take a look at existing conditions in the Village and to develop a blueprint that will guide local growth over the next two decades.

Since then, multiple public hearings have been conducted, and our consultants haven't missed a

beat. But we still need your help. Please visit our comprehensive plan website at hla.fyi/Peoria-Heights to read up on what we've learned about ourselves thus far, and more importantly, to put in your two cents on what you'd like to see happen in the Heights between now and 2040.

Interactive online tools allow you to weigh in. Create your own map of issues and opportunities in the Village, essentially taking what's

in your mind's eye and sharing that vision with others. Participate in a questionnaire that asks you about the strengths and weaknesses of our neighborhoods, our housing stock, our basic infrastructure, our public services for education and public safety, our recreational assets and our business community.

For more information go to: hla.fyi/PeoriaHeights

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Ameren/Cilco
Electric, gas
(888) 789-2477

G & O Disposal
Garbage, yard waste, recycle
(309) 742-4177

Greater Peoria San. Dist.
Sewer
(309) 637-3511

Peoria Heights Fire Dept.
(309) 682-4217
(Non-Emergency)

Peoria Heights Police Dept.
(309) 688-3461
(Non-Emergency)

Peoria Heights Pub. Library
(309) 682-5578

Peoria Heights Schools Dist.
(309) 686-8800

Peoria Heights Village Hall
Administration
(309) 686-2385

Peoria Post Office
(309) 692-9816

Richwoods Township
(309) 688-2822

Xfinity/Comcast Cable
(866) 886-6838

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustee Sherryl Carter
309-657-5689

Trustee Sarah DeVore
309-712-7332

Trustee Jeff Goett
309-472-7114

Trustee Beth Khazzam
309-868-0976

Trustee Diane Mariscal
309-635-4949

Trustee Brandon Wisenburg
309-453-8191

RICHWOODS TOWNSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Richwoods Township has been in existence since 1832. Many don't realize what programs the Township provides for its citizens. Located in Village Hall, Richwoods Township coordinates general assistance, emergency assistance, workforce development, property assessment, and property tax collection.

EMERGENCY AND GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Richwoods Township is required, by State of Illinois Statute, to provide a General Assistance program. General Assistance is provided to Citizens of Richwoods Township. It is income-based and provides a monthly grant which may be applied to rent, utilities, groceries or bus passes. An application must be completed, along with multiple personal documents submitted, prior to the interview process. Once the application is completed, then two interviews will take place before a



final determination may be made. Contact the Richwoods Township Office for an application.

Another form of general assistance provided, called LIHEAP, or low-income home energy assistance, is administered by Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity (PCCEO.) Residents may request applications through Richwoods Township. Once reviewed, the application is forwarded to PCCEO for their review process.

Emergency Assistance, is also income-based and goes through the same application and interview process as General Assistance. To qualify for Emergency Assistance, an individual must be experiencing a life-changing event such as a "Five-Day Notice of Eviction", a utilities "disconnect" notice or a water shut-off notice. Individuals who qualify will receive a one-time grant and cannot reapply for a 12-month period. As with General Assistance, Emergency Assistance may be applied to rent, utilities or groceries. Stop by the Richwoods Township Office for an application.

To apply for assistance through Richwoods Township, please call 309-688-2822 or email richwoods7@comcast.net. Applications can be dropped off in the front entrance of Village Hall in the large black mailbox during business hours.

CODE ENFORCEMENT Q&A

What are the Village's rules on burning garbage or landscape waste?

Burning of landscape waste is allowed between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. The landscape waste must come from the property from which it was generated and no other substances (garbage or construction materials) may be burned. The fire must be attended by a responsible person with a means to extinguish the blaze. Recreational burning is also allowed up until midnight.

What's the most common non-compliance issue/violation?

A common problem is the accumulation of garbage and rubbish. Residents are asked to limit the collection of materials on their property to help eliminate rodents and pests. If items

must be kept, it is asked that they are stored off the ground in an inconspicuous area. Garbage must be kept in a rat proof container and may be placed on the curb no earlier than 3 p.m. on the day preceding pick up day. Garbage cans must be removed from the curb within 24 hours of pick up. Lawn maintenance is also important in eliminating rodents and pests.

Will residents be issued a ticket if they're not in compliance with Village code?

A code violation notice will be issued if a property is in violation. Follow up on that notice is one to seven days, depending on the violation. If the property is still in violation on the follow up day, it will usually get a Notice to Abate sticker on the property. Fines for noncompliance range from \$75-

500 and court dates may be issued.

What should residents to know about code enforcement?

Code Enforcement is necessary to maintain the life and health of the community. Although we realize the property is yours, it is important to maintain a clean environment to help control the population of rodents and pests throughout the village. If the village maintains a clean appearance it shows we care about our community.

What should residents do if there's an issue with their property or their neighbors?

Residents can call 309-686-2370 with any complaints of concerns about code enforcement.