



Office of the City Manager

**TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council**

**FROM: Patrick Urich, City Manager**

**DATE: June 3, 2011**

**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.

**TOTAL GARBAGE AND LANDSCAPE WASTE COLLECTED DURING THE GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP.**

Peoria Disposal Company has reported that its trucks transported to the landfill 84,760 lbs. of trash and 75,000 lbs. of landscape waste during the Great American Cleanup on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Several hundred Peoria residents, representing 33 neighborhood associations, and groups, organizations, and individuals registered with Keep Peoria Beautiful, braved rain, wind, and the cold, to eliminate from our city nearly 42 tons of trash and 37 tons of landscape waste. Pride in Peoria is picking up!

**PEORIA FIRE DEPARTMENT SHOWCASE.** The Peoria Fire Department, in partnership with Peoria Firefighters Local 50, will be showcasing their diverse response capabilities during a series of live presentations on June 25, 2011 at the Vernon "Butch" Gudat Fire Training Academy, 7130 N. Galena Road from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Members of the fire department will explain the multi-faceted capabilities of this department through equipment displays and hands-on presentations that cover fire suppression activities, EMS advanced life support response, hazardous materials mitigation, technical rescue response, and water/dive rescue.

**GLEN OAK BUSINESS WATCH DISTRICT MEETING.** Planning Department staff has collaborated with businesses surrounding the Glen Oak Impact Zone to form a Business Watch. Representatives from the businesses within the boundaries of Prospect Road, Frye Avenue, McClure Avenue, Wisconsin Avenue, and Nebraska Avenue have agreed to become members of the Glen Oak Business Watch District. City Council Member Third District City Council Representative Tim Riggerbach will host a meeting for members of the Business Watch to share information about their business, and to discuss concerns about neighborhood nuisance and crime. Also invited are representatives from the Police Department, east bluff neighborhood associations, and Glen Oak School. The meeting will be held at the Glen Oak School Library on Wednesday, June 8, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Modeled after Neighborhood Watch, the primary purpose of Business Watch is to improve safety and prevent and reduce crime in commercial districts. It is a program that encourages business owners to work together, watch out for each other's businesses, employees and customers, and to call the police when something or someone seems suspicious. Business Watch members receive Business Watch signs which can be posted in a parking lot or in window.

The goals of Business Watch are to:

- improve communication between business owners and the police
- implement security measures to deter crime
- offer education and information on crime prevention
- eliminate conditions that give rise to crime.

Benefits to businesses include:

- improved security for businesses and employees
- increase in business when customers feel safe to shop
- freedom to invest resources to marketing, sales, and capital improvements.

**RECENT CENSUS 2010 DATE RELEASE.** The US Census Bureau released additional demographic data from the 2010 Census last week. This data covered areas such as age, housing tenure (owner occupied or renter occupied), gender breakdown, and housing vacancy.

The attached charts **(Electronic Copies Only)** highlight some of this data in comparison to data for Peoria from earlier Census results. The Planning Department will continue to review the data and will provide information at a higher level of geographic detail later in the summer. Economic data, including income and workforce information has not yet been released.

The Median Age and Age Cohorts charts indicate that Peoria is following the same trend as the nation. The median age for a Peoria resident in 2010 was 34, versus 28.2 in 1970. This demographic shift can be seen more clearly on the Age Cohort chart where population groups can be viewed over time.

The Female to Male and Male to Female Ratio charts from 2010 indicate the gender balance in Peoria through different age groups. Males outnumber females only in the 14 and under age categories, and then only slightly. Once the age categories pass 75, the ratio of females to males increases dramatically, to a point where there are 2.5 women for every man in the over 85 age group.

The Owner & Renter Occupancy chart shows that the owner-occupancy rate dropped slightly from 2000 to 2010, from 60% to 58%. This may be more in reaction to the downturn in the housing market than any local policy or issue. This data at a Census Tract level will provide a better picture of where home ownership is lagging in Peoria. The Occupied & Vacant Housing Units chart also seems to be impacted by the housing crisis based on the larger number of vacant housing units than in past Census counts. Although the Census data on vacancy is a good benchmark, the Planning Department relies upon quarterly vacancy data from the United States Postal Service for strategic projections, as the USPS data is timelier and only considers a property vacant if no mail has been received from 90+ days versus the point in time approach used by the Census Bureau.

**TREE & STUMP REMOVAL UPDATE.** Late in 2010, Public Works staff identified 140 trees and/or stumps throughout the City including, but not limited to, the Glen Oak and Harrison Impact Zones and areas bounded by MacArthur Highway to Harvard, and Washington Street to Knoxville/Glen Oak Avenue and another area bounded by Nebraska to Forrest Hill and Interstate 74 to Sheridan. The trees selected for removal were dead, in rapid decline or undesirable species. On February 8, 2011, City Council awarded a contract for the removal of these identified trees and stumps to Steele Construction & Landscaping, Inc., with a targeted completion date of October 31, 2011. As of May 24, 2011, all 140 trees and stumps have been removed, completing Steele's contractual obligations with the City of

Issues Update

June 3, 2011

Page 3 of 3

Peoria. Steele Inc. has provided Certified Payroll Documentation that was requested in the Prevailing Wages portion of the bid document.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR SUMMER.** As we start to prepare for vacations and/or other travel plans this summer, please keep Emergency Preparedness in mind at all times. As we have seen in the news lately, disasters can happen anytime. Ensure that you and your family are prepared. Please take the time to read the attached document **(Electronic Copy Only)** from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. If you think it won't happen here, remember it was one year ago when Elmwood was hit by a tornado.

**JUNE 1, 2011 CAPITAL PROJECT REPORT.** The June 1, 2011 Capital Project Report is attached **(Electronic Copy Only)** for your review.

**APRIL 1, 2011 YEAR TO DATE CRIME STATISTICS.** The April 1, 2011 year to date crime statistics Report is attached **(Electronic Copy Only)** for your review.