MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – A local Health Care discussion….Saint Peter continues to grow. New housing, new apartments, some new commercial development, a new High School, and a pretty full downtown all are signs that Saint Peter continues to see stable growth.

Our community hospital, River’s Edge Hospital and Clinic, is growing too. Occupied hospital beds are now the norm instead of the exception. There are days each week when no beds are available. It seems clear to the Hospital Commission and the City Council that the community wants and needs more health care services offered in Saint Peter. If that is true, there are things related to the hospital facility that have to change. That’s why there has been so much discussion and planning about if, when, and how River’s Edge Hospital and Clinic needs to expand.

Three are a number of things that contribute to this discussion. One of those things is the partnership with the Orthopedic & Fracture Clinic (OFC). This partnership has provided business to River’s Edge that has strengthened the Hospital’s bottom line. That improved bottom line is one of the major things that allows us to have that expansion discussion. Our partnership with OFC is called OrthoEdge. It is a joint replacement program created by River’s Edge and OFC, and is just one of the services the Hospital provides to the St. Peter area community.

The Hospital also provides outpatient laboratory, imaging, cardiac rehabilitation, surgical services and physical and occupational therapy. The Emergency Department is staffed with physicians, physician assistants, nurses, paramedics and emergency medical technicians all day, every day. People needing to see a provider for minor illnesses and injuries can go to Urgent Care.

So… over the next few months there will continue to be gathering of data and discussion about expansion and the level of expansion. This is an important discussion as it includes a lot of talk about money, but maybe even more importantly, it is about the future of health care in our local community - not just in the near term, but also into the future.

Let us know what you think. Is the future of local health care service and facilities important to you? It makes me wonder…….

OFFICIAL CITY COUNCIL PHOTO – The City Council started a new tradition just prior to this week’s City Council meeting. Each January an official photo of the City Council, including the City Administrator and City Attorney, will be taken for historical purposes. Included in the 2017 photo are the following: Back row L-R: City Administrator Todd Prafke, Councilmember Gerald Pfeifer, Councilmember John Kvarme, Councilmember Jeffrey Brand, Councilmember Roger Parras, City Attorney James Brandt. Front row L-R: Councilmember Stephan Grams, Mayor Charles Zieman, Councilmember Susan Carlin.
YOUTH FISHING CONTEST CANCELLED - The Saint Peter Fire Department’s Youth Fishing Contest, which is held in conjunction with Winterfest, has been cancelled due to poor ice conditions on Hallett’s Pond.

NO ICE FISHING – The City’s Mill Pond is a popular place for fishing during the warmer months, however, it is not safe for ice fishing. The pond is spring fed and as such, the ice never gets thick enough to be considered safe. The recent warm weather has just exacerbated the thin ice problems and made the situation even more dangerous. The Pond is posted with thin ice danger signs and anyone who ventures on to the ice will be asked to vacate by Police.

DOG LICENSES – New and renewal dog licenses are now available for purchase. Dogs (and cats) that are old enough to receive a rabies vaccination are required to be licensed by the City. Dog licenses are due on or before April 30, 2017 and costs are as follows:

- Spayed/Neutered $5
- Unaltered $25
- After April 30th Penalty $5 (in addition to license fee)

To apply for/renew a pet’s license, owners must provide a current rabies vaccination certificate signed by a licensed Veterinarian. Licenses are available from the Community Development Department at City Hall (227 South Front Street) during regular office hours.

Even though this is not the cat licensing year, if you have a new cat you are still required to license the cat as soon as it is old enough to be vaccinated for rabies. Costs are the same as the license fees for dogs.

For additional pet licensing questions, please contact us at 934-0661 or by email at cindym@saintpetermn.gov.

WINTERFEST MEDALLION HUNT – A word of caution for all of you that requires anyone to be in a restricted area, climb over fences, or dig up the earth.

Winterfest is a program sponsored by the Saint Peter Area Chamber of Commerce. All questions related to Winterfest and the medallion hunt should be directed to the Chamber at 934-3400. More information on the schedule of activities for Winterfest is available on the Chamber’s website at http://www.stpeterchamber.com/~winterfest

Have fun searching and good luck to all!

It’s ‘APPY HOUR in Saint Peter! Join us on the last Thursday of each month from 4-5 p.m. in the Saint Peter Public Library Meeting Room.

Share your favorite apps as well as learn about the many applications available for tablets, smartphones, etc. No registration necessary for this free ‘Appy Hour. Please bring your own device. This class is a venture of Saint Peter Recreation and Leisure Services, the Senior Center, and Saint Peter Community and Family Education as part of the new LIFE: Learning Is Forever program.

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

- ASSISTANT RECREATION PROGRAM SUPERVISOR (PT) - in the Recreation and Leisure Services Department. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Associate’s Degree or equivalent; Two years of experience in general program, activity or event planning or a combination of education and experience that provides equivalent knowledge, skills and abilities; Personal computer knowledge and experience; Valid driver’s license; Experience working with the public. DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's Degree in a human relations field e.g. education, recreation or related field; Two years programming experience with adults; Experience in provision of adult programming. This position will work 24 hours per week and will work non-traditional hours on occasion. Wage rate: $15.50 per hour. Applicants are required to complete City application form available in the City Administrator’s office at 227 South Front Street or by calling (507) 934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator’s office by 5:00 p.m. February 15, 2017. Faxed, emailed, and/or late applications will not be accepted.
RECREATION PROGRAM SUPERVISOR – in the Recreation and Leisure Services Department. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor’s Degree in Recreation, Education or a related area or equivalent; Two years of Recreation or Educational or related programming experience, or equivalent; Personal Computer knowledge and experience; Valid driver’s license; and experience working with the public. DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS: Two years employee supervisory experience; Greater than two years of Recreation or Education or related programming experience, or equivalent; Experience in preparation and implementation of budgets; and previous experience with registration and facility scheduling software. This position will work non-traditional hours on occasion. $46,550 per year. Applicants are required to complete City application form available in the City Administrator’s office at 227 South Front Street or by calling (507) 934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator’s office by 5:00 p.m. February 15, 2017. Faxed, emailed, and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EEO

*********************************************************************CITY OFFICE PHONE DIRECTORY*********************************************************************

New To The City? Do you need to contact a City department and you aren’t quite sure which one to call? The list below might help answer your questions:

Police/Fire/EMERGENCY 931-1550 or 911
Parking tickets
Safety programs/classes
Animal impound
Municipal Campground

City Administrator 934-0663
General City information
City Council meetings and Board schedules
City Code Information
Public Information Requests

Community Development 934-0661
Economic Development
Zoning Issues
Planning
Business licensing
Animal Licensing

Building 934-0662
Building permits
Building inspections
Rental inspections

Finance 934-0664
Utility payments (billing)
Refuse collection concerns/questions
Accounts Payable
New Utility Account Customer information
Trash bag sales
Billing questions

Recreation and Leisure Services 934-0667
Program registration
Youth and adult activities
Park shelter reservations
Community Center Room Reservations
Public Access

Recreation Hotline 934-0070
Cancellations
Youth Center information
Senior Center information (934-7434)
Warming house hours
Swimming pool hours

Public Works 934-0670
Electric service construction/repair/outages
Water service construction/repair
Wastewater service construction/repair
Stormwater
Environmental services
Streets
Parks
Forestry

Public Library 934-7420
Mondays-Thursdays 10 am – 8 pm
Friday 10 am – 5 pm
Saturdays 9 am – 4 pm

Public Information Requests

Community Center 934-0667

City Information Line 934-0675
Snow emergency notices
**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 or visit the City’s website at www.saintpetermn.gov.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Meeting Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hospital Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
<td>Economic Development Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>January 27</td>
<td>8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Tourism and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>January 30</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Goal Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Heritage Preservation Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Planning and Zoning Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Housing and Redevelopment Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY – City offices closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>February 21</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hospital Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>February 23</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Economic Development Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Tourism and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Heritage Preservation Commission</td>
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*** Please contact the City Administrator's office (934-0663), check out our website (www.saintpetermn.gov) or the City’s Facebook page at FACEBOOK for up-to-date meeting information.***