

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 www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



01/24/19

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on January 14, 2019 included adoption of the 2019-2020 budgets for the Water, Wastewater and Stormwater funds; adoption of an updated Transit drug and alcohol testing program; approval for Councilmembers Kvamme and Carlin to travel to Washington D.C. for the APPA Legislative Rally in February; approval of a new business license for Taco John's; approval of a request by the Nicollet County Sheriff to hold the Polar Bear Plunge at Hallett's Pond; Closed session and subsequent action to approve two-year union contracts with Streets, Utilities, Police Officers, Communications Technicians and a one year contract for the Parks union; approval for modification to the City Administrator's contract to include a wage increase and contract extension.

The next regular City Council meeting, will be Monday, January 28th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE)

Sometimes I am not exactly sure what to think of a bunch of issues anymore. In the age of social media it has gotten even

more difficult; at least it has for me and maybe some of you too. Oftentimes very difficult and/or complicated issues are boiled down to over simplistic "choose A or choose B" answers.

In the real world, more times than not, choices are very rarely A or B. I wonder sometimes if reasonable people believe those information starved solutions. Is the social media poster really uninformed? Do they choose to be uninformed or maybe ill-informed or do they just think that they have a solution that is so obvious that no other person could come up with it?

One of the challenges of making decisions for the betterment of the whole community is to cut

through the ill-informed and uniformed opinions and get to not just the facts, but the realistic choices that may be available based on the rules, laws, finances, and practical application.

Another challenge is to listen to the community and I am pretty sure we aren't simply divided into an A group and a B group. Heck, half the time if you gather three people and ask their opinion they have eight or nine varying opinions between them! Eight or nine opinions don't, from a pure numbers perspective, add up to A or B (two choices).

I know this discussion may be a bit unusual and nuanced but I am sure it makes me wonder.....

CURBIE PLACEMENT - Winter is a great time to live in Minnesota, but sometimes we forget about its' little inconveniences. Take for instance, your refuse curbie.

As winter snow piles up and the plows leave mountains of snow behind on the boulevard, there isn't a good place to place your curbie on trash day, unless that is, you've shoveled out a spot for it at the curb. Unfortunately some residents aren't taking the time to do so and curbies are once more being placed in the roadway, or worse yet....piled on top of the snow piles at the curbs at dangerous angles.

Please remember that curbies are to be placed on the boulevard (NOT IN THE STREET) on trash day. Placing the containers in the street creates a danger for not only drivers, but for those on foot as well as they are forced to go out further into the driving lane to get around the refuse container.

With just a little bit of snow so far this winter, now is a great time to get into the habit of shoveling out a spot for both your regular and recycling curbies. Please help keep everyone safe by doing so.

SNOW DAY IN THE PARK - Please join the City's Recreation and Leisure Services Department for a free family fun day at Veteran's Park! This great event takes place on Saturday, February 2nd from

1-4 p.m. at Veteran's Memorial Park. What's the best thing? It's almost all free!

The entire family can enjoy ice skating, music, a bonfire, s'mores and hot chocolate (for purchase), snowshoeing, boot skating, and other snow day activities. Please provide your own skates.

We hope to see you there!

DOG SAFETY - The City's Community Service Officer would like to remind pet owners of the rules and regulations regarding shelters that are provided for outside dogs. Minnesota State Statutes clearly define the minimum standards for a dog shelter as follows:

- Shelter shall be:
 - Moisture proof and windproof.
 - Of suitable size for the dog and to allow retention of body heat.
 - Made of durable materials with a solid, moisture-proof floor or a floor raised at least two inches (2") from the ground.
 - Between November 1-March 31st, the structure must also have a windbreak at the entrance.
 - The structure shall be provided with a sufficient quantity of suitable bedding material consisting of hay, straw, cedar shavings, blankets, or the equivalent to provide insulation and protection against cold and dampness and promote retention of body heat.

Pet owners who do not provide sufficient shelter for their outdoor dogs may be cited by the Police Department.

One more suggestion....frigid temps means water dishes for outdoor dogs will freeze. Make sure your dog has a good supply of water even with the colder temps.



LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER - It's not too early to plan for your spring or summer family reunion/event, company picnic, graduation party, wedding or groom's dinner at one of our local park shelters. Shelters are available Gorman Park, Gault Park, and Riverside Park (Mill Pond). If you are interested in reserving a shelter, please visit the City website at www.saintpetermn.gov and go to "Facility Availability". Follow the instructions to find out when the park shelter is available. (Note that if the month you are checking doesn't show up on the page that means no reservations have been made.)

Once you select a date and time contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department to finalize your reservation of the facility; call 934-0667 or email the office at jenh@saintpetermn.gov.

***PLEASE NOTE....the Minnesota Square Park Pavilion, which is slated for demolition and eventual reconstruction, may only be available on a limited basis this summer. Please check with the Recreation and Leisure Services Department for more information if you wish to use this facility.

SIDEWALK CLEARANCE REMINDERS – More snow is on the way so here's another reminder of the need to clear those sidewalks!

City regulations require sidewalks to be cleared the entire width within 24 hours of snow ending.



This also includes keeping the sidewalk clear of blowing snow and ice.

It's a hefty charge (minimum of \$75) if City crews come out

and do the work for you so, and certainly the Public Works crews have other things to take care of than shoveling sidewalks, so please make arrangements to get those walkways and handicap sidewalk corners shoveled!

LEARN TO CURL - Want to learn to curl? In conjunction with the City's Recreation and Leisure Services Department, the Mankato Curling Club offers just that! Friday, January 18th beginning at 6:30 p.m. the Club will provide a class with basic instruction for beginners who have never curled before. All equipment is provided! Wear warm, comfortable clothing and carry in a pair of clean tennis shoes. Register with the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation or stop by the office at the Community Center (600 South Fifth Street). The class is limited to 40 participants.



The Curling Club is located at 600 Hope Street in Mankato and the cost is \$22 per person.

WARMING HOUSE HOURS AT VET'S PARK RINKS – The warming house and ice rinks are finally, and officially open! Here's what you need to know.

- Mon.–Fri. from 4–9 p.m.,
- Saturdays 10 a.m.–9 p.m.,
- Sundays 1–9 p.m.
- School Vacation Days from 1–9 p.m.

Leisure Skating only will be available at one of the Veteran's rinks during the following days/times:

Monday–Friday, 6–7 p.m.

Saturday/Sunday from 1–3 p.m.

Warming House/Rink Closure Guidelines: The rink/warming house will be closed if any of the following conditions exist:

- Air temperature at -15 or colder,
- Wind chill temperature at -20 or colder,
- Temperatures that soften the ice,
- More than 1" of snow accumulates on the ice and maintenance crews are not available (e.g. holidays, weekends).

The Warming House/Rinks may also close early due to lack of skaters.

For more information on warming house/rink closures please call the Rec Hotline at 934-0070. We also encourage parents to call the Rec Hotline prior to dropping kids off or sending them to the rink to make sure the warming house is open.

And finally, for more questions please talk with the Warming House Attendant or contact the Recreation Department at 507-934-0667 or by email at jenh@saintpetermn.gov.

COUNCIL OATH OF OFFICE – Newly appointed Councilmember Roger Parras has taken the office of office and officially began his one year term at the regular Council meeting on January 14th.

RIVER'S EDGE HOSPITAL AND CLINIC HOSPITAL/BLUE CROSS MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PROGRAM - River's Edge Hospital was not invited by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota to participate in the Medicare Blue Plus Southern MN Network Advantage plan for 2019. Despite attempts by River's Edge Hospital administrators to reach out to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, the insurer has denied a request to allow River's Edge Hospital to be an in-network facility. Also excluded from the network are The Orthopaedic and Fracture Clinic (OFC) in Mankato, River's Edge Hospital's partner in the OrthoEdge joint replacement program.

Although River's Edge Hospital is an out-of-network facility for the BCBS Medicare Advantage

PPO program for Southern Minnesota, people who wish to continue to use River's Edge Hospital for services can still do so with the understanding that out-of-pocket costs may be higher with this Advantage plan. Those Medicare enrollees who still choose to utilize River's Edge Hospital in-network, would need to choose a different insurance company that offers a Medicare Advantage plan. These individuals can still make changes to their plan through March 31, 2019.

Both River's Edge Hospital and The Orthopaedic and Fracture Clinic work hard to provide high-quality, cost-effective care that patients are looking for. River's Edge is a nationally certified Hip and Knee Replacement Center of Excellence and ranks in the top five percent (5%) in the nation for patient experience as reported by Press Ganey. OFC consistently scores better than others in Southern Minnesota for outcomes as reported by MN Community Measurement.

While not an in-network provider for this Blue Cross Blue Shield Medicare Advantage Plan, River's Edge Hospital is an in-network provider for all other Blue Cross Blue Shield Medicare supplement plans and Blue Cross Blue Shield commercial plans. To find out if your plan is in-network, contact your insurance provider or River's Edge Patient Financial Services at 507-934-7605.

RECREATION WINTER BROCHURE IS OUT – The 2019 Winter Brochure has been mailed out to households in Saint Peter and this year's edition is packed full with all kinds of recreation offerings for all ages.

The brochure is published three times a year in conjunction with the School District #508 Community Education office.

Extra copies of the brochure are available in the City's Recreation and Leisure Services Department at the Community Center and in the Finance Department at City Hall.

Some classes fill up quickly so register early!

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	January 23	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	January 24	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	January 25	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	January 28	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting

Tuesday	January 29	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Monday	February 4	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	February 4	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Thursday	February 7	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	February 11	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	February 12	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	February 18		LEGAL HOLIDAY – PRESIDENT'S DAY All City offices closed
Tuesday	February 19	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Friday	February 22	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	February 25	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	February 26	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	February 27	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	February 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.