



# People Helping People

Published by Peoria's Community Action Agency

## Spring Grove Update

Homes in Spring Grove are continuing to spring up. Spring Grove is one of the fastest growing subdivisions in Peoria. Of the initial 42 lots, 18 currently have structures on them.

PCCEO currently serves as the developer for Spring Grove. Since our involvement, we have built 10 homes in Spring Grove. An additional four houses are in various stages of construction. Twenty lots are still available for new homes.

Base price for homes built in Spring Grove

start at \$126,900. Four home plans are available to choose from, with options for each, including ADA floor plans. Building lots here are free through the City of Peoria. The City of Peoria provides down payment assistance available through HOME funds, which has been increased to \$30,000.

Applicants for HOME funds must meet income eligibility guidelines. Annual household income cannot exceed:

- 1 person - \$32,600
- 2 person - \$37,250
- 3 person - \$41,900

- 4 person - \$46,550
- 5 person - \$50,300

Estimated time for completion of new homes in Spring Grove is 120 days.

Pre-approval from a mortgage company is needed for those interested in building new homes through this PCCEO program. Once that is obtained, those interested should contact Geraldine Godfrey, the Real Estate Development Specialist at (309) 497-1098. Special financing is available through National City Bank.

## Head Start Recruiting for 2004-2005

The Head Start program is currently recruiting for fall enrollment. Openings are still available for full and half-day sites throughout Peoria.

Head Start offers seven (7) quality early childhood learning centers. Each classroom has no more than 18 children enrolled.

Children must be age 3 to 5 years old. Ninety percent of enrollment

must be from low-income families. Families must meet income guidelines. Ten percent of the enrollment may consist of families who exceed the low-income guidelines but who meet other program criteria.

In order for a family to be considered for a full-year/full-day slot, the following criteria shall apply:

1. Currently employed 30

hours per week with verification;

2. Enrollment in GED (General Education Diploma) program or other educational pursuits with verification;
3. Involvement in a training program for a minimum of 30 hours per week.

To enroll your child, or for more information call Head Start at 671-3960 or 671-3949. Offices are located at 923 W. Millman in Peoria.

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Annual Community Action Partnership Conference to be held in Washington DC, September 1-4.
- National Poverty Rally on the Ellipse September 4, 9am to 1pm, in Washington DC.

## A Look Inside Spring Grove

Master Sergeant Leonard Mosley and his wife, Marilyn, are two of Spring Grove's newest residents. They and their family moved into their new home in October, 2003. Their over-sized Jefferson style home has 2,400 square feet of living



space and features 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths. The Mosleys recently finished their basement, with the 3rd full bathroom. The standard Jefferson style home is 1,878 square feet, with 3 or 4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths.

During construction of the home, Master Sergeant Mosley served with the Air Force Reserves in Iraq. He returned 30 days before closing on the home.

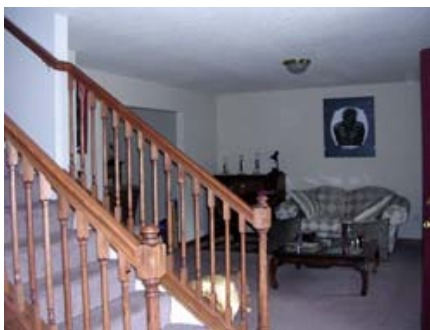


The opportunity to build their own home was a selling point for the Mosleys, and building in a new neighborhood close to church and family was a plus. Many conveniences are avail-

able to residents of Spring Grove, and the Mosley's enjoy having downtown, the Riverfront, shopping and convenience stores so close.

Marilyn Mosley suggests that those building homes in Spring Grove review and know their building plans and always stay on top of construction. It is much easier to fix a problem along the way than it is to fix it down the road.

The Mosleys enjoy their neighborhood, and knew many of their neighbors before they even moved in.



Master Sergeant Mosley grew up not far from the Spring Grove Subdivision, and a friend from their church once lived on the plot of land on which their home now stands.

Mrs. Mosley's favorite features of the home include the easy-to-open egress windows in the basement, which feature a step ladder going up to ground level, and her master bathroom with jetted tub and double sink. The Mosley's also opted for stained woodwork verses the standard painted trim in their home, a beautiful option that is available to home owners in Spring Grove.

## PCCEO Telephone Directory

Emergency Services  
Energy Assistance  
Weatherization  
Senior Meals  
Small Business Assistance  
Media Services  
Administration  
Central Illinois Catering  
Human Resources  
**(309) 671-3900**

**Foster Grandparents**  
**(309) 671-3950**  
**Peoria Area Food Bank**  
**(309) 671-3906**  
**OKPARA Leasing**  
**(Affordable Housing)**  
**(309) 673-1508**  
**Spring Grove Development**  
**(309) 497-1098**

## HEAD START and EARLY HEAD START CENTERS

**Webster**  
**(309) 671-3960**  
**Trewyn**  
**(309) 671-3958**  
**Carver Center**  
**(309) 671-5661**  
**Valeksa Hinton**  
**(309) 672-6810**  
**Harrison**  
**(309) 671-3926**  
**Blaine**  
**(309) 495-5290**  
**Small Wonders**  
**(309) 672-6331**  
**Early Head Start**  
**Even Start**  
**(309) 495-5254**

## News from the Food Bank

We are happy to inform all of our member agencies that you may now view and place your order online. A letter has gone out to all of our members explaining the new process. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to phone the Peoria Area Food Bank. We will be happy to help you access the new service.

We are very sad to lose one of our favorite people. Laurel Dickirson, the Emergency Food Coordinator for the Emergency Food Program in Springfield, has decided to retire. Laurel, along with Melissa Cundari, made her last site visit

to the Peoria Area Food Bank in June. We wish her the best of luck in her retirement. She plans on spending her retirement traveling.

We are in the beginning stages of planning the annual luncheon for all of our agencies.



Laurel Dickirson, Richard Adams and Melissa Cundari, outside the Food Bank in June.

We had such a wonderful turnout last year and have had several requests from the member agencies to "repeat" it! We are going to have it in the fall again and

will be notifying all of the agencies via invitation as to the date and location.

## CAPtions Begins its 30th year

June 16 marked the beginning of the 30th year of broadcasting for CAPtions, the agency's weekly television show. The program was created to give a voice to minorities and low-income residents in the Peoria Area. VIPs that have appeared on the show include the late Dr. Ralph Abernathy, Rev. Jesse Jackson and Maya Angelou. Our current host is Andre Bohannon.

CAPtions airs Wednesdays at 7:00pm on Insight Cable Channel 22 in the Peoria service area, and Wednesdays at 9:00pm on Cable Channel 22 in East Peoria, Morton, Creve Coeur and Washington. CAPtions is a weekly program produced by PCCEO, your local Community Action Agency and is made possible in part by a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

## People Helper

Donna Beck currently serves the Head Start Program at Webster School as a Family Development Assistant. She has been with PCCEO for 4 years.

Donna received certification to assist a law firm, after which she began working on her AAS degree in Administrative Assistant/Word Processing Personnel in 1996. She received her BA degree from Eastern Illinois University with honors. In May of this year, Donna completed her



Masters degree in Family Services/Human Development.

Education has always been important to Donna and she is thankful to PCCEO and McFarland A. Bragg for the assistance which made receiving her Masters Degree possible.

She is also grateful that her six children have been successful in their lives and with their continued education. As a family, they have always strived to encourage

each other in their endeavors, through the good and the bad.

Donna was blessed with supporting parents, Elder Lee and Beverly Reed of Danville.

While not at work, Donna "lives for the Lord," and enjoys being an usher and helping families. She loves to travel the world. In 2003, she enjoyed a 7 day cruise on the Caribbean and hopes to next enjoy an African Safari.

Congratulations to Donna for earning her Masters Degree, and thank you, from PCCEO, for all your hard work with Head Start!



**Peoria Citizens Committee for  
Economic Opportunity, Inc.**

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Serving the Peoria Area for  
over 35 years!

***Helping People.  
Changing Lives.***

Find Us Online at  
[www.pcceo.org](http://www.pcceo.org)

## The Reality of Living in Poverty

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Lately, you cannot turn on the television without being bombarded with a slew of reality shows. These programs feature people vying to win money, fame, and sometimes a spouse. Contestants must “survive” by eating worms or compete to go on a date with “the bachelor.” If they make it to the final round, a big check, wedding dress, and appearances on late-night talk shows await them.

No such prizes await the 100 million people living in or near poverty everyday. There is no handsome reward for having “survived” a wait in line for food stamps, hunting for affordable housing, or supporting a family on one paycheck. If you are poor, this is your reality. The cameras don’t stop rolling after a few hours and you aren’t whisked away from everything after six weeks.

Unlike the hundreds of former reality show stars who become household names, America’s poor

remain faceless and nameless. We can look to any form of broadcast, electronic, or print media to find out which reality show stars have landed a gig on a sitcom or talk show, but you will be hard-pressed to find in-depth stories about the plight of low-income people. For too long, the challenges facing the poor men, women, and children in our country have been ignored. US Census Bureau numbers indicate that in 2002, 1.7 million more Americans and 400,000 more children lived in poverty. Yet there has been no public outcry, no real attempt to significantly reduce these numbers.

That’s why, under the stewardship of the Community Action Partnership, the national association for Community Action Agencies, PCCEO and the entire Community Action network will be hosting the “No Room for Poverty” National Rally September 4, 2004, on the Ellipse in Washington, DC. We will

join with thousands of Americans to tell the country that there is *no room for poverty* in this country. Our goal is to call for a White House Conference on American Poverty where practitioners, theorists, and policy makers would come together to craft an anti-poverty agenda. We also want to call for a renewed American interest and commitment to the elimination of poverty and for a new generation of leaders committed to community service and volunteerism. We want to unite the nation around the common cause that poverty is anti-everything America stands for and strives to be.

This historic endeavor will be a non-partisan event involving Americans from all walks of life. We will advocate together for solutions to ease the burden of our low-income brothers and sisters and to make America a better place to live.

For more information visit [www.communityactionpartnership.com](http://www.communityactionpartnership.com).