

In the Middle

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER



PEOSTA

Middle of everywhere

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

Coffee
and
CONVERSATION
with the Mayor, City Council, and
Administrator



Saturday, April 5th
10:00am-12:00pm
City Council Chambers

**Public Hearing-Proposed
Budget**

April 8th
6:00pm City Hall

City Council Meeting

April 8th & April 22nd
6:00pm City Hall

**Garage Sale Deadline to
Register Sale**

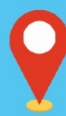
April 17th

[Register Fidelity Bank &
Trust Peosta or Online](#)

PEOSTA
TODAY • TOMORROW • TOGETHER

Community Summit Open House

ALL PEOSTA RESIDENTS WELCOME!



Wednesday, May 21 5:30-7:00
Peosta Community Center
Meeting room, first floor



Free pizza and ice cream, kids'
station, drawing for gift cards

JOIN US IN
IDENTIFYING WHAT
MATTERS MOST TO
OUR COMMUNITY

PEOSTA
TODAY • TOMORROW • TOGETHER

Spring Garage Sales
April 24th-April 26th

Spring City-Wide Clean Up
Saturday, April 26th

Deadline to purchase stickers for City-Wide Clean Up
Friday, April 25th at 11:00am
City Hall-Cash/Check payments only

City Hall Closed
Friday, April 18th-Good Friday
Monday, May 26th-Memorial Day
Friday, July 4th-4th of July

Goal Setting with City Council and City Staff
July 2025
Date will be determined

Thank you to those who completed our Community Heart and Soul survey. It is wonderful to hear not only what you love about Peosta but your hopes and dreams for the future of our community. In the next few weeks, we will begin interviewing a variety of residents from all demographics. From there, we will dig through the survey and interview data to look for themes. From those themes, Community Heart and Soul draft statements will be written. All residents are invited to give input into those statements and help determine what matters most to our community. These statements will guide us moving forward. Please join us at our Community Summit Open House.

Peosta Community Heart and Soul Survey

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

**What do you love about Peosta?
What would make it even better?**



We want to be sure your voice is heard as we develop ideas and plans for the future of our community. This short survey will help us determine the things that matter most to you.



Scan the QR code on your smart phone to connect directly to the anonymous survey. Thank you from your Peosta Community Heart & Soul Team.

PEOSTA
TODAY • TOMORROW • TOGETHER

Follow us on Facebook at
PEOSTA COMMUNITY HEART AND SOUL

Utility ACH Customers



Please disregard if you have already updated your payment information in FrontDesk or do not wish to continue with ACH payments.

The current software company has moved to a cloud-based platform. The payment processing system has changed, and all ACH customers must update their payment information if they would like to continue with automatic electronic payments. The next utility payment will not be paid ACH if changes in [FrontDesk](#) have not been made. If you need help with logging into [FrontDesk](#) please call City Hall at 563-556-8755 or email info@cityofpeosta.org during office hours.

FrontDesk Link

The current system charges a fee that the City has been paying for the past 2+ years,

however, with tax reform and cuts at the state level as well as ever increasing costs across the board, the City can no longer absorb these costs.

ACH processing fees:

- \$1.30 per transaction up to \$150.00;
- \$1.95 per transaction between \$150.01 - \$2,500;
- \$3.95 per transaction between \$2500.01 - \$25,000.00;
- \$7.95 per transaction greater than \$25,000.00

Credit Card/Debit Card processing: 3.5% with a \$2 minimum

Utility customers are also welcome to mail in a payment, drop payment in the payment box outside City Hall, or by stopping into City Hall during office hours.



City-Wide Spring Cleanup Day is on **Saturday, April 26th**. Please have all items to be picked up at the curb by 7:00 am. Bi-County will make one trip through town. Each appliance, computer monitor, television, or tire to be picked up will require a sticker. **Only Cash or Check payment accepted.**

Appliance: \$12.00

Car Tires: \$6.00

Truck Tires: \$12.00

Tractor Tires: \$27.00

All Monitors & Televisions: \$17.00

***Items that won't be picked up: yard waste, stockpiled daily garbage, rocks, concrete, large amounts of building and construction materials, railroad ties, paint (unless the can is completely dried out and open), chemicals, motor oil, shingles, fencing, fluorescent bulbs.

Deadline for purchasing in person at City Hall is Friday, April 25th at 11:00am.



The poster features a blue background with a white dotted pattern. At the top, it says "PEOSTA CITY WIDE" in white, followed by "Garage SALE" in large, bold letters, with "Garage" in blue and "SALE" in yellow. Below this, a white dashed box contains the dates "APRIL 24-26 2025" in blue. The poster is decorated with yellow and blue flowers. At the bottom, a yellow section contains three blue arrows pointing right, each followed by text: "Registration forms due to Fidelity Bank & Trust, Peosta branch by April 17th.", "Maps and listing available April 22nd at Fidelity Bank & Trust, Peosta branch.", and "For more information, call 563.556.3002 or scan QR code for online form." To the right of this text is a QR code and a blue arrow pointing up with the text "SCAN ME!". At the very bottom, the Fidelity Bank & Trust logo is displayed with the tagline "Making hometown lives better."

→ Registration forms due to Fidelity Bank & Trust, Peosta branch by April 17th.

→ Maps and listing available April 22nd at Fidelity Bank & Trust, Peosta branch.

→ For more information, call 563.556.3002 or scan QR code for online form.

FIDELITY
BANK & TRUST
Member FDIC

Making hometown lives *better.*

Franchise fees, what are they about?

UPDATE. The City of Peosta currently has a franchise fee agreement in place with Alliant Energy, Black Hills Energy and Maquoketa Valley. The fee is currently 1%, and we are in the process of raising that to 3%. A public hearing was advertised in the *Telegraph Herald* on Sunday, March 16, 2025, and our Public Hearing was held at our Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. After the public hearing, the council had their first reading of the ordinance and will have the second reading on Tuesday, April 8, with the third and final reading on April 22, 2025. At that time, the ordinance will be adopted and the franchise fee will start on July 1, 2025.

Overview

- Iowa cities currently have the right to implement a franchise fee of up to 5% as part of their agreements with franchised utilities that operate within their rights of way.
- Franchise fees can only be implemented by a city if franchise fee language is part of the city's franchise agreement with a utility. Once the language is adopted, the

percentage of franchise fee can be adjusted by the city council according to terms of the franchise agreements.

- The city must follow a statutory process to implement a franchise fee.

What is a franchise fee?

- A franchise fee is assessed as a percentage of gross revenue collected in the city by the utility. The franchise fee is displayed as a line item on each customer's energy bill.
- A franchise fee ordinance must be adopted by the city prior to being implemented.

How does a franchise fee benefit your community?

• Franchise fees provide additional revenues to fund city projects as allowed by Iowa law. The city currently uses this revenue for our Police Department, park and trails and even to donate money to our local volunteer fire department. We collect approximately \$60,000 each fiscal year.

How does a franchise fee benefit an energy utility or cell phone provider?

- Providers do not financially benefit from franchise fees. They are a direct pass-through to the city.

How is a franchise fee implemented?

- A franchise fee can only be assessed by the city when included in an active franchise agreement with the energy provider.
- When renewing or amending a franchise with the provider, the city may ask that franchise fee language be included in the agreement.
- Iowa Code requires the city to adopt and publish a revenue purpose statement and adopt an ordinance formally setting or increasing the franchise fee.

Who pays a franchise fee?

- Iowa Code states that a franchised utility can be assessed a franchise fee, which will be included on customers' bills.
- The amount of franchise fee is shown on a customer's monthly energy bill.

How often would the city receive payment of the fees collected by the provider?

- Alliant and Black Hills Energy pays the city quarterly, and Maquoketa Valley pays monthly.

How is the fee determined?

- The fee is set as part of the franchise ordinance and is based on a percentage of the utility's gross revenues of energy sales.
- The fee is calculated as a percentage of a customer's total monthly energy bill.

What is the maximum percentage of franchise fee that can be assessed by the city?

- The current maximum per Iowa Code is 5%.

What can franchise fees be used for?

- Iowa Code, Section 384.3A, defines how a city can use franchise fees.

What are the steps to implementing a franchise fee?

1. The city and provider agree on the language of a franchise ordinance that includes a franchise fee.
2. The city develops, passes and publishes a revenue purpose statement describing how the franchise fee is to be used.
3. The city holds a public hearing on the franchise ordinance and passes the ordinance, as stipulated by Iowa law. All public notice requirements must be met.
4. The provider and the city completes the required franchise paperwork, including an original signed copy of the ordinance, a clerk's certificate and providers acceptance. The city must also provide a copy of and proof of publication of its revenue purpose statement.
5. The city provides the provider, the names, service addresses and account numbers of the city-owned accounts that will be exempt from the franchise fee.

6. The provider creates and tests a billing program uniquely designed for the city's franchise fee.
7. Provider files an updated franchise fee tariff with the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB).
8. The IUB reviews and approves the new or revised tariff.
9. Assessment of the franchise fee begins only after the provider has received written authorization from the IUB.

How long does it take to implement a franchise fee?

- Implementing a franchise fee typically takes two to three months after the franchise fee has been adopted by the city council. Adjustments to a franchise fee may take up to six months to implement.

Things to know about franchise agreements

What is the process for approving a franchise agreement?

- A franchise agreement is approved through the normal city ordinance process, which includes the following steps:
 1. The city receives a request from provider to renew its franchise agreement with the city.
 2. The city determines whether to include a franchise fee in the agreement.
 3. Alliant Energy and the city reach agreement on the terms of the franchise.
 4. The city issues a public notice for and holds a public hearing for the franchise.
 5. First, second and third readings of the franchise agreement are conducted by the city council.
 6. The franchise agreement is approved, and any franchise fees are placed into effect.
- Alliant Energy's franchise agreement can include language, consistent with state law, allowing the city to collect a utility franchise fee. The language provides an option to the city council to set a franchise fee, by way of ordinance, to help fund public infrastructure and improvements and other city uses as defined by state law.
- If the city includes a franchise fee, a couple additional steps in the process must be completed.

What is a rate-regulated utility?

- Rate-regulated utilities, such as Alliant Energy, are privately held or publicly traded businesses that provide an essential commodity or service to the public and are subject to government regulation.
- Black Hills Energy, natural gas and electric services are considered natural monopolies, given the amount of infra-structure and investment required to provide efficient, safe and reliable delivery of energy services to the community.
- A rate-regulated utility is considered to be a natural monopoly. Therefore, a regulatory agency is granted general jurisdictional authority over the utility. In return, the utility is given the exclusive right to serve an area.
- The regulatory agency determines the fair and reasonable cost the utility may charge and the means by which the utility may distribute its product.
- Rate-regulated utilities are obligated to comply with stringent safety standards monitored by the regulatory agency.
- In Iowa, Alliant Energy is regulated by the Iowa Utilities Board.

Process to implement a franchise fee

- City determines whether or not to implement a franchise fee and at what percent.
- City and Energy Provider agree to franchise ordinance language.
- City and Energy Provider agree on franchise fee start date.
- City drafts, passes and publishes a revenue purpose statement.
- City council sets the date for a public hearing and first reading of the franchise ordinance.
- City publishes a public hearing notice no more than 20 days and no fewer than four days before the public hearing.
- City holds a public hearing and first reading.
- City holds second and third readings (unless waived).
- City publishes a franchise ordinance.
- Energy Provider mails acceptance and certificate of city clerk to the city clerk to sign and return to Energy.
- City provides Energy Provider the names, service addresses and account numbers of the city-owned accounts that will be exempt from the franchise fee.
- Energy Provider files a tax rider tariff with the Iowa Utilities Board for permission to start collecting the franchise fee.

- Energy Provider collects the franchise fee and pays it to the city per the agreement (monthly, or quarterly, or annually).

Franchise renewal process

- Energy Provider delivers franchise agreement to city.
- City and Energy Provider agree to franchise ordinance language.
- City council sets date for public hearing and first reading of the franchise ordinance.
- City publishes a public hearing notice.
- No more than 20 days and no fewer than four days before the public hearing.
- City holds a public hearing and first reading.
- City holds second and third readings (unless waived).
- City provides copy of approved franchise ordinance to Alliant Energy.
- City publishes franchise ordinance. Energy Provider mails the acceptance and certificate to the city clerk for signatures and to return to the Energy Provider.

The reason that the city is increasing the franchise fee with our utilities is to provide for loss funds from HF718, which reduces the amount of property taxes that the city is allowed to certify and collect. Don't get me wrong, none of us want to raise property taxes, and this bill reduces your assessed value, which results in a lower tax bill – and, tightens the city's budget. Ultimately, we must cut projects in order to have a balanced budget. This means, fewer or **NO** roads will be fixed, **NO** continuation of trails, and **NO** major equipment will be purchased. HF718 is in effect until 2029. Currently for Fiscal Year 2026, the city has NO capital projects scheduled.

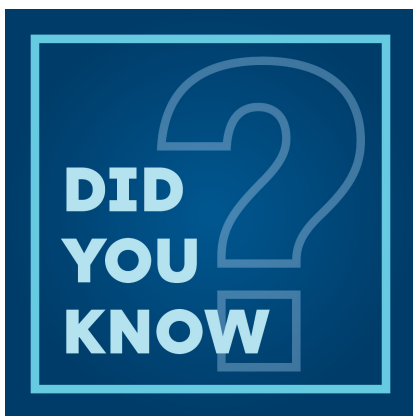
Additionally, there is a Senate Study Bill (SSB) 1181, that legislators are looking at to eliminate **ALL** franchise fees to cities and counties. So, not only are we doing our best to ensure that we balance the budget with less property taxes, now, we are looking at losing an additional \$60,000 for future budgets.

I encourage you to reach out to your legislators with questions or concerns about these two bills, and of course, stay on top of the other bills that they are working on that directly affect you, and the community you call home, Peosta!

Legislative contacts:

Senator, CARRIE KOELKER (R) – Iowa Senate, District 33
 Home Address: 807 3rd St NW, Dyersville 52040 Home Phone: (563) 590-5975
Representative, SHANNON LUNDGREN (R) – Iowa House, District 57
 Home Address: 918 Heather, Peosta 52068
 Home Phone: (563) 451-6200 Capitol Phone: (515) 281-3221

Peosta Police Department



“Did you know...”

The City of Peosta does not allow chickens within the city limits, Here is our ordinance language that identifies livestock animals that are not allowed.



The Police Department has received some complaints of motorists traveling through the crosswalk while children/pedestrians are in the crosswalk while the lights are activated at the intersection of Maple Ridge Street and Burds Road {Peosta Elementary area crosswalk}.

In Iowa, drivers must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and bicyclists crossing the roadway within any marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection and must slow down or stop if

Title IX: General Regulations, Chapter 91 states:

§ 91.10 LIVESTOCK ANIMALS.

No person shall keep any livestock animal belonging to the bovine, caprine, equine, ovine, or porcine species, ostriches, rheas, emu, farm deer, poultry, or bees at any place or upon any premises within the city.

(Ord. 2022-11, passed 8-9-2022)

Senate File 22 was signed April 2, 2025

Act Relating to the use of an electronic device in a voice-activated or hands-free mode while driving, providing penalties, and making penalties applicable
[Iowa Legislature - BillBook](#)

necessary:

321.327 Pedestrians' and bicyclists' right-of-way.

1. Where traffic-control signals are not in place or in operation, the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian or a person riding a bicycle crossing the roadway within any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

2. A person convicted of a violation of this section is guilty of a simple misdemeanor punishable as a scheduled violation under section 805.8A, subsection 7 with a fine of \$217.25 citation. Motorists may also be subject to liability if you were to strike a pedestrian while traveling on the roadway.

As motorists, we need to do better watching for children/pedestrians at all crosswalks, but especially at this location. When the crosswalk lights are activated, motorists are to completely stop and allow the pedestrians to cross the entire road before continuing their travels.

Parents, please talk to your children about the safety of crossing the road at crosswalks. Let your children know how to activate the lights at the crosswalk and to wait until all traffic comes to a stop or wait for traffic to go through before entering the crosswalk. We live in a wonderful safe community, and we do not need to see a tragic incident happen when it is completely avoidable.

Stay Safe,

Chief Mike Comer



Public Works

Compost Site is Open

The Compost site is located at the north end of Pat Simon Drive. Yard waste may be



disposed of at the City compost site on Kapp Drive. Please observe signs directing where the materials should be placed.

The compost site is only for City of Peosta Residents and Thunder Ridge Residents ONLY.

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!



THERE IS NO BETTER REASON TO JOIN!

Informational Meeting

05.28.25

6:00-7:30 PM
Peosta Station



Drop-in to learn more about
joining our team as a
volunteer EMT and/or
Firefighter!



If you cannot make it and would like more
information, email haverlandj@gmail.com.

[For Peosta Community Centre Events and information check out the Peosta Community Centre April Newsletter](#)



Free Sweet Potato Plants

Get a FREE sweet potato plant provided by a program from the Dubuque County Extension Office. Sign up now, pick up your plant at the library in May
[Sign up HERE](#)

Craft Club: Felt Gnomes

Join our new librarian to make Felt Gnomes! Teens and adults welcome. [RSVP](#)
Recommended, drop-ins welcome as supplies last.
Monday, April 7 @ 5:00 pm

Peosta Storytime Tuesday, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6th @ 9:00 am - 9:30 am
Join Ms. Teresa for a half hour with some reading, rhymes, and playing with friends.
Designed for children 2.5 – 5, but younger and older siblings or friends are welcome.

Egg Decorating Wednesday, April 16th @ 3:30 pm

Bring your own eggs, and we'll take care of the rest! Celebrate spring with a morning of egg-tastic decorating at the library. For children and families. [RSVP Required.](#)

[RSVP Now](#)

Braille Art with the Dubuque Association of the Blind Thursday, April 24 @ 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Learn how to write your name in Braille, create your own art using a braillewriter and learn about the mission of the Dubuque Association of the Blind. For All Ages. [RSVP](#)
Recommended.

Nature Squad: Rock Collection Kits

Nature Squad: Bringing the fun of the outdoors into the library with hands-on nature-themed activities that will spark kids' love for the natural world and encourage them to explore nature. In April we're learn how to identify different kinds of rocks. Each participant will go home with their own rock collection kit.

Wednesday, April 30 @ 3:00 pm

(563) 556-8755

[City of Peosta Website](#)



City of Peosta | 7896 Burds Road P.O. Box 65 | Peosta, IA 52068 US

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