

President's Message

We have suffrage history here

This past week I had an opportunity to attend the “Restoration Celebration” at the Peoria Women’s Club. This organization was established in 1886 by a group of women interested in the arts and a broader role in civic affairs such as promoting a law to educate blind children, establishing the first public kindergarten and a traveling library.

The women sold subscriptions at \$10 each to raise funds to put up the structure, built in 1893 . . . pretty amazing in those times! Founding members included Lucie Brotherson Tyng, who was the first woman elected to the local school board, and Julia Proctor White, who became the first President of the League of Women Voters in Peoria in 1924.

While the function of the PWC building is changing to promote the arts, it has a long history of activities that led to the suffrage movement. The National Collaborative for Women’s History Sites (NCWHS) is working to identify and map suffrage sites throughout the United States. It will honor the untold history of suffrage for all women, and for all ethnicities significant in the suffrage movement, extending beyond the passage of the 19th Amendment.

In my opinion, two locations in the Peoria area should be added to the map of suffrage-related sites: the PWC building and Springdale Cemetery, where several early female leaders are buried. You can follow this project at: <https://ncwhs.org>.

—— Connie Romanus, LWVGP President

IMPORTANT DATES:

7 p.m. Wed., Nov. 6, Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality; ICC East Peoria.

6 p.m. Thurs. Nov. 7. General Meeting: Ranked voting, AMT.

12:30–1 p.m. Mon., Nov. 11. LWVGP Board Meeting, Peoria Downtown Library, LL1.

6:30 p.m. Thurs., Nov. 21. Universal Health Care, North Branch Library.

9 a.m., Sat., Jan. 18. LWVGP Planning Meeting, Lakeview Library.

Drinks & Dialogue will resume in January 2020.

SAVE THE DATE!

EPA Director comes to Peoria on Nov. 11

Matthew Tejada, Director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Justice, will spend the day in Peoria on Nov. 11.

Tejada will tour neighborhoods and sources of pollution; discuss issues of health (e.g. asthma rates in Peoria are four times those of the rest of Illinois), air and soil contamination; and hear the personal stories of people impacted.

The day will finish with a public meeting/community forum at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 309 S. Madison Park Terrace. Light refreshments will be served at 5 p.m.; the meeting begins at 6 p.m.

Pollution in our community affects all of us in our health and quality of life. Please attend. Let's pack the house to show the federal, regional and state EPA we are tired of particles and bad odors in the air, sick family members, and contaminated soil and water. We will have their full attention during this visit.

—— Connie Romanus

VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Your Voter Services Committee is already at work on candidate forums for the March 17, 2020 primary.

We know that there will be a contested primary for the Peoria County Democrats in both the State's Attorney and the County Clerk races. We have scheduled a candidate forum for that race at 10:30 a.m. Sat., Jan. 11, at the North Branch of the Peoria Public Library. Other forums will be scheduled as candidates file petitions between Nov. 25 and Dec. 2.

The League only hosts candidate forums in contested races.

Additionally, the Committee will be doing voter registration at a Naturalization Ceremony on Nov. 15 and at some of the area senior residence facilities in the coming weeks.

It is important to get registered before the March 2020 primary. If you have an event you would like a deputy registrar to attend, please contact Roberta Parks at 309-231-1724. If you are a deputy registrar and would like to help with these efforts, please contact Mary Jane Crowell at 309-674-5313.

—— Roberta Parks

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

What an exciting time of year! Well, if you like cold and damp. Seriously, it is a beautiful fall and a great time to get involved with many of the League activities. Membership is at 112 as of today, Oct. 29. It is still not too late to pay your dues. Please visit the website for directions on how to join. Or, I have copied the membership form below for your use. One of us attends all the General Meetings and Drinks & Dialogue; we'll gladly accept your checks at that time. Thank you.

Work has begun for the Annual Dinner and for a special event in June marking the League's 100th anniversary. Save the third Wednesday in July for the Membership Social. More information elsewhere in The Voter.

Thank you to those who have joined at the Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt and Eleanor Roosevelt levels. We have one new additional member at the Susan B. Anthony level. Those extra funds assist in the work of the League.

Thank you for helping the League Make Democracy Work!

Jan Deissler
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Dues Invoice

The League's Membership Year is July 1, 2019-2020 2019-2020 League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria Membership Form

Please select and circle your desired membership category and fill out the following:

- Name(s) _____
 - Mailing address: _____
 - Primary phone & e-mail _____
-
- Make check payable to LWVGP for the circled membership amount, and mail this form and check to LWVGP, P.O. 9786, Peoria, IL 61612-9786

Category	Individual	Household
Regular	\$62	\$93
Student/ Young Professional/Scholarship	\$31	n/a
Defenders of Democracy		
• Susan B. Anthony	\$100	\$150
• Carrie Chapman Catt	\$200	\$300
• Eleanor Roosevelt	\$300	\$450

Membership categories:

- Household = 2 members living at the same address. Student = full-time student. Young Professional = member 30 or younger
- Scholarship = limited income, contact Membership Co-Chair Jan Deissler 309-635-1872 or Linda Millen 309-635-2542
- Defenders of Democracy = increased level of support acknowledged in Voter.

Thank you. Your membership makes democracy work!

Age: _____ 16-30 _____ 31-50 _____ 51-70 _____ Over 70 _____ Rather not say
Gender: _____ Male _____ Female _____ Other
Ethnic/Race: _____ Black _____ White _____ Hispanic _____ Asian _____ Other (please indicate) _____

PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY, Oct. 7

The Oct. 7 Board of Commissioners regular monthly meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl Cannon at 4:30 p.m. Absent were Commissioners Renee Andrews and Kim Furness; quorum present.

Four individuals spoke during Community Comments. First was a resident of Harrison Homes, a young mother of four children, who stated her apartment had issues with sewer back up, odor and lack of water over approximately five months. While maintenance had responded to this situation, it was not resolved.

Executive Director Jackie Newman was present, as well as the Harrison manager, who met with the resident before she left the meeting. Chairman Cannon, as well as Ms. Newman, apologized to the resident and committed to resolve this issue and provide a safe environment for her and her children.

The second resident also resided at Harrison Homes. She expressed concern for overall safety for her and her children. Resident had been shot while on her porch in July and was reluctant to allow her children to play outside due to gun violence. Chairman Cannon responded that the Board would be voting at the meeting to expand security services at the site and that security cameras and lighting had been recently upgraded. Commissioner Helen King expressed her concern and apologized to resident for her experiences.

The third speaker was a family member of a woman residing at Taft Homes. She expressed concern about the locked gates throughout the complex. It makes it difficult for children walking to and from school or to get the bus — forcing them to walk along busy, highly-trafficked roadway. She was concerned about the plan for clearing sidewalks and roadway in complex during winter. She expressed frustration that gates being locked appeared to be punishment on those living there, as well as visitors. Another concern was how emergency vehicles would easily access the complex. Ms. Newman informed family member that EMTs had access to gate keys, mentioned communication on complex by way of newsletter for residents, including security cameras, and making changes in when gates open for safety of school children walking to nearby schools or bus. A PHA Security Officer briefly discussed updating list of persons not allowed on PHA property, new trespass policy and that there was decrease in unlawful acts by non-residents.

Lastly, Reverend Irene Lewis thanked Ms. Newman for recent meeting to discuss use of meeting room at Harrison Homes for church services, that she had secured liability insurance and asked for update. Ms. Newman explained that PHA liability needed to be addressed for any activities on site, and she had not received written agreement, as well as time to upgrade space per PHA policies.

New Manager of Supportive Services Monique Frederickson was introduced. Three Family Self Sufficiency Program (FSS) graduates were recognized. The

minutes of the regular session meeting minutes of Sept. 3 were reviewed and approved. Chief Executive Officer's Report: discussed the FSS program's importance to residents and encouraged them to participate, as this program may not always be available. PHA recently achieved 98 percent occupancy of units, meeting HUD regulatory compliance; 796 units out of 818 were occupied. Thanks were expressed to the many staff and departments who worked together to achieve this outcome. Reports were unanimously accepted by consent agenda.

Resolutions approved: write-off tenant accounts receivable determine uncollectible; award contract for security services at Harrison, Taft, and Sterling Towers; award contract modifying seasonal mowing in amount \$22,000; PHA contract administrator agreement with the Springfield Housing Authority (SHA) for purpose of its grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Resident Opportunity & Self Sufficiency Program (required by HUD due to past troubled status; approved by SHA earlier in day); FY2020-2024 5-year and FY2020 Annual Agency Plan to submit to HUD no later than 10/15/2019; amend FSS Action Plan. (From time to time, PHA is required to review its FSS Action Plan for Compliance with U.S. HUD rules, regulations and notices.) amend tenant lease agreement (PHA, from time to time, required to review leases and make adjustment to assure it is in compliance with Admissions and Continued Occupancy Plan (ACOP); amend ACOP (PHA required to review ACOP for compliance with HUD regulations, notices and Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) requirements as well as compliance with HUD Approved Assess Management – Stop Loss Submission).

Resolution on a River West Management contract was tabled until November.

Audit and Finance Committee met earlier today. A representative from Clifton Larsen Allen LLP presented the results of the audit for year ending Dec. 31, 2018 and issued report dated Sept. 27, 2019. Twelve areas for improvement to meet HUD were identified for FY ending Dec. 31, 2018. Corrective action plans are in place with completion dates and person accountable for each item. Implementation of new computer system will allow for improved reconciliation of inter-fund accounts and more timely reports for recertification and inspections. In addition, PHA is in process of hiring a Program Integrity Specialist to conduct audit for quality control purposes. No Old Business or New Business discussion.

At 5:43 p.m., the Board went into Closed Session. Chairman Cannon informed those present the Board would return to open session but did not expect to vote. This observer left at this time. Meeting Agenda was posted on website on Oct. 7, 2019 and was available at the meeting. Board packet was not posted online; copy of Board packet was made available to this observer at end of meeting.

— Connie Romanus

PEORIA CITY COUNCIL, Oct. 8 & 22

Oct. 8 meeting (At-large Councilwoman Beth Jensen absent most of meeting) had several interesting discussions:

First reading on code item “air rights,” which was explained to be more about property lines than air rights, allowing agreements for buildings which are close to purchase “air rights” from neighboring building.

First reading on an amendment of the adult use cannabis ordinance regarding “infused” products. Those may be edibles such as cupcakes, gummies, etc. Clarification was that the state licensed dispensaries are the only locations that can sell those infused products.

First reading review of Ordinance creating Article 19 (Operation of a Cannabis Business) of Chapter 18 Licenses and Miscellaneous Business Regulations of the Code of the City. Discussion included: being licensed similarly to places that sell tobacco or that sell liquor; distance to schools and daycares changing to 1,000 feet instead of 500 feet; licensing and fee and fine schedule; on-site consumption, etc.

Oct. 22 meeting (At-large Councilman Sid Ruckriegel absent) Public Hearing regarding the 2020-21 Biennial Budget had two people speak: Downtown Development Board requested funding in the budget as had been done previous years; Peoria Area Association of Realtors requested there be no increase in property taxes – the city should find additional sources of revenue.

Councilman John Kelly pulled the items on the communication from the Fireman’s and Police Pension Fund reports to ask about the discrepancies between the actuaries and insurance using different mortality tables which affects amount required to meet the state’s ramp. Discussion was about closed and open systems.

First Reading of ordinance amendment on Registration of Residential Property and Inspection of Dwellings included discussion about: non-owner-occupied registration at closing of property; lowering the fee; self-inspection form.

Much budget discussion since City Manager Patrick Urich had answers to the 15 items that the council asked him to research at the meeting the previous week. Some of those items: Capital plan by district; new fire station; using Tax Increment Financing money for Downtown Development Council; a street/sidewalk assessment now done every three years to help rank which road projects are done first – rather than doing it based on complaints; confidence level in revenue projections in the budget (use conservative numbers); garbage fee is going up so much to pay for previous years when the city did not charge enough to cover contracted costs; “have a Cadillac garbage program” according to Urich; recycling market materials is mostly gone; recycling glass which has no market now, actually ruins the machines and broken glass ruins the recycling load; using TIF money to start taking

down the old Harrison School which will cost over \$1 million to demolish (Peoria Public Schools sold the building for \$10 to someone who eventually abandoned the work and now the City is stuck with the building and demolishing it); painting street lights; fund transfers and summaries.

Upcoming: Oct. 29 will be the First Reading with Budget Changes. There will be no change in the levy. Nov. 5 will be the second reading; the budget could be adopted then or Nov. 12. Nov. 12 will be a presentation and discussion on the “updated” Fitch study regarding the fire department.

Councilman Dennis Cyr asked if fellow councilpersons desired to include money in the budget to do “due diligence” — looking at possible repurchase of the water utility. He said it was discussed last year. No one responded.

—— Cheryl Budzinski

PEORIA COUNTY BOARD, Oct. 10

The Peoria County Board Chairman Andrew Rand called the regular monthly meeting to order on Oct. 10 in Room 403 of the County Building at 324 Main St.

The Chairman apologized for not beginning the meeting promptly at 6 p.m. due to waiting for State Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth, who wished to attend the opening agenda item. first agenda item was the appointment of Brandy Bryant as the new Board District 5 representative. Rachel Parker previously held this position and resigned to accept appointment as County Clerk. Board member Steven Rieker announced he would abstain on the vote as he did not have information about the appointment prior to the meeting. Several board members spoke in support of Ms. Bryant. The appointment was approved with a vote of 15 yes, zero no and 1 abstain. The public seating areas of the board room were filled at the opening of the meeting. Much of the audience left after the appointment.

Mike Rucker, Chairman of Friends of the Rock Island Trail, spoke during citizen comments. He expressed concern about the village of Bellevue board being opposed to the potential rails-to-trails project from Bellevue to Farmington. Mr. Rucker said he thinks the project would be an asset to Peoria County off-road bicycle routes and for area recreation and tourism. District 1 Board Member Sharon Williams, whose area includes the Bellevue section of the proposed trail, commented that she was in support of the project and is looking into the issue.

The meeting Consent Agenda followed and contained 11 items which were approved. One zoning approval and a resolution for a bid approval followed and both were voted yes. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.

—— Joyce Blumenshine

SPRINGDALE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, Oct. 15

Bob Manning, Vice-Chair, moderated the meeting. A quorum was present.

The board meeting convened at 4 p.m. No additions were made to the agenda and the Sept. 17 minutes were approved. There was no public comment.

Savanna Update: An update was presented by Mike Rucker regarding two funds his family provided Maintenance and Marketing for the project. The funds are designated for purposes such as annual plants, mulch and other such uses to maintain the appearance of the area. The funds, (\$10,000 with an addition of \$2,000 per year), are held by the Peoria Area Community Foundation with a goal of creating a self-sustaining return in perpetuity. The Marketing Fund is also managed by the Community Foundation and is used for purposes identified by Springdale Cemetery Administration. The Marketing Fund has a Caterpillar Inc. match option. All funds are paid out through the Community Foundation.

Jon Hodel, a representative of CloudPoint, gave an update of their work with the cemetery staff and improvements to the system. Mr. Hodel stated that the project was coming to a conclusion and would transition to a maintenance phase. He said the team approach between cemetery staff and CloudPoint representatives has been extremely beneficial and caused the development of an efficient map-based system that will aid staff in providing detailed and relevant information to families. The project has also created a map of the cemetery that will continue to be maintained for future generations. It has taken 16 months, but as Mark Matuszak stated, “in cemetery time that is nothing”. Springdale Cemetery was chartered in 1855 and received its first interment in 1857. Matuszak stated that almost 80,000 individuals are buried at the cemetery.

Mark Matuszak presented the Manager’s Report:

- o Scattering Garden – The Garden continues to draw a lot of activity. There continues to be inquiries from out of town families. The activity for this is attributed to the web-site information.
- o The grounds are looking good. Nov. 1 marks the end of full staffing; staff will operate at “bare bones” capacity for the winter.
- o One of the part-time office bookkeeping staff members gave notice. This creates a staff opening for a part-time position which will be filled as quickly as possible.
- o Norwood Section – The Board reviewed the designs for the Mausoleum and surrounding area and Matuszak gave an update of the progress.
- o A generous person from the community approached Mr. Matuszak with a desire to do something special, such as a monument, for the Baby Land section of the cemetery. There will be continued discussion to decide the feasibility of this project.
- o The Illinois Valley Striders (IVS) donated \$500 to the Foundation and on Oct. 6 had a cleanup day at the Cemetery.

Treasurer Jim Stuttle presented August check register and financials for review and discussion. Items were approved by the board. There was also a review of the 2020 Budget. The board Approved the budget to be made available for a 30 day Public review and comments with plans for a final approval in December.

North Central Extension/Savanna Easement: Mike Miller, President of Peoria Wilds, was in attendance. No action was taken. The review and discussion was tabled for November’s board meeting at which time Linda Daley, the Board Chair,

will be in attendance.

Upcoming Events:
Nov. 11 – Veterans Day
Nov –Dec – Holiday Wreath Orders taken and placed

— Kathie Raiborn, Observer

ELECTION COMMISSION, Oct. 8

The Peoria County Election Commission met on Tuesday, Oct. 8 with a quorum made up of Matt Bartolo, James Manning, and Sandra Burke, with a representative of the State's Attorney's office present. The board approved the spending of money received through various grants.

Approved was the schedule for early voting for the March 17, 2020 general primary. Early voting will begin 40 days before the election at the Commission office and two weeks before the election at other locations. ICC North will not be a voting location because of its proximity to the Commission office. The schedule and locations should be on the website now.

Tom Bride, executive director, is looking for a ballot packet scanning & sorting system to computerize verifications for vote by mail. The request for bids has resulted in three companies asking for information. Hopefully, more information will be available at the November meeting, with a vote in December.

———— Irene Pritzker

PEORIA CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL COMMITTEE, Oct. 16

Chairman Steve Morris began the Oct. 16 Peoria City/County Landfill Committee meeting at 3 p.m. in Room 419 of Peoria City Hall. He reported on follow-up to the citizen comment at the September meeting regarding concern about runoff water affecting an adjacent citizen's property.

Mr. Morris thanked County Highway Engineer Amy McLaren for her prompt action in seeing that the blocked highway culvert causing the problem was cleaned. He said this culvert is on the Peoria County list for replacement and was silted in.

The Foth Company landfill engineering report covered several special waste approvals, which included some off-spec products and two other wastes that had prior committee approvals. The Illinois EPA is reviewing the Landfill Committee's request to increase tonnage on several pre-approval waste items. The agency reply is expected back in 90 to 120 days. Committee member Rick Fox asked if the Foth information on special wastes could provide more detail than the term 'contaminated soil' and asked that the cause of contamination be provided.

Over permit levels of chloride in one up-gradient monitoring well will result in an increased permit level for just that one well due to sources that are explained to be from off landfill property or possibly from the coal mining years before the landfill. An empty propane tank caused a gas system shut down Sept. 27 and there were various comments about no monitor on the tank to indicate the propane level. A better alert system for this is in place.

Two full loads of landfill leachate were taken to the Peoria Sanitary District for treatment in September. There was discussion of land offered for sale that is adjacent to the existing landfill property, but underground coal mines are below it so the adjacent area would not be suitable for any landfill expansion. The property might be useful for other projects. No price is yet known and the issue is being researched.

Landfill receipts are down again. Chairman Morris addressed this in discussion of the proposed budget for FY2020. He commented that while the proposed budget is not perfect it is not in the red. While Waste Management estimated 2020 tonnage at 171,000 tons, the city financials had a conservative 155,000 tons projected. Foth Engineering suggested using 165,000 tons for planning purposes which would mean an estimated \$446,052 in landfill revenue for the year.

Chairman Morris stated this budget will require taking funds out of planned surplus but that it keeps the budget in the black. Mr. Fox asked about risks of going beyond budget. Steve Van Winkle stated he is concerned that major repairs don't get kicked down the road. Waste Management commented that they hope that tonnage increases in 2020 and that changes made to increase amounts for the pre-approved waste will help. The Peoria Disposal Company report updated the status of the Landfill 3 wetlands mitigation project. PDC's Chris Coulter will be speaking to the Peoria County Health Committee about the proposed changes.

The next Landfill Committee meeting is Nov. 20.

——— Joyce Blumenshine

GET 2020 VISION: A CENTURY OF VOTING RIGHTS

The League of Women Voters of Illinois offers a thoughtful perspective on its 100th anniversary. We'll point out some of the more interesting articles throughout the year, such as background about the 1848 Seneca Falls Woman's Rights Convention, available at https://www.lwvil.org/uploads/1/5/9/8/15985276/1_seneca_falls_-_convention_-_edited.docx.pdf. Meanwhile, note these dates:

February 14, 2020: LWVIL Birthday Celebration

August 26, 2020: 100th Anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution

September 24, 2020: LWVIL 100th Anniversary Commemorative Luncheon

——— Cheryl Budzinski



**League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria**

413 W. Lawndale Ave., Peoria, IL 61604

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB: **www.lwvgp.org**

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**League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria Board of Directors
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