



2019:



A REVIEW OF WHAT'S
HAPPENED IN PERU



The year 2019 marks my 10th serving as your Mayor. It's hard to believe how quickly the time has passed! In those 10 years, I have been diligently absorbing as much information as possible on all aspects of the city to help Peru continue moving in a positive direction. From policies and services, to economic development and budgeting, to the operations of the various departments, there is a wide-ranging, ever-evolving variety of functions to familiarize yourself with. It has been enthralling, educational, enlightening, challenging...and I have embraced every minute of it. I love Peru and I am proud to serve as your Mayor.

As mentioned above, the goal is to continue moving Peru in a positive direction. The following pages will look back on some of the events and achievements of the past year, and what it took to make them possible. We will hear from one of Peru's longest-serving board members as he reflects on the city's past and his hopes for the future. We will discover our quiet heroes and their efforts in helping their neighbors, and their city. We will summarize the 2019 infrastructure projects and see what lies ahead for 2020. In all, we hope you discover some of the things that make you proud to live in our city. Peru Pride!

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YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY

The skating season opened in Peru as the ice rink at Splash Field opened for business. A big shout out to Illinois Valley Ice Sports and to the volunteers who prepared the rink for action!

With temperatures plummeting into the subzero range during the last days of January, Peru firefighters stayed at the firehouse volunteering their time to staff the first fire engine out. A very big thank you to our firefighters for the time and dedication you give to ensure quick response time and the best protection to the citizens of Peru and our fire district.

Side Note: In the early morning of January 30, 2019, the Peru Airport reported a 48-hour low temperature of -24. That's colder than the average low temperature of the North Pole in January, which hovers around -20 degrees!



FEBRUARY

In its annual report submitted to Council, the Peru Police Department noted over the last 13 years, crime in the City of Peru dropped to a new low representing a 60.9% drop in crime during this period. Chief Bernabei acknowledged the professionalism of the men and women who serve as sworn officers and civilian support staff, as well as the ongoing support of area residents, local businesses, elected officials and others who help meet the challenges of the changing public safety needs of our community.

MARCH

U.S. 6 from Mary Street in Spring Valley to Harrison Street in Peru was officially named the "Kaszynski Brothers Memorial Highway" in honor of the six Kaszynski brothers of Peru who all served during World War II. Five of the brothers including Bernard, Florian, Thaddeus, Alex Jr. and Richard served in the U.S. Army. Chester Kaszynski served in the U.S. Merchant marine during World War II and with the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Alex Kaszynski, pictured here with his family, went on to work for the City of Peru Water and Electric Departments until his retirement in 1987. Alex passed away March 2, 2019.

Members of the City of Peru BB Gun Club wrapped up another successful year. Peru's club defeated Oglesby's club for the first time at the annual shootout competition. Congratulations to all who participated!



APRIL

Volunteers gathered together to do something phenomenal for our city in honor of Earth Day. Participants took to the streets to clean up litter along the Shooting Park Road and Route 6 corridors. Thank you, volunteers!

Peru Police Department's K9 Saxon received a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Saxon's vest is sponsored by Yorkville Paws & Claws of Yorkville, IL and is embroidered with the sentiment "Born to Love-Trained to Serve-Loyal Always".

Ladd Cub Scout Pack 4051 visited the Peru Fire Department and tested their extinguishing skills.



JUNE

Thanks to the hard work of Eagle Scout Christian Risk and Peru Librarian Lynn Sheedy, kids are enjoying stories as they stroll the perimeter of Splash Field. Christian took his idea for an Eagle Scout Service Project and made it into a reality with the Story Book Walk. Congratulations and thank you, Christian and Lynn!

The playground at Splash Field opened giving excited kids another feature to enjoy at the fun-filled complex. Originally part of the Washington School playground, the equipment was donated by Peru Public Schools.

Coal Miners Rugby Club stopped by the council meeting to thank the city for letting them practice at Baker Lake. Congratulations Coal Miners on your state title!



MAY

Peru Police Commander Sarah Raymond graduated from the academy class of upper level police managers from the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety School of Staff and Command. The Peru Police Department has a long tradition of sending our senior command officers to this 10-week, extensive upper management level program. Commander Raymond was elected by her peers to class vice president. Congratulations to Commander Raymond!

Hook, line and sinker, kids of all ages enjoyed the 21st Annual Kids Fishing Expo at Baker Lake. The yearly event features how-to clinics, games, prizes, food and drinks, and of course - fishing! Thank you to the Better Fishing Association of Northern Illinois, all the volunteers and sponsors for making the expo a success!

The 2019 TBM Avenger Reunion & Salute to Veterans turned into a 2-day event beginning with a car cruise, beer garden, food and live music on Friday. To add to the fun, renowned air show performer Matt Younkin put on a display with his spectacular nighttime aerobatics air act. While Saturday's weather did not fully cooperate for all scheduled events, pilots took advantage of clearer morning skies for some flying time and a procession of veterans took part in the patriotic Parade of Veterans.



JULY

Crowds gathered on Water Street to enjoy food, festivities and family fun at the city's annual 4th of July celebration. The spectacular fireworks show sparkled over the river waterfront, in synch with a score of patriotic music.

AUGUST

The City of Peru hosted a private party with food and play at Splash Field to thank all who helped with Hope Week. Hope Week is a group of volunteers, lead by Ax Church, who work and assist with various projects across the Illinois Valley. Their efforts are visible in city parks, libraries, and other public places. Thank you, Hope Week volunteers!

The City of Peru's Municipal band filled the summer air with music under the conducting skills of new director Brandon Czubachowski. Brandon did a wonderful job leading the band to a crowd gathered at beautiful Maud Powell Plaza.

Car fans checked out plenty of incredible makes and models at the 20th Annual Illinois Valley Rodders Car Show and Peru Citizens Service Organization Picnic in the Park. Family fun included kids' activities, food and refreshments.

Peru city officials, police, fire and EMS paraded to Northview School to "kick off the school year" with a fun game of kickball during recess. Thank you to the Northview students and staff for an entertaining afternoon!

Music fans listened to the tunes of some wonderful bands during the Music in the Park concert series at beautiful Centennial Park.



SEPTEMBER

The Peru Veterans Memorial Group conducted a ceremony at Washington Park for the dedication of a new flagpole and monument displaying the plaque from the Peru Municipal Pool built in 1927 and rededicated in 1987. Thank you to the Peru Veterans Memorial Group for carrying out the project which was the vision of former Alderman Bob Ankiewicz.

The Illinois Valley Flying Club held the annual Fly-in/Drive-in Breakfast at the airport. In addition to the delicious food, attendees also had the opportunity to purchase plane or helicopter rides.

The City of Peru Health & Wellness Committee presented a check for \$4,500.00 to the local Starved Rock chapter of the Special Olympics during the council meeting. The committee held a golf outing in September which raised funds for the organization. Thank you to all who participated and donated to make this a successful event!



OCTOBER

Roughly 200-300 people fought the cold to attend the Peru Fire Department Open House to meet the local firefighters, tour the station, take some ladder rides and participate in activities to learn about fire safety. Thank you to all the businesses that donated and helped with the event!

Peru Fire Department firefighters visited local schools with an inflatable fire education house during Fire Prevention Week. This inflatable house helps assist firefighters in teaching children essential skills for staying safe during a fire.

Princesses, superheroes, ghosts, goblins and more paraded their costumes around Washington Park for the annual Halloween Parade. Kids and parents enjoyed refreshments, treat bags, fire truck bucket rides, activities and games.



NOVEMBER

The Peru Veterans Memorial Group paid honor to the service of all U.S. military veterans during Veteran's Day Ceremony.



DECEMBER

December's holiday lineup is jam-packed with events including the Christmas Parade and lighting of the Christmas tree at City Hall, kids' activities, the Christmas tree lighting at Maud Powell Plaza, caroling, the Pearl Harbor Day Parade, and the Peru & LaSalle Fire Department's Breakfast with Santa. Make plans to join us throughout the year for these and more fun activities!



DOUG BIEDERSTEDT

Appraiser, realtor, architectural draftsman, volunteer board member, board vice chairman, board chairman, Illini fan, Indy 500 fan, friend, father, grandfather...and the list goes on.

There are a lot of words that can be used to describe Doug Biederstedt, or DOB as he is known around the city hallways. But there is a single word that sums them all up: involved.

Douglas Biederstedt was born in Peru and raised in Bureau and Princeton. After graduating from Princeton High School in 1960, he attended an Indianapolis trade school where he graduated with a degree in architectural engineering. He took a job with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Park District, married a local girl from Dalzell, and soon welcomed two children, Kim and Mike.

Since the appeal of small-town living drew the Biederstedts back to the Illinois Valley, he began interviewing throughout the area. "When I was hired with Chamlin Engineering, my career in Peru was in full swing," said Biederstedt. He started as an architectural draftsman and eventually began performing engineering work, field work and inspections during the summer, diversifying himself with a little bit of everything.

After 3 years, he took a position as the main assistant for John Richards, a Peru architect with offices in both Wisconsin and Peru. In 1970, Biederstedt saw opportunity in the real estate business. He worked for a couple of agencies before eventually purchasing his own office at the corner of 7th and Peoria Street. There, he ventured into appraisals while staying somewhat active in the real estate business. He continued conducting appraisals up until about 6 years ago.

Although work kept him plenty busy, Biederstedt found time to become involved with his community. "As I look back, when I joined the Jaycees back in the 60's, that put a spark in me," he said. "I went through some of the different chairs and leaderships with the local Jaycee group, the Illinois Jaycees and the national Jaycees. And that's when I think I started getting involved with the city - I wanted to see things happen."

Former Peru Mayor Don Baker reached out to Biederstedt in the late 60's regarding becoming a member of the Plan Commission. "At that time, I was the new, young kid on the block. That involved me in planning and city politics." Several years later, he became a member of the city's Zoning Board of Appeals as well.

Biederstedt also served on the city's Downtown Redevelopment Committee, which concentrated on creating a central core for the downtown business district. The goal of the program was to revitalize old buildings, while keeping their architectural value and appearances, replace structures which were not salvageable with new buildings and create new parking lots, all within design standards established by the committee. He recalls the buildings on either side of the Maude Powell Plaza being two such projects.

That's not where Biederstedt's committee involvement ended. He also served on the Private Industry Council, a group that worked on grants for the community; had perfect attendance as a Rotary member for over 20 years; and served as Peru township assessor for 31 years.

Biederstedt's city commitments also continued with the Design & Review Committee and more recently the combined Planning/Zoning Commission. Altogether, he was an active member of the city's planning/zoning boards for more than 50 years before his retirement in 2018. "I had talked to a couple of other committee members and said, 'I'm going to be pulling the plug one of these days,'" noted Biederstedt. While adding he sometimes misses it, he was confident he was leaving the city in good hands, "The group that was in there was a new group. They were interested."

Biederstedt indicated the new buildings constructed under the Downtown Redevelopment Committee, the growth to the north and the growth further north of Interstate 80 as being amongst the memorable projects he was proud to be involved with. "I think the development of the airport has been very, very positive," he added.

As far as aspirations for the city's future, Biederstedt stated, "I would like to see it developed more – both commercial and residential." Channeling his real estate background, he noted Peru homes do not sit for very long in the current market. Commercially, he hopes to see the Peru Mall area developed or redeveloped and additional development to the north of Interstate 80, adding that new development takes time and can be in the planning stages for years. Possibly the most important objective in his eyes would be a continued focus on the downtown area. He noted renovation work done on buildings such as Prokup Media and Stone Jug Barbeque and hopes the redevelopment will continue east toward Westclox, which is also experiencing a revitalization. I think the economy has turned around in the last several years and people are starting to look at and do more projects.

From a work and board involvement perspective, Biederstedt had planned on retiring from the township, however, he was unexpectedly nominated and won the election for Peru Township supervisor in 2017. He also still actively serves as vice chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the Housing Authority for LaSalle County. He has taken a step back from some aspects of work, but continues to list a few properties, performs review work for Eureka and manages 2 retirement centers in Peru.

As for the future, Biederstedt plans to slow down, take it easy and spend more time with family. "I keep telling myself I'd like to take a trip somewhere, either to Florida, Arizona or Vegas. I'd like to go out to see my grandson, see what he's doing and hang out with him for a week."

An Illini fan and a former season ticket holder, Biederstedt plans to still attend a game now and then. He also looks forward to continuing annual family trips to the races. "My first Indy 500 car race was with my grandfather back in the 50's. We sat in turn 4," he recalls. "We've made it sort of a family tradition for the last several years going to the races over Memorial Day, spending time as a family." The trip includes a visit to the cemetery to place flowers at his grandfather's grave in Crawfordsville, IN.

"It's been an enjoyable life," said Biederstedt. "Would I have done anything different, probably spent a little more time with the kids when they were growing up. But they're two good kids. I'm very proud of them."

Among pieces of advice he would share: "Get involved, don't be afraid. Be a part of your community, just don't absorb from it. You don't have to serve on everything like I did," he jokes. "You don't have to be gone every night of the week. Find 1 or 2 different projects with the city and help them out."

"As I read the Doug "DOB" Biederstedt article, I can't help but think, 'how did he have the time to do everything?' Peru is a more complete community because of Doug's involvement, and we thank him for that. I hope he enjoys his well-deserved retirement."

To my Friend, Thank You!

- Mayor Scott Harl

CLOCK DEDICATION

CHIMING IN

The City of Peru welcomed a striking feature outside of the municipal building this year. All hands were pointed to noon on May 29th for the unveiling and dedication of the new Verdin Street Clock. The custom crafted clock was gifted by Donald L. and Anne Baker to the City of Peru.

FUN FACTS:

- 16.8' tall
- 3.7' wide
- Fully digital Town Crier Carillon system
- Westminster Chime Melody on any or all quarter hours
- Clock strikes on the hour and half hour
- List of over 400 songs including Patriotic, Holiday, Popular, Taps and Last Post on bugle



2019

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Each year, the City of Peru's Engineering Department is responsible for planning, bidding and managing projects which add to or upgrade the city's infrastructure. Projects include pavement maintenance, constructing new streets, water main replacements, drainage improvements and much more. The 2019 program is valued at over five million dollars.

Sewer Separation

The multi-year IEPA mandated sewer separation project continued in 2019 addressing areas near Washington Park and the Splash Pad, as well as Plain Street from 5th to 10th Street. The project included installation of new storm sewer, replacement of approximately 3,400 feet of water main, removal and replacement of approximately 4,300 feet of curb and gutter and 9,000 square feet of sidewalks and repaving of the streets.

North Peoria Street

Construction of a new 16-inch water line and relocation of City of Peru electric utilities were completed along North Peoria Street from Plank Road to Wenzel Road. This was the first phase of several North Peru infrastructure improvements.

General Fund Street Program

This annual program includes street improvement projects in all four wards consisting of various curb and gutter improvements, sidewalk removals and replacements and resurfacing of roads. Work this year addressed areas of 16th Street, Pine Street, Pulaski Street, 14th Street, Baker Park Avenue, 31st Street, Independence Drive, Plum Street, 7th Street, Schuyler Drive, JoAnn Drive, 10th Street, Fulton Street, Church Street, Grant Street, 11th Street, 13th Street and Calhoun Street.

Cemetery Road Resurfacing

The Peru City Cemetery's roads received a new, smooth layer of asphalt in 2019. This update comes on the heels of last year's extensive rehabilitation to the cemetery's mausoleum.

New Downtown Parking Lot

The building across the street from city hall was purchased and demolished earlier this year. With additional parking needed for this busy stretch of downtown, a new city parking lot occupies the site.

East Wastewater Treatment Plant Floodwall

Construction of a floodwall around the city's East Wastewater Treatment Plant was completed in 2019. Approximately 1,450-feet-long, the floodwall is constructed of pre-cast concrete blocks built upon an existing berm with a new flood protection system at the entrance. Work also included installation of a generator and supporting electrical and natural gas piping/controls, installation of three sump pumps and related piping and removal and replacement of fencing.

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2020?

7th Street Water Main Improvements

2020 will bring the first phase of a multi-phase program to replace aging water main along 7th Street. The Phase 1 project will begin at the city's eastern border and continue west to near Pulaski Street.



North Peru Infrastructure

North Peoria Street and Plank Road will be the scene of multiple improvements over the next 2-3 construction seasons. The project is intended to reconstruct, expand and improve a heavily travelled and integral roadway within the City of Peru. As mentioned above, Phase I improvements to N. Peoria Street began this past year with utility upgrades and relocations.

Phase II of the project will include reconstruction of N. Peoria St. from Plank Road to just north of Wenzel Road and a portion of Plank Road from Shooting Park Road to Veterans Park. The project scope includes construction of a third lane to allow for a center turn lane, relocation and grading of the existing storm water ditches, addition of concrete curb and gutter and storm sewers, installation of a 10-foot wide recreational trail, street and trail lighting and construction of a round-a-bout intersection.

Phase II Project Costs: \$3,960,409.50

Funding Sources: City Infrastructure Funds and State MFT Funds

Unytite Drive Extension

Look for Unytite Drive to expand from Donlar Avenue to Plank Road. The road extension is one component of a larger project called PISCES I (Peru Intermodal, Safety, Congestion and Energy Security Project). The City of Peru and private rail owner OmniTRAX paired up to target redevelopment of the road and rail and help improve semitrailer congestion in the area. As an added benefit, the expanded road will provide access to more parcels of land, which in turn may provide additional economic development opportunities. The project was awarded federal funds and bid through the state, with Peru's portion only amounting to approximately \$721,000.

Unytite Drive Project Costs: \$1,487,055.65

Funding Sources: Illinois Competitive Freight Grant Funds, STU Funds, and City General Funds

Midtown Road & Wenzel Road Extensions

Both Midtown Road and 26th Street will be extended to the west. The Midtown Road extension will proceed all the way to Plank Road, while 26th Street will proceed about halfway to Plank Road and extend north to intersect with Midtown Road. The base work for these projects will be completed in 2020, with final construction completed in 2021.

New Police Station

Work on the new Peru Police station will likely get underway in the spring of 2020. The proposed location for the new facility is west of N. Peoria Street and south of Midtown Road. Currently in the design phase, more details on the project will be provided as they become available.

Sewer Separation

Sewer separation will pick up where it left off in 2019. The next phase, known as Area 1 Phase 5, will begin in the spring of 2020, and include areas near and around the IVCH hospital campus and portions of West Street. Like previous areas, the project will include new sewer, water main, curb and gutter, sidewalks and street repaving.

GOOD NEIGHBOR RECOGNITION

When one neighbor helps another, we strengthen our communities. Peru is a prime example of a strong community with good neighbors, including some neighbors that go above and beyond. This past year, Mayor Harl introduced a new program to our city called the "City of Peru Good Neighbor Recognitions." This program gives the city the opportunity to acknowledge some very important heroes in our community. As part of this new program, we are asking folks in our city to inform us when you know of a neighbor who goes beyond... someone that does something extraordinary for a neighbor.

The first recipients to receive recognition in this new program were some of our own friends and neighbors for their actions during a frightening fire situation in their neighborhood.

Arthur Giese instructed his wife to call the incident in and approached the house with another neighbor attempting to get anyone out of the house that may have been inside. Kay Giese contacted 9-1-1 reporting a possible house fire and provided a detailed description of a suspicious person.

Joshua Phillips observed smoke coming from the house and a suspicious person leaving the area of the house. Joshua approached the house and opened the door, attempting to alert anyone inside. He took a yard hose and attempted to put the fire out. Randal Garske, a contractor of Ameren, observed a suspicious person in the area and provided a description of the subject.

Arthur, Kay, Joshua and Randal all provided critical information to aid detectives in their investigation.

The next recipients of the City of Peru Good Neighbor Recognition are some of Peru's finest. Our city's officers always go above and beyond every day to keep our city safe. One day in June, two officers used their knowledge, training and dedication in a situation where every second counts. Peru Police Officers Aaron Querciagrossa and Bradley Anderson received the Good Neighbor Recognition for their efforts in administering CPR and the use of an AED. Their actions saved the life of an Illinois Valley Woman.

Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Scouts BSA program of the Boy Scouts of America. The City was proud to present Good Neighbor Recognitions to Christian Risk, Colton Sittler, Carson Vaske and Joe Vlastnik for their work on projects in Peru as part of their quest to achieve the Eagle Scout ranking. Christian Risk designed and constructed the Story Book Walk at Splash Field this past spring. Colton Sittler provided landscaping to the flagpole area at Splash Field. Carson Vaske painted the interior of the Washington Park concession stand. Joe Vlastnik painted the LaSalle Food Pantry and also volunteered his time on the Peru projects.

Peru residents watched Larry Butkus pick up his baton for the last time as director of the Peru Municipal Band in June. After 28 years of making beautiful music for residents to enjoy, the long-time band conductor gave his retirement performance with the band. Larry was presented the Good Neighbor Recognition for his decades of both band and community leadership.

In September, another residential fire prompted four neighbors to spring into action. Tina Barr alerted 9-1-1 to the fire, while Douglas Barr, Gregory Molina and Anthony Swiskoski rescued two pets that were inside the home. Each received a Good Neighbor Recognition for their measures in responding to the situation.

We'd like to thank all who received the Good Neighbor Recognitions and look forward to hearing of many more neighbors who go above and beyond!

Quiet heroes are sprinkled throughout the City of Peru. They perform deeds silently or with an assuring voice, without fanfare, without the expectation of reward or honor. They serve with grace and humility. This pillar of the community might be a teacher, business owner, mother, father, soldier, adolescent, teenager, athlete, community leader, volunteer or neighbor...the list is endless.

Do you have a neighbor that has done something extraordinary? Contact the City of Peru to tell us your story!



BUILDING PERMITS, CODES AND QUESTIONS

When deciding to take on a home or business improvement project, you will spend time considering style, layout, color, and whether you'll need to hire a contractor or architect. But be sure not to overlook one more, very important step: determining whether you will need a building permit for your project. Building permits are written approvals issued by the city allowing you to proceed with a construction or remodeling project on your property, in accordance with approved drawings and specifications. A permit is required before any construction is conducted on your property to ensure the safety of the work and its compliance with building, construction and zoning codes. As the building owner, you are ultimately responsible for complying with all building requirements.

The following information explains when a building permit is needed, how to apply for one and frequently asked questions.

When is a building permit required?

In general, a building permit is needed whenever you construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, remove, improve, convert or demolish a building or other structure. A building could be anything from a shed to a house. Additionally, some code and property maintenance violations may require a building permit to correct the violations.

The following is a list of common projects that require a building permit. The list is not exhaustive, so be sure to contact the Engineering & Zoning Department at 815-223-1148 if you are unsure whether your project requires a permit.

- Site development
- Grading
- Demolition
- New construction
- Addition/Alteration for commercial, industrial residential
- Anything structural
- Electrical installations, upgrades, underground work
- Utility installations
- Mechanical
- Plumbing
- Fences
- Pools
- Water and sewer connections
- Signs
- Garages
- Basements
- Decks, patios, porches, sunrooms, pool houses
- Sheds (including pre-built sheds)
- Driveways
- Roofs
- New windows or doors where there were none before

Who can apply for a building permit?

Either the property owner or a licensed contractor may apply for a building permit.

Does my contractor need to register with the city?

Yes. All contractors and subcontractors working within the City of Peru must be registered prior to beginning any work. Please contact the City Clerk's Office at 815-223-0061 with questions regarding contractor registration, or the application may be found online at www.peru.il.us

Do I need to hire a professional?

Depending on the size and type of project, you may need the services of a licensed architect or engineer. Our best advice is to check with the staff in the Engineering & Zoning Department to determine if the services of a licensed professional will be needed.

How do I apply for a permit?

Building permit application forms can be obtained online at www.peru.il.us or at the City Municipal Building at 1901 4th Street. The materials required to be submitted will vary depending upon the complexity of the proposed project. Contact the Engineering & Zoning Department for help on what information is needed along with your permit application.

What is the building code?

The building code refers to regulations adopted by the city which outline the requirements for construction of new buildings, additions or alterations to existing buildings. In 2019, the city adopted Chapter 22 - Buildings and Building Regulations, which included the adoption of updated building codes. For further information on current city building codes, see Chapter 22 in the Code of Ordinances.

Will there be any restrictions, such as maximum height or size, etc. that I need to take into consideration?

Yes. There are different rules and regulations depending on the type of project. For items such as garages, accessory structures, fences, off-street parking, signage, etc., this type of information may be found in the city's Zoning Ordinance.

What if my proposed plans fall outside of the rules established by the ordinance?

You have the option of applying for a variance. A variance is a special permission granting relief from a zoning requirement. For more details on the variance process and fees, contact the Engineering & Zoning Department.

Are variances always granted?

No. In order to grant a variance, the Planning/Zoning Commission must determine that there is something unusual about the lot that requires a variance, and that adjacent properties will not be adversely impacted. The variance petitioner needs to show hardship to the property and why the structure cannot be "placed" anywhere else on the property.

Can the city tell me where my property lines are?

The City of Peru does not locate private property lines (nor resolve property line disputes). Property lines are determined by the location of property markers or metal pins placed in the ground at every corner of the property. The most accurate and reliable method to determine a property boundary is to hire a registered land surveyor to perform a survey of your property. Property owners may also attempt to locate property markers themselves using a metal detector. A third method is to locate the paperwork you received when you purchased your home, it may include a plat showing property lines or measurements.

Are there other permits or items that I need to apply for before or while applying for a building permit?

Please check with the Engineering & Zoning Department to determine if additional applications may be needed for your project.

What is a setback?

A setback is the distance from the building line to a property line. Building lines include eaves, open porches and other projections beyond the foundation.

How long will it take to get my building permit?

We are committed to processing your plans as quickly and efficiently as possible. Minor residential or commercial projects typically take two weeks, while moderate projects take four weeks and major projects are usually eight weeks. These time frames are based on all required information accompanying the permit application at the time of submittal and would not include any projects requesting variances.

When should I apply for my building permit?

It is recommended to apply for your building permit 6-8 weeks before your anticipated start date. It does not typically take that long for the Engineering & Zoning Department to process your application, but it does allow for the unexpected.



What are the most common factors that delay obtaining a building permit?

- Missing information (incomplete application, missing dimensions or plot plan)
- Poor quality of plans (drawings)
- Volume of applications (greatest volume is received between May and September)

How much will my permit cost?

For each \$1,000.00 of the fair market value of the labor and materials to be expended for such construction, the fee shall be \$3.00, with a minimum building permit fee of \$25.00. Where applicable, all fees for water services, acreage fees, and/or other impact fees shall be due and payable at the time of building permit issuance. Inspection fees may be required depending on the type of project.

How long will my permit be good for?

Projects valued at under \$500,000.000 will be valid for 9 months.

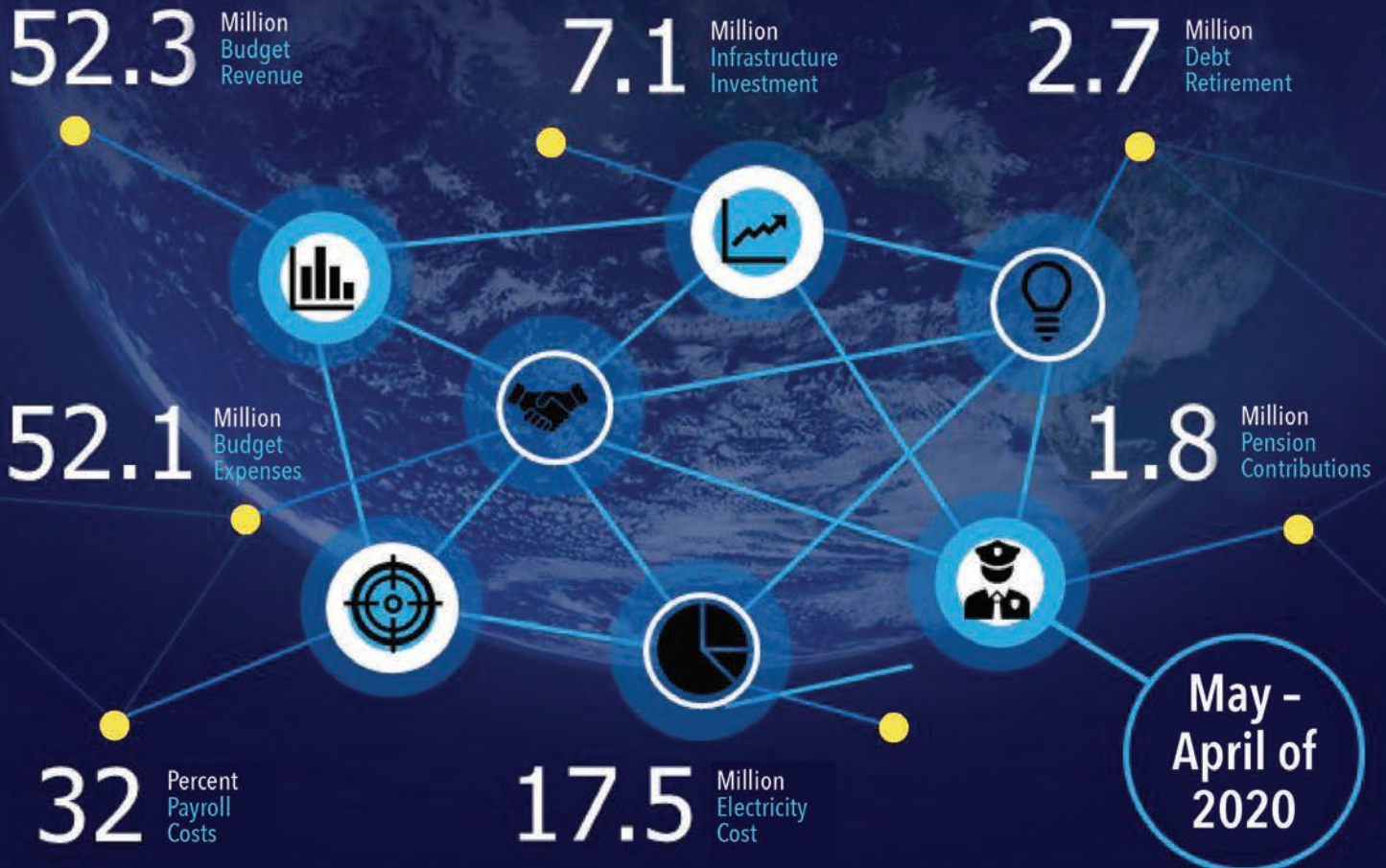
Are there penalties for not obtaining a building permit?

Failure to obtain building permits can result in construction delays, penalty fees, legal action and/or removal of work already completed.

Please be sure to contact the staff in the Engineering & Zoning Department at 815-223-1148 with any questions you have regarding building permits - we would be happy to help!

**Fiscal
Year
2020**

Budget Highlights



Overview

The city has two major funds. The General and Utility Fund make up over 90% of the financial activity.

The city's General Fund is essential to provide basic services to citizens. The health of the General Fund provides the primary benchmark used by credit analysis agencies, debt holders, and other governmental bodies. The General Fund reserve increased 11% in fiscal year 2019 and now includes 135 days of operating expenses.

The city has 14 minor funds: Police Drug Enforcement Fund, Impound & Equipment Fund, Insurance Fund, Garbage Fund, Illinois Valley Regional Airport Enterprise Fund, Motor Fuel Tax Fund, Recreation Fund, Police Pension Fund, Firefighters Pension Trust Fund, Landfill Fund, and TIF Funds.

Utility Fund

Utility Fund revenues are driven by electricity, water, and sewer sales. Revenue from utility sales fund all costs that are needed to run the utilities. Other revenues make up less than 2% of the remaining income. Electric rates are expected to remain consistent with the prior year; however, water and sewer rates raise 3% annually to offset the federally mandated sewer separation expenses. Demand in the utility should be steady as population and large users remain consistent.



830

The number of accounts used to run the city's operations

4.4M

The city's average monthly expenses

WELCOME TO PERU

The City of Peru would like to welcome all the new businesses that recently settled in Peru. Just to name a few...

Apple Press
Central Bank
Clean Getaway Express Tunnel Wash
Goodwill (new location)
Illinois Valley Credit Union (relocation)
Mark A. Pinter & Associates, LLC

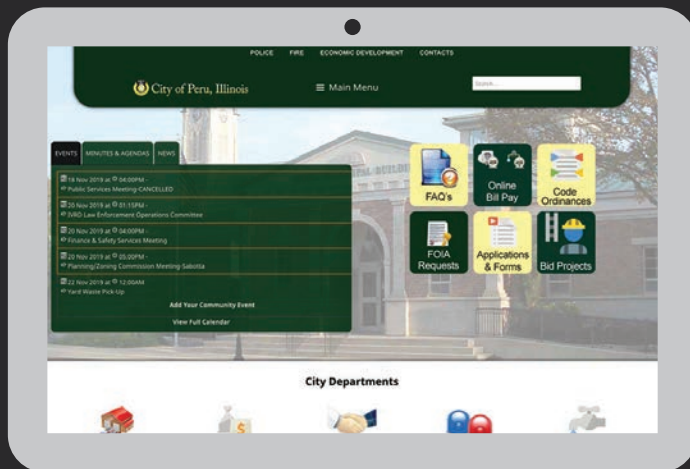
Spring Valley City Bank
Star Union Spirits
Theos Audiology Solutions
Unwind at Westclox
Wilson Law Office
Your CBD Store

*Please accept our sincerest apologies if we have inadvertently missed any new businesses from the above list.



PLUG INTO PERU

There are multiple ways to keep connected, get information and interact with the City of Peru. Here are some great options to tap into what's happening:



VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

Visit peru.il.us to view agendas, code of ordinances, department information, economic development, and the latest resident news, including information on city services, events, programs and more.

Visit peruems.com for information on Peru Volunteer Ambulance Service, Inc. services, history, staff, and more.

Find us on 

City of Peru
facebook.com/peru.illinois

Peru Police Department
facebook.com/perupolice.org

Peru Fire Department
facebook.com/perufire

To contact us by phone, please reference the back cover of this magazine for a detailed list of city and community phone numbers.



City of Peru
1901 4th St, Peru, IL 61354

PRST STD
ECRWSS
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

*****ECRWSS*****

Local
Postal Customer

YOUR A-Z GUIDE OF COMMUNITY CONTACT INFORMATION.

CITY OF PERU PHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (emergency)
911

**Ambulance
(non-emergency)**
815-223-9111

**Building & Zoning
Inspector**
815-223-1148, option 4

Cemetery Office
815-223-0061

Chipping Service
815-223-2962

Citizen Concerns
Call your Alderman

City Clerk's Office
815-223-0061

**Community Service
Officer** 779-201-5434

Electric Department
815-223-0044

**Electric Department
(out of power)**
815-223-0044

Engineering Department
815-224-6020

**Fire Department
(non-emergency)**
815-224-2141

**Illinois Valley Regional
Airport**
815-223-2003

Library
815-223-0229

Mayor's Office
815-223-1148, option 3

**Police Department
(emergency)**
911

**Police Department
(non-emergency)**
815-223-2151

Public Information
815-223-0061

Recreation Director
815-681-8600

Republic Services
(Garbage & Recycling Pickup)
815-434-2035

Schweickert Law Group
(Corporate Counsel)
815-223-0177

Street Light Outage
815-223-0044

Street Maintenance
815-223-2962

Public Works
815-223-2962

Utility Customer Services
815-223-0061

Water & Sewer Interruptions
815-223-2962

Website
peru.il.us

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

**Alternatives for
the Older Adults**
800-798-0988

Ameren
800-755-5000

Driver's License Facility
815-223-4861

Hygienic Institute
815-223-0196

IVAC
815-223-0227

JULIE
(Call before digging)
800-892-0123

**LaSalle County Clerk's
Office**
815-434-8202

LaSalle Post Office
(Airport Road)
815-223-2635

North Central Area Transit
(Bus Service)
815-288-2117

Peru High Rise
815-223-0545

Peru Post Office
815-223-0320

Peru Township Office
815-223-0746

Social Security Office
855-245-0640

Tri-County Opportunities
(Energy assistance)
800-323-5434

PERU CITY DEPARTMENT HEADS

Electric Department
Jeff King & Kye Kaszynski
815-223-0044 • kyek@peru.il.us

Public Works Jeff King
815-223-2962 • psm@peru.il.us

Fire Department Chief Jeff King
815-224-2141 • chiefking@peru.il.us

Police Department Chief
Doug Bernabei
815-223-2151
chiefbernabei@perupolice.org

Economic Development Director
Bob Vickrey
815-224-6018 • bobvickrey@peru.il.us

Building & Zoning Inspector
Tyler Dobrich
815-223-1148, ext. 4
zoning@peru.il.us

Finance Officer
Justin Miller, C.P.A.
815-224-6022 • jmiller@peru.il.us

City Engineer
Eric Carls, P.E.
815-224-6020 • ericcarls@peru.il.us

Human Resources Manager
Kimberly Reese
815-224-6004 • kreesee@peru.il.us