



2021 WINTER ISSUE
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Osseo Outlook

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Osseo
Minidazzle
December 3

Downtown Osseo

Osseo Minidazzle

Friday, December 3, 6-8 p.m.

Sponsored by the City of Osseo and
Donations

- **Outside at Boerboom Veterans Park**
 - Fire Truck Parade on Central Avenue
 - Santa & Elves (goody bags for kids)
 - U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots Collection
 - Bonfire



Lunch with Santa

Saturday, December 4

Sponsored by Osseo Lions Club

- **Osseo Community Center – 11 a.m.-1 p.m.**
 - Kids Eat Free, Adults \$10
 - Goody Bag



General Information

Osseo City Hall

415 Central Ave.

Osseo, MN 55369

PHONE: 763-425-2624

FAX: 763-425-1111

cityhall@ci.osseo.mn.us

DiscoverOsseo.com

REGULAR HOURS:

Mon. - Thurs., 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Elected Officials

Mayor

Duane Poppe 952-223-6721

dpoppe@ci.osseo.mn.us

City Council

Juliana Hultstrom 480-822-8756

jhultstrom@ci.osseo.mn.us

Harold E. Johnson 763-424-3707

hjohnson@ci.osseo.mn.us

Larry Stelmach 763-234-7237

lstelmach@ci.osseo.mn.us

Alicia Vickerman 612-298-7085

avickerman@ci.osseo.mn.us

Important Phone Numbers

General Information 763-425-2624

Police/Fire Emergency 911

Police (non-emergency) 763-424-5444

Fire (non-emergency) 763-424-5444

Water, Sewer, Streets after-hours emergency 952-258-5321

City Staff

City Administrator Riley Grams 763-425-3861
rgrams@ci.osseo.mn.us

Police Chief Shane Mikkelsen 763-424-5444
smikkelsen@ci.osseo.mn.us

Police Office Manager Felicia Wallgren 763-424-5444
fwallgren@ci.osseo.mn.us

Fire Chief Mike Phenow 763-424-5444
mike.phenow@ci.osseo.mn.us

Public Works Director Nick Waldbillig 763-425-5741
nwaldbillig@ci.osseo.mn.us

City Accountant Shelly Cisewski 763-424-6752
scisewski@ci.osseo.mn.us

City Clerk Katrina Jones 763-425-4064
kjones@ci.osseo.mn.us

Administrative Assistant Karen Broden 763-425-2624
kbroden@ci.osseo.mn.us

Community Management Coordinator
Joe Amerman 763-425-1454
jamerman@ci.osseo.mn.us

City Offices will be closed:

November 25-26, 2021 (Thanksgiving)

December 23-24, 2021 (Christmas)

December 30-31, 2021 (New Year's)

City of Osseo Meeting Schedule

City Council

2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, 7 p.m.

Economic Development Authority

2nd Monday of the month, 6 p.m.

Planning Commission

3rd Monday of the month, 6 p.m.

All meetings are held in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

Agendas are available at City Hall and on the city's website,

DiscoverOsseo.com, on the Friday preceding each meeting.

The City Council, Economic Development Authority, and Planning Commission meetings are televised live on cable channel 16 on Monday evenings. Replay schedule is: most recent City Council and EDA meetings – Tuesday at 7 p.m., Wednesday at 9 a.m., and Saturday at 3 p.m. Most recent Planning Commission meeting – Wednesday at 7 p.m., Thursday at 9 a.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. Watch meetings live or on demand on the Internet. See the link at **DiscoverOsseo.com**, the city website.

Quarterly Newsletter

This publication is distributed free to residents and businesses of Osseo in March, June, September, and December. If you have questions regarding the Osseo newsletter, please call 763-425-2624.

Your suggestions and comments are welcome.

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Osseo Thanks Longtime City Clerk LeAnn Larson

Longtime City Clerk LeAnn Larson is retiring at the end of this year. LeAnn has worked for the City for more than 23 years and has been a key staff member for the City. As the City Clerk, LeAnn was responsible for administrative work such as preparing and keeping minutes, maintaining official records of City Council actions and agreements that the City enters into, processing business license applications, and so much more. She also manages City Elections. LeAnn assists with financial reports concerning street assessments, tax roll preparations and annual audits, and prepares each resolution passed by the City.

She has always been the steady force here at City Hall, regardless of who she has worked for and worked with. She possesses a positive, upbeat attitude and provides staff, City officials, and members of the community with a joyous experience. Her personality drives longtime Osseo residents to stop into City Hall just to talk to her, even if they have no business to conduct. In 2016, LeAnn won the Minnesota Women in City Government Leadership Award for her years of service and dedication to Osseo. Upon her retirement after 30 years of municipal experience, LeAnn plans to spend time traveling. We certainly wish LeAnn all the best in her retirement.

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WHERE WE'RE DESTINED. WE TRAVEL TOGETHER."**
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Commission Members Needed in 2022

Are you interested in finding out more about city government? Osseo is seeking interested people to serve on local boards and commissions. These positions are available:

- Historical Preservation Committee (1 position for three-year term and 1 position for a two-year term)
- Parks & Recreation Committee (2 positions for three-year terms)
- Planning Commission (2 positions for three-year terms)
- Public Safety Advisory Committee (2 positions for two-year terms: 1 business appointee and 1 resident appointee)

The City values leadership from service-minded individuals. Citizens interested in filling these appointments are asked to submit a letter or statement of interest containing name, address, telephone number, email address, and any other pertinent background information. For more information about duties of these committees, please go to **DiscoverOsseo.com/BoardsandCommissions**.

Please send your letter of interest by January 5, 2022, to City Clerk, 415 Central Avenue, Osseo, MN 55369. For more information, please call 763-425-2624.



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Osseo Welcomes New City Clerk

Katrina Jones



With longtime City Clerk LeAnn Larson set to retire at the end of 2021, the city took steps to find the next City Clerk. After posting the position, the city hired Katrina Jones and she started on November 1.

Katrina has a Master's degree in Public Administration and several years of municipal experience. She more recently served as the Deputy City Clerk for the City of Crystal. In her free time, she enjoys art, fishing, and spending time outdoors with her family.

Welcome Katrina to the City of Osseo!

Canines for Clean Water

With all the joys of having a pet, one of the not-so-glamorous parts would be cleaning up after them. Pet waste left uncollected is not only unsightly but unsanitary, with detrimental effects to human health and the environment.

When pet waste is washed into our waterways, it depletes oxygen levels and releases ammonia and excess nutrients, all of which contribute to unsightly weeds and algal blooms while harming fish and other aquatic organism populations. It also contains pathogenic bacteria and other parasites, leading to health issues such as increased levels of Escherichia coli (E. coli), making lakes and rivers unsafe for swimming and recreational activities.

Please remember to take time to properly dispose of your pet's waste and to bring along equipment like doggy bags to clean up when you're on the go. It's up to us to keep our local waters clean.



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Brittney Chase (Funeral Director),
Rachel Evenson (Funeral Director).

Front Row: Chelsea Smolenski (Funeral Director), Tom Weber (Funeral Director and Owner), and Tina Schutz (Funeral Director)

Two Locations to Serve You

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Brooklyn Center Osseo

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City Completes Water Meter Replacement Project

This year the City of Osseo replaced every water meter in a large city-wide project to upgrade aging infrastructure. Approximately 900 meters have been replaced by Ferguson Waterworks over the course of the summer and fall. The new water meters are more accurate than the more than 20-year-old meters, resulting in less water loss to the City than in prior years. In turn, this saves the City and its residents and businesses thousands of dollars each year. Utility reads are now more accurate and will account for actual water used by property owners. Thank you to each property owner in the City who helped make this project a success!



Chief's Corner

by Police Chief
Shane Mikkelsen

The Osseo Police Department has a program sponsored by the Osseo Knights of Columbus called Coats for Kids. This program gives coats to the Police Department for

distribution to those in need. The department has done this the past six years. We have given away over 90 coats in Osseo in the last two years and we have another 30 this year. Please let the Police Department know if you need a coat for a child.



The City will be hosting the Osseo Minidazzle at 6 p.m. on December 3. We will bring Santa into town and to Boerboom

Park. There will be a bonfire in the street. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Nest Pantry. Please come to downtown Osseo and enjoy the start of another great holiday season. The next day on December 4, the Osseo Lions Club hosts Lunch with Santa in the Osseo Community Center. Santa will be there for pictures and you can have a great meal.

One of the biggest headaches for everyone in the winter is when the city calls a snow emergency. Please read all about the process the city uses for snow emergencies in this newsletter. We do not want to tow vehicles from the streets, but we will if we have to. Towing is something that no one wants, as it disrupts city operations and residents' lives. It is important for all of us to stay on the same page!

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Snow Emergency Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide information to residents about snow emergencies in the City, including procedures for declaring an emergency, notification to residents, and parking prohibitions.

A Declaring a Snow Emergency

The City of Osseo will declare a snow emergency when designated City staff measures two or more inches of accumulated snow at the Public Works parking lot. The Snow Emergency Ordinance can be found in Section 71.06 of the Osseo City Code.

B Notification to Residents of a Snow Emergency

After a snow emergency has been declared, notice will be posted on the following:

- The City website at www.discoverosseo.com
- Email notification list (if you wish to subscribe, please contact City Hall to learn how you can sign up)
- City Twitter and Facebook feeds
- WCCO Television
- Osseo Gateway Sign
- Telephone recordings: City Hall (763-425-2624); Police Department (763-424-5444); Public Works (763-425-5741)
- Notifications of any future changes to the Snow Emergency Policy will be included in the next available quarterly utility bill mailing

C Prohibited Parking During a Snow Emergency

During a snow emergency, residents can park on the street in all residential areas. However, residents are encouraged to remove their vehicles from the street so that City snowplow crews can plow snow to the curb when possible. After a snow emergency is declared, parking is prohibited in the downtown district for one night between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. This will provide the opportunity for City snowplow crews to haul away snow from the downtown area safely without risk of damaging parked vehicles. The City will make every attempt to declare a snow emergency no later than 8:00 p.m.

D Temporary Parking During a Snow Emergency

The City has coordinated with local businesses and churches to identify temporary parking locations during a snow emergency. Temporary parking during snow emergencies is available at the following locations:

- City Hall parking lot located at 415 Central Avenue
- City-owned parking lot located at 108 1st Avenue NW (behind Heinen's Motorsports)
- Parking lot located at 233 1st Avenue NE (accessible from the alley and 1st Avenue NE)
- Parking lot located at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 710 Broadway Street East

Residents may park their vehicles at these locations to get them off the street so that City snowplow crews can safely and efficiently plow the streets.

E Violations of Prohibited Parking Rules During a Snow Emergency

The City will use a "snowbird" parking rule. If a vehicle is parked on a city street in the residential area and City snowplow crews must plow around the vehicle, the owner has 24 hours to move their vehicle out of the area so that City snowplow crews can come back and clean up that location. Failure to move the vehicle after 24 hours will result in a parking citation and possibly towing. All citation and/or towing costs will be at the owner's expense.

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Becky Meierhofer, Agent
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F City Removal of Snow

During a snow emergency, City crews remove snow from the streets toward the sides. Therefore, it is difficult to keep all driveways and alleys free of snow during the initial plowing of city streets. The City will make every effort to minimize the blocking of driveways and alleys during plowing but cannot guarantee that this will always be possible.

**Residents who have questions about the snow emergency policy or parking prohibitions may contact City Hall by phone at 763-425-2624 or by email at cityhall@ci.osseo.mn.us.

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Osseo Welcomes New Police Officer

Nick Englund



My name is Nick Englund. Although I'm the newest full-time officer at the OPD, I'm not exactly new to the department. I have been working here as a part-time officer for the last 10 years while working full-time at my prior department. I am very excited to be working here full time now; the support from city staff, residents, and

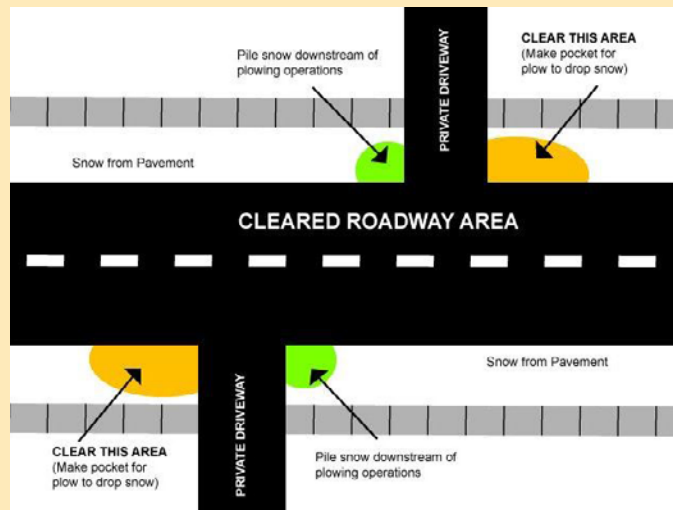
business owners has been wonderful and a breath of fresh air for me. Osseo has always been a place where I've enjoyed spending time, even when I was a kid. If you're reading this, you probably live in the city or at least spend time here and know what I'm talking about... the small-town atmosphere in the midst of a busier metro area. It's a gem of a city, and I'm proud to serve the residents, visitors, and business owners alike. If you see me out and about, please wave me down and say hello!



Public Works Perspective

by Public Works Director
Nick Waldbillig

Snow Removal Around Your Home



When clearing snow from your driveway, shovel snow downstream of roadway traffic.

Make a pocket on the opposite side of your driveway, as shown.

By doing so, snow that is plowed from the street will be pushed into the pocket instead of onto your driveway.

Safety Tips

- Please clear snow from around the hydrants near your residence to allow emergency crews quick access in case of fire.
- Keep public and private sidewalks clear of ice and snow for everyone's safety, including that of school-age children who walk daily to their bus stop.
- Do not stockpile snow at street intersections. This can create a vision obstruction that places everyone at risk.
- Please do not deposit or blow snow or ice onto city streets. Please help neighbors who are unable to clear snow from sidewalks.
- Do not allow children to play in snow stockpiles, as this is a dangerous activity.
- Stay back behind the plow, far from the snowfog. Be smart and don't crowd the plow.
- Stay alert as snowplows turn frequently and often with little warning. They may also travel over centerlines or partially into traffic to further improve road conditions.
- Slow down and drive according to the conditions. Most winter crashes are caused by driving too fast for conditions.



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City of Osseo

2022 Every Other Week Single Sort Recycling Collection



Recycle Week



Holiday

Holidays Observed: New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

Pickups that fall on or after a holiday will be serviced one day late.

Holidays on Saturday or Sunday do not cause any delays.

Collection Schedule is also available on our website: RandysEnvironmentalServices.com

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Donations to Designated City Funds

Since the fall edition of the Osseo Outlook, these donations have been received by the City for special designation:

- Beautification Fund from Harold E. Johnson (\$2,250)
- Police Fund from Norman Lerbs (\$500), Harold Johnson (\$200), and Anonymous (\$800)
- Fire Fund from Norman Lerbs (\$500), Osseo Fire Relief Association (\$4,914), and Harold Johnson (\$200)

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New Businesses



Osseo has recently welcomed two new businesses to Central Avenue: Annabelle House and the Peppered Porch, both on Central Avenue. Annabelle House, at 232 Central Avenue, is Osseo's new coffee house, offering handcrafted coffee, made-to-order sandwiches, and bakery items. Peppered Porch, just a short walk down the road at 204 Central Avenue, is a home décor and accessories boutique. We're excited to have both locations now open.



Fire Focus

by Fire Chief *Mike Phenow*

When the weather turns colder, there's nothing better than good home cooking to share with loved ones. Tragically, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and fire injuries. But, with a little knowledge,

cooking fires can be prevented.

Here are some basic precautions to keep you and your family safe when cooking:

- Stay in the kitchen while you are cooking and pay attention to what you're doing. If you have to leave the room, turn the burner off.
- Keep anything that can catch fire – oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, or curtains – away from your stovetop.
- Turn pan handles toward the back of the stove so that they don't get bumped by you or grabbed by children.
- Keep a lid or baking sheet nearby that you can use to cover any pots and pans if a fire starts.
- If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the oven or stovetop.



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In the event that you do have a cooking fire:

- Turn the oven and burners off.
- Keep the oven door closed or put a lid on any pans on fire.
- Never use water to try to put out a cooking fire!
- Get everyone out of the house.
- Close the door behind you.
- Call 9-1-1.

Follow these simple precautions to keep your house filled with yummy aromas instead of dangerous smoke.

Osseo Welcomes New Police Officer

Adrienne Lamers



Hello, I am Officer Adrienne Lamers and I am one of the newest full-time Police Officers for the City of Osseo. I grew up locally and attended college at North Hennepin Community College before completing my Skills program education (Minnesota's general version of the police academy) at Hennepin Technical College.

I started my policing career on an Indian Reservation in southwestern Minnesota, but having roots here in the Twin Cities, I started working part-time for Osseo in addition to my full-time, out-state position. While working as an Officer for the tribe, I worked as the Community Events Coordinator, planning things like National Night Out, being the point of contact for social media, and setting up and performing car seat clinics and animal health/wellness clinics. I also became the Police K9 handler where I went to K9 school with my partner, Cisco. We were initially narcotics certified,

but I pushed for us to become K9 patrol certified as well, and we completed that certification process late last year. Earlier this year, the department was restructured, and all the officer positions were eliminated. I was offered an opportunity to continue working with my K9 partner at another agency, but when the opportunity arose to come and work here, I ultimately chose Osseo because I knew this was the town where I wanted to spend my career. I have enjoyed working part-time for Osseo for the last several years and now am pleased to have the chance to serve this community in a full-time capacity. This is due to our wonderful residents, supportive City Council, and administration, as well as the partnerships I have made with my coworkers.

My style of policing is community oriented, and I enjoy it when residents flag me down to chat or discuss concerns they have. I hope to continue fostering strong relationships with the residents and city staff and bring pride to our city as a Police Officer. I am excited to be here. Thank you for the opportunity to grow and work with you!

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Lift Station Improvement Project

One of the largest infrastructure projects that the City has completed happened this fall as Osseo worked to overhaul its three sanitary sewer lift stations. A lift station is an integral part of an effective sewage collection system. Raw sewage makes its journey underground in sloped pipelines that take advantage of gravity to keep costs down. This type of system is commonly referred to as a gravity pipeline.

In order for the raw sewage to continue the journey to a wastewater treatment plant, it needs to be efficiently transported to a higher elevation. Pumps and valves raise the sewage to higher elevations where those pipes eventually transport the wastewater out of the City for treatment.

The City sewer system last saw upgrades back in the 1960s.

Recently the City assessed the processes, as well as the mechanical and structural components of the lift stations, and determined that major rehabilitation was needed to keep the system working properly and safely. The City received bids for the overhaul project and selected a local contractor who is an expert in this work. The project began earlier this summer and is expected to wrap up by the end of the year.



Clear Hydrants for Faster Fire Suppression

When the snow piles up, be sure to take a couple extra minutes to shovel around the nearest fire hydrant. We recommend shoveling a path from the street to the hydrant and clearing a circle 3 feet in all directions around the hydrant. Finally, remove any snow and ice from the hydrant itself.

This helps ensure that we can both locate and operate the hydrant quickly in the event of an emergency. When a house or business is on fire and lives and property are at stake, every second counts. Fire trucks can only carry enough water to fight a fire for the first couple of minutes. After that, they need to be supplied by water from nearby fire hydrants. Having to spend extra time locating and accessing a hydrant that is buried in snow can take 2 to 3 minutes. That might not sound like much, but it's enough time for most fires to double in size and intensity.

Help keep yourself and your neighbors safer this winter by keeping your hydrants clear and accessible



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Toys for Tots Drive



Every Christmas the Osseo Police Department partners with local businesses to collect toys for Toys for Tots Twin Cities. The mission of the Marine Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys and distribute those toys to less fortunate children at Christmas.

The 2021 Toys for Tots Drive in Osseo begins on November 16 and will run through December 16. Drop-off sites are in the following Osseo businesses:

- Dean's Supermarket – 312 Central Ave.
- Dick's Bar – 205 Central Ave.
- Duffy's Bar & Grill – 337 Central Ave.
- Holiday Gas Station – 124 Central Ave.
- Olympia Café – 247 Central Ave.
- Premier Bank – 301 Central Ave.
- State Farm Insurance – 530 Central Ave.
- TPMI Chiropractic – 24 3rd St. NE.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Officer Mortinson at tmortinson@ci.osseo.mn.us or at 763-424-5444. And to learn more about Toys for Tots and how you can get involved, visit www.toysfortots.org.



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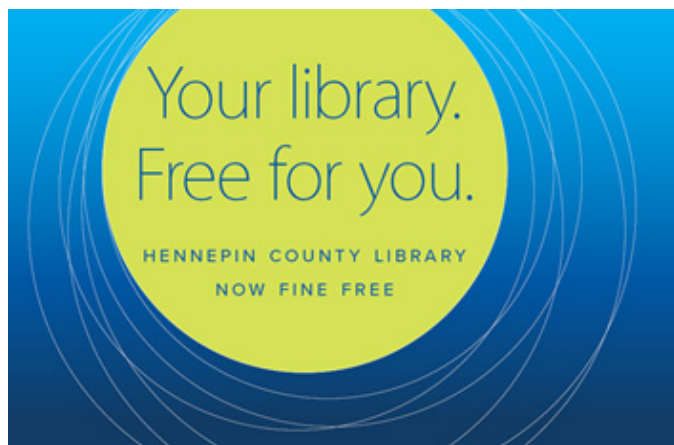


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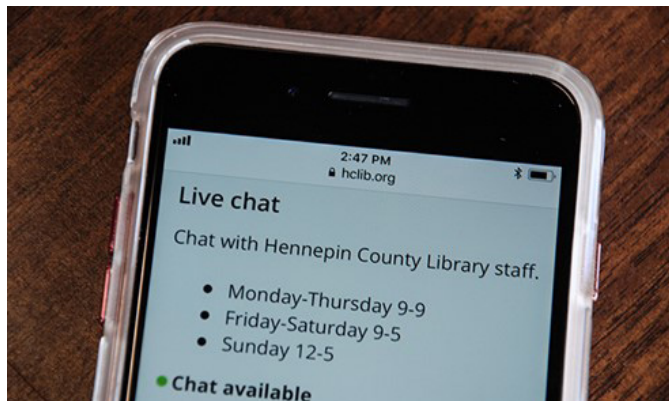
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Senior Games!

Looking for some indoor fun during the long, frozen months of our Minnesota winter? Come to the Osseo Community Center, 415 Central Avenue, at 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays for warm fellowship, fun, and games. We welcome all seniors from Osseo and surrounding communities to enjoy a cup or two of hot coffee or tea and individually pre-packaged snacks while you connect with your friends or meet some new ones during gameplay in the Community Center. For your safety and for the safety of your friends, masks continue to be strongly encouraged for all players, regardless of COVID vaccination status.

Think of Tuesdays and Thursdays as the days you can work to keep your brain fit by having fun. Games like '500' and Bingo not only help improve reflexes, hand-eye coordination, and critical listening skills, but also can help reduce stress by providing an opportunity to unplug from technology for a few hours while increasing your social interactions.

Each Tuesday at 1 p.m., join in the '500' fun to flex the strategic thinking and memory skills parts of your brain. The cost to play '500' is 50 cents. Miscellaneous games such as Skip-Bo, Uno, Dominos, and Farkle are also available to play on Tuesdays at no cost.



Bingo is played at 1 p.m. every Thursday in the Community Center. The cost to play two Bingo cards is only \$1, with cash paid out for each game winner. A variety of Bingo games are played for about two hours, with a brief break between game periods. We hope to see you soon!



Warm Up and Get Fit Together!

What better way is there to improve body, mind, and spirit than joining in the fun at the free group fitness classes at the Osseo Community Center? All ability levels are invited, although class size is limited. There is no fee and registration will be handled at class; just wear comfortable clothes and bring water.

Senior Strength Chair

Mondays and Thursdays, 11-11:45 a.m., led by Missy Kloster. She gets your body moving with a gentle, low-impact, both seated and standing exercise routine set to music in a non-cardio workout with optional hand weights.

Gentle Yoga

Mondays, 4:30-5:30 p.m., led by Laurie Wolfe, Yoga Alliance. She guides the class in positions that tone body muscles, calm the mind, and improve flexibility during the one-hour yoga class. Please bring a yoga mat or a towel.

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The Skinny on Water Softeners

A lot of us have experience with hard water's unpleasant effects: dingy clothes, deposits on glassware and cooking utensils, scale buildup in pipes and on fixtures, and more. It's not surprising that water softeners are a popular household item.



Soft water has some notable benefits. Among others, it can extend the life and improve the efficiency of water heaters, dishwashers, and other appliances, which potentially saves on water, energy, and detergent use.

A major drawback of salt-based, ion-exchange water softeners is the chloride they produce and discharge into septic or sewage systems. Chloride from salt can seep into and pollute groundwater from on-site septic systems.

Chloride also enters the environment via wastewater treatment facilities. Because facilities aren't designed to remove it, chloride ends up in rivers, lakes, and streams. High levels of chloride in the environment are toxic to fish and aquatic creatures.

Softening Your Options

If you own a water softener or are thinking of getting one, read on for some strategies that can help lessen their environmental impacts.

Determine if you really need one. Hardness is determined by the level of minerals, principally calcium and magnesium, contained in water – the more minerals present, the harder the water. Groundwater is typically harder than river or lake water. The table at the top of the next column provides a common classification of water hardness. You can purchase a hardness-testing kit if you can access water that has not gone through a softener (perhaps from an outdoor tap).

Degree of hardness	Calcium carbonate: Milligrams per liter	Calcium carbonate: Grains per gallon
Soft	0-60	0-3.5
Moderately hard	60-120	3.5-7
Hard	120-180	7-10.5
Very hard	More than 180	More than 10.5

Reduce the salt. Only soften the water that needs it. Don't soften water to outside spigots or to cold drinking water taps. Only soften to the optimal hardness – over-softening wastes salt and water and results in excess chloride. Check your unit's settings and adjust if they're too high – the equipment may have been preset at an unnecessarily high level at the factory.

Do things to reduce your overall water use. It will have environmental and economic benefits, including less need for water softening. Find ideas on how you can conserve water.

Adjust the timer. If you're using less water because of changes in household size or because you've installed water-efficient appliances and fixtures – and your water softener is on a timer – you may be able to extend the time between regeneration cycles. Less regeneration results in less chloride in wastewater.

Upgrade to a high-efficiency water softener. If you're buying or upgrading to a new water softener (a good idea if you own an older unit), look for one that is high salt-efficiency and demand-initiated. Though you may pay a little more upfront, you'll save on salt and generate less chloride.

Go with a service. Another option is to subscribe to an exchange service. The company delivers soft water exchange tanks to the customer on a schedule determined by household size and water hardness level. Removed tanks are regenerated at a special facility, taking the handling of salt and solution discharge out of consumers' hands.



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