

# In the Middle

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



# PEOSTA

Middle of everywhere



## **Work Session**

**January 7th**

**6:00pm**

City Council Chambers  
Council Chambers City Hall  
(Upper Level of Peosta  
Community Centre)

## **City Council Meeting**

**January 13th & January  
27th**

**6:00pm**

Council Chambers City Hall  
(Upper Level of Peosta  
Community Centre)

## **Christmas Tree Pick-Up**

**January 8th and January  
15th**

*(Tags can be purchased at  
City Hall for \$3.00-cash or  
check only)*

On Thursday, December 11, T-Mobile announced that Peosta has been selected as one of twenty-five recipients of its Hometown Grant program. We've been awarded \$50,000 to help fund the construction of a multi-purpose pavilion with restrooms at Kelly Oaks Park. This project will expand opportunities for accessible recreation, education, and community gatherings—all while preserving the park's natural ecosystem.

We are deeply grateful to T-Mobile and to everyone who has supported this effort. After years of anticipation, we're thrilled to see this vision coming to life: a welcoming space in a beautiful setting, designed to bring our community together.

*(Pictured in Photo: Vicky Dolphin- Community Centre Assistant Director, Annette Ekhoﬀ-City Administrator, Stacey Bauer-Community Centre Executive Director, Ben Hanten-Council Member, Jeff Buxton-Council Member, Russ Pfab-Mayor, Brian Schatz-Council Member, Justin Lau-Council Member, Ty Troutman-Community Centre Communication Director, and Santa Claus)*



## Peosta City Council

The residents of Peosta elected two new council members during the November 4th election. At the December 9th council meeting Ben Hanten and Jim Boxleiter were both sworn in by City Clerk Marcie Winkelman. They will be joining John Kraft (reelected), Jeff Buxton, and Brian Schatz. We thank and appreciate both Alexis Lundgren Goedert and Justin Lau for serving the City of Peosta the past 4 years. Justin and Alexis will continue to serve on the Parks Board. Mayor Russ Pfab was also reelected as Mayor during this election.

[City of Peosta Government Page](#)

*Ben Hanten and Jim Boxleiter being sworn in by City Clerk Marcie Winkelman.*



*Ben Hanten with Mayor Russ Pfab*



*Jim Boxleiter with Mayor Russ Pfab*

## **Why Snowplows Look Fast (Even When They're Not)**

We've heard a few comments about plow trucks "flying" down the street, so here's the inside scoop from the world of winter ops. Our plow trucks typically run 15–25 mph on city streets and may reach up to about 30 mph on long, open stretches. That's the normal, recommended speed for actually getting snow off the road instead of just giving it a gentle nudge.

So why do they *look* faster?

- Snow shoots off the blade like a confetti cannon, which makes everything seem more dramatic than it is.
- Plows need steady momentum, think of it like pushing a shopping cart full of bowling balls. Slow down too much and the whole thing gets awkward.
- Stopping distances are longer in winter, so operators keep a smooth, consistent pace instead of speeding up and slowing down.
- Our operators are trained pros, not auditioning for the next *Fast & Furious: Peosta Drift*.

And just to be clear:

They're not speeding, they're plowing.

They adjust their speed based on conditions.

They'd much rather be home in warm socks, too.

Thanks for giving our plows plenty of room to work. A little space, a little patience, and we'll all get through winter together one cleared street at a time.

## **The Booster Station (on Cox Springs Road) – What the heck does this thing do? (a.k.a. Why Your Water Pressure Isn't Magic)**

Here's a simple breakdown of how our booster station fits into the water system, no engineering degree required.

The Cox Springs Road booster station has **four above-ground pumps** whose whole job is to give the east side of town (basically everything east of Cox Springs Road) a little extra "oomph" in water pressure. Think of them as the caffeine boost for that part of the system.

These pumps turn on and off automatically based on a pressure sensor.

- When pressure gets too low → pumps kick on.
- When pressure gets high enough → pumps take a nap.
- If something big is happening—like a fire hydrant being used—they can run up to three pumps at once.
- They also rotate between pumps, so no single pump feels overworked or underappreciated.

We *tried* running the pumps based on pressure readings from the Thunder Ridge well house, but the radio communication between the two buildings wasn't reliable enough. (Imagine trying to run a city system based on a walkie-talkie that says "over" three seconds too late.)

At Thunder Ridge Estates, there are **six pressure tanks** that help soften water hammer and keep pressure steady, but they don't actually store water. There *is* a well there, but it only produces about **70 gallons per minute**, which is why we classify it as an **emergency-only** well. It buys us a little time in a worst-case scenario, but it's not going to save the world.

There's also a water tower at that site, **AND I WANT TO MAKE THIS CLEAR - ITS NOT OPERATIONAL** and it was never plumbed into our system. It was purchased out of state and brought to Peosta by the developer of Thunder Ridge Estates and at the time of purchase it did not work!! It's basically a landmark at this point, part of the scenery, not part of the system. The elevation isn't high enough to provide usable pressure, so it would only ever function as a storage tank—and even then, you'd have to pump water **into** it and then pump water **back out** of it. In other words: not very helpful when we already have elevated towers that actually do the job.

Originally, our booster station had a big pressure-reducing valve in a manhole to protect the closest subdivision from too-high pressure (which was causing water heaters to leak). That valve didn't work as intended, so small pressure-reducing valves were installed in the nearby homes instead—and that solved the issue. The two wells and the elevated towers in town communicate with each other through a radio system that turns them on and off based on tower levels. That system is **not** connected to the booster station or the Thunder Ridge Estates well. They can "see" each other's pressure readings, but they can't control each

other. It's more like watching your neighbor's porch light turn on-not flipping the switch yourself.

In theory, the booster station *could* push water backward into the city side of the system and raise pressure there, but only if it had a reliable water source to pull from. And that, in a nutshell, is how the whole setup works. Not glamorous, not magical, but it keeps the water moving where it needs to go.



## Exciting News for City of Peosta

We are thrilled to announce that we've adopted **Diligent Community** as our new board management software, designed to keep our community more connected, informed, and engaged.

### What this means for you:

- Receive automatic updates about meetings and important announcements
- Effortlessly explore meeting agendas, minutes, policies, and other documents with our new public site
- Watch livestreamed and recorded meetings at your convenience
- Experience a more inclusive, accessible, and transparent community

Together, we are building a community that thrives on collaboration, inclusivity, and open communication.

Stay tuned for more updates as we roll out this exciting new tool! <https://cityofpeosta-org.community.highbond.com/Portal/>



## City of Peosta Police Department

Snow season has arrived and will here for the next couple of months. The Peosta Police Department has a few reminders for residents to help make street cleanup safe and more efficient for our Public Works Department.

When possible, please remove vehicles from streets during snow falls. Parking is available for residents at the northeast corner of the Peosta Community Centre (upper lot). Stay tuned to local media outlets, City Facebook page, and City website for announcements of "snow emergencies." There will be no parking allowed on streets during this time.

### **Sidewalks**

In order to provide a safe community, it is important to maintain clear and safe sidewalks during the winter months. Walkers/runners/and children walking to school or bus stops are still utilizing the sidewalks daily. Property owners are responsible for removal of snow and ice from all sidewalks that abut their private property within 24 hours after snowfall ends.

### **Snow Emergency Information**

During a Snow Emergency there will be no parking allowed on City streets to allow for snow removal. Parking on lawns is prohibited as well as shoveling/blowing snow into the street. Snow Emergencies will be posted on the City Website and Facebook. Utility Customers can sign up through [FrontDesk](#) for text messages.

### **Sign Up Instructions**



Visit the Peosta Community Website for information on membership, events, and room rentals.

[Community Centre | City of Peosta](#)

[Calendar](#)



One action item that emerged from our Community Heart and Soul feedback was to update the welcome packet provided to new Peosta residents. This would likely include such items as:

- Frequently asked questions
- Information about city amenities (garbage/recycling, police/fire, billing information, parks, etc)
- Welcoming letter

We'd like to have this completed by July 1, 2026. If this is a project you may be interested in helping with, please contact Denise Grant at 563-590-2307

## NICC Campus updates

As we welcome 2026, the Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) Peosta campus is buzzing with activity, innovation and opportunities. Whether you are looking to advance your career, explore a new hobby or simply enjoy the beautiful outdoor spaces our campus has to offer, there is something for everyone right here in your backyard.

### Fueling body and mind

The Peosta Campus Cafe is a convenient and delicious dining option for anyone in the area. Located in the Main Building, the cafe features made-to-order breakfasts, grilled sandwiches, fresh salads and pizza. To make your visit even easier, the cafe now offers online ordering, allowing you to schedule pickup times for breakfast or lunch. Stop in to enjoy a meal and experience the energy of our campus community.

### Connect with nature

Even in the winter months, the Outdoor Learning Lab (OLL) offers a serene escape for nature enthusiasts. Open to the public from sunup to sundown, the OLL features 3.5 miles of soft trails winding through reconstructed ecosystems, including wetlands, forests, prairies and savannas. Visitors are encouraged to "leave no trace" while enjoying this unique living laboratory.

### Cheer on the Cougars

Our Cougar athletics teams bring excitement and pride to the Peosta campus. While spring sports like baseball and softball prepare for their upcoming seasons, our Esports, sports shooting and dance teams continue to represent NICC with excellence. We invite the Peosta community to stay connected and support our student-athletes as they compete. Visit [niccathletics.com](http://niccathletics.com) for more information.

### Lifelong learning opportunities

It is never too late to learn something new. The spring 2026 semester begins on Thursday, Jan. 8, offering ample opportunity to start your degree or certificate journey. For those seeking personal enrichment or professional development without the commitment of a full degree, our Business and Community Solutions division offers a wide range of classes, from technology training to arts and hobbies.

Upcoming events Campus Visit Day Thursday, Feb. 5 from 11 am - 1 pm • Register:

<https://applynow.nicc.edu/event-registration>

AI Unlocked: Leading the Future of Work Thursday, Feb. 12 from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

- Early-bird registration: \$229 (ends Monday, Jan. 12)

# Dubuque County Library

PEOSTA / NICC BRANCH 8342 NICC Drive Peosta, IA 52068 Phone | 563-556-5110 ext.2224

## **Peosta Storytime**

**Tuesdays**

**9:00 am — 9:30 am**

Join Teresa for a time of stories, songs, fingerplay, wiggles, and hands-on activities. Designed for ages 2.5 to 4. Please note: Storytime is automatically cancelled when local schools are closed...



Dubuque County  
**Library District**

## **DCLD Kids: Build a Snowman**

**January 12, 2026 @ 4:15 pm - 4:45 pm**

Winter is here! Celebrate by making an air dry clay snowman. For ages 5-12.

[Calendar](#)

## **Teens @ the Library: Nintendo**

**January 15, 2026 @ 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm**

Hang out at the library and play Mario Kart and Super Smash Bros on Nintendo Switch! Free snacks for all players! Ages 13-17.

## **Crochet for Absolute Beginners**

**January 20, 2026 @ 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm**

Interested in learning crochet? Join us for an introductory lesson on beginning crochet stitches. Yarn and hooks provided. Teens and adults welcome. RSVP required.

## **DCLD Kids: STEM Basketball Hoops**

**January 26, 2026 @ 4:15 pm - 4:45 pm**

Kids will be given various supplies and use their STEM skills to create a mini basketball hoop!

(563) 556-8755

[City of Peosta Website](#)



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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!