

CITY OF SAINT PETER HOT SHEET



All the City news you need to know and a little bit more.

City Info Line 507-934-0675 TDD #711

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The following information is a publication of the City of Saint Peter, City Administrator's Office, 934-0663, 227 South Front Street. To request an email subscription to this newsletter, or for more information, please contact us at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov



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02/27/19

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on February 25, 2019 included a public hearing and subsequent action to authorize submission of a grant application for Small Cities Development Program funds for a housing rehabilitation program in specific areas of Saint Peter; authorization to submit an application for Local Road Improvement Program funds for improvement to Township Road #361 which is directly west of the High School; approval for City assistance for the Ambassador's St. Patrick's Day parade; modifications to certain employee position descriptions; and approval for execution of an agreement with School District #508 for maintenance of Community Spirit Park.

The next regular City Council meeting, will be Monday, March 11th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.

SIDEWALK CLEARANCE REMINDER – Are you sick of reading about this yet? Seems with this monster winter we have had this reminder in the Hot Sheet more often than not, but here it is again with some exciting news....

If you need help shoveling sidewalks, the City is working with folks at the School District on a program for student organizations to help out. The students will be doing it as fundraisers for their sport teams. Cost is yet to be determined (that's a School District #508 decision), but if you would like to hire these students to help, please send your name, property address, and a daytime phone number and the City will pass on your request to the school. Students will be available to shovel after school."



Sidewalks must be cleared the full width of the walk within 24 hours of the snow ending. The walk must be cleared from side to side of all snow and

ice including drifting. With all the snow we have had this winter, it is becoming harder to keep sidewalks clear and some folks are simply doing one shovel's width down the middle. Keep in mind that a single person might be able to walk down that little path, but those with strollers, wheelchairs or other assistance devices will not and that's why the sidewalk must be cleared the full width.

So what happens, if you don't shovel? City crews will clear all the walks we are responsible for and then deal with those that have not been done in the rest of the community. It's expensive to have the City clean the sidewalk for you (\$75 per hour with a minimum charge of \$75), so please be a good neighbor and clear those sidewalks. And don't forget the handicap ramps if you live on a corner!

MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – Working together... I think it is what our community expects.

It has now been a week or so since the City Council got together with the School Board at a joint meeting. I think you expect that the City and School look at ways to continue to cooperate and collaborate on facilities that the entire community can use and enjoy. Collaboration means all kinds of things for different folks, but for the City the focus is on working together to evaluate our cooperation on Community Spirit Park, talking about the School Resource Officer and really thinking about the changing nature of our community and those we serve.



The Superintendent and I often visit about the changes we see in our community and how that not only impacts who we serve, but maybe even more importantly, how we serve. Changing demographics is a reality.

We have a meeting coming up in the first part of May with State Demographer Susan Bower who

will be here visiting about some of the trends she sees not just statewide, but locally as well.

Last week's joint meeting of the City Council and School Board is on public access and will be on our YouTube Chanel so you can see and hear what was discussed. There are lots of great things in front of us.

Will we be able to meet these challenges? It makes me wonder.....



SNOW EMERGENCY INFORMATION

– This has been one of the snowiest winters in a very long time which has left a lot of people struggling with Mother Nature. Cars that won't start, strained backs

from shoveling, ice dams and the new dilemma of where to put all that snow!

Most people didn't realize it, but one other unusual thing occurred....the City declared a snow emergency. It was the first one declared since 2011 and with all the snow we have had lately, there have been a lot of questions from the public about when and how they are declared.

So why don't we call snow emergencies all the time like other cities do? Snow emergencies cause a lot of overtime and when we have good cooperation from the public to move vehicles off the roadway, there is no real need for a snow emergency. At least that's what usually happens.

Usually when heavy snow is predicted, a call goes out from the City to move vehicles off roadways. We really appreciate the cooperation of those who do so and while it doesn't always work, for the most part, residents of Saint Peter comply with that request, things go smoothly and the streets are cleared within hours. However, with back to back snowfalls more and more people don't move their cars and the plows can't get quite as close to the curb resulting in roadways getting a little narrower each time it snows. That makes travel even on plowed roads more difficult.

To borrow a movie phrase, last week was a "perfect storm"....back to back to back snowfalls, strong winds, and lots of people who weren't moving their cars when asked nicely. A snow emergency was declared, tickets were issued, cars were towed and roads were plowed.

If you had been inconvenienced by people who didn't move their cars when it snowed before, you were probably happy to see the snow emergency. If you were one of those folks who don't have off-street parking and received a ticket or had a car

towed, you were not so happy. As with most things in City government, no matter what decision is made, there will always be unhappy people. There is no perfect solution and since we live in Minnesota where snow is a fact of life, we all just do the best we can to get through it.

When no snow emergency is declared, we fall back on the 24 hour rule. Vehicles which are parked on the street are required to be moved every 24 hours or they may be ticketed. That rule is in place year round. But before a car can be ticketed, Officers must follow due process in order to ensure the vehicle has been there for at least 24 hours without moving. Tires are chalked and 24 hours later a Police Officer goes back to check. If the car hasn't moved, the owner receives a ticket. We can't get to every part of town every day, so this is mostly enforced on a complaint basis when folks call the Police Department.

How do you find out if there is a snow emergency? Watch local media, sign up for the City's free community notification system at www.nixle.com, and/or call the City's information line at 934-0675 and follow the prompts. Snow emergencies will always be declared before 5:00 p.m. and take effect at midnight. That allows lots of time to get vehicles off the street before tickets are issued.

We end this saga with the moral of the story....if you don't have off-street parking now, please find some before Mother Nature surprises all of us with another monster storm. And most importantly, please be a good neighbor to all and move your cars off the street when it snows.

MAKES ME WONDER CONTEST WINNER – Last week's "Makes Me Wonder" column included a fun trivia question about the John Wayne film "The Quiet Man". The question was...."what was John Wayne's profession?" The correct answer was a professional boxer. In the film John Wayne kills his opponent in a boxing match and that prompts him to move back to his ancestral home in Ireland. If you are a John Wayne fan, you know that means he meets Maureen O'Hara and well, we don't want to give too much away!

Many astute readers got this one right; maybe aided by Google or maybe they are all just lovers of the movie. The winner is.....Mark Karlsrud! Mark please stop down to the Finance Department at City Hall to claim the small prize we have waiting for you.



Thanks to everyone who participated in the contest and watch for upcoming quizzes and sharing opportunities in the HOT SHEET.

CITY COUNCIL ADVISORY BOARDS – This is the third in a nine part series on the City Council’s advisory boards. These boards are comprised of mostly citizen members and are tasked with various responsibilities....the most important of which is providing recommendations to the City Council. Applicants are recommended for appointment by Mayor Zieman and the full Council votes on each appointment. Last week’s article focused on the Economic Development Authority and this week we’re highlighting the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC).

The HPC is comprised of seven members with the City’s Community Development Director serving as an Ex-Officio. The Board is tasked with issues related to the City’s standards for preserving the City’s rich architectural heritage for future generations. The Board considers requests from property owners for changes to structures located within the Heritage Preservation District including design, signage and materials to be used for changes to those structures.

The HPC meets on a monthly basis and current members who serve three-year terms include Judy Douglas, Emily Bruflat, Ed Johnson, Terry Bergemann, Joe Metzen and Larry Potts. There is one vacancy on this board.

Meetings of the HPC are held on the last Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

If you are interested in applying to be on one of the many City Council advisory boards or commissions, applications are available from the City Administrator’s Office at City Hall (227 South Front Street) or by emailing barbaral@saintpetermn.gov.

To be eligible for appointment to an advisory board, applicants must live within the corporate limits of the City and must commit to making the regularly scheduled meetings of the board they seek appointment to.

Next week’s edition of the Hot Sheet will provide information on the Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN - The City of Saint Peter Stormwater Utility will conduct a public meeting regarding the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) on Wednesday, March 6, 2019, from 1:00 p.m. –



4:00 p.m. in the Senior Center at the Community Center at 600 South Fifth Street. At the meeting Stormwater Utility staff will provide the public with an opportunity to review the SWPPP, ask questions, and receive some additional literature on stormwater pollution prevention. For more information on this meeting, please contact the Public Works Department at 507-934-0670.

SPACE HEATERS – Did you know that space heaters can dramatically increase your electric bill? Several utility customers learned that fact the hard way this past month when their utility bill jumped substantially due to space heater use.



If you are using or considering using a space heater in your home, here’s a formula that customers can use to determine the monthly cost of operating a space heater in your home:

- 1,500 watt space heater (wattage divided by 1,000) x hours used x cost per kWh = cost per day. Used 24 hours per day at the current cost per kWh of \$0.1167 = \$4.20 per day or \$126.00 per month

Not only are space heaters expensive to use, but many home fires are caused by space heaters. If you must use one, here are some safety tips to follow:

- Plug you space heater directly into the wall outlet. Don’t use power strips or outlets with multiple appliances plugged in.
- Buy space heaters with automatic shutoff in the case the unit tips over or you forget to shut it off.
- Keep your space heater in low-moisture rooms. Using one in a bathroom where steam from your shower creates excess moisture could damage the unit and cause it to overheat.
- Keep your space heater at a safe distance (at least 3 feet) from kids, pets and flammable items like curtains, clothing and bedding.
 - Always follow the directions and take a broken space heater to a qualified appliance service center or dispose of it. Don’t try and repair it yourself.
 - Don’t leave your space heater unattended. Always unplug it before you

leave the house or go to bed.

- Don't use an extension cord to plug in your space heater. It can cause the heater to overheat, and can cause a tripping hazard.
- Don't place your space heater near curtains, clothing, furniture or bedding.

2018 BUILDING PERMITS - In the last calendar year, the City of Saint Peter issued building permits or construction projects with total values of \$135,438,021 which is believed to be a record for any single year. The construction year in Saint Peter included some very large projects including Nobel Hall on the Gustavus Adolphus College campus, Regional Treatment Center, River's Edge Hospital, Best Western Plus, National Guard Armory and Solace housing project.

The total value of construction permitted in the last three years is reported as follows:

2018	\$135,438,021
2017	\$ 31,754,881
2016	\$ 57,726,450

DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE (TWIRLS & CURLS CARNIVAL) - Dads, Uncles, Grandpas, big brothers, friends, moms, and cousins...bring the special "daughter" in your life to this memorable evening! Enjoy an evening of dancing, pictures, crafts and



activities sponsored by the Saint Peter Recreation and Leisure Services Department. This special night out occurs Saturday, March 2nd, from 6-8 p.m., at the Saint

Peter Community Center. Pre-registration is \$25 per couple or you can register at the door for \$30. \$5 per each additional guest.

To pre-register please visit our website, <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation>.

ICE DAMS - The main cause for ice dams are the leakage of warm air from the home in to the attic. Other factors that can create ice damming include a roof with several gables or dormers and/or a very heavy snow fall, which leads to ice build-up. If you have an ice dams do not remove the ice by chopping, this could cause serious damage to your roof. You may use a sidewalk snow melt product, but if the ice is to a point to where it may cause damage to the roof, you should call a roofer. The

professional roofer can use steam to remove the ice from the roof.

In order to prevent ice dams you would want to stop the leakage of warm air from the home in to the attic. The following steps may help.



- Seal around light fixture and attic access in the ceiling.
- Adding insulation to the attic will help, but note once you reach an R-44 level there may be little value in adding more. Pay close attention to the small space where the roof trusses meet the wall plats.

If you are thinking of re-roofing your house at some time adding an ice and water membrane along the roof eaves and valleys will help.

More information can be found at www.commerce.state.mn.us or call your local Building Department at 507-934-0662

HELP WANTED – SEASONAL POSITIONS – The City of Saint Peter is now accepting applications for seasonal positions for the 2019 summer season.

Applications are available on the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov or at the City Administrator's office from 8:00 am – Noon and 1:00 – 5 pm, 227 S. Front Street, or by calling 507-934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 15, 2019. Faxed, emailed, and/or late applications will not be accepted.



A condition of employment shall be successful completion of a background investigation, and successful completion of pre-employment drug test. Employees will be subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing. Must be at least 16 years of age for Recreation and Leisure Services positions; 15 years of age for aquatics positions and 18 years of age for Public Works positions. The following seasonal positions are available:

- **PUBLIC WORKS SEASONAL LABORER:** Duties include a variety of manual labor tasks associated with the care, maintenance, and

cleaning of City facilities and equipment including, but not limited to, painting, washing, mowing, weeding, digging, cleaning and organizing; planting, trimming, and removal of trees and shrubs and mowing and trimming facilities. 40 hours/week. Applicants must possess a minimum valid Class C or D driver's license. Must pass pre-employment drug test; subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing required by federal regulations. Starting wage \$10.25/hour. Minimum age: 18.

- RECREATION COORDINATOR: Train and supervise staff, organize and implement summer programs. Leadership and supervisory experience with recreation activities required. Need strong organizational, motivational, planning and leadership skills. 35–40 hours/week. Mid May–End of August. Starting wage: \$11.25/hour.
- SUMMER CAMP COORDINATOR (Jr. Explorer K-3 and Explore IT! Gr. 4-5): Train and supervise staff, organize and implement summer programs. Leadership and supervisory experience with recreation activities required. Need strong organizational, motivational, planning and leadership skills. 35–40 hours/week. Mid May–Mid August. Starting wage: \$11.25/hour.
- LITTLE RASCALS (PRESCHOOL) COORDINATOR: Train and supervise staff, organize and implement summer programs for 3-5 year old children. Leadership and supervisory experience with recreation activities required. Need strong organizational, motivational, planning and leadership skills. 35–40 hours/week. Mid May–Mid August. Starting wage: \$11.25/hour.

- VOLUNTEER IN THE PARK COORDINATOR: Recruit, train, assign and supervise youth volunteers. Strong organizational skills and previous work with youth required. Assist organization and implementation of Exploration Recreation Program. Flexible hours. 30–40 hours/week. May–August. Starting wage: \$11.25/hour
- RECREATION LEADERS: Responsibilities include implementing youth summer recreation and sports programs and special events. Previous experience working with youth desired. Strong leadership and organizational skills required. Mid May–mid/mid-August. 35–40 hours/week. Starting wage: \$10.00/hour.
- HEAD LIFEGUARDS: Duties include supervision of aquatics personnel, pool patrons, and pool facility. Must have three years of lifeguard experience. Current WSI, LGT, First Aid and CPR certificates required. Strong leadership background. Minimum age: 18. Starting wage: \$11.50/hour.
- LIFEGUARD/WSI: Duties include teaching swim lessons and supervision of swimmers. Some maintenance. Full, part-time and substitute positions. Current WSI, LGT, First Aid and CPR Certificates required. Starting wage: \$10.65/hour.
- LIFEGUARD (without WSI): Duties include supervision of swimmers and some maintenance. Full, part-time and substitute positions. Current LGT, First Aid and CPR Certificates required. Minimum age: 15. Starting wage: \$10.25/hour.
- OUTDOOR POOL CASHIER: Duties include collection of pool fees, light bookkeeping, some maintenance and strong public relations skills. Minimum age: 15. Part-time. Starting wage: \$7.65/hour.

CITY MEETING CALENDAR – This calendar is subject to change. Should you have a question on a meeting date/time, please contact the City Administrator's Office at 934-0663.

Wednesday	February 27	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	February 28	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Monday	March 4	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	March 4	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Thursday	March 7	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	March 11	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting

Monday	March 18	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	March 18	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Friday	March 22	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	March 25	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	March 26	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	March 27	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	March 28	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority

The full calendar of City meetings is available through the calendar section of the homepage of the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov.