

# \* \* \* Peru City Newsletter \* \* \*

February 2026 Edition

## Spotlight:

### How to Stay Cozy and Cut Costs this

#### Winter:

Excerpts from BlackHills' "Positive Energy":  
<https://www.blackhillsenergysaving.com/positive-energy/holiday-energy-saving-tips>

It's the most wonderful time of the year, and while the weather outside may be frightful, all we want is for you to stay warm, cozy and safe. Luckily, you can do that and save money with some energy-saving tips and safety recommendations.

### Seal Drafts and Air Leaks:

It's always a good idea to caulk or weatherstrip windows and doors, or anywhere there might be a draft; this helps you be more energy efficient all year long.

### Manage the Temperature:

Heating can account for almost 50% of winter energy use, but there are a few different ways you can bring that percentage down. You can start by taking advantage of smart thermostat savings. Using smart or programmable thermostats allows you to automate temperature changes when you're asleep, at work or traveling.

### Cook Efficiently:

In your kitchen, you can save energy while baking, cooking and mixing. Start by getting out all your ingredients at once, getting things out of the refrigerator quickly. Bake multiple dishes at once and avoid opening the oven door if you don't need to, as this lets heat escape.

## Mayor's Note:

### To my neighbors,

February is a month that asks for resilience. It's a time for stewardship—for taking care of what we have so it can thrive in the seasons to come.

Stewardship sometimes means making very tough calls for the long-term health of our town. I was recently thinking back on the trees that were removed from Neal Park last summer. Seeing them come down was devastating. They were a piece of our landscape. But they had rotted and become a safety risk. The choice was to preserve a dangerous situation, or to make a hard decision that protects people and creates space for new growth. We chose safety and the future. We're even finding a new purpose for the wood, turning it into play features for our children.

Change in a small town like ours is deeply personal. It often involves people, places, and buildings we know and care about. When something changes, whether by choice or by otherwise, it can feel like a loss to the whole community. I want to acknowledge that feeling. My commitment is to try to ensure that every decision is made with careful thought, with the city's best interest at heart, and with a focus on maintaining a safe, respectful, and professional environment for both our residents and our staff. These decisions are never easy, and they are never made lightly.

This same principle of making difficult choices for the long-term good guides our work on the budget, on infrastructure, and on day-to-day operations. I don't have a magic wand. Progress comes from the collective will to do the hard, steady work, even when it's uncomfortable.

That work is happening. It's in the careful planning of our dedicated staff and in the commitment of everyone who shows up to help. We're not just maintaining—we're laying a responsible foundation.

The path forward is built on respect: respect for our past, respect for each other in the present, and respect for the future we're trying to build. It's about having the courage to do what's right, even when it's hard, and always striving to make Peru a better place for every single one of us.

Thank you for your trust.

Sincerely,  
**Katy Novak**  
Mayor, City of Peru

## CITY NOTICES:

(SEE NOTICES ON BACKSIDE)

- Join Mayor Novak for a conversation about the future of Peru!
- Help Wanted! Find more information about open positions on our website.
- Winter is here! Please make sure you know the city's snow emergency procedures.

### City Hall Notices:

- The Peru Parks and Recreation Commission will meet on February 4th in City Hall for a regular meeting.
- The Board of Health will meet on February 11th in City Hall for a regular meeting.
- The Peru City Council will meet on **Tuesday, February 17th** at 6pm CT in City Hall for a regular meeting.
- City Hall will be closed on the 16th of February for President's Day.

### Other Notices:

- Remember to fill out your request for a free NOAA radio from NPPD!
- Consider following the City on Facebook for the most current information.

### Mini Minutes:

*From 01/20 City Council*

The City Council met on 1/20/2026 at 6pm CT at City Hall.

### At This Meeting Council:

APPROVED: Allowing Clerk and Deputy Clerk to attend NMCA's Clerk's Academy

APPROVED: Allowing the Maintenance Supervisor to Attend the NE Rural Water Association's Annual Conference.

APPROVED: Acceptance of \$10,750 in donations for the Sid Brown Park Project.

DISCUSSED: Decommissioning of Emergency Sirens by Cooper Nuclear Station.

DISCUSSED: Proposal to Upgrade City Hall Computers and Networking.

REJECTED: An Ordinance Regulating Vacant Commercial Buildings.

APPROVED: Purchase of a Utility Line Locator.

DISCUSSED: Purchase of On-Call Maintenance Duty Phones

The full version of these minutes are available at City Hall during business hours. Previous meeting minutes are available on our website!