volume 75 Issue 4 April 2022

President's Message

Help us plan for '22-'23

Our Annual Membership meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, May 19. We will meet via Zoom one more time. The Annual Program and Annual Budget are included with this newsletter, as well as the slate of officers and directors.

As you review these proposals, please know that they are subject to review, input, comment and approval by the membership. Changes can be made at the meeting with a simple majority vote of the members present. It is important that our work and areas of emphasis reflect the will of our membership.

I also want to remind you that our Annual Meeting has a quorum requirement. Please try to join us.

The proposed Annual Program is the product of the Program Planning Meeting we held in January. One important area of emphasis that was adopted then was Climate Change Policies and Practices of Local Government. This initiative is based on existing policies of our Local, State and National organizations. Therefore, it does not require a new study and we can begin work on this immediately. You can learn more details at the Annual Meeting.

Another part of the proposed Annual Plan to emerge from our Program Planning Meeting involves the efficiency and effectiveness of township government. In anticipation of approval by the membership, a Study Committee is being organized. The topic of changes in township government is challenging, to say the least. One LWVGP member/volunteer on the Study Committee led the effort to eliminate township government in West Peoria. As always, we will focus on facts and fairly consider all points of view before making recommendations.

So set your calendar for May 19. Help us plan the future!

——— Terry Kohlbuss,	LWVGP	president
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Important Dates:

4 p.m. Mon., April 14: LWVGP Executive Board. 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 20: Drinks & Dialogue, Redistricting, Fondulac Public Library. 6 p.m. Thurs., May 19: Annual meeting.

Proposed 2022-2023 Local Program

Summer Social - 5-7 p.m. July 20, Oliver's Pizza

Drinks & Dialogue - The plan is to schedule a D&D event on the third Wednesday of each month.

Annual Dinner - Our annual dinners in 2020 and 2021 were cancelled due to COVID. Our 2022 dinner is planned for August, September, or October. A specific date will be announced as soon as possible.

Member Program Planning Meeting — Sat., January 21, 2023

Annual Meeting of LWVGP Members — May 18, 2023

Areas of Focus:

Climate change policies of local government Investor-owned public water systems Transparency and local government Candidate Forums

External and Internal Communications

Study Issue

Does the township form of government promote the most cost-effective and efficient delivery of services to the citizens of the City of Peoria, or are there better ways to provide these services?

LWVGP NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

2022-2023

PRESIDENT: Terry Kohlbuss 2021-2023

1ST VP: Connie Romanus 2023-2025 President-Elect

2ND VP: Cheryl Budzinski 2022-2023 TREASURER: Sean Koors 2021-2023 SECRETARY: Jim Runyon* 2022-2024

DIRECTORS:

Kim Armstrong 2021-2023

Terry Bibo Knight 2021-2023 Editor Newsletter

John Brady 2021-2023 Liaison to Local Government Committee (Observers)

Cathy Molchin 2021-2023 Drinks & Dialogue

Hind Abi-akar* 2022-2024

Andy Diaz* 2022-2024

Kathleen Kelly 2022-2024 Communications Committee

Roberta Parks 2022-2024 Voter Services

Appointed Directors:

Jan Deissler 2022-2023 Membership

Kathie Raiborn 2022-2023

Sokonie Reed* 2022-2023

Couri Thomas 2022-2023 _

(* indicates new to the LWVGP Board)

2023 Nominating Committee: Shelley Epstein, Mollye Bright, and . (After the 2022-23 Board commences, that Board will identify two additional members.)

Submitted by the 2022 Nominating Committee: Chair Cheryl Budzinski, Nancy Long, Jim Runyon, Mollye Bright, and Shelley Epstein

The slate does not need to be approved by the Board prior to inclusion in the Annual Membership Meeting materials, this is a courtesy except that the Nominating Committee asks that the four identified as "Appointed Directors" be included in the slate for the Annual Meeting.

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2021/2022									
Financial Report				2019-2020	2019-20	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2021-2022
				Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget	Change
INCOME:									
	Membership Dues	Donath for and form last and		\$7,775.00	\$5,326.05	\$6,800.00	\$7,550.00	\$7,550.00	\$ -
	Fundraising Activities	Brought forward from last year							\$ -
	runuraising Activities	Annual Dinner					\$4,400.00	\$4,400.00	\$ - \$ -
		Raffle		\$2,000.00	\$1,340.51	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	Š -
		New from Fundraising		\$1,136.00	1 /	\$1,340.00	\$1,340.00	\$1,340.00	\$ -
	Contributions/Donations			\$1,150.00		\$1,150.00	\$1,150.00	\$1,150.00	\$ -
		Contributions in excess of dues			\$300.00				\$ -
									\$ -
	Interest			\$70.00	\$197.53	\$175.00	\$175.00	\$175.00	\$ -
	Other	Extra Ordinary Dividend			\$150.00				\$ -
	TOTAL INCOME			\$12,131.00	\$7,314.09	\$10,965.00	\$16,115.00	\$16,115.00	\$ -
EXPENSES:									
LAFLINGES.	Affiliations:								
	7 Williams	50% of LWVUS PMP		\$1,768.00	\$1,504.00	\$1,504.00	\$3,392.00	\$3,664.00	\$ 272.00
		75% of LWVIL PMP		\$2,689.00	\$2,292.00	\$2,560.00	\$3,445.00	\$3,680.00	\$ 235.00
		UMR		\$25.00			\$25.00	\$25.00	\$ -
		Peoria Women's Civic Federation						\$15.00	\$ 15.00
		Total Affiliations Expenses		\$4,482.00	\$3,796.00	\$4,064.00	\$6,862.00	\$7,384.00	\$ 522.00
	Board & Administration								\$ -
		Fundraising Expense		\$2,000.00		\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$ -
		Supplies		\$100.00	\$75.52	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	Ş -
		Postage		\$100.00	\$18.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$ -
		P.O. Box					\$350.00	\$350.00 \$600.00	\$ 600.00
		Storage Printing		\$120.00	\$310.00	\$350.00	\$873.00	\$873.00	\$ 600.00
		Website		\$900.00	\$768.60	\$645.00	\$115.00	\$115.00	S -
		Zoom expense		\$300.00	\$700.00	\$0.15.00	Ģ115.00	\$500.00	\$ 500.00
		Insurance		\$115.00	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$ -
		Misc. & Affiliation		\$50.00	\$59.00	\$75.00	\$135.00	\$135.00	\$ -
		FaceBook ads		\$135.00		\$135.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -
		Anniversary Expense				\$400.00	\$240.00		\$(240.00)
		Stripe expenses		\$45.00		\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$ -
		Total B&A expenses		\$3,565.00	\$1,346.12	\$2,520.00	\$2,588.00	\$3,448.00	\$ 860.00
	Newsletter								\$ -
		Printing		\$75.00		\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$ -
		Postage		\$200.00	\$254.00	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$ -
		Total Newsletter Expenses		\$275.00	\$254.00	\$200.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -
	Delegates 9 Travel								\$ - \$ -
	Delegates & Travel	Conventions		\$2,000.00	\$305.08	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$ -
		Observer Corps		\$2,000.00	\$305.06	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$ -
		Miscellaneous Meetings		\$120.00	\$67.78	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$ -
		Total D & T Expenses		\$2,146.00	\$372.86	\$2,146.00	\$ 2,146.00	\$ 2,146.00	\$ -
		Total D & T Expenses		\$2,140.00	7372.00	\$2,140.00	ÿ 2,140.00	ŷ 2,140.00	S -
	Programs and Activities								Š -
		Programs & Activ/H2O**		\$300.00		\$300.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$ -
		History Project LWVGP*		\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -
		Voter Service		\$300.00		\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$ -
		Public Relations		\$330.00		\$330.00	\$330.00	\$330.00	\$ -
		Membership Recruiting					\$600.00	\$600.00	\$ -
		Annual Dinner Expense		\$600.00		\$600.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$ -
		Total P & A Expenses		\$2,530.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,780.00	\$3,660.00	\$3,660.00	\$ -
	TOTAL EXPENSES			\$12,998.00	\$7,768.98	\$10,710.00	\$15,356.00	\$16,738.00	\$1,382.00
	TOTAL EXI ENGLS			Ģ12,550.00	\$7,700.50	710,710.00	713,330.00	\$10,730.00	\$1,362.00
2021-2022	D. dest	Actual	Astrola Wasser Outstand				2021-2022	2021-2022	
2021-2022 INCOME:	Budget \$16,115.00		Actual + Known Outstanding \$0.00				\$16,115.00	\$16,115.00	
EXPENSES:	\$16,738.00		\$0.00				\$15,356.00	\$16,738.00	
NET:			\$0.00					1 1	\$(1,382.0
MET:	\$ (623.00)	-	\$0.00				\$ 759.00	\$ (623.00)	\$(1,382.0

CEFCU Financial report									
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Delta	\$0.00								

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS



Kim Armstrong Kim Armstrong is the vice president of marketing and institutional advancement at Illinois Central College. She oversees the ICC Educational Foundation, Marketing, Admissions and Web Services for the College.

She joined ICC in August of 2018, after serving for 11 years as the key account executive for the largest account at Taylor Communications in Bloomington, Ill. She also worked at Xerox in Peoria, Ill. for over 15 years, where she served as the production solutions executive and was responsible for printing solutions for clients such as State Farm and Caterpillar.

Armstrong holds a bachelor of arts degree in marketing and public relations from Bradley University. She has been actively involved in the community and currently serves a board member for WTVP and volunteers for Chi Omega Sorority at Bradley University, and is a precinct person for precinct 60. She has received numerous awards, including the 2007 Centurion Award, which recognizes a Bradley alumnus who has brought national and international credit to Bradley University; the 2017 Lydia Moss Bradley Award for outstanding service; and the Chi Omega National House Corporation 2017 Member of the Year Award.

Kim chose to volunteer for the League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria as she has long admired the work of this organization. She believes we are all responsible to be informed citizens when it comes to government and its policies.

MEMBERSHIP

Happy Spring! As we enter a season of renewal, let us consider how we can continue to grow the League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria. Our membership for 2021-22 is currently 136. We are continuing to slowly get more new members – with just seven more we will have made our Membership Goal for this year.

Invite your neighbor, family and others to join the League in Making Democracy Work.

Joining since January are:

Judge Mary McDade Connie Wang Jeanette Gruber Hind Abi-Akar Becky Doubleday Sakonie Reed Andres Diaz Jackie Orren

Kathryn Diaz

Welcome to these new and renewing members. (Hopefully, you new members are reading this issue of The Voter.)

The Membership Committee needs your help! We are committed to having representatives from the Committee at every live event during the coming year – armed with forms, brochures and other membership materials. If you are available to help, please contact me via text or email.

It's not too early to begin planning for the Membership Social.

Mark your calendars NOW – for 5:30 - 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, for the patio at Oliver's Pizza on Willow Knolls Road. It's a time to pay dues, socialize (network), and talk about the League's plans for the coming year. Feel free to bring guests. Again, RSVP to the email address below.

We are looking forward to a busy year. We need lots of volunteers. Thanks for all you do — and don't hesitate to contact the committee if you have a question. If we don't have the answer, we know who does.

Jan Deissler – 635-1872 or <u>jandeissler77@gmail.com</u>

VOTER SERVICES

Please join our League and WCBU/WGLT at 7 p.m. Tues., May 3, for a candidate forum featuring the Democratic candidates for the 17th Congressional District in Illinois. Our co-sponsors include:

LWV of McLean County,
LWV of McDonough County
LWV of the Kewanee Area
LWV of Freeport
LWV Rock Island County
LWV of Greater Rockford
WNIJ Public Radio in DeKalb
WVIK Public Radio in the Quad Cities
NAACP Peoria Branch
NAACP Freeport Branch
Bloomington Normal NAACP

The event will be moderated by Tim Shelley, News Director/WCBU and Yvonne Boose, Reporter/WNIJ.

You are welcome to submit suggested questions electronically by going to https://bit.ly/17thQuestions. Please be aware the two moderators will select the questions used at the forum. All questions must be relevant to all candidates. All the Democratic candidates have been invited and at this point, we anticipate that all will participate. They are:

Jonathan Logemann
Jackie McGowan
Linda McNeely
Angie Normoyle
Eric Sorensen
Litesa Wallace
Marsha Williams

The forum will be held on the Bradley Campus in the Global Communications Center Room 126 starting at 7:00 p.m. You are welcome to attend in person (we have space for about 100 on a first come, first served basis) or you can listen on WCBU or any of the other public radio stations or watch it on WCBU

——— Roberta Parks, Voter Services chair

NO DRINKS, JUST DIALOGUE: April 20

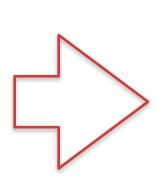
LWVGP, in cooperation with the Fondulac Library District, presents its first Drinks & Dialogue of the year at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 20.

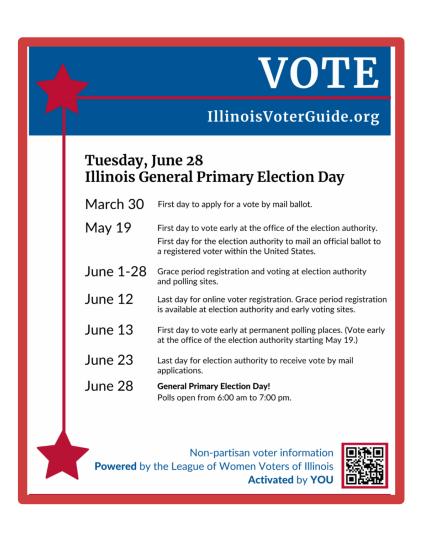
Thomas Bride, Executive Director of Peoria County Board of Election Commissioners, and John Ackerman, Tazewell County Clerk, will be the speakers.

Unfortunately, there will be no drinks since the event is being held at the Library, 400 Richland Street, East Peoria.

Bride and Ackerman will discuss redistricting after the 2020 census, and new Illinois voting requirements that became effective in 2021. There may be opportunity for questions, depending on the time limitations. The public is invited and the event is free. Seating is on a first-come basis.

——— Cathy Molchin, D&D chair





PEORIA CITY COUNCIL: MARCH 8

Here are some highlights of the March 8 meeting:

- o Lawsuit settled for Johnson v. City of Peoria for \$415,000 in the shooting death of Eddie Russell. In 2017, Russell was involved in two-hour standoff with police after a bank robbery. The States Attorney at that time found excessive force was not used by law enforcement. The city found it preferable to settle the case rather than extend an adversarial lawsuit.
- o Kate Green, Executive Director for Home for All Continuum of Care, gave council update on local homeless community, as well as the affordability and availability of housing and scope of changes to mission of agency. A list of available community resources was presented.
- o Christine Kahl, President and CEO of Phoenix Community Development Set vices gave an overview of agency and current projects for housing and workforce development. She also presented current projects in development including Madison campus, the Phoenix Employment First center and housing rehabilitation efforts in partnership with the Community Development Department.
- o Annual Township meeting is 6 p.m., Tues., April 12. Citizens living within Peoria Township are welcome to participate.
- o The Consent agenda included, among other items: nine engineering service contracts, approval of \$2,471,800 in state motor fuel taxes being used for Western Ave, and two West Glen projects; and public safety pension changes due to recent court decisions.
- o After lengthy discussion regarding the Spirit of Peoria boat option to buy, the item was deferred.
- o Voted to approve the Springdale Cemetery Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) which adds more representatives for the city on the Authority Board, includes Peoria County contributing up to double their annual operating money, and deeds The Savannah and its maintenance to Peoria Park District for \$1 among other modifications.
 - o Created a special tax area for Peoria Keller Station.

——— Connie Romanus & Cheryl Budzinski, Observers

PEORIA CITY COUNCIL: March 22

Town of Peoria Officials approved an intergovernmental agreement regarding tax collection duties with Peoria County Treasurer and Peoria Township Collector. Stephen Morris, city treasurer and township collector, explained that Peoria is

the last County to have a township collect property taxes and recommended that city hall no longer collect these taxes, saving \$40,000 annually.

Beginning in May, property taxes will all be paid to Peoria County Treasurer (at the Peoria courthouse) or local participating banks. Nicole Bjerke is the County Treasurer. This impacts few people who had paid their real estate taxes in person at City Hall and will be able to pay in person at Peoria Courthouse (down the street.) Most taxpayers pay via their mortgage, at a bank, or by mail which already goes to the County Treasurer.

A presentation by Ray Lees was made on the Heart of Illinois Port District which was established in 2003 and covers six counties and 30 private terminals along the central Illinois waterways. He gave an overview of the economic benefit, especially for Tazewell and Peoria counties. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers started collecting statistical data for the Port District in 2021. The six counties of the Heart of Illinois Regional Port district have largest metrics of river commerce in the state outside of Chicago.

Caesar Suarez, Economic Development Department, gave overview of Small Business R.I.S.E. Program that will provide funds in four areas: recovery support, income, start-up and harm identification to qualifying businesses. About \$2.2 million in funding from Cares Act and American Rescue Plan will be available each year in 2022 and 2023. The city is using community navigators, Chamber of Commerce, minority business groups and media to market this program locally.

Joe Dulin, Community Development Director, gave an overview of the Near Southside Housing Needs Assessment and Community Revitalization Plan. City met with Illinois Housing Authority and is looking at direction of future affordable housing. Funding is available through the American Rescue Plan and will do demolition work in 61605 area. The council commended Director Dulin for efforts to get community input on this project from neighborhood groups and surveys of residents.

The councilors voted 8-3 to waive the city's right of first refusal to purchase the Spirit of Peoria riverboat, with Beth Jensen, Zach Oyler and Charles Grayeb opposed. Several members expressed disappointment that more information was not available to Council regarding business operations and condition of the boat.

City Manager Patrick Urich was asked to report back on liability pension obligations and how the city can be better positioned over the next 18 years to meet public service pension obligation.

—— Connie Romanus, Observer

PEORIA COUNTY BOARD: March 10

Peoria County Board met March 10 with all present but Member Rosenbohm. One Citizen's Remark in support of the pending Springdale Cemetery agreement and preservation of the savannah under the pending care of the Peoria Park District.

The Consent agenda passed unanimously, without discussion. Two items were voted on separately to allow members to abstain due to possible conflicts of interest. Among approved items were:

Riverfront Museum bylaws revisions.

Settlement of a circuit court case for a payment of \$200,000.

Settlement of a Worker's Compensation case for an amount not to exceed \$60,000.

Peoria County and Bradley University agreement for maintaining the Pavement Management Program.

Capital improvements on Blue Ridge Road, Todd School Road, and town-ships roads within Millbrook and Rosefield townships.

The regular agenda consisted of eight items and all were approved. These include:

Sale of Heddington Oaks to UnityPoint Health for use as a child and adolescent mental/behavioral health and substance abuse hub for prevention, treatment and recovery. Dr. Keith Knepp, CEO, UnityPoint Health-Central Illinois, and Martha Herm, past UnityPlace board chair, made presentations encouraging the sale. Several members expressed reservations about the low sale price and remaining bond payments but ultimately supported the unanimous vote since UnityPoint was a local buyer and the planned use was sorely needed. Dr. Knepp indicated that UnityPoint would invest a multi-million dollar sum to renovate the facility to accommodate the new use.

Approval of a new Springdale Cemetery 10-year intergovernmental agreement with unanimous votes by the county board, Peoria City Council and the Peoria Park District board.

Special use requests for two potential Airbnb/VRBO properties in Chillicothe Township.

Special use to permit the development of a solar energy generation facility in Princeville Township.

Suspension of the Rules to permit extension of the Declaration of Emergency due to COVID-19 in the county.

You can link to the agenda and video here: Agenda & Video

——— Jim Runyon, (Observer
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ELECTION COMMISSION: March 8

The Peoria County Board of Election Commissioners met Tuesday, March 8, 2022, with Commissioners Robert Manning, Jeanne Williamson, and Matt Bartolo present. The Commission website now lists candidates who have filed for various positions in the County, including Peoria School District 150. Filings are scheduled to close on March 14. Everyone who was in line at 8 a.m. on March 7 and has an opponent will go into a lottery to determine whose name appears first on the ballot.

The new voting system has arrived except for a few pieces that were to arrive later that week. First, everything will be tested to assure it works properly. This includes voting equipment, printers, and other equipment. The following week staff will be trained on the equipment. Training for judges will take place in April, followed by a mock election mid-month. Poll books will be tested around April 1. After attending a run-through of the equipment in DuPage County last month, Director Tom Bride said the slowest point of the election process is check-in. There are discussions on ways to work with handicapped voters. The old equipment goes back to the vendor for recycling.

The only legislation in the works concerns tweaks and the clean-up of language in previous bills.

——— Irene Pritzker, Observer

PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY: March 7

PHA Board of Commissioners' meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairman Carl Cannon.

There were no community comments or Family Self Sufficiency graduates. Minutes of regular meeting open session of Feb. 7, 9 and 10 were approved, as well as closed session minutes for those dates. As of March 17, the approved minutes of the Jan. 3 meeting were not posted.

The consent agenda was approved unanimously. Chief Executive Officer Jackie Newman reported demolition of Taft Homes is in progress after hard work by staff and should be completed in 2022. She also noted disposition of properties vacant for approximately 10 years was approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These properties couldn't be rehabbed and will be removed from PHA property list. There was no discussion on the search for CEO.

This observer was not able to find any of the meeting reports for viewing. The Board went into closed session at 4:47 P.M. to discuss issues related to purchase or lease of real estate or the setting of a price for sale or lease of real estate.

The next meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be at 4:30 p.m. April 4. Agendas are posted on website: www peoriahousing.org.

——— Connie Romanus, Observe		Connie	Romanus,	Observe
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SPRINGDALE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY: March 15

Chair Pam Johnson and three trustees met in person, two trustees participated by phone and one was absent.

General Manager Mark Matuszak talked about the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) approved unanimously by the City Council, Park District and County Board after months of negotiation. The major changes from the original IGA (Sept 2002) are: the County will increase its contribution from \$60,000/year to double that gradually starting at \$102,000 annually to \$120,000 annually in 8 years. The city averaged about \$230,000 per year. The Park District continues at \$40,000 annually. However, since the Savannah is important to the Park District, PPD will buy the Savannah for \$1 and will maintain the Savannah – costing about \$20,000 annually. (The Savannah is on the National Register of Historic Places. The new Scattering Garden is in the wooded part of the Savannah property.) Another change is the number of trustees each governmental unit appoints to the Springdale Cemetery Management Authority. Effective in September, the City will have 5 trustees, County will have 2 trustees, the Park District and Foundation will each have 1 trustee. The Foundation will have a \$25,000 annual donation due to the cemetery.

Matuszak needs six committed volunteers to maintain Soldiers Hill every week. Some of the original volunteers are in their 90s.

They are awaiting two awarded state grants and have a bequest to be settled soon. The grants will be used for infrastructure - roads are in "total disrepair" (6 miles of road with 2.5 miles being rated "fair to good" and 3.5 miles in "bad shape.") The roads originally were built to a variety of standards (or none.) The concept for the road repair including the type of materials is under discussion.

Trash cans around the cemetery are being replaced by donated, painted used ones in good shape.

The Foundation will revamp their newsletter and website and will have a variety of activities in the cemetery.

The cemetery has \$407,000 in their designated (restricted, endowment-type) fund.

——— Cheryl Budzinski, Observer

GREATER PEORIA SANITARY DISTRICT: March 15

All Trustees attended either in person or virtually. The Investment Committee Meeting report — the \$5-6 million will be laddered for needed times, but rates are still very low.

The Board of Trustees Meeting had one guest whose volunteer work for the St Vincent de Paul Society at a local church led her to ask that GPSD bills also be sent to renters. Currently only the owners receive the bill from GPSD. But utilities may be the renters' responsibility. When a notice finally does come to the renter it is a notice of approaching water shutoff and may be hundreds of dollars overdue. GPSD is aware of this and is looking into solutions, but extremely low-income households may not have a computer or internet access for electronic bills. Staff pointed out that GPSD has a link on their website to Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) which is a partial one-time solution.

The public hearing on the 2022-23 Budget will be on Tues., April 18. Afterwards, trustees will vote on the budget. Fuel and chemical expenses are much higher now, which is reflected in the budget.

Two employees were promoted from within to new positions and two interns are budgeted.

GPSD has applied for a FEMA BRIC grant to cover 70% of their Levee Improvements Project. The project involves changing the height and slope of the levee which surrounds the GPSD plant, relocation of the maintenance garage, Kickapoo Interceptor Control Structure, and Effluent Channel Control Structure. This project is needed to meet the FEMA requirement for a 100-year flood event. Flooding has increased and on one occasion when the river reached 29 feet, employees had to take a boat to get to the plant.

There were no overflows in February in the GPSD system. There was one combined sewer discharge on February 16 with .73 inches of rain in the city owned combined water/sewer system.

There were no sanitary sewer backups in February within the District-owned sanitary sewer collection system.

A six-year generator maintenance agreement was approved to maximize the service life of their emergency standby generators.

Trustees thanked staff for participation in an ongoing national sewage tracking project described in a March 12 Peoria Journal Star article: Sewage might track down next COVID-19 outbreak (by Leslie Renken) https://peoriajournalstar-il.newsmemory.com?selDate=20220312&goTo=A01&artid=3

——— Cher	yl Budzinski.	Observer
Cilci	yı Duazınskı.	, Observer

PEORIA PARK DISTRICT: March 9

Peoria Park District Board of Trustees voted unanimously in favor of accepting the 2022 Intergovernmental Agreement between the PPD, the City of Peoria, and the County of Peoria.

Under the agreement the city will subdivide and sell the area of the savanna at Springdale Cemetery and Mausoleum to the PPD for \$1. This area will be put into permanent environmental stewardship at PPD cost. The agreement is for 10 years with the option to extend an additional 10 years. The Peoria City Council approved the agreement prior to the PPD board meeting and the Peoria County Board was to vote March 10.

In other business Jacob Kuban reported on the process the PPD has gone through to receive Level 1 accreditation from the Morton Arboretum's Arbnet for the Donovan Park Arboretum. Signage is being developed to identify 25 tree species in high traffic areas of the park. A tree planting will be held Friday, April 29 in conjunction with Earth Day. All trustees were present in person/via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. and adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

----- Melanie Anderson, Observer

PEORIA PARK DISTRICT: March 23

Superintendent of Human Resources Shalesse Pie reported on the ongoing process to fill 230 full-time, part-time and seasonal positions. Staff have attended a good number of high schools and career fairs to recruit, with more opportunities for recruitment in the future.

PPD is using its website and various media sources, including Facebook, to promote its values and priorities. On its website there is a listing of all job openings on an interactive interface with benefits and information on the hiring process.

In other business, a question from Trustee Jackie Petty concerning selecting the bidder on several commodity purchases, using the diversity policy in place, led to a discussion about the applicability on the provisions of the policy in this instance. It was decided that the Diversity Equality Inclusion (DEI) ad hoc committee would take up the clarification of this policy as it pertains to future bidding for both services and commodities.

Trustee Tim Bertschy was absent. All other trustees were present in person or via Facebook. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m., adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

—— Melanie Anderson, C	Observer
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Are you concerned about climate change?

Most Americans are. And that includes members of the League of Women Voters! Reflecting that concern, and following the lead of both the national and state Leagues, on March 14 our Board of Directors voted to create a "Climate Change Committee" – a LWVGP "green team" -- composed of LWVGP members who have an interest in working in this critical area.

You're invited to get in on the "ground floor" of this important initiative. This "Climate Change Committee" will encourage units of local government in our area to address climate change and sustainability issues. We hope to work with individuals and other organizations with similar goals to find workable, realistic, and local solutions to the challenges that a United Nations panel has called a "code red for humanity".

Ready to join in that fight? If so, please send an email to LWVGPgreen@gmail.com. We've got the beginnings of a plan in place. We'll put your name on our list, and you to the work of helping with this important task. If you're not ready to commit to being an active part of the committee, but would like more information about what's involved, an email to LWVGPgreen@gmail.com will get you that information.

John Brady, Chair



It's Happening in July!

You're Invited!
Summer Membership Social
Wednesday, July 20, 2022
Oliver's
3300 W Willow Knolls Drive, Peoria
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Please come and bring prospective members to celebrate our League's successes this past year and hear about plans for the upcoming year. League members and their invited guests are welcome. RSVP names by July 15 by responding to this e-mail or by phone to Jan Deissler 309-635-1872.

RENEW RENEW!!!

Renew your League of Women Voters' membership (Due July 1)

Your membership gives the League the political clout to make democracy work!

3 ways to renew, plus more membership categories

Please choose the renewal option that works best for you

- 1. In person, at the Summer Renewal Social with check or cash.
- Online, go to www.lwvgp.org.
- 3. Mail, use enclosed form and mail a check payable to LWVGP, P. O. Box 9786. Peoria 61612-9786.

As a member you will receive electronically our newsletter, *The Voter*, and alerts on breaking action in Illinois and Washington, D.C. You will also have opportunities to:

- Connect with and strengthen our community
- Help shape the policy decisions that affect our lives
- Learn more about and foster dialog on a broad range of issues
- Help preserve our constitutional rights and liberties

The League of Women Voters, making democracy work!



413 W. Lawndale Ave., Peoria, IL 61604

League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria Board of Directors 2021-2022

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Connie Romanus, 1st V-P Sean Koors, Treasurer Tim Howard, 2nd V-P Sandy Stemler, Secretary

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Newsletter

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