

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

The City of Saint Peter is an equal opportunity provider.



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



11/28/18

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on November 26, 2018 included public hearings and subsequent action to approve assessment of unpaid utility and miscellaneous charges; adoption of the 2019-2020 Electric Fund budget; authorization to execute a financial services agreement with Minnesota River Valley Transit; approval for purchase of a loader; sweeper and Toolcat all to be funded by the 2019 Equipment Certificate; authorization to modify certain wages and pay equity points to ensure compliance with pay equity regulations; designation of the 2019 polling places as required by Statute; award of bids for Phase I of the Minnesota Square Park Pavilion project; and closed sessions to discuss union contract negotiations with Law Enforcement Labor Services Locals #240 (Police Officers) and #241 (Communications Technicians).

The next regular City Council meeting, and the last one for the year 2019, will be Monday, December 10th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.

NO ICE IS SAFE ICE – If you've lived in Minnesota you probably know that even with our cold temps no ice is safe ice.

Children, adults including ice fishing folks, and even pets should stay off of the developing ice on ponds of water and that includes the Mill Pond, stormwater retention ponds, Hallett's Pond and the Minnesota River. Please be safe.



RV DUMP STATION CLOSED – The RV dump station located at the northern entrance to the Mill Pond has been closed for the season.

While the dump site at the City's wastewater plant on St. Julien Street is still open for dumping, the water source at that site has been shut down for the winter.

LEAF COLLECTION CONCLUDED – After many, many weeks, the City's curbside leaf collection process has officially ended for 2018. Residents who still have leaves to dispose of are encouraged to use the yard waste drop-off site located at the southwest corner of the St. Julien/North Swift Street intersection. The site is open year-round for the convenience of residents. The curbside collection and the drop off site are funded by the environmental services charge on City utility bills.

COUNCIL VACANCY – The clock is ticking if you are a Ward I residents interested in filling a one-year vacancy on the City Council!

Councilmember Jeff Brand has announced his resignation from the City Council effective January 1, 2019. Brand was recently elected to the position of State Representatives. Brand represents Ward I (North) and the term expires on December 31, 2019. The position will be on the City's 2019 general election ballot.

As provided for in State Statute, the vacancy will be filled by Council appointment and the City Council has decided on the following process to fill the vacancy.

Residents of the North Ward who are interested in being considered for appointment to this vacancy, are asked to provide a written letter describing your interest in being appointed; information on your previous service to the community including any civic projects you have been involved with; and information on your education background and experiences that you believe the Mayor and Councilmembers may find relevant as they consider appointment of the new Councilmember.

To qualify for consideration, applicants must also be able to attend not only Council meetings on almost every Monday of the year, but also accept

advisory Board and Commission assignments. No experience is needed.

As provided for in State Statute, the minimum qualifications to serve on the City Council include the following:

- At least 21 years of age on or before taking office;
- Reside in the North Ward – a copy of the Ward map can be found here... <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/where-do-i-vote>
- Be eligible to vote in Minnesota

If you are interested in being considered for appointment to this one-year position, please submit a letter of interest via regular mail or in person to the City Administrator's Office 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter MN 56082; or via email to barbaral@saintpetermn.gov.

Deadline for receipt of letters of interest by the City Administrator's Office is 5:00 p.m. on November 28th. All letters will be reviewed by the Mayor and City Council prior to the regular City Council meeting of December 10th. All letters received will become public information.

Please call the City Administrator's office at 507 934 0663 if you have any questions or would like to know more about the process or the time commitment that is needed to serve. It is the goal of the Council to make an appointment so that service may begin on January 1, 2019.

ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT – Have you considered “adopting” your neighborhood fire hydrant?

As winter snows begins to deepen, residents can help out the Fire Department by keeping the area around the hydrant shoveled out as shown in the picture. In the event of a fire, this will save valuable time for the Firefighters who respond and may even save a life.



METER READERS/MAIL CARRIER HELP - With only a small amount of snow on the ground, now is the perfect time to start a nice habit of

clearing out a path to utility meters for the City's Meter Readers and from house to house for the Mail Carriers. Having a clear path to travel when reading meters (and delivering mail), helps eliminate slipping and falling over toys and equipment left in the yard all winter and lets our staff do their jobs in a safe manner. So, if you can do so, please help out by clearing at least a shovel wide path to your utility meter each time it snows. Doing so each time you shovel will make the job much easier. Thanks for your assistance!

RIVER'S EDGE HOSPITAL AWARD - River's Edge Hospital was awarded the Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award for Patient Satisfaction on November 12, 2018 at the Press Ganey National Conference.

Approximately 200 hospitals in the U.S. and Canada received the award. River's Edge is one of three in Minnesota earning the recognition.



The Guardian of Excellence Award is given to Press Ganey clients who have reached the 95th percentile and sustain performance in the top 5 percent in patient experience in the designated reporting period. This is the first time River's Edge has received the award.

“I would like to recognize the physicians and staff at River's Edge Hospital for the sustained level of excellent performance. On behalf of the hospital leaders and the board of commissioners, I congratulate them on this incredible achievement and recognition,” said George Rohrich, Chief Executive Officer at River's Edge Hospital.

Press Ganey pioneered the health care performance improvement movement more than 30 years ago. Today Press Ganey offers an integrated suite of solutions that enable enterprise transformation across the patient journey. Delivered through a cutting-edge digital platform built on a foundation of data security, Press Ganey solutions address safety, clinical excellence, patient experience and workforce engagement.

The company works with more than 33,000 health care facilities in its mission to reduce patient suffering and enhance caregiver resilience to improve the overall safety, quality and experience of care.



UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS –

The Recreation and Leisure Services Department is hosting several holiday related events. Although they are a ways away, we wanted everyone to have a chance to include these fun family

events on their calendars. Here’s what you have to look forward to....

- Great Candy Cane Hunt - All ages with an adult. Join in “The Great Candy Cane Hunt!” Over 4,000 candy canes can be found while exploring the Community Center! Sat., Dec. 1, Free, SPCC Gym Hunt Times: 9–9:10 a.m., 9:30–9:40 a.m., 10–10:10 a.m., 10:30–10:40 a.m.
- Library Holiday Open House - Thu., Dec. 6, 2–4 p.m., Saint Peter Public Library. Pie, hot beverages and live music. In the afternoon enjoy music performed by St. Peter High School madrigal singers!
- Holiday Family Event at the Library - Tue., Dec. 11, 6:00 p.m., Saint Peter Public Library. A reading of “Twas a Night Before Christmas” will be accompanied by the Armstrong Boulevard Brass Quintet! Holiday crafts will be available too. Stay and browse our great collections of holiday books, movies and cds!
- Tour of Holiday Lights - Meet at the Senior Center to enjoy holiday lights at Sibley Park and leave the driving to the bus service! Reservations taken AFTER Nov. 23 only. Call the Saint Peter Police Department at 931-1550. Hosted by Saint Peter Police Reserves and 4.0 Bus Services. Tue., Dec. 4, 6–8 p.m., Free.



CITY MEETING SCHEDULES – The City uses many different ways of notifying the public when and where City meetings take place. The one official spot is the legal notices bulletin board at City Hall. As required by the Open Meeting law, all official notices of meetings to be held by the City Council and its’ advisory boards and commissions are posted on this bulletin board at least 72 hours before the meeting.

We also include a calendar in the Hot Sheet and have a calendar available on the City’s website. Meetings are sometimes referenced on the City’s Facebook page. While we try to be as accurate as we can be in these different locations, the meetings are usually posted on the website a year in advance and sometimes things get changed.

Residents interested in attending a City Council meeting, or seeing what is on the agenda for an upcoming meeting, are encouraged to go directly to the Council packet for that meeting. The City Administrator’s Office uploads copies of all City Council meeting agendas and packet to the City’s website at www.saintpetermn.gov under the GOVERNMENT tab. Click on “current City Council agendas and packets” and you can see exactly the same notice and information that is provided directly to the Council.



And as always, if it is really important to ensure you are at the meeting, please feel free to contact the City Administrator’s Office (507-934-0663) to verify the start time and location of any meeting. We are happy to help.

PROPERTY TAX EXPLANATION – Property owners have by now or will soon receive their 2019 property tax statements from Nicollet County. And like many of us, you may have opened the statement and been dismayed by the amount of property taxes you’ll be required to pay.

But have you really thought about what that money goes for? The League of Minnesota Cities has created a fun video that explains property taxes and how the money is used. It’s available on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOAxwqh41iA> and the link is also included on the City’s website and Facebook pages.

We hope you’ll check it out and learn what your taxes pay for!

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS – City crews have been hard at work along Minnesota Avenue in the central business district and in Minnesota Square Park where the holiday lighting display will soon light up the dark and dreary winter nights.

The work involves approximately 16,500 lights in the park; over 60 hours of labor to put the decorations up and another 60+ to take them down; 4-7 crew members all doing something



different; anywhere from 11-25 days of work depending on the weather; 44 light fixtures on street light poles; 20 snowflake fixtures in the medians; one arch at the Highway 169 intersection with West Grace Street and one at West Park Row; and Sentence to Serve crews lighting the downtown tree trunks. **Special note...the Pavilion is not being decorated this year. The replacement of the existing structure is expected to begin in the next few weeks.**

SNOW PREPARATIONS – It's not too early to be planning for heavy snowfalls this winter, and residents who haven't signed up for Nixle but would like to be notified of snow emergency declarations should sign up now. Nixle is a free community notification system and it's easy to do.

Just visit www.nixle.com and follow the prompts to create an account for City notices. You can choose whether you wish to have notices sent by e-mail, by text, or both!



If you don't have an off-street parking space available to you, make arrangements now to find a spot to park your vehicle before snow emergency declarations are in place.

Property owners with sidewalks are also reminded of the City regulations that require sidewalks, including handicap ramps at intersections, to be cleared of all snow and ice within 24 hours after a snowfall. The walkway must be cleared the entire width and be kept clear of blowback and drifting snow. Property owners who don't clear their walks may face hefty fees from the City when City crews are dispatched to do the job. Minimum charge? \$75!

And for all those who plow snow for a living, please remember that it is illegal to plow the snow out into the street or onto the City owned boulevard. This creates a danger for the public and sight line issues for other drivers.

So get started on your winter preparations now and don't wait for the first snowflakes to make plans!

LEAF COLLECTION TO CONCLUDE – The City's fall curbside leaf collection is scheduled to conclude by November 30th, weather permitting. The crews continue to work from sunrise to sunset in an attempt to remove the majority of leaves that were placed on boulevards. The unique fall played havoc with the collection program as a lot of trees

were not shedding leaves during the usual time frame. It also didn't help that the past weekends snowfall has covered many leaves that otherwise would have been raked to the curb.

As always, for those who miss the curbside collection, the City's yard waste drop off site at the corner of North Swift and West St. Julien streets is open year round for use by residents. Both the curbside collection and the compost site services are funded by the environmental services fee on City utility bills.

RENTAL PROPERTY REGISTRATION - It is that time of year again! Time to renew rental property registrations. Property owners with last names beginning with M-Z will need to complete the rental application and return it to the Building Department at City Hall by December 31st. Inspections must be completed by March 31st.

Cost of the rental license is \$44 per unit. A late fee of \$36 will be added if the application (including the payment) is received after December 31st and/or the inspection is not completed by March 31st.

Rental application forms are available on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/sites/default/files/images/RentalApplication.pdf> and can be printed out and returned to the Building Department with the payment or staff can mail an application to you. For an application, or for those with questions, please contact the Building Department at 934-0662.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED - The City Council will soon be considering appointments of City residents to advisory boards and commissions. The various boards are tasked with topics ranging from planning for streets, parks, recreation activities, hospital and library services to considering business loan requests and other financial matters.



Many openings will be available starting January 1st and more information on the various boards, including the dates/times of the meetings, is available on the City's website. Most terms are three years although some are up to five year terms.

If you live within the corporate limits of the City and are able to volunteer 1-2 hours a month to help the City Council, please consider applying. Application cards are available from the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street.

For more information, or to apply to serve on an advisory board, please contact the City Administrator's Office at 934-0663 or by email at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov.

HELP WANTED – The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the following temporary part-time position:

- **WARMING HOUSE ATTENDANT** - Supervise and maintain Veteran's Park warming house and ice rinks. Must be 16 or

older. Position is responsible for light cleaning of warming house (including restrooms) and clearing light snow from rinks. Afternoon, evening and weekend hours, including holidays. \$10 per hour. City of Saint Peter application must be received by the City Administrator's office, 227 South Front Street, by 5:00 pm on December 11, 2018. Faxed and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EEO

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	November 28	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission Meeting
Thursday	November 29th	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	November 30	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	December 3	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	December 3	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Thursday	December 6	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	December 10	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	December 17	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	December 17	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board CANCELLED
Wednesday	December 19	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission Meeting
Monday- Tuesday	December 24- December 25th		CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – CITY OFFICES CLOSED
Thursday	December 27	12:00 p.m.	Economic Development Authority
Friday	December 28	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Tuesday	January 1		NEW YEAR'S DAY – City Offices Closed

****Please note.....due to the upcoming holidays, the schedule of meetings for City Council boards and commissions may be modified. To verify a meeting date/time, please contact the City Administrator's office at 507-934-0663.****