



# DOWNTOWN PEORIA NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2022

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## DDC Activities

### DDC 2022 Annual Report

Our 2022 annual report has been approved by the DDC Board and is available on our web site at [www.downtownpeoria.us](http://www.downtownpeoria.us). Despite the pandemic, we are seeing an uptick in retail and large commercial interests in the downtown, as you will see in this report. We welcome your feedback and thoughts on the future of downtown Peoria. We are here today for a better tomorrow!

### DDC 2022 Fundraising Campaign

Our 2022 fundraising campaign has begun. Letters and invoices were sent to our contributors at the end of July. As a nonprofit organization, we want to thank our founders and loyal contributors who have sustained us since our inception in 2014 and hope that we can count on you once again in our efforts to revitalize Downtown Peoria. If you are not currently a contributor to the DDC but would like to be, please contact Michael Freiling, DDC President/CEO, at [michael@downtownpeoria.us](mailto:michael@downtownpeoria.us) or call him at (309) 369-6038. A sustainable downtown has regional impact!

*Thank  
You!*

## Two-way Street Restoration

Last month, DDC staff attended an open house sponsored by the City of Peoria to gain public input regarding a proposed two-way street restoration project on Jefferson and Adams Street. The entire City of Peoria, Downtown business and property owners, employees and residents, will all benefit from this restoration of the two-way streets. We are looking forward to slowing down traffic for the safety of pedestrians, expanded bike lanes, among many other positive improvements and create a more user friendly visitor experience! There is more to this plan than meets the eye. We appreciate all the hard work by the engineers and city staff. Construction is expected to begin in 2023.

## DDC Director Spotlight

### Branden Martin



New to the DDC board as of May 2022 is Branden Martin, replacing outgoing board member Jeff Kolbus in the Real Estate and Development seat. Branden wears many hats. He is a Realtor on The Mari Halliday Team/Jim Maloof Realtor, President of Yolo Productions LLC, President of Cell Phone Repair Peoria & Normal, President of Riptide Media Group LLC, President of Pumpkin Postal FedEx, and Vice President of The BEST Homes LLC. He also serves as a member on the City of Peoria Zoning & Planning Commission.

Branden was appointed to the DDC Board by the Peoria Area Association of Realtors (PAAR). Speaking for the DDC, he states, **“I am proud to see the transformation that has already taken place in these old historic buildings that have sat empty for so long. My vision is to see downtown Peoria thriving with people and families living and enjoying what**

**this great community has to offer. I believe restoring the hustle and bustle of our great downtown will continue to solidify our strength in central Illinois.”** We welcome Branden to the DDC Board of Directors. We are already seeing the energy and expertise he brings to the Board and to all of the Peoria region.

# Property for Lease

## Winkler Warehouses



**WINKLER  
LOFTS**

LOFTS  
CURRENTLY  
AVAILABLE

@

call

309 691 0900

**WINKLER  
PLACE**

After five years of sustained occupancy at Winkler Lofts (733 SW Washington Street in Peoria, IL), the Winkler family has added 36 new loft apartments and up to 12,000 square feet of commercial space in their Winkler Place development next door at 725 SW Washington. This addition, 1/2 block from Dozer Park and 3 blocks from the Peoria Riverfront, brings a total of 64 unique loft apartments and 18,000 square feet of commercial space to the Peoria Historic Warehouse District. If you follow their Facebook page, you may have noticed their page name changed from Winkler Lofts to Winkler Warehouses to harness the synergy of the two sister developments given their proximity (right next door), similarities (loft style apartments), and now availability (there are now lofts for rent at Winkler Place).

Each Winkler Warehouse property is still owned and operated by the Winkler family and managed by Professional Leasing and Real Estate Services. Check out this video for a tour of Winkler Place and please share the video with those who might be interested in making their home in the popular Warehouse District. In addition, see their new webpage at [www.WinklerWarehouses.com](http://www.WinklerWarehouses.com). For apartment information, please contact PLS at 309-691-0900. For commercial space, contact Doug Winkler at [Doug@WinklerWarehouses.com](mailto:Doug@WinklerWarehouses.com).

## 330 SW Water Street



A rare and exclusive opportunity to locate your business right on the water's edge, at Peoria's beautiful, festive, and ever-evolving Riverfront! This truly unique address boasts 360 degree river and cityscape views.

Property details:

6000 + sf, 2 decks: 1 directly above the water.

Open air footprint. Brick motif. Office, restaurant, bar (plus rooftop bar possible).

Ample parking. Kemper Architects: Consultants. Lease with first option to purchase.

For more information on this unique property, contact Sherye Przybyla, Broker Associate, Jim Maloof / Realtor Residential / Commercial, Cell: 309.242.4443.

## New Business Spotlight

### River City CrossFit



A new gym/physical fitness center is located downtown at 706 N. William Kumpf Blvd. River City CrossFit provides a platform for bringing health, happiness, and performance to all walks of life. It is their mission to ensure that the opportunity of CrossFit is available to everyone. It's \$75 for intro classes. A new session starts every other Monday. Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/RiverCityCrossFit>.

## Downtown Activities

### Peoria Historical Society



The roots of the Peoria Historical Society can be traced as far back as 1839. Incorporated in 1934 as the Peoria Historical Society, the Society was established to enhance the quality of life in the Peoria area by: collecting, preserving and displaying items relating to our history; encouraging and supporting historical research and education; and promoting and sustaining public

interest in the history and contributions of our people and organizations.

Check out Peoria Historical Society's history bus tours: History on the Move. These tours run through October 28. There are nine different tours from which to choose! The tours leave from in front of the CAT Visitors Center on Fridays and Saturdays. The tours are two hours long and cost \$20 per person. To purchase tickets go to at [www.309tix.com](http://www.309tix.com). Walking tours are held the third Thursday of the month, June to October. See [www.peoriahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.peoriahistoricalsociety.org) for more information.

# Peoria Riverfront Market



The Downtown Peoria RiverFront Market is still going strong! Located in the 200 block of SW Water Street, the market is the place to be every Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon for fresh produce, meats and treats, custom hand-made art and jewelry, beautiful fresh flower bouquets, and so much more! Come to the riverfront and support local!

## IGNITE PEORIA IS BACK!



**SPARK  
YOUR  
CREATIVITY**



**ignite  
PEORIA**

Home of  
**MIDWEST  
MAKERFEST**

**AUGUST 13TH | 9AM-5PM**  
*Peoria Civic Center*  
**FREE ADMISSION! | FREE PARKING!**

Central Illinois' premiere arts and makers fest returns to the Peoria Civic Center on August 13! Perfect for the whole family, Ignite Peoria showcases hundreds of local makers, musicians, artists, innovators, dancers, and actors, in one STEAM inspired interactive FREE day of fun and learning! The Proud Home MidWest Makerfest, and

Sensory Ignite, this one-of-a-kind festival boasts over 65 hands-on creation station booths where attendees can learn about singing, writing, dancing, building, acting, painting, drawing, coding, 3D printing, robotics, and so much more! Additionally, the event showcases theatre, dance, spoken word, literary arts, and includes two live performance stages, a flying drone course demonstration, and a live photo shoot at Fashion Ignite! And it's free! So mark your calendars and join us for the return of Ignite Peoria 2022!

Main Stage Performances will include: Corn Stock Theatre, Nitsch Theatre Arts, Peoria Players, Coach Bre Cottage, Penguin Players, Pava Productions, Central Illinois Ballet, John Wahl, Carl Bopp, The Filipino American Society of Central, Illinois, Peoria Ballet, and the Peoria Magicians Assembly. For more information on this enlightening event, visit [www.artspartners.net/ignite-peoria](http://www.artspartners.net/ignite-peoria).

## **It's Festival Time at the RiverFront!**



Get your fest on and set your feet to tapping. Come down to the riverfront to embrace our vast heritage. Over the next two months, the town will be hopping as we welcome the Irish Fest, German Fest, and Blues Fest. We will also throw in the 60th annual art fair in September sponsored by the Peoria Art Guild. Volunteers are always needed. For more information, visit the Peoria RiverFront Association web site [www.visitdowntownpeoria.com](http://www.visitdowntownpeoria.com). Also, be sure to follow Peoria RiverFront Events/CEFCU Center Stage @ The Landing at <https://www.facebook.com/riverfrontevents>.

## **Visit Peoria!**

The DDC web site is a wonderful resource for things to do in downtown Peoria. With fall quickly approaching, downtown Peoria is coming alive with markets, fine arts, great food and entertainment. In collaboration with Peoria Riverfront Association, we keep an updated pulse on downtown activities. If you are looking for fun, visit our web site at [www.downtownpeoria.us/play](http://www.downtownpeoria.us/play).

# Announcements

## Greater Peoria 2030 Splash Bash!



SAVE THE DATE // AUGUST 25, 2022

- Families are welcome
- Light snacks will be served
- Lifeguard will be on duty
- Cash bar available
- Tours of Mt. Hawley Country Club are available for anyone interested

See [www.facebook.com/events/741334713664075?ref=newsfeed](https://www.facebook.com/events/741334713664075?ref=newsfeed) for more details.

Visit [www.facebook.com/@thisisgreaterpeoria](https://www.facebook.com/@thisisgreaterpeoria) to learn more about the Greater Peoria 2030 Talent Attraction Initiative Events and Activities!

The Greater Peoria 2030 Initiative is hosting another transplant welcome party! Please join us for an end of summer pool party to mingle with other Greater Peoria newcomers. So, put on your swimsuits and join us by the Mt. Hawley Country Club pool for light snacks, cold beverages, and an opportunity to meet other newbies.

## WCBU Transplant Initiative



WCBU has begun a new “transplant initiative” to better serve the new members of our community here in the Peoria area. They are looking to roll out a new series of stories over the next few months based on the transplant experience. To do that, they are trying to get to know their neighbors a bit better and learn more about what sort of content they would like to see as well as questions they have about this area through a short survey. The link to the survey is [www.WCBU.org/NewHere](https://www.WCBU.org/NewHere). Please help them out by taking the survey on or before August 16th.

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# WTVP – You Gotta See This! By Peoria Magazines



WTVP PBS

We would like to give a shout out to Phil Luciano and Julie Sanders for including a segment on downtown living with our very own DDC President Michael Freiling on their July 5th episode. Did you know that we will be adding 500 new residents to downtown Peoria over the

next couple of years?! Wow, that's a lot of people to spur new retail and commercial development in the popular Warehouse District! To view this and other informative segments about the greater Peoria region, visit the web site at [www.wtvp.org/local-programs/you-gotta-see-this](http://www.wtvp.org/local-programs/you-gotta-see-this). Thank you, Phil and Julie, for expanding our knowledge about our region's new and not-so-new attractions.



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

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

**Downtown Development Corporation of Peoria (DDC)**

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