



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 17 Number 2 – February, 2015

14 pages



February Events



Monday Morning Duplicate games at the First Christian Church located at Jefferson and Lee streets near downtown Bloomington starting at 11:45AM:

February 2 – STaC open pairs February 9 – open pairs

February 16 – open pairs February 23 – open pairs

Contact Betty Capodice at 309-827-3318 for information or to arrange for a partner.

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Monday, February 2, 6:15PM – STaC 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Tuesday, February 3, 6:15PM – STaC open pairs – Evergreen Place

Wednesday, February 4, 1:15PM – STaC 99ers & NLMers only pairs – St Patrick

Wednesday, February 4, 6:15PM – STaC open pairs – Evergreen Place

Thursday, February 5, 11:45AM – STaC open pairs – St Patrick

Thursday, February 5, 6:15PM – STaC open pairs – Evergreen Place

Friday, February 6, 6:15PM – STaC open pairs – Evergreen Place

Saturday, February 7, 11:45AM – STaC open pairs – Heartland

Sunday, February 8, 1:15PM – STaC open pairs – Evergreen Place

Monday, February 9, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, February 11, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – St Patrick

Thursday, February 12, 11:45AM – open pairs – SPECIAL LOCATION – Evergreen Place

Saturday, February 14, 11:45AM – open pairs – Heartland

Monday, February 16, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, February 18, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – St Patrick

Thursday, February 19, 11:45AM – open pairs – St Patrick

Saturday, February 21, 11:45AM – open pairs – Heartland

Monday, February 23, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – Heartland

Wednesday, February 25, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – St Patrick

Thursday, February 26, 11:45AM – open pairs – St Patrick

Saturday, February 28 , 11:45AM – open pairs – Heartland

Contact Mike Tomlianovich at 309-825-5823 for information or to arrange for a partner.

All game results are posted online: clubresults.acbl.org

Post game online discussions of deals are available at: mikesbridge.blogspot.com

All games sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League.

Announcement: Effective 4/1/2012, all ACBL-sanctioned bridge games held in Bloomington-Normal are fragrance free. Please be respectful of those who are fragrance intolerant. Thank you!



The Bloomington-Normal "Top 25" Masterpoint holders
As of 1/6/2015 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only – paid up ACBL members only

- 1 3,602.77 Betty Capodice
- 2 3,209.05 Steve Babin
- *** 2,557.18 Laura Addison
- 3 2,305.75 Zack Freehill
- 4 2,060.53 Eunice Patton
- 5 2,028.50 Mike Tomlianovich
- *** 1,735.61 Steve Hawthorne
- 6 1,524.82 Dewey Gronau
- *** 1,398.35 Sharad Chitgopekar
- 7 1,327.52 Ann Schuyler
- *** 1,320.43 Ed Lombard
- 8 1,292.65 Cindy Moore
- 9 1,263.31 Stan Gutzman
- 10 1,178.26 Ron Emmett
- 11 1,149.53 Jeanne Strand
- 12 1,132.78 Charlie Morton
- 13 1,113.78 JoAnn Schroeder
- 14 1,104.74 Ivey Weaver
- *** 1,091.94 Marian Edmunds
- 15 1,014.74 Jean Barnett
- 16 935.93 Lori Moore
- 17 921.36 Randall Motchan
- 18 821.22 Glen Beaman
- *** 792.95 Don Strand
- 19 781.49 Henrietta Crain
- *** 780.34 Jack Kessler
- *** 741.06 Pearl Harris
- 20 682.25 Dennis Moll
- 21 668.94 Peg Deutsch
- 22 627.10 Steve Wulfers
- 23 619.83 Dave Freehill
- *** 610.73 Martin Compton
- *** 570.80 Ann Farnsworth
- *** 567.22 Ruth Wettaw
- 24 494.38 Stevie Joslin
- *** 481.88 Bev Upp
- 25 452.78 Jeff Furler
- *** deceased

Other players:

- *** 12,741.55 Dick Benson-LeRoy
- 11,531.77 Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 4,297.20 Larry Matheny-Colorado
- *** 4,073.45 Alan Wienman-Morton
- 4,006.53 Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap
- 3,684.14 Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 3,616.39 Carl Brueckner-Champaign
- 3,404.22 Kish Devaraj-Georgia
- 2,699.91 Liz Zalar-Springfield
- 2,660.32 Paul Lindauer-Varna
- 2,480.67 Georgia Heth-Morton
- 2,437.71 Gail Moon-Tennessee
- 2,437.33 Pat Carrington-Champaign
- 2,385.77 Ray Russ-Henry
- 2,359.51 Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 2,301.80 Chuck Zalar-Springfield
- 2,254.17 Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 2,225.35 Joanne Glazebrook-Chicago
- 2,117.16 Mary Allen-Peoria
- 2,101.92 Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
- 1,803.75 Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
- *** 1,776.22 John Burdon
- 1,745.46 Tim Cull-Springfield
- 1,576.85 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
- 1,528.93 Bobbie Straker-Pekin
- 1,539.45 Dennis Fitton-Champaign
- 1,449.45 John Maloney-Champaign
- 1,270.74 Jim Moon-Tennessee
- 1,067.54 Camilla Rabjohns-Peoria Heights
- 1,001.74 Melissa Maloney-Urbana
- *** 916.41 Floyd Sherry-Eureka
- 833.27 Phil Kenney-Eureka
- 798.86 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
- 738.61 Doug Steele-Seymour
- 650.47 Carole Miller-Champaign
- 497.38 Dot Bergstrom-Peoria
- 501.27 Brian Maloney-Urbana



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#1

As you near the end of a session, it's important to estimate your score. This will cause some players to "swing" to try to make up for some bad results. This tactic will sometimes work as it did here.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#14-31	♠ KQ1052	West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ J108	3♦	Pass	Pass	DBL
Vul None	♦ Q7	Pass	4♠	Pass	7NT
	♣ Q64	Pass	Pass	Pass	

♠ 8	♠ J943
♥ 7	♥ 63
♦ KJ98532	♦ 1064
♣ 8532	♣ KJ97



♠ A76
♥ AKQ9542
♦ A
♣ A10

Bidding: West's preempt was passed around to South who held a huge hand. He started with a takeout double and North leaped to 4♠. It was nearing the end of a so-so session and South knew they needed to finish with some good results. Or, at least that was what he told his partner later when asked about his leap to 7NT.

Play: West led a low diamond won by declarer's ace. Declarer could count thirteen tricks as long as the spades behaved. A trick two, declarer led the ace and a low spade to dummy and was disappointed when West discarded a diamond. He saw that the grand slam in hearts was cold so he regretted his greed. But then he saw a possible solution....if East held the king of clubs he could be squeezed. After winning the king of spades, declarer simply played his winners coming down to this end position with one more heart to cash:

♠ Q105
♣ J9
♣ K
♠ 7 ♥ 2 ♣ 10

On the two of hearts declarer discarded dummy's five of spades and East had no good answer. Finally he discarded his king of clubs hoping his partner held the ten but it was not to be. Seven no-trumps bid and made! Copyright 2014

#2

If you use a thesaurus for the word *vulnerable* you will find these descriptions: weak, defenseless, helpless, in danger...well, you get the idea. You have to be careful when looking at the color red.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#14-32	♠ 85	West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ 9643	-	Pass	1 ♥	2 ♠
Vul N/S	♦ J872	Pass	Pass	DBL	Pass
	♣ KJ3				
		Pass	Pass		

♠ K1074		♠ 2
♥ 8	☐	♥ AKQ75
♦ AQ1053		♦ K94
♣ 865		♣ AQ104

♠ AQJ963
♥ J102
♦ 6
♣ 972

Bidding: South made a weak jump overcall and West passed in tempo. East had the classic shape for a reopening double and West again found the pass card.

Play: West led his heart and it became real ugly real quickly for declarer. The defense took 3 hearts, 1 diamond, 3 clubs, and 2 spades for +1100. South's bid wasn't particularly terrible but on this day it was severely punished.

Besides showing the need to be more cautious when vulnerable, this hand also demonstrates that the arrival of the negative double several decades ago did not mean the end of the penalty double.

#3

Sometimes it seems as if your contract has no chance but giving up without a fight should not be an option.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

#14-33	♠ K10976	West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ Q97	Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Vul Both	♦ 742	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
	♣ K9	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
		Pass			
♣ A5	♠ 83				
♥ 108	♥ J6543				
♦ J1085	♦ KQ				
♣ 108753	♣ A642				
	♠ QJ42				
	♥ AK2				
	♦ A963				
	♣ QJ				

Bidding: South opened 1NT (15-17), North transferred to spades, and South jumped to show a maximum with 4-card support. North had an easy raise to game.

Play: West led a low club to the ace and without much thought, East switched to a trump. West won the ace and returned a spade. Declarer counted four losers: 1 spade, 2 diamonds, and 1 club. Declarer saw his only chance to avoid two diamond losers was to find one of the opponents with KX in the suit. To make it more difficult for that opponent to unblock the king, declarer played the ace of diamonds at trick four. Next, he cashed his other heart and club winners followed by a low diamond. East won but now had to lead a club or heart allowing declarer to trump in his hand and discard a diamond from dummy.


Perhaps East should have seen the danger and switched to a diamond at trick two, but declarer saw his only chance and made his contract. Note that if declarer eliminates the round suits before leading the ace of diamonds, it's easier for East (if he held KX) to see the necessity of dropping the king on the ace. Holding both honors left East no recourse.

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#4

Just mention mathematics and many bridge players run for cover. However, to be successful, you must have some knowledge of the probability of suit distribution. It made a difference on this hand.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

#14-34	♠ 102	West	North	East	South
Dir W	♥ AK63	Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦
Vul Both	♦ 65	Pass	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
	♣ AQ985	Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦
♠ QJ8		Pass	4 ♦	Pass	5 ♦
♥ 108754		Pass	Pass	Pass	
♦ KQ4					
♣ J7					
	♠ K97643				
	♥ Q2				
	♦ 9				
	♣ 10632				
	♠ A5				
	♥ J9				
	♦ AJ108732				
	♣ K4				

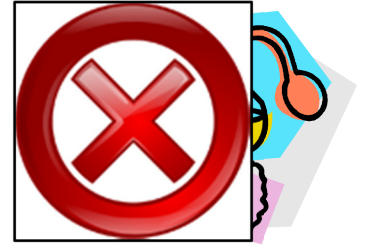
Bidding: The auction was a struggle. South used 2♠, the Fourth Suit Forcing convention, to show a good hand. North finally raised diamonds and South carried on to game.

Play: West led the queen of spades and declarer counted three possible losers: 1 spade and 2 diamonds. Declarer decided to take two diamond finesses playing for one of the two missing honors to be on his right. This gave him a 75% chance of winning but he failed when both honors were in the West hand. At the other table, West made a rather foolish double and this declarer knew where the diamond honors were. He won the spade lead, cashed the ace of diamonds, and then played the top three clubs pitching a spade. West ruffed but the two diamonds were his only tricks.

Even without West's double, the second line is superior. The six missing clubs will break 3-3 or 4-2 84% of the time. Add to this the possibility of a singleton diamond honor and you have a clear winner.

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Announcement: Effective 4/1/2012, all ACBL-sanctioned bridge games held in Bloomington-Normal are fragrance free. Please be respectful of those who are fragrance intolerant. Thank you!



Remember: All Bloomington-Normal duplicate events adhere to the ACBL's zero tolerance for unacceptable behavior. Do NOT let this person's conduct rub off on you!!

PEORIA'S Warren F. Tatting Memorial BRIDGE SECTIONAL

March 6th, March 7th, and March 8th 2015

NEW LOCATION: Fon du Lac Park District Administration Center

201 Veterans Drive, EAST PEORIA, IL 61611 Ph. 309 699-3923

Take I-74 to Exit 96, Turn Right, then Right at first stoplight (Veterans Drive)

Schedule of Events

Friday, March 6th

10:30 AM - Stratified Open Pairs.

4:00 PM - Stratified Open Pairs

Saturday, March 7th –Pairs event!*

10:30 AM – Stratified Pairs (1 of 2)

4:00 PM – Stratified Pairs (2 of 2)

*Single session pairs will be accommodated

Sunday, March 8th

10:30 AM – Stratified Open Swiss teams

Double session with lunch provided. Break approximately 2:00 or 2:30

Stratification

A- Open; B - Under 2000; C - Non Life Master under 500

NOTE: All stratifications will be determined by the team or partnership's **average** points.

Entry Fees

Friday and Saturday - \$10 per session

Sunday - \$25 per person (\$100 per team) Lunch provided

Note: \$3 extra for non-ACBL member or unpaid members

General Comments

Complimentary Coffee and Snacks during the tournament.

ALL GAMES WELCOME NEW PLAYERS.

IF ATTENDANCE WARRANTS, WE WILL HAVE '99ers GAMES.

Please note Zero Tolerance Policy is enforced

We are Fragrance Free: Thank you for NOT wearing perfumes and colognes!

Tournament Chair: Mary Allen

(309) 258-3361

E-mail: hilinemary@yahoo.com

Partnerships: Marilyn Stickel or Mary (Chair)

(309) 246-8915

bdmup1@hotmail.com

Motel: Recommendations:

Nicer: Holiday Inn and Suites, Embassy Suites, Stoney Creek, Par-a-Dice

Moderate: Hampton Inn East Peoria (close to Par-a-Dice), Fairfield Inn & Suites

Budget: Super 8—Closest to Tournament Site



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Eastland Medical Plaza, 1505 Eastland Dr, Bloomington

2015/01/05	70.83%	Kay Marvin & Terri Huebsch (99ers)
2014/10/30	77.50%	Doug Lamb & John Ford (99ers)
2014/10/08	70.00%	Bev Branning & Sallie Boge (NLMers)
2014/09/08	73.89%	Vi Kothe & Kirk Kimmel (99ers)
2014/08/27	70.56%	Jim Swanke & Jason Cannell (NLMers)
2014/08/21	71.48%	Tom Teeters & Jerry Oswald
2014/08/20	70.56%	Mary Tweedie & Jason Cannell (NLMers)
2014/07/21	74.31%	Linda Odette & Joyce Werner (99ers)
2014/07/16	70.00%	Marilyn & Gene Byers (99ers)
2014/07/09	70.14%	Mary Houska & Lynda Frankeberger (NLMers)
2014/06/21	70.83%	John Maloney & Steve Babin
2014/06/11	70.85%	Bev Branning & Jim Fernstrom (NLMers)
2014/04/28	70.24%	Tom Teeters & Steve Wulfers
2014/04/24	72.50%	Jeff Furler & Jason Cannell
2014/04/21	71.11%	Linda Odette & Joyce Werner (99ers)
2014/04/16	72.00%	Joyce Clay & Jason Cannell (NLMers)
2014/04/14	72.92%	Jeff Furler & Hank Hoffman
2014/04/10	75.56%	Lori Moore & Jason Cannell
2014/04/02	71.11%	Bob Ragland & Jim Swanke (NLMers)
2014/03/26	73.33%	Zoe Freeman & Jim Fernstrom (NLMers)
2014/03/19	70.14%	Kirk Kimmel & Jim Swanke (NLMers)
2014/02/19	71.67%	Carroll Kinnaman & Jerry Oswald (NLMers)
2014/01/29	70.00%	Joyce & Bob Clay(NLMers)
2014/01/11	70.53%	Betty Capodice & Jason Cannell

BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#41 – THE DEVIL’S COUP

You could play a lifetime of bridge without pulling off a Devil’s Coup, but it’s worth a look purely for its entertainment value.

	♠ AT4 ♥ Q954 ♦ KJ96 ♣ A7	
♠ J73 ♥ A872 ♦ T82 ♣ Q54	North West East Declarer	♠ Q8 ♥ JT63 ♦ 753 ♣ J632
	♠ K9652 ♥ K ♦ AQ4 ♣ KT98	

Dummy’s ♥Q (even though it is a defense is toast. *If West ruffs low* then last two tricks with the ♠A and ♠K ... *if* and there is now a finesse position indeed!

To bring off this small miracle, West’s 3=4=3=3 or 3=5=3=2 and he had to honors. We don’t know if that offers 8%, but we are sure that bringing off

It looks like Partner has overbid again because you find yourself in the dreadful contract of 6♠. West cashes the ♥A at Trick 1 and now the success of your slam depends upon losing no trump tricks, missing QJ873. The chances of one defender holding QJ doubleton are pretty remote (8%, actually) and you can do better by *not* drawing trumps.

At Trick 2, you ruff the Heart continuation, cash three Diamonds (ending in Dummy), ruff another Heart, cash ♠A and ♠K, and ruff a Club, reaching this position, with the lead in Dummy:

	♠ AT ♥ Q ♦ 9 ♣	
♠ J73 ♥ 7 ♦ ♣		♠ Q8 ♥ J ♦ ♣ J
	♠ K96 ♥ ♦ ♣ T	

Do you see how to win the rest of the tricks? Sure you do! You ruff winner!) and, when the ♠T is led, the Dummy overruffs and you score the *West ruffs high* then Dummy overruffs against East’s Queen! Devilish

distribution had to be precisely hold one of the missing Spade better odds than the aforementioned the Devil’s Coup is so much more fun!

#42 – THE STRIPTease COUP

	♠ AQ765 ♥ 53 ♦ Q4 ♣ 9854	
♠ JT943 ♥ KQT4 ♦ 65 ♣ A3	North West East Declarer	♠ 82 ♥ 9876 ♦ JT982 ♣ K7
	♠ K ♥ AJ2 ♦ AK73 ♣ QJT62	

We round out our series on bridge coups with a personal favorite.

After West has overcalled in Spades, South finds herself in 5♣, a contract which appears doomed when West's opening lead is the ♥K. Declarer cannot play on trumps immediately because the defense has three cashing tricks ... she cannot pitch her two Heart losers on the top Spades because East will ruff the third round ... and she cannot pitch Dummy's Heart loser on the Diamonds because West will ruff the third round.

But Declarer has a resource, let the striptease commence! Declarer's ♥A wins the first trick, the ♠K is unblocked, then over to Dummy's ♦Q. The ♠A is cashed (Declarer pitching a Heart, of course), and now, when Dummy's ♠Q is played, East must ruff to prevent another Heart pitch. He cannot ruff high (Declarer would pitch the Heart anyway) so he ruffs low and is overruffed. Next, Declarer plays his high Diamonds and this time it is West who is forced to ruff in order to prevent the Heart pitch. West must also ruff low and is overruffed by Dummy.

After those two low ruffs, both defenders have bared down to a singleton trump honor, so Declarer can lead a trump and enjoy the sight of the Ace and King tumbling down on the same trick! This was actually a double Striptease Coup as both defenders were divested of their protective small trump.

#43 – THRUST AND PARRY

East made a couple of fine defensive plays on this deal, but Declarer parried with some good plays of her own, and eventually prevailed.

	♠ 652 ♥ Q543 ♦ 42 ♣ QJT3	
♠ KQJT93 ♥ 762 ♦ 5 ♣ 842	North West East Declarer	♠ 4 ♥ A98 ♦ T9876 ♣ A976
	♠ A87 ♥ KJT ♦ AKQJ3 ♣ K5	

N-S Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2♠	Pass	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West's 2♠ was preemptive, showing a 6-card suit and a weak hand. West leads the ♠K, and Declarer ducks the first round, just in case West was being frisky and bid 2♠ on a 5-card suit. The purpose of that "hold-up play" is to make sure that East is out of Spades when he later gains the lead.

Declarer wins the second round of Spades (East pitches a Club), and must flush out East's Aces in order to reach 9 tricks. She leads the ♠K, but East cleverly ducks that, making his own hold-up play in order to shut out Dummy's Club suit. Declarer persists with Clubs and East wins the second round, then exits with a Diamond. Next comes the ♥K, but again East holds up his Ace, and holds up yet again when Declarer plays the ♥J! East has succeeded in keeping Declarer from reaching Dummy, but only temporarily. Declarer leads another Heart, which East must win. Again, East exits with a Diamond. Declarer cashes the remaining Diamond winners and loses the fifth round to East. East's remaining card is a Club and that gives Declarer her 9th trick. It took a while, but finally, at Trick 13, Declarer reaches Dummy!

Post Script: If Declarer had held three Clubs instead of just two, East would have wanted to duck the second Club and win the third round. How did East know to win the second round instead? His helpful Partner gave him a *count signal*, playing the *Two* on the first round. By playing a *low* Club West showed an *odd* number ... if West had held a doubleton, he would have played his *high* Club to show an *even* number. Nice defense by E-W, albeit in a losing cause.

#44 – CHERCHEZ LA FEMME

If it's not too late already, try looking at just the N-S hands and decide how you are going to play that Spade suit. Where's the lady?

	♠ A873 ♥ QT9 ♦ 985 ♣ K32	
♠ 4 ♥ 876542 ♦ QJT ♣ T65	North West East Declarer	♠ Q65 ♥ AKJ ♦ 72 ♣ AJ987
	♠ KJT92 ♥ 3 ♦ AK643 ♣ Q4	

E-W Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
			1NT
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

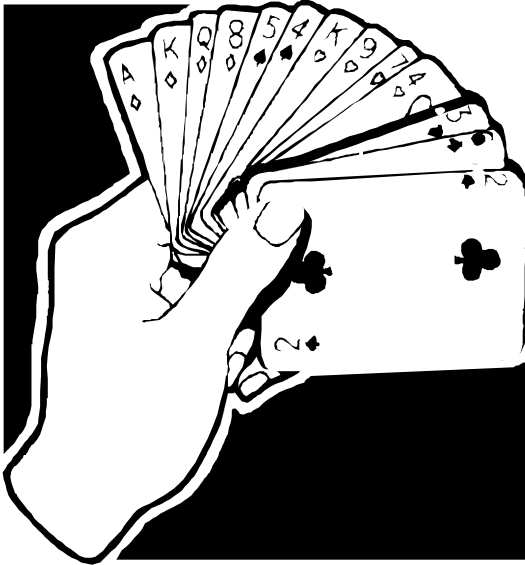
That 1NT opening showed 15-17 HCP, after which the auction inches its way up to 4♠. West leads the ♦Q, which is won by your Ace. You have one loser in each of the side-suits, so to make your contract you must avoid losing a trump trick.

In the play of the Spades you could choose to finesse against West, or to finesse against East, or to play "for the drop" (hoping that the suit is 2-2 or the ♠Q is singleton). The

general rule, when holding a 9-card fit, is to play for the drop, all things being equal that is about a 58% chance.

But why settle for 58% when you can have 100%? Yes, it's time for some counting. N-S have a combined 22 HCP, that leaves E-W with 18. West has already played the ♦Q, leaving precisely 15 or 16 HCP in the East hand. As East has already advertised 15-17 he must have all the missing high cards with the possible exception of one of the missing Jacks. So at Trick 2 you lead a Spade to Dummy's Ace and then, when East plays low on the second round, you finesse the Jack with complete confidence. That's 10 tricks for those who count, but only 9 for the rule-followers.

Upcoming tournaments:



Peoria Spring Sectional

Mar 6-8, 2015

Fon du Lac Park District Admin. Ctr.

201 Veterans Dr., East Peoria, IL 61611