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WEEKEND

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A new branch of Chase Bank is under construction on the site of the recently demolished Town Centre I shopping center in East Peoria. MATT DAYHOFF/JOURNAL STAR

Chase Bank to take over vacant shopping center

East Peoria branch to open in mid-2026

Mike Kramer
Peoria Journal Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

A long vacant East Peoria shopping center is getting a new lease on life as the site of a Chase Bank branch. Located in East Peoria's historic Four Corners area, the buildings that once housed the Town Centre I shopping center had been empty since 2021, when Family Video closed its store there; it was the longtime home to a Blockbuster Video, as well. Main & Washington LLC bought the Town Centre I property in February 2022 from trustee Maurice Joseph for \$500,000, according to property records. "The new bank offers an overall refresh of Town Centre I," said Ty Livingston, East Peoria director of planning and community development. "Two of the original buildings, which had been vacant for some time, were demolished and the position of the new bank on the property allows for an additional

"We chose this location because it's an increasingly vibrant shopping and retail area and easily accessed by communities east of the Illinois River."

Sandi Bergh, Chase Bank market director

building pad for future development."

When will the Chase Bank open?

Chase Bank purchased the property at 100-102 East Washington St. last year, demolished the existing building, and began construction on a 3,300 square-foot branch, according to market director Sandi Bergh. She anticipates the branch will open by the middle of 2026. "In addition to final construction work, we are in the process of finalizing staff hires," Bergh added. "We are happy to bring more jobs to the community and have several open role listings, so

we encourage interested candidates to visit chase.com/careers and apply." Chase Bank currently has one Peoria branch at 7707 N. Knoxville Ave. Bergh said Chase is eager to expand its branch network in the area and establish stronger ties with Peoria-area communities. The East Peoria branch will offer full-service banking and two 24-hour ATMs. "We chose this location because it's an increasingly vibrant shopping and retail area and easily accessed by communities east of the Illinois River," said Bergh.

What's next for the historic Four Corners?

The Four Corners is expected to get another storefront soon with the construction of a national coffee chain, as announced in May 2025. The family-owned coffee shop chain 7 Brew Coffee franchise is awaiting demolition of the former Regent Bank building, according to Livingston. The demolition should take place in the late winter or early spring, and the store should open later in 2026.

Nursing home fined for failing to prevent sexual abuse

Zach Roth
Peoria Journal Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

PEORIA – An East Peoria nursing home was fined \$27,000 for failing to prevent sexual abuse of a resident and failing to prevent a resident from eloping last spring. Fondulac Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, 901 Illini Drive, was fined \$25,000 by the Illinois Department of Public Health for failure to prevent a resident from sexually abusing another in May 2025. It also received a smaller \$2,200 fine for failing to prevent a resident from leaving the facility last April. IDPH's report says that Fondulac did not provide "adequate and properly supervised" care for the resident

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FOOD INSPECTIONS

Tazewell County's best and worst for December

Mike Kramer
Peoria Journal Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Tazewell County Health Department conducts monthly food inspections for a wide range of establishments in the area. Inspections look for issues that could contribute to the spread of foodborne illness, and general cleanliness and maintenance of the establishment. The Journal Star examined the routine inspections that took place in December for restaurants, mobile establishments, and bars in Tazewell County. Nearly 100 routine inspections were conducted for these categories. The Health Department's last round of food inspections for 2025 showed 24 establishments with no violations, while eight businesses had five

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