

*Watch for our Small Business special edition coming soon!*

## **DDC Board Directors provide industry updates/responses on COVID-19:**



### **Bob Anderson, President**

OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center

As a Healthcare provider, OSF Saint Francis Medical Center has been focused on the COVID pandemic for many weeks. We have an Emergency Operations Plan and a Pandemic Response Plan that we have activated and implemented for this COVID crisis. Our facility has been following CDC and IDPH guidance on responding to the Pandemic which has included actions such as cancelling all non-essential surgeries and other outpatient procedures and restricting visitors to the Medical Center.

Like all healthcare facilities we face challenges with providing the correct personal protective equipment to our staff, but thanks to our supply chain staff we have been able to maintain adequate supplies so far! Central Illinois has been blessed with a comparatively low positive rate compared to urban areas such as Chicago or St Louis. That means we have plenty of capacity at this point because we are not seeing the non-essential patients to make room for the COVID patients, and there just haven't been that many of them in our area at this time.

We do have some staff working from home. However, we have had to furlough a significant number of staff across our Ministry due to the financial impact that the Pandemic is having on the OSF System. We continue to deliver babies, treat trauma, stroke and heart attacks as we always have. The support from the community for our Healthcare workers has been amazing! We have had donations from so many area businesses as well as individuals of everything from homemade cloth masks to lunches for staff – and it is all greatly appreciated!

## **DDC Activities**



### **DDC Annual Meeting**

#### **Officer and Director Appointments**

At the 2020 annual meeting held on May 7th, the DDC board approved the reappointment of several board members to new terms and approved the slate of candidates. The board also authorized the appointment of officers as follows:

- Jeff Kolbus, Chairman
- Bob Anderson, Vice Chairman
- Jon Williams, Treasurer
- Karen Jensen, Secretary

Michael Freilinger remains as President/CEO. We would like to thank Mark Yemm for his leadership the past two years as Chairman of the Board. Mark will remain on the board and will serve on various committees. Committee appointments were also approved at the annual meeting. See the complete listing of DDC board members and officers at [www.downtownpeoria.us/ddc-board](http://www.downtownpeoria.us/ddc-board).

### **Response to COVID – 19**

The DDC is committed to keep our readers up to date on the renewal and recovery efforts as we move forward during this pandemic. In this newsletter, you will read how many of our industry sectors, small businesses and non-profit organizations are adjusting and responding to the needs of our community. Thank you to all of our contributors who are doing their best to help in the ongoing support efforts and renewal of our downtown.



**Mike Hatfield, Business Engagement Mgr.**  
Caterpillar Inc.

Caterpillar is working to help ensure uninterrupted access to the products and services our customers need to get their jobs done in difficult times. Our dedication and service to the safety, health and well-being of our team and the communities they serve remain strong. We are taking appropriate precautions and implementing safeguards to protect employees while they continue to provide the world what it needs. We have increased the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting facilities with special attention to common areas; we are following social distancing practices; and we are implementing other measures consistent with specific regulatory requirements and guidance from health authorities.

In addition, the Caterpillar Foundation committed \$8.5M to support communities impacted by the virus in partnership w/ United Nations Foundation and the World Health Organization Solidarity Response Fund. The company also increased the Matching Gifts Program to provide a 2:1 match on employee donations to eligible nonprofits through May 1, 2020.



**Karen Jensen, President/CEO**  
Farnsworth Group

At Farnsworth Group we are effectively working remotely from all of our 24 office locations in various states and continuing to focus on our clients and their project needs. The beauty of technology has certainly been evidenced with the ability to easily share massive project files, conduct small- and large-scale meetings, interview for projects and continue to collaborate together. Farnsworth Group has been working with several clients including the State of Illinois in a rapid response capacity for the repur-

posing of existing healthcare spaces into COVID-19 medical uses that included ICU's and isolation rooms. We were also part of a team to assist the Federal government with the evaluation of hotels for conversion to medical facilities. The Company's field work continues with survey and inspection services for essential infrastructure projects, and we are continuing to safely perform a wide range of on-going projects to help our clients continue to advance their businesses and operations forward during this time.



**Jeff Kolbus, President**  
RE/MAX Traders Unlimited

Real Estate was deemed an Essential Industry by the Governor, however, the Real Estate market has definitely seen a slowdown. 2020 started off very strong, almost 20% ahead of 2019 through February. 2020 seemed to be our turn-around year, as it felt as the consumer confidence had returned to our area. The virus has really changed all that, as our market has lost all of the first quarter positives. Sales are continuing but not at the pace of a typical Spring Market. Our professionals are going above and beyond in terms of the social distancing guidelines when they interact with clients. Technology such as virtual open houses and virtual showings, digital contracts and signatures along with changes in the way real estate closings are being held have made things continue to work.



**Travis Mohlenbrink**  
Owner of Spice Hospitality

At Spice Hospitality the health and safety of our employees and guests are the top priority. Our daily cleaning procedures are already very thorough; however, given the current situation, we are elevating our cleaning practices to keep our stores a safe

and welcoming space for our guests and employees. We will continue to follow updates and protocol suggested by the CDC, Department of Public Health, and other credible agencies to best insure the safety of all. As with most restaurants, the Spice Hospitality Group continues to stay open for limited hours and days. We are operating by offering carry out and delivery at our locations. Although we are serving a fraction of our normal guests, we will continue to operate this way as long as we can. I look at operations each week and make decisions based on long-term effects of current business practices.



### Roberta Parks

VP, UnityPoint Health (retired)/Downtown Resident

Roberta Parks, -- Having recently retired, I am enjoying the additional time I have to volunteer. With the COVID-19 pandemic, I have volunteered to deliver food to pantries and other places as well as helping to get laptops in the hands of District 150 students. I also regularly check on friends and neighbors who are high risk. It is important for everyone to do their part, whatever that is. We will get through this!



### Jonathan Williams, President, Peoria Market Commerce Bank

At Commerce Bank, we have been extremely busy meeting client needs with some needing financial help and others needing advice. This has been the busiest year of my career thus far, specifically in the last three weeks. Adding to our volume of traditional client needs, Congress passed a \$2 Trillion stimulus package to help the economy and keep people employed during this challenging time. Part of the stimulus was administered by the Small Business Administration (SBA), which included \$349 Billion for Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loans. The process to gain these funds required detailed information to secure a SBA 100% guarantee and potential

up to 80% forgiveness of the loan. Today, we await guidance from the SBA on what will be required for the forgiveness process and exactly what mechanics the SBA will follow to do so.

Many banks, like Commerce, processed these requests around the clock, from early April until April 16th when all of the funds had been allocated – to give a little perspective, during that time: Commerce processed approximately 500 loans per day, while previously we processed 10 SBA loans per month on average. Additionally, Commerce secured SBA funding of approximately \$1.5 Billion for 4,529 customers, with median loan size of \$64M. At the time of this writing, many bankers are awaiting an additional allocation of funds, potentially \$250 Billion, by Congress as many applicants were unable to get applications submitted or approved before the fund was exhausted. These additional funds will be used to keep many employed as it is unclear when we will return to our daily norm. Additionally, we hope everyone who can stays safe at home. Some of our staff are operating our branch network so customers can at least utilize services in a controlled environment safe for both our customers and employees. While the bulk of our staff are working from home, various roles require people to be present. We are providing extra resources to these employees to limit exposure & interactions with others.



### Mark Yemm, Sr. VP Fondulac Bank

We are in the midst of the \$350 billion government stimulus package process, which has been more than challenging. As of mid April, that \$350 billion is all spoken for as Congress looks to increase it by another \$250 billion. I'm extremely proud of my bank and my co-workers who have more than answered the call as to putting in the time needed in order to process more than 1,400 applications that represents \$250 million that will be spent in our communities and region. This was done with no process, procedure or complete guidance until three days before the gates were to open. So those 1,400 SBA applications I mentioned were processed

from April 7th through the 16th, and typically we process 12 SBA applications per year.

From the point our US Treasury Dept. identified the banks as the way the funds were going to be handled and then put the caveat on those funds “first come first served,” everyone was in hurry-up mode so a lot of handholding and heartburn wondering if they had been approved and worrying that the funds were going to be gone overnight. In my thirty years of banking, never have we had this type of challenge; but it sure makes you appreciate your co-workers and that roll-up-your-sleeve Midwest attitude that we sometimes overlook.

## Downtown Development

### Not-for-profit organizations step up to the COVID-19 challenge



#### CityLink

The health and safety of passengers and employees is the top priority for CityLink/GPMTD during the current COVID-19/coronavirus health crisis. Many essential workers and passengers needing access to essential services rely on public transportation. CityLink has been able to continue providing service, although currently reduced, for those that

need these services during the health crisis.

Some of the adjustments/changes CityLink has made in response to COVID-19 include: Taking extra precautionary measures to clean and sanitize buses and facilities daily; suspended fare collection on all transportation services (CityLink fixed route service, CityLift paratransit service, and CountyLink rural transportation service); reduced fixed route bus service on all weekday and Saturday routes with

service after the 8:45 p.m. Sunday service remains as scheduled; closed the Transit Center lobby to the public; requested all non-ADA passengers to enter and exit through the rear door on fixed route buses and adhere to social distancing guidelines while riding GPMTD services; requested rides on all transportation services be limited to essential trips only; and required all passengers to wear a face mask or an alternative protective face covering while riding all transportation services and/or while at the Transit Center.

Visit [www.ridecitylink.org/covid19](http://www.ridecitylink.org/covid19) for the latest COVID-19 updates and news from CityLink/GPMTD.



#### FamilyCore

FamilyCore has remained committed to “Strengthening Families for a Stronger Community” for almost 120 years, and that commitment has not wavered during these unexpected and uncertain times.

The Counseling Department at FamilyCore, which includes counseling services, single parent support services, and adoption support services, remains committed to supporting our communities as they process and respond to their individual needs and the needs of their families.

Our Child Welfare Department has continued to service all foster care children, biological parents, foster parents and work collaboratively with our community partners to provide service, advocacy and visits both with parents and siblings.

Staff members at FamilyCore have worked to implement telehealth services to remain accessible to clients during this time and ongoing communication with community partners to best support the overall needs of our communities. The Outreach Department includes adoption preservation, afterschool, respite, family school liaison and food pantry services.

The staff in the school programs have continued to service all of the public school children through check in calls, in person visits and teleconference as well as dropping off meals and computers. Our clinicians have continued to provide support to our Head Start and East Head Start programs, both staff and families. We continue to see people from all walks of life experiencing many challenges as it relates to shelter in place, social distancing or working from home and encourage all community members to promote self-care and wellness.



### First United Methodist Church (FUMC)

First Church has been involved in supporting the Peoria area for years, particularly our neighbors in the center part of the city. Through our Loaves and Fish program, while normally serving a hot meal, worship service, and other needs every Saturday, we now serve a bagged lunch in addition to a bag of food from our pantry (non-perishables), fresh produce as available, and bread and bakery products.

Once a month we furnish hygiene bags with basic hygiene needs. There is still time to donate to our food drive through Saturday, May 16th. For this and other outreach programs through FUMC, such as Backpack Buddies at Lincoln K8, Neutral Ground, Benevolence Ministry, and Morton Square Soccer, visit their web site at [www.fumcpeoria.org/](http://www.fumcpeoria.org/).



### Peoria Public Library

Peoria Public Library is making every effort to stay engaged with patrons during this forced statewide closure. We are diligently promoting our digital library, which has nearly a million titles – including ebooks, audio books, graphic novels, movies,

documentaries, online classes and even television. This is above and beyond our databases, which are trustworthy resources for students doing online learning at home. As an example, with our Brainfuse database you can chat live with a tutor in real time for help on a variety of subjects. Others feature newspapers from around the world, scholarly journals and even genealogy information. We are also teaching our patrons how to use those resources with tutorials on our YouTube channel.

We're also adding Storytimes to YouTube so our patrons, especially our youngsters, can see a familiar face. Other YouTube offerings include booktalks and sneak peeks of our Local History collection. Meanwhile, we are using secured Zoom meetings to host book and film discussions. We're hosting weekly Facebook live sessions – same day and time – so our patrons know they can reach us in real time.

That said, we are answering patron phone calls and emails every day. When we realized that more and more people were interested in getting a library card, we added a temporary card they can apply for on our website. Our digital library is nearly as comprehensive as our physical collection, and we are doing all we can to connect our patrons to it.



### River City Labs

River City Labs is a non-profit community of makers, hackers, tinkerers, and creators who share a physical space, tools, and thoughts.

As soon as the need arose, members began making and distributing face masks. For information about these masks or a way to help River City Labs, please visit their web site at [www.rivercitylabs.space/covid-19/midwest-mask](http://www.rivercitylabs.space/covid-19/midwest-mask).



## Salvation Army

The Salvation Army says their mission of “Doing the Most Good” doesn’t stop when the community faces a crisis. They want you to know that they are here to:

- Provide emergency child care services for first responders and essential workers
- provide two food pantries
- provide shelter for those with no place to stay
- provide meals for school-aged children in Peoria District 150 schools
- provide “grab and go” lunches for anyone who needs a meal, and
- provide an emotional and spiritual care team.

Visit their web site at <http://SAPeoria.org>.



## The Children’s Home

The Children’s Home has not skipped a beat during this pandemic. According to CEO Matt George, “We are an essential business and our team of 450 employees strong take care of the community in ways that they will never know. At Children’s Home I could not be any more proud of what they are all doing. To take care of 1700 kids a month during this struggle is unprecedented. We have true heroes and working from home is not an option.” Matt also wanted to give a shout out to the frontline heroes, “What I’ve noticed most is seeing true heroes coming to the forefront. This includes police, fire, ambulance, military, healthcare workers , grocery store employees, and more. They all deserve a huge thank you.”



## Peoria Rescue Ministries

Peoria Rescue Ministries continues its legacy work of creating pathways out of poverty through Jesus Christ for its neighbors in need. By way of individually-focused, gospel-based renewal efforts, PRM has developed programs and life-expanding opportunities in ways previously unavailable in the Peoria area. They’ve pioneered efforts like this without compromising their traditionally strong focus on emergency shelter demands. As COVID-19 began to impact the Peoria community, PRM worked to formulate, draft, and actualize strategies to minister to the potential needs of those in their care who may become infected by the virus. “We were truly able to witness the church in action. So many folks offered donations of time and money to help us brace for the trials ahead of us,” stated Executive Director Jon Rocke. “We’re nowhere near out of the woods yet, but it is very evident God’s hand is moving, and we’re excited to be part of it along with the church at large.”



## Hearts for Healthcare Workers Campaign

Across the country hundreds of hospitals and their foundations are making great strides to address the challenges of supply shortages, facility inefficiencies and a great strain on our healthcare workers. It is our mission to not only show our support through an inspiring community-wide display of signs, but to also provide funds to the foundations that represent those hospitals on the front lines of the current pandemic facing America. Thank you to our Healthcare workers as we all work together in these unprecedented times. Visit [www.heartsforhealthcare.com](http://www.heartsforhealthcare.com).

## Downtown Activities



### Peoria Riverfront Museum

Virtual Peoria Riverfront Museum is open for inspiration online! Peruse their Virtual Exhibitions, Virtual Collections, Free Educational Films, Virtual Planetarium, Virtual Science Demos, Virtual Hands-on Art & Science Projects and more. Check them out on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube or visit them online at [www.peoriariverfrontmuseum.org](http://www.peoriariverfrontmuseum.org).



### Peoria RiverFront Market

The Peoria RiverFront Market is scheduled to open May 16 in a reduced capacity than its normal operation. The market will open in phases due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Illinois' shelter-in-place order extension. It will start with perishable produce vendors only and other vendors will be phased in using a fluid timeline as proper safety precautions are ensured. The Peoria RiverFront Association said it is dedicated to providing an outlet for local farmers to sell the produce they are currently growing and for our customers to purchase locally-grown food. Farmers markets have been deemed essential, and public safety is of utmost importance. The market will temporarily function as an "in-and-out" grocery store type of setting.

The RiverFront Market is open every Saturday morning, 8 a.m. – noon, May 16 through Sept. 26. It first opened in 2004 to support local businesses in downtown Peoria.

## Announcements

### COVID-19 Resources



The City of Peoria in collaboration with the Peoria City/County Health Department has been busy providing daily press briefing livestream updates from the mayor and the Health Department regarding the region.

In addition, many other local groups have stepped up to provide support to business/property owners as well as local residents.

See links below for some of those trusted business partners providing financial resources, business guidelines, health and testing information along with moral support so we can all stay safe by staying informed:

#### City of Peoria

[www.growpeoria.com/combating-covid-19](http://www.growpeoria.com/combating-covid-19)

#### Greater Peoria Economic Development Council

[www.gpcovid.com](http://www.gpcovid.com)

#### Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce

[www.peoriachamber.org](http://www.peoriachamber.org)

#### Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

[www.peoria.org/covid19](http://www.peoria.org/covid19)

#### Peoria City/County Health Department

[www.pcchd.org/289/COVID-19-Coronavirus](http://www.pcchd.org/289/COVID-19-Coronavirus)

#### State Rep. Ryan Spain

[www.repryanspain.com](http://www.repryanspain.com)

#### WTVP.org

[www.wtvp.org](http://www.wtvp.org)

DDC Monthly Report for May 2020  
Cumulative Total From July 1, 2014 through April 30, 2020

**Residential Units**

	<u># of Units</u>
Completed	163
Under Construction	33
Announced	227
Exploring	102
<b>Residential Units Total</b>	<b>525</b>

**Business Start-up/Relocation**

	<u># of Units</u>
Completed	30
Announced	2
Exploring	1
<b>Business Start-up/Relocation Total</b>	<b>33</b>

**Permits**

**Last 12 months**

Issued Comm. Const. This Year	9
Est. Value Comm. Const. This Year	\$ 4,834,950
* All Const. Permits Issued This Year	94
# Estimated Value This Year	\$ 39,818,550

**Since 2014**

Issued Comm. Const. since 2014	158
Est. Value Comm. Const. Since 2014	\$ 64,763,526
* All Const. Permits Issued Since 2014	974
# Estimated Value Since 2014	\$ 129,327,436

**Developers Assisted**

Developers Active	
Local	26
Out of Town	7
<b>Developers Active Total</b>	<b>33</b>
Developers Inactive	55
<b>Developers Assisted Grand Total</b>	<b>88</b>

**Project Type**

	<u># of Projects</u>
<b>Development</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Completed</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Under Construction</b>	<b>8</b>
Permitted	0
Hired Professionals	0
Property Acquired	12
Negotiations Under Way	2
Gathering Information	0
<b>Total Dev.</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Property Acquisition</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Public Art</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Public Parks</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Projects Active Total</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Projects Abandoned Total</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Projects Assisted Grand Total</b>	<b>137</b>

**Mixed-Use Projects Under Construction**

<u>Project Name</u>	<u># of Units</u>
Winkler Market & Apartments	27
Neon	6

**Total Units UC**

**33**

**DDC Finances**

Budget	
Fundraising 2019:	\$ 305,000
Current Receipts	\$ 263,500
% of Budgeted Receipts	86.4%

**DDC Activities**

<b>Media</b>	
Articles/Media/Interviews	209
Press Conferences	22
<b>Other</b>	
Confidential Project Assistance	12
Building Code Amendments	
Lobbying for Extension of State Historic Tax Credits	
Public Engagement/Planning Effort by the City	
2016 Housing Study	
2016 Parking Study	
IL-HTC/RERZ Extension	
2018 Housing Study	
Opportunity Zone Funds	
Downtown Development Tours	
Property Acquisition and Sale	
2020 Housing Study	

**Commercial Development Under Construction**

<u>Project Name</u>	<u># of Units</u>
The Block	1
Chase Block	1
Winkler Market	1
Nailon Bldg	1
Neon	1
Winkler Market & Apartments	1

**Total Projects**

**6**

\* All Const. Permits Include: Comm. Const., Demolition, Elect., Erosion, Gen. Building, HVAC, Plumbing, Parking, Irrigation, H2O Heater, etc.  
# All Const. Permits Estimated Values: Not all activity has an estimated value assigned to it **therefore this is only a partial amount**

[www.downtownpeoria.us](http://www.downtownpeoria.us)

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