

In the Middle

SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



City Council Meeting
September 14th, and
September 28th,
October 12th
6:00pm
City Council Chambers

Hydrate Flushing
September 20th-
October-8th

**City-Wide Fall Garage
Sales**
September 23-25th

Trick or Treating
October 31st
6:00pm-7:30pm

Election
Tuesday, November
2nd
City of Peosta Banquet
Room

**City Wide Clean Up
Large Garbage Pick
Up**
Saturday, November
6th
Register [HERE](#)

Mayors Message

September 2021 Mayor's Message

I trust that we are all finding suitable ways to engage with friends and family in this month's reprieve from the summer heat and humidity. We weren't quite feeling that relief at our 14th Annual Peosta Days, but that didn't diminish the fun had by all with the runs, parade, games, entertainment, and of course the food! I want to share a special thank you to the staff and volunteers that make this event such a success each year, specifically recognizing a few highly committed leaders that have a history of going above and beyond in support of this event: Andrea Kluesner, Ray Stephan, Dean Gasper, Stacey Bauer, and Mike Ackerman. Please join me in thanking them and all the people behind this cornerstone of Peosta life!

Our regular municipal elections will be held on November 2, 2021. I cannot stress enough the importance of making your voice heard by voting by any of the methods made available to us by the Dubuque County Elections Office. Please educate yourself on the roles and responsibilities of the positions that will be on the ballot, as well as educating yourself on the candidates so that you can cast a well-informed vote. Please do not be complacent and assume that it will work out well without your direct participation.

In this election we will elect representatives for the following 3 City Council positions as well as the Mayor. All of Peosta's elected positions are now 4-year terms.

- Karen Lyons was elected to the Council in 2013, re-elected in 2019, and has served two full terms. Karen also served two 2-year terms on City Council from 1985 to 1989.
- John Kraft was elected to the Council in the regular November 2017 election and has served his full first term
- Mike Ackerman was elected to the



Council in a December 2020 special election to fill a vacancy

- Jim Merten was elected as Mayor in a January 2020 special election to fill a vacancy

The terms for Council members Gerry Hess (since 2011) and Doug Hughes (since 2019) will expire at the end of 2023.

Candidate forms are available in Peosta City Hall. Completed forms must be submitted to Peosta City Hall no later than 5:00pm on Thursday, September 16. Look for more about these positions and how you can learn about the candidates in the October newsletter. You are welcome to contact any current Council member, staff, or me if you would like to know more before the filing deadline.

There is a lot of buzz around the Planned Unit Development (PUD) that has come to be informally known as Waters Edge. Our Planning and Zoning commission has reviewed the documents, had a public hearing, and raised some concerns related to the vision. Based upon public comment by owners of a portion of the property that would be subject to the PUD that they need more information, you may see the City slow the process a bit to provide them the opportunity to ask more questions and to gain a better understanding of what is proposed and why. To be clear, the PUD continues to be in a development phase, and as such it is still changing in response to the feedback we continue to receive. The Council has not yet taken any formal action on the path to approving the PUD. Watch the city council agendas on our new website to know when our public hearings are coming up, and plan to attend so that the council knows how YOU feel about it. Our goal is to develop a vision that all parties can support.

Lastly, I will take this opportunity to address what may be circulating as a rumor around town, with the goal of making sure our community members have the facts. The City of Peosta has been named as a defendant in litigation filed by Burds Family Investments, LP, and Deborah McDonough ("Burds"). The litigation requests permission to, outside the allowed 30-day limit, file a legal challenge to the process and/or steps taken by the City of Peosta to approve the Comprehensive Plan on May 25, 2021. The City Insurance Carrier provides the City with an attorney to defend this action with the costs of said defense being subject to the City deductible.

Be safe and be happy!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim".

Jim Merten, Mayor

Hotel Motel Tax

The City of Peosta will have on the November ballot a referendum item of whether to have or not have a Hotel/Motel Tax. So, with election season just around the corner, I wanted to take this opportunity and provide some information to help you make an informed decision.

A hotel motel tax is a tax placed on each night's stay at a hotel. You might also encounter this tax as hotel lodging tax, tourist tax, room tax or sales tax. The tax, as all other taxes, was created to increase government revenues. But instead of increasing taxes on local residents (property taxes for example), state and local governments turned to the non-voter. Travelers would be taxed when they stayed in Peosta.

A lodging tax rate can vary from city to city, and even from neighborhood to neighborhood and have been around for a while and are beneficial for reasons that I will elaborate on.

Chapter 423A of the Iowa Code allows the City of Peosta to impose a Hotel Motel Tax Rate (not to exceed) 7%. If this is passed by the voters, it will become effective on the first day of July 2022. No less than 50% of the revenue shall be used for those purposes set out and/or defined by Iowa Code Section 423A.7(4)(a). Eligible costs will fall into the category of: acquisition of sites for, or constructing, improving, enlarging, equipping, repairing, operating or maintaining recreational, convention, cultural or entertainment facilities, including, but not limited to, memorial buildings, halls and monuments, civic centers, convention buildings, auditoriums, coliseums and parking areas or facilities located at those recreational, convention, cultural or entertainment facilities, or the payment of principal and interest on bonds or other evidence of indebtedness issued by the City for those recreational, convention, cultural or entertainment facilities, or for the promotion and encouragement of tourist and convention business, economic development in the City of Peosta. The remaining 50% is to be unrestricted and designated to the general fund account.

Also, it's interesting to note that the city had this on the ballot back in 2001 and it did not pass. It is unclear of why this measure did not pass – could be the lack of education of what the tax really was and how it could be used to benefit the city, or that the residents of Peosta felt that it just was not needed at that time because there was only one hotel, the Americinn that opened in 1999. The law has changed over the years, which has made it easier for Iowa municipalities to use this tax as a tool without putting the burden back on its taxpayers.

Peosta has come a long way since 2001 with a population of 651 residents to current population of 1,908, which by the way, is an increase of 38.6% percent from the 2010 decennial census.

Here is a link to the code. <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/423A.pdf>. Feel free to contact me with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Annette Ernst



Fall Garage Sales

Fidelity will have lists of the sales available on September 20th. Garage Sales will take place **September 23-25th**. Stop by Fidelity Bank and Trust in to pick up your free shopping bag before you shop!

Public Works Department

The public works department will be flushing all of the hydrants in Peosta beginning **Monday, September 20th - Friday, October 8th**.

Customers may experience rusty colored water and low water pressure while flushing occurs in your area of town. You may want to bypass all water softeners and purification systems. The water is safe to drink, but caution should be taken when doing laundry to prevent staining of clothing.

Public Works Supervisor

Dean Ludwig



Police Department

Back to School Reminders: Please be mindful and drive safely during school drop off and pick up. Not only is it illegal to pass a school bus stopped with red and amber flashing lights but you will be fined and the DOT will impose a 30 day suspension of your license. Let's keep our kiddos safe and bus drivers safe. Have a great school year!

Peosta Police Chief

Mike Comer



Girls Volleyball

3rd/4th Grade

5th/6th, 7th,8th Grade
Sunday Mornings for 4 weeks
November/December



Youth Programming

New Hours Beginning October 1st

Monday-Thursday

5:00am-9:00pm

Friday-5:00am-8:00pm

Saturday-Sunday 7:00am-7:00pm



Dubuque County Library PEOSTA / NICC BRANCH

8342 NICC Drive
Peosta, IA 52068

Phone | 563-556-5110
ext.2224

Email | [library@dubcolib
.lib.ia.us](mailto:library@dubcolib.lib.ia.us)



PROGRAMS FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

Emoji Keychain: Learn how to use our Makerspace 3D pens and make a fun emoji keychain to take home. Limited to 10 kids per session. 1st Grade and Up (we recommend that parents stay, especially for children in 1st/2nd grade). You can drop in anytime during the hour to make a keychain or two.

Registration

Thursday, Sept 16th at 4:30 at Peosta/NICC Branch

Makerspace & Makerspace Jr. Open House:

Did you know that you can use a 3D printer, 3D pens, iPads full of Maker apps, and more at your library's Makerspace? Drop in during these open houses to learn about and test our Makerspace tools.

Tuesday, Sept. 21st, 5:30 – 7:30pm at Peosta/NICC Branch

Spooky Perlors (1st - 5th Grade)

Make a jack o' lantern, ghost, or other Halloween design with perler beads. No registration required. Drop in anytime during the hour to make a design or two.

Tuesday, October 19: 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM at the Peosta/NICC Branch

Family Movie: Peter Rabbit 2 (Family/All Ages)

Enjoy this new release on the library's big screen while munching on some popcorn. No registration required. Running time: 1 hr, 26 min.

Tuesday, October 26 at the Peosta/NICC Branch: starting at 6:00 PM

Kids' Craft Club (Kindergarten - 5th Grade)

Join Miss Kayla for an easy kids' craft, shared over Zoom. The deadline to register for supplies is September 22. You will be able to pick up your supplies at your preferred branch Weds. October 6 - Sat. October 9. For October, we're making Pumpkin Pie Sugar Scrubs.

Register [HERE](#)

Tuesday, October 12: 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Wednesday, October 20: 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

[Program Newsletter Signup](#)

(563) 556-8755

[City of Peosta Website](#)

