



# DOWNTOWN PEORIA NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

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## DDC Activities

### Transitions



Last month, we reported big changes for the DDC. We said goodbye to Michael-Freilinger, the very first President/CEO, and we welcomed Chris Waible as the second President/CEO of the DDC.

Chris began his new position in a new office space in the Twin Towers, co-locating with Discover Peoria. It has been a month of transitions. With two DDC board meetings now under his belt, Chris is settling in and has spent the past month meeting with his predecessor, his board and staff, developers, and community leaders. We invite you to come along on the continued journey of the DDC as we work to redevelop our downtown, the heart and soul of Peoria. To learn more about the DDC, visit our website at <https://www.downtownpeoria.us/>.

## We have a new board member!



**Bob Anderson**



**Tom Hammerton**

Speaking of transitions, **Bob Anderson**, our long-time director holding the OSF founder seat, has elected to retire and therefore relinquish his board seat.

Please join us in welcoming Bob's replacement, **Tom Hammerton**. Tom currently is President at OSF HealthCare Foundation, a visionary leader who has built a philanthropic culture throughout the Ministry through collaborative fundraising, forming lasting partnerships and instilling a passion for the OSF Mission within his Foundation team and in communities. We look forward to working with Tom on the DDC board.

We wish Bob Anderson a heartfelt farewell as he seeks new beginnings as a retiree. Thank you, Bob, for your leadership! Welcome, Tom, to the DDC Board of Directors!

# Livability Magazine Release



Last month, DDC President, Chris Waible, and DDC Chairman, Zach Oyler, attended a meeting at Peoria Riverfront Museum called by the Greater Peoria Leadership Council (GPLC) to roll out their first publication of Livability magazine. The new release is focused on highlighting all aspects of living in the Peoria area, including a number of downtown destinations and events. These publications are a key part of the Choose Greater Peoria initiative, aimed at attracting talent to our region and fostering community pride by highlighting why Greater Peoria is an outstanding place to live, work and play. You can find the magazine at local businesses as well as on the Choose Greater Peoria website at <https://choosegreaterpeoria.org>.

# Residential Space for Lease

## Peoria 812 Lofts



Located at 812 SW Washington Street are the newest residential units in downtown Peoria! The historic Churchill Drug Company building has been transformed into a multi-unit apartment complex. Historic meets modern with exposed brick and beams, wood and tile flooring, solid surface countertops, in-unit washer/dryer, and more!

This property has some amazing features starting with the views from the upper levels, high ceilings, windows that open, individual HVAC systems, a fitness center, yoga room, dog wash, in-unit laundry and a commercial laundry area for those bulkier items, to name just a few!

This property offers seven floors of apartment living with a mix of options from studio apartments up to 3 bedroom / 2 bath units ranging from 464 Sq. Ft. – 1275 Sq. Ft. Pricing starts at \$975 a month for studios, with varying prices for 1-bedroom, 2-bedroom and 3-bedroom units up to \$2,000 a month. Call 309-691-0900 to schedule a tour. Additional building and floor plans can be viewed at <https://peoria812lofts.com/>. Start the new year off right where everything old is new again!

## City of Peoria Highlights

### Parking in the Warehouse District!



The “new” Depot Street is being poured, and the forms are in for the concrete to be poured for the 300 parking spaces that will service the private developments happening on Washington Street.

Watching these warehouses be converted to residential living and retail is incredible. Great things are happening in Peoria, especially the Warehouse District. From negotiating the land on behalf of

the city to working on the redevelopment agreements for buildings on SW Washington Street, the work is finally coming together. It has been a longtime vision of the DDC to provide adequate parking to serve residents, tenants, and visitors. Parking in the right spot is critical to support commercial and residential properties. We thank the City of Peoria for addressing this need and hope to see even more parking as the Warehouse District continues to grow.

# Two-way Street Restoration



Peoria's multi-year project to convert two major downtown streets back to two-way traffic is close to finishing its first construction season.

Public Works Department spokesman Nick McMillion said the first-year work included upgrading 24 intersection corners along Adams Street. **“Right now, we have 22 of those 24 corners completed,”** McMillion said. **“The remaining corners that we’re going to be wrapping up in the coming weeks, if not next week, will be the northeast corner of Harrison Street and then the northwest corner on Main Street.”**

McMillion said the reconstruction converted the corners with bump-outs to shorten pedestrian crossing distances as a measure of safety, adding the focus next year shifts to doing the same work at the 20 corners on Jefferson Street in the project corridor.

To learn more about this project, read Joe Deacon's article published December 6, 2024, at <https://www.wcbu.org/>.

# Downtown Activities

## Visit Downtown Peoria!



**Embrace winter in Peoria! Come downtown to play inside!** With our civic center, museums, art venues, retailers, gyms, restaurants and bars that offer live entertainment, you can keep the party going all year round. In collaboration with Peoria Riverfront Association, we keep a pulse on downtown activities, and there are activities galore!

If you are looking for fun things to do with friends and family, make sure to visit our web site at <https://www.downtownpeoria.us/play> to plan your next outing. And follow our FaceBook page, <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064639275934> where we like to share good news every day about our great downtown.

## Shop Local!

**Remember to shop local this holiday season.** The Warehouse District is growing, so take time to stroll around and visit the growing number of local shops that offer unique products, expertise, and experiences.

Among the many established businesses on Water Street, Washington, and State, it seems like a new bar, restaurant, or shopping venue is opening up every month, and we will be highlighting them in the new year. It is so important for local retailers to have your business. Keep a watchful eye on our monthly newsletters for exciting new businesses as we watch downtown Peoria continue to grow!



# Season's Greetings

## from the DDC Board of Directors

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CHAIR	<b>Zachary Oyler</b>	<u>Founding Organization</u> City of Peoria   Peoria City Council
VICE-CHAIR	<b>Michael Maloof</b>	<u>At Large   Real Estate &amp; Development</u> Jim Maloof Realty
SECRETARY	<b>Cliff Vieira</b>	<u>Founding Organization</u> Caterpillar Inc.
TREASURER	<b>Pam Howe</b>	<u>Banking &amp; Financial Services</u> Commerce Bank
PRESIDENT/CEO	<b>Chris Waible</b>	Downtown Development Corporation of Peoria
VICE-PRESIDENT	<b>State Rep. Ryan Spain</b>	<u>Founding Organizations</u> City of Peoria and OSF St. Francis Medical Center

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<b>Robert Anderson</b>	<u>Founding Organization</u>   OSF Saint Francis Medical Center
<b>Chuck Grayeb</b>	<u>Founding Organization</u>   City of Peoria   Peoria City Council
<b>Mark Yemm</b>	At-Large   Banking & Financial Services Morton Community Bank
<b>Paul Kouri</b>	Architecture, Construction & Engineering Architectural Design Group
<b>Wade Ross</b>	Architecture, Construction & Engineering Farnsworth Group
<b>Branden Martin</b>	Real Estate & Development PAAR: Peoria Area Association of Realtors

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<b>STAFF</b>	Debbie Dickerson Angie Walker	Executive Assistant Project Manager
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[www.downtownpeoria.us](http://www.downtownpeoria.us)

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