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 9711
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The following information is a publication of the City of Saint Peter, City Administrator's Office, 934-0863, 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

4/22/2020

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – The City Council meeting of April 13, 2020 included award of bid for the St. Peter Veterans Memorial Park Playground Improvements Project; award of the bid for the 2020 North 3rd Street Improvements (Skarao to Livermore) Project; execution of a lease of City owned agricultural land by Brett Annexstad; and approval of a Tree Worker license.

The next regular City Council meeting will be Monday, April 27th beginning at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will only be held electronically as authorized under Minnesota Statutes 13.021. For log-in information, please visit the City’s website. The log-in information will be at the bottom of the meeting agenda page which will be available under the "meetings and minutes" section of the homepage the Friday before the Council meeting.

MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – It is getting tough.....to figure out which day it virtually is. In my little slice of the world my day is home -then to office -then to home - with a bunch of computer aided video meetings in between. As I did before COVID-19, I have this cycle of regular meetings but when you don't meet in person with folks they all feel pretty much the same.

Councilmembers have done just a great job taking to the new format of "virtual" meetings and I bet it's been easier for your usual St. Peter Herald Editor/reporter too, but like so many things in life, this model of meeting will not stay in place forever because State Statutes don't allow for that. Once the state-wide emergency is called off these types of virtual meetings will stop, yet I bet there will be a push to change the rules about how and when these types of virtual meetings work and when they can be used.

I do think a few more options will be okay but I've got to tell you, there is something about being together in person, being face to face and able to ready body language and see more facial expressions when you look others in the eye that makes our decision making process better. Well maybe it's not better, but I do believe that face to face makes things more clearly understood by all involved.

But for now, if you have never attended a virtual Council meeting, or even a "real" Council meeting, now is a great time to do so from the comfort of your own home, so give it a try. The information you need will be on the bottom of each City Council agenda.

Will you take a "virtual" look see? It makes me wonder....

DOG OWNER CAUTION – Recent editions of the Hot Sheet have included reminders of the regulations related to picking up pet waste both on private property and on the owner’s property. What we failed to mention and has now become a problem is people who are illegally walking their dogs in non-dog parks....specifically Minnesota Square Park and Community Spirit Park (by the High School).

As tempting as these green spaces may be, they are NOT dog parks and animals are not allowed in either one. Making matters worse is that many of these irresponsible pet owners are also letting their dogs poop and leaving it there for others to enjoy.

So, with everything else that is going on in the world today we really hate to do this, but dog owners...
beware….if you are walking/running your pet in a park that is not a designated dog park, you may be cited for that violation and if you fail to pick up after your pooch, that’s another violation.

Please be a responsible dog owner and only walk or exercise your pet in areas where it is allowed and clean up after them when they poop!

**COVID-19 UPDATED INFORMATION** – Each week the Hot Sheet will include updated information pertaining to the City’s response to the COVID-19 emergency. With few exceptions, this will be limited to new information only. If there is something we have previously published in this column that you need to access, please go to the City’s website at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov) and check out the Hot Sheet archives. Here is the latest information as of April 22, 2020:

- Governor Walz’s peacetime emergency declaration continues. However, he has issued an executive order allowing for some additional activities during the “Stay at Home” order. … “Individuals may engage in any outdoor activity that is dependent upon or derives its principal benefit from natural surroundings and open space, including but not limited to hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, hiking, biking, golfing, and picnicking for the purposes of pleasure, rest, exercise, or relaxation, provided that the activity can be engaged in accordance with the Outdoor Recreation Guidelines, including maintaining at least six feet of separation between participants from different households. Groups within a single household may engage in outdoor activities or sports that do not allow for social distancing (e.g., soccer or basketball) but should not engage in such activities with members of other households. ii. Outdoor recreational activities allowed by this Executive Order do not include performances, competitions, team events, tournaments, races, rallies, organized sports, spectator events, fairs, or any other events that involve the gathering of individuals in a manner that would preclude social distancing. For example, individuals must not partake, as participants or as spectators, in activities such as marathons, fundraising walks, fishing contests, league sports, and tournaments.” For more specific information related to this easing of the stay at home regulations, please check out the Governor’s website at [https://mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp](https://mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp)

- Governor Walz also kicked off a week long “homemade mask drive” asking Minnesotans to make and donate homemade masks that will be delivered to congregate care facilities like nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Those who wish to donate should deliver their masks to the St. Peter Fire Department (227 West Mulberry Street) on April 25th between the hours of 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. If you are the manager of a congregate care facility in St. Peter and are in need of homemade masks, please send an email with your pertinent information to barbaral@saintpetermn.gov and if masks are received on April 25th, you will be contacted.

- Here is an important notice from River’s Edge Hospital:

  River’s Edge Hospital, the Emergency Department, Urgent Care, Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy and supporting departments are open and the healthcare providers in these departments are here to help you with any healthcare concern you have during this time. **If you need medical attention it is OK and safe to do so. Do not ignore symptoms that are not COVID-19 symptoms.**

  At River’s Edge the staff is taking every precaution to create an even safer environment for you to receive care. It is our goal to ensure that the St. Peter area community remains healthy. Some important things to know before coming to River’s Edge Hospital: There is a “no visitor” policy in place at this time. If you are bringing a child to Urgent Care or the Emergency Room, one parent/guardian will be allowed to be with the child. There are no visitors allowed for inpatients at River’s Edge. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis in end-of-life situations. When you arrive, you will see all River’s Edge staff wearing medical or cloth masks. River’s Edge staff is following guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control for masking. Patients coming for care at River’s Edge will also be given a mask to wear. If you do have COVID-19 symptoms – cough, shortness of breath, and fever – please call the hospital at 931-2200 to let the staff know you are coming. **This will allow time for staff to prepare for your arrival.**

- Need help paying your electric bill? Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) has received additional funding to help. Here is what they have to say….**During this time of uncertainty, we recognize that more and more people may be facing economic hardship. If your household or someone you know is**
worried about paying for heat and electric bills, apply for Energy Assistance today. Energy Assistance is a program to help pay heating and electricity bills. Homeowners may also be eligible for a free heating system repair or replacement. Contact our office to have an application mailed to you or go to our website — www.mnvac.org— to download an application. Our offices are currently closed to the public, but if you have questions about how to apply, please call us! We are here to help! You can submit your application by email, fax, mail or you can drop it off in our Mankato office drop box. To reach MVAC… 706 N Victory Dr. Mankato, MN 56001 www.mnvac.org or by phone at 507-345-6822 or toll free 1-800-767-7139 FAX 507-345-2414 eap@mnvac.org

What if I don't have a library card? Misplaced yours? Never had a card? No problem. Call the Library (934-7420), weekdays between 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. for assistance.

Can I place holds on items I want? Yes, although during the COVID-19 emergency materials will not be delivered from other libraries. Using the online catalog, patrons may place holds on items currently on the Library shelves. When items are ready for you, no contact pickup is available through the special COVID-19 curbside pick-up program. There is a five (5) hold limit per library card. Unable to access the online catalog? Call the Library (934-7420) and a staff member will assist you. What about due dates? During the COVID-19 emergency, due dates aren’t a concern. Keep your items at home - don't make a special trip out to return them. Most items renew automatically. If you are concerned or would like your items renewed, please call the Library for assistance.

What else is going on at the library?

• Curbside pickup
• Free book cart outside the library (newspapers and books added daily!)
• Storywalk (the windows facing Gorman Park)
• Each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. a story will be posted on the Library Facebook page.
• Book recommendations - call us, we love to help!
• Digital library including OverDrive/Libby; eLibrary MN; and hoopla

HOUSE NUMBERS - Do us a favor…..stop reading this….seriously……please go out your front door, stand at the curb and turn around and look at your house. Do you see anything missing? Are your house numbers where they are supposed to be, near your front door and easily visible from the street with no shrubbery or decorations blocking their view? How about in the dark? Can others see the numbers after the lights are turned out and you’ve turned in?

City crews have started noticing a lot more homes lacking house numbers and that could put your entire family in jeopardy. The State Fire Code requires house numbers for some pretty simple reasons…..so people, including emergency response crews, can find your house in the event of an emergency. And oh yeah…it helps the pizza guy find your house also.

Specifications for house numbers according to the State Fire Code are as follows:

• Plainly visible and legible from the street or road fronting the property
• Numbers shall be in contrasting colors to the background.
• Arabic numbers or alphabetical letters

LIBRARY SERVICES FAQ – Are you new to the St. Peter community or perhaps haven’t yet discovered what the St. Peter Library has to offer? Here are some frequently asked questions about the Library that might help.

What services are available especially now with the COVID-19 emergency? The Library is here to provide important services to the community during these challenging times. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the Library’s many different digital offerings or curbside pick-up program. For questions on what services are available or, for those in need of assistance, please contact the Community Development Department (507-934-0661) for information on how you can participate.

What are Digital Services? Saint Peter residents who haven’t taken advantage of the digital options available with a library card, should do so now. Digital services offer more to explore from the comfort of your own home 24 hours a day. E-books, audio books, and even movies and music are just a click away with more titles being added every day.

What if I don't know my card number? Contact the library through email (lib@saintpetermn.gov), or Facebook message for assistance looking up your library card number for any of the digital services (e-books, audio, or hoopla streaming services). Library staff are working limited hours, but are happy to help.
• Minimum of 4” in height with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inches.
• Where accessed by means of a private road and the building cannot be viewed from the public way, a monument, pole or other sign or means shall be used to identify the structure.
• Address numbers shall be maintained.

These regulations apply to all new and existing buildings (commercial, retail and industrial included).

If you have missing numbers, or there are no numbers at all, please take the time to get those installed. And remember….in Minnesota we don’t allow house numbers to be painted on the curb where they would never be seen six months out of the year!

WIPES CLOG PIPES – Please....DON'T FLUSH WIPES! Even with toilet paper hard to find these days, please.....don’t flush wipes!

Despite often being labeled “flushable,” disposable wipes that are flushed down toilets don’t break down in the sewer system. These wipes are often used in private homes, medical facilities and nursing homes. Flushed wipes cause expensive problems for the City which has to clean them out of screens and pumps, and remove wipe-based clogs. And as with most expensive problems, the cost is then passed on to customers.

Many homeowners have experienced plumbing problems because of wipes, so you may have expensive maintenance issues at home if you flush them. Wipes may be labeled “flushable,” but they don't degrade in the system. Flushing them is like flushing a handkerchief or other item made of cloth as shown in this video created by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency…

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQEAiTUziOc

Our sewer systems and treatment plants were not designed to handle wipes. They gum up the system, clog pipes and pumps, and cost taxpayers and residents lots of money in additional maintenance costs. So if you must use wipes, please put them in the trash, not the toilet!

And here’s one more MPCA video that helps get the message out there...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nz0FFHL9wrr.

If you have questions about this topic, please contact the City’s Public Works Department at 934-0670 for more information.

ARE YOU RAKING INTO THE STREET? – Before the weekend’s snow storm, many residents were already busy raking yards to try and encourage that first hint of green grass to pop up. Good for you! But if you are raking those materials into the street it’s not so good for a couple of reasons.

Materials that end up in the gutter (on the street), wash into the City’s stormwater collection system. Unless they are removed, the material could end up in the Minnesota River and contribute to water pollution of our protected waterways.

The other problem is any materials that are raked or shoveled into a roadway become a traffic hazard. Kids on bikes, pedestrians, garbage trucks and even everyday traffic must find a way to navigate around the materials which could lead to accidents and injuries. With the snow now on top of the materials, it becomes even more of an issue as drivers may not see the piles until it’s too late.

So if you are one of the folks who raked these materials into the street, please undo what you have done and dispose of the materials properly. Your neighbors and the Minnesota River thank you.

SPRING YARD WASTE COLLECTION - The City will be collecting branches, brush, and tree trimmings at curbside beginning at 7:00 A.M. Monday, May 4th. Leaves and grass clippings will not be collected, but can be taken to the yard waste drop-off site at 1128 North Swift Street.

To facilitate and speed up the collection process residents are asked to follow these guidelines:

1. Place materials on your yard, parallel and adjacent to the curb (within six-feet [6’] of the curb line).
2. Do NOT put brush on the street. (See notice in previous column about the hazards this creates.)
3. Brush and tree trimmings should be cut to lengths less than six feet.
4. Do not place the materials by curbies, light poles, trees, posts, mailboxes, utility boxes/pedestals, etc.
5. Refrain from parking within 50’ of the yard waste until pick-up is complete.

It takes more than one day to pick up materials from the entire community, but crews will only go through an area once; therefore, if your yard waste is not out by 7:00 A.M. Monday, May 4th, it will not be picked up.

Should you miss the collection, brush can be taken to the City’s yard waste drop-off site.
YARD WASTE DROP OFF SITE - The brush and soft yard waste drop-off site located at 1128 North Swift Street, (southwest intersection of St. Julien and Swift Streets) with access off North Swift Street, is open year around for residents to drop off brush and soft yard waste. Brush and tree trimmings must be cut to lengths less than 6 feet and a separate bunker has been provided for dropping off fill such as rocks and dirt.

At the site, woodchips and compost are available to St. Peter residents at no cost when available. While the material is free, residents will need to supply shovels and bags or other containers.

This service is provided and funded by the Environmental Service Fee on City utility customer bills. Please call the Department of Public Works at 934-0670 for more information.

2019 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT - Federal EPA Consumer Confidence Rule requires public water suppliers to provide publically available information about the system's water quality. Saint Peter does this annually by issuance of a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). The CCR summarizes information regarding water sources used (i.e., rivers, or aquifers) and of any detected contaminants, along compliance and educational materials.

The City’s 2019 CCR is available now on the City’s website at http://www.saintpetermn.gov/289/Water. No access to the internet? Paper copies are available upon request. Contact the Public Works Department at 507-934-0670.

TREE CARE 101 – The City has received a few calls from property owners wanting to know if they could cut down a tree in front of their homes. Many people don’t understand the concept of “boulevard trees” versus “private property” trees. Trees located in the City owned boulevard are trimmed, maintained and if necessary, removed by the City. These trees may not be removed by the public and as the City works to expand our urban forest, unless the tree is diseased or somehow presents another danger, they will not be removed by the City.

If you’d like to remove a tree on your own property, however, there are a couple of things you should be mindful of. The first is the need to call Gopher State One-Call (811) before you dig. This is a State regulation that provides for marking of utility lines before digging anywhere in the state. This is required even if you think you know where the lines on your property are located.

If you are going to hire someone to do the work for you, keep in mind the need to hire a licensed tree worker. Just because you have a saw doesn’t make you a tree worker and City Code regulations require these individuals to be licensed by the City. When an application is received, the Police Department will conduct a background investigation and staff will require the applicant to provide proof of insurance; both of which helps protect property owners from disreputable companies. A list of all currently licensed tree workers is available on the City’s website at https://www.saintpetermn.gov/BusinessDirectoryII.aspx?lngBusinessCategoryID=22

HELP WANTED – The City is now accepting applications for the following positions:

- POLICE COMMUNICATION TECHNICIAN - The Saint Peter Civil Service Commission is currently accepting applications for the positions of a full-time and part-time Police Communications Technician. Responsibilities involve assisting the public in person and by phone, dispatching emergencies, record processing, computer entry and other related assignments. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS High school degree or equivalent; Possession or eligible to receive a Class D Minnesota Driver’s license; Skill and ability to receive State Certification on NCIC file operation; Excellent verbal and written communication skills; Ability to receive First Responder Certification. DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS: Knowledge and experience in data entry, use of office equipment and office procedures; Experience working with the public; Knowledge of law enforcement procedures; Experience in the operation of radio equipment; Experience in working in law enforcement or working with difficult individuals; Experience as a Dispatcher, Jailer or other law enforcement position. Hours of work are 12-hour shifts, which include nights, weekends and holidays. The starting salary has been set at $22.44 per hour. Applicants must successfully complete recruitment procedures as required by the Saint Peter Police Civil Service Commission. Applications may be obtained by phone (507) 931-1550, or in person, and must be submitted along with a resume and cover letter, to the Saint Peter Police Department, 207 South Front Street, Minnesota 56082 by no later than April
17, 2020. Faxed, emailed and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EOE

- **RECREATION SEASONAL POSITIONS** – Recruitment for two of the Recreation and Leisure Services positions has been reopened. Applications for Recreation Coordinator ($11.25/hour) and Recreation Leader ($10.00/hour) will be accepted by the City Administrator’s Office until 5:00 p.m. on April 24, 2020. Applications are available online at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov) or from the City Administrator’s office by calling 507-934-0663. Faxed and/or late applications will not be accepted. More detailed information on each of these positions is available on the City’s website at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov).

### CITY MEETING CALENDAR

***PLEASE NOTE…Until further notice, all City meetings are being conducted electronically as authorized under Minnesota Statutes 13D.021. Log-in information for each meeting is included at the bottom of the agenda page. Agendas are all posted on the City’s website at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov).***

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<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hospital Commission</td>
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<td>April 23</td>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
<td>Economic Development Authority</td>
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<td>April 23</td>
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<td>Board of Zoning Appeal</td>
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<td>May 25</td>
<td>MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY – All City offices Closed</td>
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<td>May 26</td>
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