

The Enjoy Peoria Post

The Official Newsletter of the Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau



Ho-Ho-Ho, the Santas Return!

Enjoy Peoria is proud to announce the return of the Santas for the 4th Annual Santa Cause 5K - Saturday, December 8th!

This year, Junction City is bringing our participants more holiday fun! After the race, participants are invited to a post-race party at Junction City for the presentation of awards, refreshments, live music and more!

For registration and event information, visit peoriasantacause.com!

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Support Your Community This Holiday Season

By: Don Welch

With temperatures starting to drop these last couple of weeks, I'm reminded that fall is here. That means the holidays are right around the corner, and many of us are already thinking about what to get our friends and families for gifts.



When looking for that perfect gift, SHOP LOCAL! Yes, online shopping is convenient, and we all appreciate that. Sadly, our area sees little to no economic impact locally when using websites such as Amazon.

Recently, local city and county officials, along with our wonderful chambers of commerce, released a new campaign called Shop Local 365. This community movement sheds light on the importance of shopping local and the impact that it has on our economy. The numbers are clear; for every 100 dollars spent in a local store, \$3.50 goes back to your city and county. However, when you shop online, a mere \$0.12 will go back in to city and county funding

What does this mean for you? Shopping online means departments like your fire department and public works department receive less money. As a taxpayer, you lose out when taxes are raised or those pesky potholes cannot be fixed due to a lack of funding. Unfortunately, local brick and mortar stores are affected as well. Mom and pop stores rely on us to buy local so that they can afford their utilities or groceries – things that are necessities to all of us.

When you are shopping for gifts this holiday season, PLEASE remember our local businesses. Driving to Washington Square or to Downtown Morton benefits the local stores, local governments and residents more than a few clicks of a mouse. Visit www.shoplocal365.co for more statistics and resources on how you can help your community.

Supporting your local businesses does not shop in the retail sector. When looking for ways to entertain friends and family this holiday season, keep in mind our wonderful attractions and seasonal events. The Peoria Area has some of the best holiday entertainment in the state. Take a stroll through FOLEPI's Winter Wonderland in East Peoria or the poinsettia show at Luthy Botanical Gardens. Enjoy a nice dinner with loved ones at one of the many local restaurants in the area. Show your visitors around the Caterpillar Visitors Center or Peoria Riverfront Museum. Test your skills at one of the many escape rooms in the area, or let the kids burn off some energy at the trampoline park. The Peoria Area has entertainment options for all your family and friends.

Take some time to make some memories the next few months. From all of us at Enjoy Peoria, we hope you have a joyous holiday season!

Peoria Area Promotions

The Enjoy Peoria Marketing Team has been hard at work promoting our wonderful partners and events! Check out what they've been up to!

2019 Experience Guide

Ad Sales

Planning has commenced for our 2019 Experience Guide! Advertising opportunities and pricing are available for view at [www.peoria.org/Partnership Advertising](http://www.peoria.org/PartnershipAdvertising).

For more information, contact Cara Allen at callen@peoria.org

Video Gallery

Check out [our video gallery](#) to watch Happy 1/2 Hour episodes, Tourin' Tidbits, Commercials and more!

Upcoming Holiday Events

- November 16th - November 24th - Hometown Holidays, Morton
- November 17th - East Peoria Parade of Lights, East Peoria
- November 23rd - Santa Claus Parade, Downtown Peoria
- November 30th - Christmas on Court, Court Street, Pekin
- December 6th - Annual Candlelight Stroll, Washington
- December 7-9th - Santa's Wildlife Express, Wildlife Prairie Park
- December 8th - Santa Cause 5K, Junction City, Peoria
- December 8th - The Nutcracker, Peoria Civic Center
- December 31st - New Year's Eve Countdown, Peoria Civic Center

PACVB Annual Meeting

This quarter, we hosted our Annual Meeting for our partners, city officials and Board of Directors. Congratulations to the following award winners:

Advocate of the Year: Sharon Gramm, Executive Director, Peoria Riverfront District

Friend of Tourism Award: Willis Thomas, Mark Henry & Rudy Booth

Small Partner of the Year: Mackinaw Valley Vineyard and Winery

Large Partner of the Year: Par-A-Dice Hotel Casino
Steve Kouri MVP: Louisville Slugger Sports Complex

Welcome Enjoy Peoria's Newest Partners!

Art at the Bodega

Blue Falcon Battleground

Chillicothe Historical Society

Edge by Chef Dustin Allen

Escapetown Peoria

Freekwen-C

Happy Thought Coffee

Industry Brewing Company

Madden Media

Maurie's of Pekin

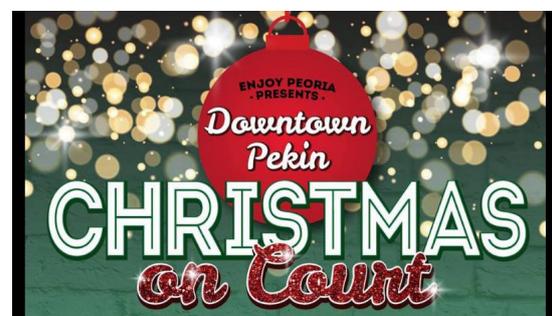
McMahon's Pints and Plates

Nat's Place

Odie's

Sugarcane Shack

Wolf Hollow Archery



Sales and Client Services

Each day, we are working diligently to bring economic growth to our communities by bringing in new businesses to our area venues and hotels. Here is the fruit of our labor this quarter!



Future Bookings

Quarter 3 Bookings will generate \$2.85 Million in Economic Impact to our communities

Major Groups Serviced in QTR 3

- American Junior Golf Association, 2018 AJGA D.A. Points Junior at Pekin Country Club
- Waechter Conference, 2018 Waechter Summer Conference
- Illinois Society of Association Executives, 2018 Summer Session
- Professional Disc Golf Association, 2018 Ledgestone Insurance Open



Bring Your Meeting Home

Keeping Conventions and Sporting Groups in the Peoria Area helps our community succeed by creating new jobs, increasing tax revenues, and creating more opportunity for growth and development in our area!

You may have received a survey for Bring Your Meeting Home, please take a minute to fill it out, we appreciate your assistance! For more information, please contact Joni Staley at jstaley@peoria.org



About Us

Our mission is to promote the Peoria Area as a destination and contribute to the economic growth of the communities we represent.

Enjoy Peoria Staff

Don Welch, President & CEO

Gail Hedrick, VP of Finance & Admin.

Cara Allen, VP of Marketing and Operations

Joni Staley, Director of Sales

Danielle Bensing, Convention/Sports Sales Manager

Lelonie Luft, Convention Sales Manager

Kim McKune, Convention Services Manager

Heather Soviar, Graphic Design/New Media Manager

Trianna Kientzle, Marketing Project Manager

Andrew Barra, Marketing Specialist

Ashley Randall, Marketing and Events Assistant

Melissa Cavanaugh, Finance & Admin. Coordinator

Enjoy Peoria Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Mr. Dan Kouri - Chair - HOIHA

Mr. Brad Ingram - Vice Chair - Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen

Mr. Gary Densberger - Secretary/Treasurer - City of East Peoria

Ms. Leigh Ann Brown - Past Chair - Morton EDC & Morton Chamber of Commerce

Mrs. Sherrill West - City of Washington

Mr. Rex Linder - Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen

Members

Mr. Derrick Booth - Peoria Public Schools

Mr. Carl Bunker - R & B Productions

Ms. Jill Crowder - Petersen Hotels

Mr. Allen Cullinan - R. A. Cullinan & Sons

Mr. J.D. Dalfonso - PCCA

Mr. Rusty Dunn - Caterpillar

Mr. Rik Edgar - Peoria Civic Center

Mr. Jeff Griffin - Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce

Mr. David Haney - U of I College of Medicine

Mr. Jeff McLinden - Peoria Marriott Pere Marquette

Ms. Susan Morton - Caterpillar Visitors Center

Ms. Ginger Hermann - Village of Morton

Mr. Mark Rotherth - City of Pekin

Ms. Cori Rutherford - Par-A-Dice Hotel Casino

Mr. Christopher Setti - Greater Peoria EDC

Contact Us



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