

Business and Economy

Greater Peoria Businesses Prepare Expanded Service As State Moves Forward With Reopening Plan – June 25, 2020 by Dana Vollmer and Daniel Musisi

Is This The Summer Of The RV? - May 30, 2020 by Steve Tarter

After the pandemic throttled business this spring, things are starting to pick up at Fourwinds RV, 3104 N. Main St. in East Peoria.

Two Cities, One Mission: Growing Solutions To Local Food Deserts – May 28, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Once a neighborhood or town becomes a food desert, it's difficult to restore a functional food system. Two central Illinois communities are trying to grow new food networks.

Restaurants Scrambling To Set Up Outdoor Seating Arrangements – May 21, 2020 by Tim Shelley & Dana Vollmer

Restaurants and bars are busily preparing to open back up for business outside next Friday.

Don't Sit So Close To Me: Returning Restaurant Diners Want More Table Spacing – May 16, 2020 by Tim Shelley

When dine-in restaurants begin reopening as coronavirus restrictions ease, it appears table spacing is the top concern for customers and restauranters alike.

Book Shop Receives Approval For Curbside Pickup – April 24, 2020 by Daniel Musisi

Many small businesses in Peoria were forced to close once the State of Illinois deemed them non-essential last month.

Peoria-Based Wealth Adviser Explains How To Rebound From COVID-19 Finance Challenges – April 20, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

The COVID-19 crisis is creating financial uncertainty and testing emergency savings plans for many low-and moderate-income earners.

Peoria Charter Rehires Employees With Help Of Federal Loan – April 15, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

Peoria Charter Coach has rehired 40 employees that were previously laid off after securing a federal coronavirus stimulus loan.

Central Illinois Hotels Suffer in Silence – April 2, 2020 by Steve Tarter

With the coronavirus sweeping across the country, the hospitality industry in central Illinois faces its biggest challenge since 9/11.

Education and Family

Dunlap Plots Full Return to School This Fall – June 30, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Dunlap students will be returning for full weeks of school this fall.

As Some School Districts Look To Remove Officers, Peoria Says It's Already Reform-Minded – June 23, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

Activists have added school resource officers to the larger conversation of police reform in the United States. Some call for the removal of police from schools. Others are looking at ways to change officer roles.

Peoria School Board Approves Return To School Roadmap – June 23, 2020 by Collin Schopp

The Peoria Public Schools Board has approved a Return to School plan for this fall after COVID-19 forced schools to move online in March.

Summer Jobs Program Connects Youth With Peoria Businesses

June 9, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

Peoria Public Schools is helping students and recent graduates find summer jobs with the help of COVID-19 related grant dollars.

WTVP To Launch Remote Learning Channel For K-12 Students – May 20, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

WTVP is partnering with the Peoria County Regional Office of Education to launch a new channel dedicated to remote learning.

More Questions Than Answers On How Schools Will Teach This Fall – May 12, 2020 by Tim Shelley

There are more questions than answers when it comes to students returning to classrooms this August.

Homeschool Supplier in Stark County 'Slammed' With Orders During Outbreak – May 3, 2020 by Steve Tarter

The COVID-19 outbreak that's closed schools and kept children at home nationwide has brought new business to a Stark County company that's one of the country's biggest providers of homeschooling supplies.

DCFS Investigators Want More Protection Handling Cases During COVID-19 – May 2, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) employees are calling for protections as they take on cases during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Peoria Public Schools Continues Adjusting to Distance Learning **– April 28, 2020 by Collin Schopp**

Peoria Public Schools continues to adapt to the new reality of distance learning.

Peoria Nonprofit Donates Books To Students During The Coronavirus Shutdown – April 14, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

A Peoria nonprofit wants to make sure students have access to free reading materials during the coronavirus shutdown.

Child Abuse And Neglect Likely On The Rise Amid COVID-19 – April 8, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

With children away from the public eye during the shelter in place period, it's more important than ever to be on the lookout for signs of neglect or abuse.

Health and Medicine

Face-To-Face Visits Resume At Illinois Long-Term Care Facilities – June 26, 2020 by Tim Shelley

For the first time in months, residents of Illinois long-term care facilities can once again visit with loved ones in person as Illinois moves into phase 4 of reopening.

Trump Administration Ending Federal Funding For Peoria COVID-19 Testing Site – June 24, 2020 by Tim Shelley

The Trump administration is moving to end federal funding for the COVID-19 testing site in Peoria on June 30.

Peoria Proud Developing LGBTQ-Friendly Healthcare Directory – June 18, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

Peoria Proud is creating a registry of LGBTQ-friendly healthcare providers in central Illinois.

As Hospitals Get Busier, Need For Blood Donations Rises – June 10, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

The shortage of blood donations due to the COVID-19 pandemic is becoming more troublesome, as patient traffic at area hospitals revs back up.

Illinois Has Conducted More Than 1 Million COVID-19 Tests – June 6, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Gov. JB Pritzker said Illinois has now conducted more than 1 million COVID-19 tests.

Peoria's New COVID-19 Testing Site Uses Less Invasive Nasal Swabs – May 21, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Peoria's new state-run COVID-19 testing site opens this Saturday. One perk - less intimidating nasal swabs.

Watch Your Hands: Digital Monitoring Helps UnityPoint Keep Tabs On Staff Hygiene – May 20, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

Handwashing is front of mind for many during the pandemic. But washing often and thoroughly is always a goal in healthcare.

County Health Departments Face More Hostility As COVID-19 Becomes Increasingly Political – May 19, 2020 by Tim Shelley

It's getting harder for health departments to convince people who were in contact with a positive COVID-19 patient to stay at home and self-quarantine.

Four in Ten Positive COVID-19 Patients at Peoria Community-Based Sites Showed No Symptoms – May 8, 2020 by Tim Shelley

More than four in ten people who tested positive for COVID-19 at one Peoria's three community-based testing sites were asymptomatic.

How, and When, Does Central Illinois Begin Easing Stay-At-Home Restrictions? - April 30, 2020 by Tim Shelley

It won't be health professionals or local politicians who ultimately set the pace of reopening the region. It's COVID-19 itself.

UnityPoint Announces Furloughs, Executive Pay Cuts – April 21, 2020 by Tim Shelley

The UnityPoint Health system is rolling out furloughs, executive pay cuts, and temporary hour reductions for some employees to cushion the financial impact of COVID-19.

Heddington Oaks Nursing Home Closing By End of 2020 – April 17, 2020 by Tim Shelley

After 172 years, Peoria County is exiting the nursing home business.

Allergies Or Infection? Here's How To Tell The Difference – April 16, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

Fears over the novel coronavirus are overlapping with an especially bad allergy season.

13-Year-Old 3D Prints Up Face Shields For Central Illinois Health Department – April 10, 2020 by Daniel Musisi

Thirteen-year-old David Simmons of Monmouth saw the need for personal protective equipment and decided to put his 3D printing skills to good use.

Plasma Therapy Offers New Treatment Option To COVID-19 Patients – April 7, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center will soon collect plasma from recovered COVID-19 patients to help newly diagnosed patients fight the disease as part of a new convalescent plasma therapy.

Peoria Hotels To Help Homeless Shelters Quarantine Vulnerable Residents – April 6, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

The Heart of Illinois United Way is partnering with Peoria hotels to relocate some people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Higher Education

Bradley University Will Conduct Regular COVID-19 Surveillance Testing This Fall – June 26, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Bradley University's "Return to Campus" plan will include a weekly round of COVID-19 surveillance testing among a sampling of students, faculty, and staff.

Bradley University Faculty Amplify Calls For Anti-Racist Efforts On Campus – June 13, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

Hundreds of Bradley University faculty and staff have issued a statement condemning systemic racism and injustice — both on campus and in society at large.

Bradley Athletes Commit To Fight For Racial Justice, With Support Of Coaches – June 9, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

Dozens of Bradley University student athletes staged a peaceful demonstration Tuesday night, protesting racial injustice and inequality.

Bradley University Offers Buyouts To All Full-Time Employees – May 21, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Bradley University is offering buyouts to all full-time employees in an effort to trim costs as the institution faces a grim upcoming year in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Bradley Drawing Up Contingency Plans For Return to Campus](#) – May 15, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Bradley University President Stephen Standifird is appointing a "Return to Campus" team to prepare for probable scenarios in the upcoming school year.

[2020 College Seniors: The Class That Ran Into The Pandemic](#) – April 27, 2020 by Steve Tarter

It looked like 2020 was going to be the year for "a really good job market" for U.S. college seniors, according to one college career counselor. Then COVID-19 hit.

[Bradley Eligible For \\$4.2M in Federal Aid, But Uncertainty Clouds Picture](#) – April 23, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Bradley University is eligible for up to \$4.2 million in financial help through the federal CARES Act. But there's still a lot of uncertainty on when and how that money may benefit the institution and its students.

[Campus Closures Mean Students Learn Hands-On Skills](#) — [Remotely](#) – April 16, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

College students in all sorts of programs have had to make big adjustments to their studies due to COVID-19 related campus closures. That includes those studying a trade or technical skill.

[Virus Brings Online Classes Into Focus](#) – April 4, 2020 by Steve Tarter

In an effort to stop the spread of the coronavirus, colleges across the country including Bradley University and Illinois Central College have moved to online classes allowing students to continue their education from home.

Police and Courts

Washington Man Arrested In City's 2nd Reported Murder This Month – June 30, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Washington police say they've made an arrest in the city's second reported homicide this month.

Community Groups Demand Release of Peoria Police Disciplinary Records – June 25, 2020 by Tim Shelley

A coalition of Peoria community groups requesting the disciplinary records of several police officers involved in fatal incidents, say they're not satisfied with the statement released Wednesday night by Chief Loren Marion III and the police union.

Washington Man's Death Under Investigation As A Homicide – June 23, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Washington police are investigating the death of a man whose body was found behind a shopping center as a homicide.

Questions Remain As Morton Names New Police Chief – June 22, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Morton has a new police chief, but the circumstances surrounding the retirement of outgoing Chief Craig Hilliard remain hazy.

Peoria County Eyes Spending Increase For Law Enforcement, Voting Efforts – June 12, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

The Peoria County Board will consider a budget amendment aimed at addressing injustice in law enforcement and ensuring all who want to vote get a chance to do so safely.

Here's Why National Guard Troops Are Stationed In Peoria This Weekend – June 5, 2020 by Dana Vollmer and Tim Shelley

The Illinois National Guard will be helping the Peoria Police Department keep an eye on the city over the weekend.

[Hoos: Alleged Peoria Looters Could Face Up To 30 Years In Prison](#) – June 3, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Nine people were charged with felonies Tuesday in Peoria County Court in connection with the riots and looting that unfolded earlier this week.

[East Peoria Council Condemns Recent Looting](#) – June 2, 2020 by Tim Shelley

East Peoria commissioners say they support peaceful protest - but when it turns violent, they draw the line.

[Rioting Breaks Out Overnight in Peoria](#) – June 1, 2020 by Tim Shelley, Dana Vollmer, Kristin McHugh, and Daniel Musisi

Rioting, looting, and mayhem broke out on the streets of Peoria in the early Monday morning hours.

[Hundreds Peacefully March In Peoria Against Police Brutality](#) – May 30, 2020 by Tim Shelley\

Several hundred peaceful protestors filled downtown Peoria's streets on Saturday afternoon to demonstrate against racism and police brutality.

[Suspect Attempts to Flee Into Flooded Illinois River](#) – May 22, 2020 by Tim Shelley

A Peoria man is facing felony charges in Woodford County after he attempted to flee from a traffic stop into the flooded Illinois River.

[UPDATE: Child Dies After Suffering Gunshot Wound In Accidental Shooting](#) – May 20, 2020 by Tim Shelley

A child has died after a shooting deemed accidental in Peoria's East Bluff neighborhood Wednesday afternoon.

[Courts Won't Look The Same When They Reopen](#) – May 4, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Jury trials won't look the same once the governor's stay-at-home order is lifted.

[Law Enforcement Anticipates Increasing Impatience With Stay-At-Home Order As Summer Approaches](#) – April 27, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Peoria County Sheriff Brian Asbell said people have largely complied with Gov. J.B. Pritzker's stay-at-home order so far, but he is seeing increasing signs of impatience.

[Peoria Police Calls Rebounding After Period Of Quiet](#) – April 9, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

Peoria police dispatch lines were a bit quieter at the start of the stay at home order. But those phones are ringing more often the longer COVID-19 precautions go on.

[Police: Continue Taking Social Distancing Seriously, Even As Weather Warms Up](#) – April 3, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Peoria Police Chief Loren Marion said more people are going outside in groups as the weather warms up. But he's asking people to adhere the governor's stay-at-home-order.

Politics and Government

[Peoria Park District Board Approves Temporary Cost-Saving Closures](#) – June 25, 2020 by Tim Shelley

The Peoria Park District Board of Trustees has approved temporary closures at three facilities as a cost saving measure.

[Peoria County Board Adds \\$853K Back To Budget](#) – June 16, 2020 by Tim Shelley

The Peoria County Board added \$853,000 back to its 2020 budget a month after cutting more than \$12 million just a month ago due to COVID-19.

[Peoria Entrepreneur Andres Diaz Announces Run For Mayor](#) – June 13, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Entrepreneur and urban farmer Andres Diaz announced his candidacy for Peoria mayor Saturday at the North Valley Farmers Market he founded.

[Peoria Council Votes To Slash 45 Jobs](#) – June 10, 2020 by Tim Shelley

By a narrow 6 to 5 vote, the Peoria City Council voted to cut 45 jobs by August to address the city's \$50 million budget deficit.

[Gordon-Booth: Police Reform Mainly A Job For Local Government](#) – June 8, 2020 by Dana Vollmer

State Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth says major police reform is a task for local government, rather than state and federal leaders.

[LaHood: 'There Needs To Be Justice Served' In George Floyd Case](#) – May 29, 2020 by Tim Shelley

U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood is calling for a full investigation [into the Minneapolis police officers involved in George Floyd's death](#).

[Uncertainty Dulls Excitement for 'Restore HOI' Reopening Roadmap](#) – May 18, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Morton Mayor Jeff Kaufman said while he likes both the Restore Heart of Illinois and Tri-County regional reopening plans, there's a major stumbling block that makes him wary of adopting it without the governor's blessing - liability.

['Heart of Illinois' Phased Regional Reopening Plan Rolls Out](#) – May 13, 2020 by Tim Shelley

The 11-county "Heart of Illinois" subregion plans to implement its own, speedier reopening plan independently of Gov. J.B. Pritzker's "Restore Illinois" plan, which lumps Peoria in with the Quad Cities and Rockford in reopening phases.

[East Peoria Is Opening Up. Will Other Cities Follow?](#) - May 1, 2020 by Tim Shelley

East Peoria Mayor John Kahl [announced Friday he is forging ahead with his Tri-County Phased Reopening Plan](#) in the face of Governor J.B. Pritzker's modified stay-at-home order.

[Woodford County Will Not Enforce Extended Stay-At-Home Order](#) – April 29, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Woodford County State's Attorney Greg Minger said he will not prosecute or enforce Gov. J.B. Pritzker's extended stay-at-home order.

[Peoria Council Slashes Mowing Funds, Delays Sewer Rate Hike](#) – April 15, 2020 by Kathy Rynearson

As part of the Peoria City Council's efforts to cut expenses, expect to see grass reach new heights.

[Peoria Activist Chama St. Louis Running For Mayor](#) – April 4, 2020 by Tim Shelley

Peoria activist and community organizer Chama St. Louis says she's running for Peoria mayor next year.

Science and Technology

[River Flooding Helps Asian Carp Invade New Waters: Study](#) – June 8, 2020 by Tim Shelley

A student archaeology trip ruined by flooding ended up sparking new research on how flooding can help invasive Asian carp spread to new waterways.

[Downtown Innovation Hub Redubbed 'Distillery Labs'](#) – May 7, 2020 by Tim Shelley

The Peoria Innovation Hub is now officially redubbed Distillery Labs.

Peoria Ag Lab Scientists Invent a Better Kitty Litter – May 5, 2020
by Tim Shelley

Peoria Ag Lab scientists are introducing their latest invention: a new and improved kitty litter.

