



**Contact: Judy Rosella Edwards**

Email: [judy@judyrosellaedwards.com](mailto:judy@judyrosellaedwards.com)

Email: [judyrosella@gmail.com](mailto:judyrosella@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.judyrosellaedwards.com>

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### **Judy Rosella Edwards becomes TellPeoria citizen journalist**

PEORIA — December 7, 2009 — Tell Peoria is an online-only media organization that promotes citizen journalism by connecting Web site owners with the businesses who want to tell Peoria-area residents about their products and services. On December 7, local freelancer Judy Rosella Edwards became one of the original TellPeoria citizen journalists.

Writing simply under her name, [Judy Rosella Edwards](#) writes about local Peoria businesses. “I am intrigued by the shift in local business from the onset of the latest recession,” Edwards said. “Peoria is known for being in the Top Five cities for small business, but I perceive a shift from manufacturing to other types of small businesses. Peoria small business used to consist primarily of Caterpillar suppliers. With the downsizing at Cat, I see the trend shifting.”

#### **Life on TellPeoria**

Co-founded by Bill and Debbie Adlof, the TellPeoria is flexible and offers free WordPress blogs sites for serious citizen journalists who want to earn money reporting on their communities. TellPeoria bloggers are provided with [online manuals](#) explaining the entire process.

The founders have backgrounds in journalism and provide assistance with copyediting and advice. “We’ll link to your site on our front pages and print samples of your best work on our own blogs,” they report.

They encourage TellPeoria journalists to post frequent and relevant information to generate a wider readership. Journalists are welcome to link to an existing blog hosted elsewhere.

“TellPeoria has been a very positive experience for me,” Edwards said. “I have received comments from across the country. But, Peorians tell me they are finding my reporting insightful. I have the freedom to report on what I find interesting about Peoria without waiting for an editor to assign me the story – or assign it to someone else!”



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Edward is currently focusing on a ten-article series she is calling, "Life After Downsizing." She is interviewing Peorians who have been downsized at least once.

"Downsizing is not new," Edwards says. "But it is new for most people experiencing it, although I have interviewed local residents who have been downsized twice now. There are lessons to be learned from those who have survived downsizing and I'm privileged to be telling those stories."

Edwards is a freelance writer who also reports for [Examiner.com](http://www.Examiner.com) and is a regular contributor to [Genealogy Weekly](http://www.GenealogyWeekly.com).

For more information about TellPeoria, contact co-owners Billy Dennis at [peoriapundit@gmail.com](mailto:peoriapundit@gmail.com) or Debbie Adlof at [communityword@yahoo.com](mailto:communityword@yahoo.com).

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