

## DDC Activities Cheers to 2021!

Like many of you, the DDC is glad to put 2020 in its rear-view mirror and move on to 2021.

Even with the challenges we faced in 2020, we saw new businesses come on board in Downtown Peoria in the face of adversity. We partnered with local organizations to promote new and existing businesses to help them get and/or keep their bearings.

We had opportunities to work with developers to moved along redevelopment projects, particularly in the Warehouse District.

We are excited to move forward in 2021 with increased momentum to further the advancement of Downtown Peoria. We know several opportunities await us and cannot wait to see the streets teeming once more with renewed energy and excitement.

Our newly lit bridge is a beacon to all to come live, work, and play in Peoria. Keep your eye on the DDC to stay apprised of new development in 2021.



Photo credit: [www.chriskyhourproductions.com](http://www.chriskyhourproductions.com)

## DDC Staff Member Spotlight Angie Walker



Our staff member spotlight this month shines its light on **Angie Walker**, our Project Manager. As such, Angie wears many hats and contributes to the DDC and our downtown community in so many ways.

In addition to designing and maintaining the DDC web site,

she designs the DDC monthly newsletters and annual reports, as well as our full-page ads in Peoria Magazine. She organizes and orchestrates news conferences, related news releases for new businesses and developments as well as managing tours for prospective developers and investors in downtown Peoria. She also ensures that the DDC has a visible, constant presence on social media to inform community members of new developments and timely activities in downtown Peoria.

Angie says, “My business interests have always seemed to overlap and complement one another. In addition to working with the DDC, I have a background in graphic arts and design and have found many outlets to put that experience to use, from providing sales and design services to **Ace Sign Company** (an 80-year-old family owned and operated business) to providing support to our own vintage shop, **Urban Artifacts**, shared with my husband, Jon Walker”. Angie and Jon are also co-owners of **Studios on Sheridan at the Sunbeam Building**, specializing in artist studios, makers and entrepreneur workspace. In addition, Angie freelances (**AWalker Design**) in graphic design and project management services to small businesses throughout Peoria.

Angie is quick to give a thumbs up to Peoria: “My first job in Downtown Peoria was at River Station restaurant in the early 80’s, and I’ve been in love with downtown ever since. I continued to work on Main Street at Aimen’s Marking Devices and then at Simantel Group in the early days. I have thoroughly enjoyed watching the evolution of Downtown Peoria grow and change over the years. My husband and I have been living downtown now for several years with our two dogs and two cats and we absolutely love it!”

As far as community involvement, Angie currently serves as a member on the City of Peoria Downtown Advisory Commission (DAC), whose general purpose is to advise the mayor and city council concerning policies, development and operations within the Downtown including the Riverfront and Warehouse Districts. She recently joined the Sculpture Walk Peoria Committee/Arts Partners and is excited to contribute to this group. She has also been a member of the Peoria RiverFront Association since its inception. Angie is a strong advocate for local small businesses and has supported many collaborative efforts to promote supporting local. She is also excited to work with a newly formed Small Business Advisory Board.

When asked what DDC accomplishments she is most proud of, interested in, and/or affected by, she had this to say, “I am most proud of supporting the DDC’s efforts to develop Downtown Peoria. The DDC works with developers, business and property owners, along with city officials and staff to bring many development visions to life, thereby enhancing the quality of life for all in Peoria. As my family is vested in the area, we take great personal and professional interest in supporting the DDC’s work to advocate for the success of Downtown Peoria. I have learned so much by seeing how the behind-the-scenes work and dedication of our board members combine to create tangible and very positive results, from working to update building codes, to assisting developers with the enormous challenges of renovating large-scale warehouse buildings, to sharing resources like Opportunity Zones that can help bring the dreams of small businesses and/or property owners to life. The DDC provides a valuable partnership with the city of Peoria and other organizations by providing liaison and resource services to many projects, including facilitating development financing.”

As far as her vision for Downtown Peoria, Angie says, “As a lifelong Peorian and a downtown residential and commercial property owner, my vision is for a vibrant, walkable, art-filled Downtown Peoria, full of diverse businesses and employers (both small and large), creative and entertainment outlets with a wide variety of dining and living options from which to choose, an

interesting, diverse and dynamic destination that offers an enriched quality of life for Peoria residents and also visitors, opportunities for all, and something for everyone!”

Angie further states, “On a personal level, I am grateful for the opportunity to combine my love for graphic design and marketing with my love for Downtown Peoria.” As a downtown resident, her pulse of the city and acute awareness of its needs is an added benefit to the DDC and the downtown community. We are very fortunate to have Angie as a valued member of our DDC staff.

## Property for Sale Condo/Office for Sale

305 SW Water Street, Peoria, IL



Rarely available Riverfront Commercial Condo for sale in a fully renovated four-story loft building on Water Street. Condo is located on the top floor of the building and is approximately 7025 SF. The unit was completely remodeled and offers high-end finishes throughout while still retaining the original loft characteristics:

- Brick and timber construction
- Tall ceilings and exposed duct work
- Excellent river views
- Currently set up with five private offices
- Two conference rooms
- Training room & large open work areas
- kitchen, I.T. room
- ADA accessible restrooms.

Adjacent to Peoria Riverfront Museum and Caterpillar Visitors Center. Asking price is \$735,000.

For more details, contact Will Hayes at willhayes@josephcamper.com or call him at 309.691.5919 (office) or 309.643.0717 (cell).

## Property for Lease Persimmon Loft Apts.



Are you looking for an apartment in downtown Peoria with a unique, industrial style? Check out the studio and 1 bedroom apartments at Persimmon Lofts located in the Warehouse District! Enjoy unique, industrial style apartments with large windows and spacious, open floor plans. All utilities included as well as high speed internet! Don't miss out on these beautiful units with rent starting at just \$850/month for studios, and \$1200/month for 1 bedroom units! Call today to set up an appointment: (309)691-0900, [www.plsrents.com](http://www.plsrents.com), Mark Wagner, Designated Managing Broker, Professional Leasing & Real Estate Services.

## New Business DRAKEphoto



The DDC welcomes Kelli Drake, owner and professional photographer of DRAKEphoto and Red Haute Images, to the Warehouse District, located in the Mill Building at 203 Persimmon Street, Suite 2G, Peoria, IL 61602.

DRAKEphoto is a portrait studio that offers clients a one-of-a-kind experience tailored to their personality and style, designing and creating custom in-home galleries and other high-quality image products.

Red Haute Images is a professional boudoir photography studio offering classy, tasteful images that empower women and instill confidence. Kelli carefully plans and guides each session, using her creativity to capture beautiful memories for her clients.

Many DRAKEphoto and Red Haute Images sessions are photographed in the beautiful warehouse studio which gives endless options of style, background and more. If you prefer, other sessions are photographed on their private farm property located in East Peoria, or many other amazing Peoria locations, including your own backyard!

For more details, call v (309) 839-1978 or visit: [www.drakephoto.com](http://www.drakephoto.com) | [www.redhauteimages.com](http://www.redhauteimages.com)

## New Business OSF OnCall



Welcome to OSF's new on call center in downtown Peoria! About 400 employees will work in OSF HealthCare's new OnCall building at 330 SW Adams Street, the former Caterpillar LD building. OSF purchased the building not long after acquiring the historic Block and Kuhl building, which is currently being remodeled to house OSF's corporate headquarters. As the number of employees grows, so will the foot traffic in downtown Peoria.

Find out more about this newest addition to downtown Peoria by reading the complete article published in the Peoria Journal Star last month: <https://www.pjstar.com/story/business>.

## Downtown Business Feature

### Peoria Public Library



All Peoria Public Library locations have opened for brief browsing and public computer access as of Feb. 1 while continuing to offer the convenience of curbside pickup and other remote services. Whether you love to browse the bookshelves for inspiration or prefer the digital library, Peoria Public Library has something for everyone. The collection is worth millions, but it's their expertise that's priceless.

For Downtown residents, the Main Library at the corner of Main and Monroe streets has the largest physical collection of books, magazines, movies and music of all five PPL locations. Main Library is also home to the Local History and Genealogy Department, a vast collection highlighting the history of Peoria, reputed to be the oldest European settlement in Illinois.

The library's dedicated and knowledgeable staff can help prospective developers uncover the history of Downtown's historic buildings as they did for OSF. The library's help was instrumental in securing the historic tax credits to allow the redevelopment of the former Chase Bank building into OSF's new headquarters, scheduled to open in early 2022. More than 750 OSF Healthcare employees will work in the building, which is located near the newly opened OnCall Center at 330 SW Adams with its additional 400 OSF employees, post-COVID.

During COVID, access to the library's digital offerings has surged. Below are some of the most popular digital offerings.

### Flipster



New in January, visit the library's website or download the Flipster app to have unlimited access to 70 popular and niche magazines on your computer, mobile device or tablet.

You use your Peoria Public Library card for access. With Flipster, you can also access back issues, search by keyword and, depending on the publisher, even print pages from your favorite publication.

### Hoopla



This digital streaming service is like Netflix on steroids. Download ebooks and audio books or watch popular movies, television and music. Nearly a million titles. Each PPL patron has 8 checkouts per month, which renew monthly.

### Digital newspapers

From the Journal Star to the New York Times to the Times of London, read newspapers from around the world with the library's two digital databases, NewsBank and ProQuest Newsstand. Free with your Peoria Public Library card.

### Kanopy

From quirky independent films to classics and documentaries you can't find elsewhere, Kanopy offers a unique movie-going experience online. Also includes The Great Courses and an extensive kids' collection.

### Consumer Reports

Access to unbiased reviews and reports on more than 9,000 products via Consumer Reports. The library's online subscription is available to cardholders.

Finally, a couple best-kept secrets about Main Library that Downtown residents should know...

Main Library is home to a large bookstore run by Friends of Peoria Public Library, a nonprofit that supports the library. The bookstore, in the library's basement, has more than 10,000 books, DVDs and CDs for sale at penny-pincher prices. Currently closed due to COVID.

### Rooms for "rent."

Main Library offers a wide variety of spaces – from study rooms to an auditorium able to seat 80 people comfortably – which you can reserve for free for meetings. While free, reservation rules do apply. Currently closed due to COVID.

### InterLibrary Loan

Just because Peoria Public Library doesn't have it, doesn't mean you can't. Library staff has the resources to track down materials from libraries across the country for you to borrow.

Visit [www.peoriapubliclibrary.org](http://www.peoriapubliclibrary.org) and the library's social media for more information or call any PPL locations and let the librarians and information professionals help you.

## Downtown Peoria Business News

### Pop-A-Shot Arcade Games



Pop-A-Shot, creator of the Original Arcade Basketball Game, has launched a line of 30 different officially-licensed NBA games. Fans can now play their home basketball game in their favorite

NBA team's colors. "We're very excited to have the opportunity to partner with the NBA," said Pop-A-Shot CEO Tony Stucker. "Offering officially-licensed NBA games has been a goal since we purchased the company." Each game will have a backboard designed specifically for that team, with team colors, name, and logo. Pop-a-Shot also makes NCAA licensed games and has created custom games for numerous teams and brands. For more information about Pop-A-Shot Arcade Games check out their website at [www.popashot.net](http://www.popashot.net) or check out their instagram page @popashot.

## Arts Partners of Central IL

ArtsPartners is looking for 21 people to pledge \$21 per month in the year 2021 - this is Sculpture Walk Peoria's 21 in '21 Campaign! The future of Sculpture Walk is dependent upon



people like you, so donate today at <https://bit.ly/SWP-21-in-21>. For activities in the arts, visit the calendar at [www.artspartners.net/calendar/](http://www.artspartners.net/calendar/).

## Peoria Chiefs



The Peoria Chiefs are excited to announce that as part of Major League Baseball's minor league restructuring, Peoria has been invited to continue its St. Louis Cardinals affiliation and move to the High A level.

Jason Mott, Chiefs General Manager: "We are excited to share this news with the Peoria and surrounding communities. The St. Louis Cardinals are a top-notch organization, and we are thrilled to continue the eight-year relationship we have had with them. Moving up to High A is an exciting time for our organization and will allow our fans in Central Illinois to see even better baseball than we have in the past. We are eager to get our fans and baseball back at Dozer Park in 2021."

John Mozeliak, Cardinals President of Baseball Operations: "We are grateful for our relationship with the Peoria Chiefs and look forward to having our minor league players continue their development with such a well-run and fan-friendly franchise."

The Chiefs are a committed community asset and premier venue for all of us in Central IL. For schedule information visit [www.peoriachiefs.com](http://www.peoriachiefs.com). **Go, Chiefs!**

## Ryan Spain Named Assistant Republican Leader

We have exciting news to share for one of our founding DDC board members! After having served as Republican Conference Chairman for the past year and a half, State Representative Ryan Spain was promoted by House Republican Minority Leader Jim Durkin to the post of

Assistant Republican Leader. “When negotiations are needed on tough issues, I trust Ryan Spain to represent the values of our caucus while striving to find common ground across the aisle,” said Leader Durkin regarding the appointment.

**Congratulations, Ryan!** We value your expertise on the DDC board as well! Visit Rep. Spain’s web site for more information at [www.repryanspain.com](http://www.repryanspain.com).



Photo credit: [www.chriskhouryproductions.com](http://www.chriskhouryproductions.com)

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

Michael J. Freiling, President/CEO  
**Downtown Development Corporation of Peoria (DDC)**  
403 NE Jefferson Ave  
Peoria, IL 61603-3725  
**e:** [michael@downtownpeoria.us](mailto:michael@downtownpeoria.us)  
**m:** 309.369.6038

**Follow us** on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn!

Per the DDC bylaws, in making appointments to the Board, consideration is given to the needs of the Corporation, the potential appointee’s experience, background and interest in the Corporation and economic development matters, and the benefits to the Corporation to be derived from the service of the appointee. No person who has a sustained conflict of interest between his own responsibilities and interest and those of the Corporation (e.g. being a developer in the downtown or rental property owner) shall be appointed to or remain on the Board of Directors. In addition to other appropriate qualifications, all persons appointed to the Board of Directors shall possess high civic ideals and shall vigorously represent the entity or district from which they have been selected.