



"Community Action Changes People's Lives, Embodies The Spirit of Hope, Improves Communities and Makes America A Better Place To Live. We Care About The Entire Community, and We Are Dedicated To Helping People Help Themselves and Each Other"

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The Revival of Peoria's Southside Community

Plans for the revitalization of the MacArthur corridor and the South Village Neighborhood are underway. The project will be spearheaded by IDG Architects. IDG Architects was founded in 2001, as a multi-disciplined, full-service architectural firm offering a full-range of architectural services including survey and analysis of existing facilities, programming, planning, and interiors. Based in Houston TX, IDG Architects moved to Peoria, IL in June of 2018.



He praised the assistance of PCCEO President/CEO McFarland Bragg II and First District Councilwoman Denise Moore for making this project happen. "Thier direct knowledge of the community and its needs, were instrumental in the development of a comprehensive plan for the MacArthur corridor," said Gunn. "Those two community leaders recognized the need and

saw this as a great time for the revitalization of the area.

To get a sense of the needs, the IDG project team conducted surveys among south side inhabitants during the planning process. There proved to be high demand for improving the quality of housing stock. The architects also aim to combat the population decline on the south side by building houses that appeal to different demographics, such as young professionals and small-business owners.

According to IDG renderings, the plan will paint MacArthur Highway Bridge with murals and adds street lighting to the well-traveled entrance into the Southside. As well as a proposed community air market using shipping containers. This facility would feature space for entrepreneurs, artists, food vendors, and a grocery store.

"This area is in need," said Aaron Gunn as he overlooked MacArthur Highway Bridge. "But beyond that it has so much potential."

Gunn and his employer, IDG Architects, developed a plan to revitalize the MacArthur Highway Corridor and surrounding communities, including the South Village. Gunn, the company's business development director, wants to close the gap between Peoria's south side and other parts of the city



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PCCEO Head Start Celebrates *Head Start Awareness Month*

October was Head Start Awareness Month at our Head Start centers. First created in 1982 by President Ronald Reagan, Head Start Awareness Month is an opportunity to share at the local, state and national levels the power of Head Start. As President Reagan said in his proclamation, Head Start “has earned recognition and support for its success in early childhood education and development.” Continuing this awareness and creating new champions for Head Start’s mission is not only critical, but also fun. This October, our Head Start centers were visited by a number of community leaders that included Mayor Jim Ardis, Vance Jordan Jr, Tahari Allen, Sherry Cannon, Kyle Bright, Andre Allen, Spanky Edwards, Gwendolyn Wilson, Marlon Young, Krystal Scott, Simone Davis, Carl Cannon, Dan Adler, and Robert Johnson.



Mobile Pantry Brings Food and Job Opportunities To The East Bluff Community

Peoria Area Food Bank would like to recognize Laborer's Union Local 165 for hosting a mobile food pantry in an area designated as a food desert.



The Peoria Area Food Bank and Laborer's Union Local 165 hosted a mobile food pantry Saturday at the East Bluff Community Center.

The area is a food desert, and the pantry bought fresh canned goods, potatoes, grapes, flour, and hygiene products to neighbors.

Leaders also let people know about jobs in the area. They say access to food and employment go hand in hand.

"It's no secret hunger is a big deal in this community. We look forward to hosting other mobile food pantries in the areas that's most needed," said Wayne Cannon, Program Manager for the Food Bank.

Food Bank Would Like to Say Thank You to Our Generous Donors!!!

St. Paul Baptist Church
Dawn Harris & Dr. James Jeffries

Laborer's Local 65
Lambda Chi Alpha

Fraternity

First English Lutheran

Thomas T. Lambirth

Jeremy & Charity Oswald

Aaron & Audrey Thrasher

David Joseph

Peter & Jeanne Barclay

Southside Community United for Change

City of Peoria 2020 HUD Consolidated Plan Outreach Details

The consolidated planning process is a federal requirement for states and jurisdictions that receive entitlement resources through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It is intended to be used as a tool to assess affordable housing and community development needs through public input and market analysis. The Consolidated Plan is updated every five years and submitted to HUD. All projects and initiatives funded over the planning period must tie back to the policies and priorities outlined in this plan. For more information about the consolidated planning process, please visit HUD Exchange. Every five years, the City of Peoria is required by the Department of Housing and Urban

Development (HUD) to create a Consolidated Plan. In the plan, the City outlines how it will spend roughly \$2.5 million received annually from HUD as a formula grant. As a part of this effort, the City is required to conduct community outreach as a part of the prioritization process.

This year, City staff undertook a large citizen participation endeavor that included online and paper surveys about priorities for the HUD funding. The survey was sent to community partners, including local nonprofits, neighborhood groups, and the Chamber of Commerce, among others, for distribution to their networks. Staff also held three community meetings dedicated to the Consolidated Plan and HUD funding in conjunction with community partners and attended over 35 additional meetings or events to engage City of Peoria residents. Through this outreach, the City staff received 773 surveys.

In general, the feedback on program priorities aligned with much of the programming the

City currently undertakes with the HUD funding. The top priority rated by respondents under housing needs was to help homeowners make repairs, which is the focus of the City's single-family rehabilitation programs. The community also identified a strong need for economic development programs for job creation, which has been made a priority by City Council in recent years and incorporated into funding opportunities.

Nearly 24% of respondents indicated they were not able to find safe, affordable housing, with the top reasons cited as high cost, unsafe/unsanitary conditions, and crime. Survey respondents also identified the South Side, East Bluff, and North Valley as the top three areas that should receive targeted HUD funding. To view the full summary results please visit www.pcceo.org.

LIHEAP DEPARTMENT

LIHEAP Department Now Taking Appointments

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will begin accepting applications for the winter heating season for seniors and people receiving a disability check beginning October 1st, 2019. Applications are taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Customers must bring all required documentation

when applying for assistance including: Proof of income from all household members for the 30-day period beginning with the date of the application; Copy of current heat-related and electric bills issued within the last 30 days; Proof of social security numbers for all household members. The Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) is

also available to customers of Ameren Illinois. Under PIPP, eligible households pay a percentage of their income, receive a monthly benefit toward their utility bill and arrearage reduction for every on-time and in full payment by the due date they make, if applicable. The next energy day will be at Carver Center beginning at 8:00 AM on January 2nd.



LIHEAP Department
Left to right - Sharon Johnson, Anisha Hughes, Sarah Barga, Aerial Johnson, Stephanie Sims (Top), Ann Holland, Ann Childs, & Bobbie Bowel

Need to File?

Tax season is drawing near. Don't stress over preparing your tax return - or worse, avoid filing it altogether. If your income is less than \$56,000, chances are you qualify for METEC's free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Just bring in your tax paperwork, and IRS-certified tax professionals will prepare and file your federal and state income taxes at no charge. For more information, please call 309-676-3832.

2020 METEC VITA Schedule

January 25th - April 13th 2020

Mondays: 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Saturdays: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

2605 W. Krause Ave, Peoria, IL 61605

PCCEO Head Start & Early Head Start & Prevention Initiative Presents Winter Wonderland Polar Express



Attention Head Start Families

Studies show that children who attend Head Start and Early Head Start complete the program ready for kindergarten. Those children who do not have the Head Start/Early Head Start experience enter kindergarten at a great disadvantage, years behind their classmates. A child unprepared for school will become frustrated and many times lose interest in attending school.

Do you know anyone, a family member, a friend, who has a child birth to age 3 that is not in an early childhood program? If your answer is yes, introduce them and invite them to join the PCCEO Head Start/Early Head Start program. You can text, email, message, or phone your family member or friend and encourage them to join the Head Start/Early Head Start Family. Let them know the different ways they can get the information needed to start the enrollment process.

YES, I want to help empower people living in poverty to reach economic stability.

Please accept my gift of \$ _____

Your donation will go toward supporting:

- Feeding those who are hungry
- Preparing children for success in school
- Preventing and eliminating homelessness
- Helping families learn financial skills/save for a home, post-secondary education, or small business start-up

I would like to designate my gift to the following program

(e.g. Peoria Area Food Bank, Head Start, Early Head Start, Foster Grandparent Program, Mitchell "JJ" Anderson & Dana J Davis All Star Basketball Camp

May we publish your name? Yes No

If so, how would you like your name(s) to appear? _____

Payment Options:

- Check payable to PCCEO
- Visit www.pcceo.org/donate-now

For more information contact:

Gregory Wilson, Public Relations Specialist (309) 999-3824 | gwilson@pcceo.org

My name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____



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