



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**CITY OF HANFORD PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
ANNOUNCES TWO PROGRAMS AT LONGFIELD CENTER**

Senior Creative Writing Group, iPhone for Newbies will meet in center's conference room

HANFORD, CA – The City of Hanford Parks & Community Services Department's Longfield Center is pleased to offer two new recreational opportunities for members of the public, including one specifically for seniors.

For years, the Hanford Seniors Creative Writing Group has brought seniors together to socialize over a common love of writing, culminating each year with a printed collection of their work called *Hanford Rambling Prose*. In recent times, the group has struggled to find a reliable, permanent home. But thanks to a renewed partnership with the City of Hanford, they will now gather at the Longfield Center's conference room on Tuesdays from 10 – 11 a.m. During the hour, members will read what they have written since the time they last met.

"We're trying to attract more seniors to the Hanford Seniors Creative Writing Group," said group facilitator Marlene DiNicola. "Come to the Longfield Center on Tuesdays to have fun, meet new people, and share your work with the group in a friendly environment."

There is no cost to join the Hanford Seniors Creative Writing Group. Members can choose to write any form of prose, including short stories, poems, fiction and non-fiction.

The group has already held two meetings at the Longfield Center.

Starting next week, anyone interested in learning more about their iPhone can attend iPhone for Newbies classes, taught by self-professed iPhone junkie Cianne McGinnis. McGinnis has been an iPhone owner since 2007, and since then, has spent countless hours mastering tips and tricks on YouTube.

"I'm excited to share my knowledge with anyone who feels overwhelmed by this new technology," McGinnis said. "The classes will be taught at a slow pace, and all questions are welcome."

McGinnis is offering two levels of classes. The first level 1 class is next Tuesday, December 6, from 1 – 2:30 p.m. in the Longfield Center conference room. Additional level 1 classes

(same content) will take place from 1 – 2:30 p.m. on December 8, 13 and 15. Level 1 classes will then transition to Tuesday-only classes.

The first level 2 class will take place on Thursday, December 22 from 1 – 2:30 in the conference room. Additional level 2 classes will be held from 1 – 2:30 p.m. every Thursday.

Everything Cianne will be teaching on her iPhone will be projected onto a large TV, so participants can follow along on their own iPhones.

Each class is limited to five people and the class fee is \$5 per class.

For questions about either of these programs, or to reserve your spot in an iPhone for Newbies class, please call the Longfield Center at 559-585-2530.

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About the Longfield Center:

In 1955, the City of Hanford purchased the catholic church located on the corner of 2nd Street and Douty Street for \$3,072. It was to be converted into a recreation facility in honor of Hanford men who had lost their lives in the Korean War. This project was spearheaded by Joseph R. Longfield, who donated building materials and recruited the volunteers needed to make this dream a reality. The center was an instant hit! To honor his hard work, the converted church was named the Longfield Center. By 1966, attendance at Longfield was at an all-time high and more space was needed. However, funding for a larger and more modern community center proved challenging. A determined Hanford City Council set aside funds for several years until they had enough to build the center without grant assistance. On November 30, 1977, the doors to the new center opened to the public.

About Joseph R. Longfield:

The Longfield Center was named after Joseph R. Longfield, a former mayor and city council member. Joseph Longfield moved to Hanford in 1926 from North Dakota. Joseph taught auto mechanics and metal shop at Hanford High for approximately 30 years. Following his retirement, he became active in local politics, serving as a city council member and mayor. Young people, especially those who were disadvantaged, were very important to him.