

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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07/25/18

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A CORRECTED EDITION – THE CHANGES ARE IN THE WATER LEAK ARTICLE.

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on July 23, 2018 included final acceptance of the Veteran’s Park Sidewalk Project; a presentation on and acceptance of the 2017 audit of City finances; approval of requests for City assistance for both Rock Bend Folk Festival and the Nicollet County Fair; and a closed session to discuss the Parks Union contract negotiations.

The next regular City Council meeting will be August 13, 2018 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.

For more information on City Council meetings, please contact the City Administrator’s office at 507-934-0663. Copies of the Council packet are also available on the City’s website at www.saintpetermn.gov/city.

THANKS CENTERPOINT ENERGY - The Saint Peter is the proud recipient of a \$2,000 grant from CenterPoint Energy’s Community Partnership Grant. For many years the City has been lucky enough to be awarded funds from this grant that allowed purchase of safety equipment that might not otherwise be affordable.

CenterPoint’s program is a way for the company to invest in the cities they serve and they have worked for over 145 years in partnership with those communities supporting a shared commitment to safety while delivering safe, reliable natural gas. Since 2003 the Community Partnership

Program has awarded more than \$1.5 million in donations to 848 projects in communities served by CenterPoint which allows cities to leverage local funds to purchase needed safety equipment or



support safety projects that are important to our residents.

The \$2,000 awarded to the City’s Police Department will be used to purchase 15 personal protect masks to be used by the Officers.

On behalf of the City Council and the residents of Saint Peter, thank you CenterPoint!

CAMPAIGN SIGN RULES - State law allows temporary campaign signs to be up until just a few days after the election. There are several regulations that must be followed for campaign signs.

- Signs are not allowed anywhere on public property.



This includes City, County and State owned rights-of-way, structures in the City-owned boulevard and City parks. The rules of thumb we follow to determine what is City owned boulevard (or right-of-way) are as follows:

- If a public sidewalk exists, signs may be placed behind the sidewalk; or
- If no sidewalk exists, it is safe to assume that a sign placed twenty feet (20') behind the curb line will be on private property.
- If the sign is on a corner lot, the rules for placement include BOTH sides of the property as right-of-way’s exist next to all City roadways.
- Signs can only be put on private property with permission of the private property owner. When asking private property owners to place signs, candidates are encouraged to review the rules with the property owner. Oftentimes signs are

initially placed correctly, only to have helpful home owners move the signs closer to the curb line in violation of the regulations or to move the sign when mowing and not return it to the legal location. If you are a property owner with a campaign sign in your yard, please remember that illegal placement of the sign gets the candidate in trouble so ensure that the signs are NOT in the right-of-way.

- Signs must not obstruct sightlines for drivers. On corner lots, signs are asked to be 25' behind both curb lines to ensure vehicular traffic is not impeded.
- Signs cannot be attached to City light poles, street signs, traffic control devices like stop signs, trees, shrubs, rocks, fences or other City owned structures.

For more information on campaign signs or election regulations, please contact the City Administrator's Office (934-0663).

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP/GOAL SESSION - The regular City Council workshop of July 30th has been cancelled. The Council will meet in a lengthy goal session on Monday, August 6th beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center. The agenda for the goal session will be available on the City's website prior to the meeting.

NEW RECREATION DIRECTOR APPOINTED - The City Council has taken action to appoint Joseph Schugel as the new Recreation and Leisure Services Department Director to replace retiring Director Jane Timmerman.

Mr. Schugel was one of the four candidates interviewed in June and he is expected to begin his new position by the end of the summer.

SUMMER CELEBRATION AND NIGHT TO UNITE - Please join neighbors and other community members for the annual Night to Unite/Summer Celebration at Veteran's Memorial Park, Tuesday, August 7th from 5:30-8:00 p.m.

There will be free games and activities for all ages...safety demonstrations...crime prevention tips....two inflatables...games....Kiwani's hot dogs and walking tacos....dunk tank....balloon twister and lots of prizes!! There's also free pool admission during the event!

Please support the Saint Peter Food Shelf by bringing a generous donation to the event. This event is co-sponsored by the City's Recreation and Leisure Services and Police Departments

TELEMARKETING SCAMS ON INCREASE - Most telemarketing scams tend to target seniors. Hardly a day goes by when the Police Department doesn't receive a complaint. Coercion scams have also been going on for years, where victims are convinced they owe income tax or are persuaded into accepting prizes or taking part in investments.

Watch out for these five red flags to avoid becoming a victim:

- They're rushing you into something - Creating a sense of urgency by coercing you to do something immediately is one of the most common tactics scammers use to pressure you into handing over money or information.
- They threaten you - If you resist doing what you're told, they scare you with arrest, jail or deportation, or other threat tactics. In most cases, you'll be advised not to tell anyone about the call.
- They want you to pay up - The request could be for shipping fees, a tax on a prize or service, booking or maintenance fees, medical bills, legal fees or even a ransom. Victims are often asked to pay using alternative methods including Western Union money transfers, gift cards, prepaid credit cards and even cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin.
- They're asking for personal information - Information that is useful to scammers includes your birthdate, health card number, social security insurance or passport numbers, banking and credit card information.
- They're claiming to be someone you know - The caller claims to know or be a family member or friend who is in some kind of urgent trouble and needs you to send money as soon as possible. Confirm their identity by asking personal questions that only your loved one can answer. Better yet, simply call your loved one to confirm they are fine.

For more information on how to protect you and your family, visit <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/scam-alerts>.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS - Absentee ballots for the August 14th primary election are now available from the Nicollet County Public Services Department (Courthouse - second floor). Voters no longer need a reason to vote by absentee and absentee ballots are available through



Monday, August 13th. Voters must first complete an absentee ballot application (available online at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote> or at the Public Services Department office.

NOTICE TO VOTERS - The following notice regarding the 2018 primary and general election has been issued by the Nicollet County Election Administrator:

"The office of the Nicollet County Public Services announces, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 206.58, Subd. 1, we will be conducting demonstrations of the new DS200 tabulator voting equipment that will be used in Nicollet County precincts starting with the August 14, 2018 Primary Election. The demonstrations will be held in the Public Services Department, 501 S. Minnesota Avenue, St. Peter, MN upon request during normal working hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. commencing July 16, 2018 until August 13, 2018."

CONSTRUCTION ZONE SAFETY - As with many areas of Minnesota, Saint Peter has a lot of construction going on in and around area roadways. Many of these areas are signed as "no thru traffic" or "closed to traffic". Even with the appropriate signage, some motorists are ignoring the signs and driving around the barricades to get where they want to go.



Sometimes the results are comical (think the older man who just a few weeks back drive through 780' of wet concrete down by Rochester at a cost to repair the highway of over \$100,000), but sometimes the results are injury or death to the construction workers that unexpectedly are put in harms way when a vehicle they weren't expecting barrels at them at highway speeds.

So, the moral of this story is, please pay attention to the signage in and around construction zones. Slow your speed and never, ever drive around a barricade. Thanks for your cooperation in keeping our staff and those contractors working for the City safe!

HOME WATER LEAK IDENTIFICATION - If you feel that your water usage is continually high try the following:

- **Check your toilets for leaks** – Put a little food



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coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl within a few minutes, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately. Most replacement parts are inexpensive and easy to install.

- **Check your faucets and pipes for leaks** – A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons.
- **Check your softener for cycling** –If you use a water softener, make sure the equipment is not "cycling" more often than needed to keep your water softness at the desired level. Check with your softener vendor to make sure your equipment is working at optimum levels.

Implementing these water conservation approaches saves precious groundwater and lowers personal water consumption which ultimately saves money.

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP/GOAL SESSION – The City Council workshop that would normally occur on July 30th has been cancelled. The following week, August 6th, the Council will meet in a goal session beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.

Agendas for City Council meetings, workshops and goal sessions can be found on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city-council-minutes-agendas-packets>.

PARKS BOARD MEETING CANCELLED – The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting in August has been cancelled. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 17th at 7:00 p.m. For more information on Parks Board meetings, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

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

- **CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE WORKER** - in the Public Works Department. Essential job functions include performing a variety of carpentry, masonry, and other tasks associated with construction and maintenance of City buildings, grounds and facilities; operates trucks and other equipment, ensures routine maintenance is performed on vehicles and equipment. Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma and two years of responsible construction experience in carpentry and masonry; possession of or ability to obtain a valid certified chemical applicator's license (for street right-of-ways) within six months of the date of employment with the City;

possession of a valid State of Minnesota Class A Driver's License with Air Brake Endorsement and Tanker Endorsement or to obtain within six months of the date of employment with the City; possession of an American Heart Association Certification as a Basic Rescuer or obtain within six months. Desirable qualifications: knowledge of practices, methods, tools, and equipment used in the construction trades; knowledge of playground equipment including installation, inspection and maintenance; skill in use of construction tools and equipment; ability to read and interpret blue prints, diagrams, and engineering sketches; ability to make moderately complex mathematical calculations; knowledge of state and local plumbing, electrical and building codes; and knowledge of OSHA regulations and safety precautions of the trade and of equipment operation. NOTICE: The successful candidate must complete and pass a pre-employment physical and drug test and is subject to post-accident, random,

reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing required by federal regulations. Starting pay \$17.75 per hour. Applicants are required to complete a City of Saint Peter application form available in the City Administrator's Office, 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082-2538 or by calling (507) 931-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 1, 2018. Faxed, e-mailed, or late applications will not be accepted. Interviews will be conducted Wednesday, August 15, 2018. AAEOE

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	July 25	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	July 26	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	July 27	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Tuesday	July 31	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Thursday	August 2	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	August 6	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	August 6	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Monday	August 13	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	August 14		PRIMARY ELECTION DAY
Monday	August 20	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Wednesday	August 22	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	August 23	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	August 24	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	August 27	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	August 28	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission

