POLICE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY – May 15th is "Police Officer Memorial Day" and this week is "Police Officer Week" in the United States.

This special time is an observance in the United States that pays tribute to the local, state, and Federal peace officers who have died in the line of duty. The Memorial Day takes place on May 15th each year, and Police Week is the calendar week in which the Memorial Day occurs.

The day of remembering was created on October 1, 1961, when Congress asked the President to designate May 15th to honor peace officers. John F. Kennedy signed the bill into law on October 1, 1962. The Proclamation signed by President John F. Kennedy stated in part: "To pay tribute to the law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and to voice our appreciation for all those who currently serve on the front lines of the battle against crime, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved October 1, 1962 (75 Stat. 676), has authorized and requested the President to designate May 15 of each year as "Peace Officers Memorial Day," and the week in which it falls as "National Police Week" and by Public Law 103-322 (36 U. S. C. 175) has requested that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers' Memorial Day."

Saint Peter residents are encouraged to recognize and thank our local Police Officers for their commitment to keeping us all safe as we honor their sacrifices on Police Officer Memorial Day.

THANK YOU

5/13/2020

MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE)

- It has been a few weeks since you heard from me in the HOT SHEET. I ran out of articles and just have not sat down to get some more done. It is not that my wonderment has stopped and actually I have been wondering now more than ever, but I find I am having a tough time sorting it all out to talk about in an article of 350 words.

I am exhausted from work and life. In so many ways life is so much more difficult these days but I think the hardest part for me personally is the constant bombardment of the news on one issue and one issue alone to the exclusion of almost all other things. There is no diversion from pastimes that I enjoy; just a never ending list of events that I love that have been canceled and my inability to just stop in and see my mother at her care facility.

Now I know "it" is a big thing, but my dwindling ability to withstand the never ending conversation on this issue has worn me down and I bet many of you are feeling the same way. I think I see this when I communicate with others. Frankly, people seem to be on a pretty short fuse and I am too. Maybe that's why I am so tired.

It takes a lot of energy to keep this negative energy in check. If you are like me you need a little bit of a pick me up, a sunny day, a shorter task list, a smile under a mask to make it easier. Last night it came to me as I was on the phone with my Mom. She has dementia so while she sees the news and understand the news, she forgets it five minutes after she sees it. So instead of talking about the news we talk about the things that matter to her like how her grandkids are doing, how I am doing and how Tive is doing. She wants to know what we are doing; are
Be Careful Out There – For some a sign of spring is when annual flowers start blooming. For others it’s the sound of lawn mowers in the neighborhood. At City Hall it’s when the fountain in the Mill Pond starts flowing again. But for others spring heralds the start of construction season and with from City crews, a request to be careful in and around all construction zones.

The Streets crews have already started their milling work for full depth patching that will be done in large areas along the seal coating route. When work begins in any area, the crews outline the area to be milled with white paint. Then “No Parking” signs are put up and after several hours’ notice, (usually the next day), crews are hard at it milling the asphalt out of designated areas.

These areas are usually in need of more repairs than the seal coating can provide and so the old asphalt is removed, new put in, and then seal coating will be applied on top. For now though, these milled areas are deep enough that no one should drive over them and they are surrounded with cones to keep drivers away. Unfortunately that makes the drivable surface narrower and will require everyone - whether it be in a car, on a bike or even walking - to be even more careful.

Please obey all construction zone signage, slow down, and most importantly, pay attention to your driving! Thanks for helping keep our crews safe.

Grass Clippings – Green grass equals lawn mowing and it’s great to see so much grass so healthy in town. However…..(isn’t there always a however?)……..residents are reminded that it’s against the law (both State and local) to mow grass clippings into the street.

When clippings end up in the street they become a source of phosphorus pollution that washes into the City’s storm drains and eventually into the river. One bushel of grass clippings contains enough phosphorus to grow 30 to 50 pounds of algae.
And not only do the clippings contribute to water pollution, but large amounts can also block storm drains causing localized flooding that can damage not only your property, but that of your neighbors.

How do you prevent this from happening? When mowing, direct the discharge chute on your lawn mower towards the lawn and away from paved areas. If grass clippings get on paved areas, sweep them up when the mowing job is done.

So please... keep those clippings where they belong... on your lawn!

**COVID-19 AND ME CONTEST** – The Recreation and Leisure Services Department recently concluded their COVID-19 and Me writing contest. The contest asked participants to submit written works that were part of a journal, thoughts, or personal reflections during Minnesota’s stay-at-home order.

A total of 17 people submitted entries and the Judges decided to split the Chamber Buck prizes amongst all 17 entries. In addition to two people who wish to remain anonymous, the following individuals submitted entries:

- Katherine Callahan
- Bob Douglas
- Ian Gerstbauer
- Roan Gerstbauer
- Tara Harbo
- Mickayla Janzen
- Ellis Jones
- Larry Kiewel
- Emily Kreutschmer
- Dustin Lenhoff
- Sophie Matarrese
- Raina Roehmildt
- William Shores
- Donna Thompson
- Terena Wilkens

The entries will be posted on the City’s website by the end of the week.

**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 May 13, 2020:

- The peacetime emergency continues.
- We have received word that the Fourth of July parade and picnic in Minnesota Square Park have been cancelled for this year.
- The American Legion has decided to cancel the Memorial Day remembrance this year.
- You may have noticed you didn’t receive a summer recreation brochure in the mail. That doesn’t mean that we have given up on summer, but it does mean the Recreation and Leisure Services Department and the School District #508 Community Education office are developing programming that will be safe for participants and allow for social distancing and good hygiene practices. We know that this summer will be much different than those we are accustomed to, but know it is still important to find ways to recreate, socialize, and enjoy yourself. A summer activity brochure is available on the City’s website at [https://www.saintpetermn.gov/DocumentCenter/View/706/Current-Season-Brochure?bidId=](https://www.saintpetermn.gov/DocumentCenter/View/706/Current-Season-Brochure?bidId=). Registration begins Friday, May 15th. Please note that if there are changes with the COVID-19 emergency, cancellations may be necessary. But please don’t hesitate to make this weird summer a wonderful one!
- The verdict is still out on whether or not the City’s outdoor pool will open this season. CDC and Minnesota Department of Health recommendations will play a major role in making that decision and updates will be provided as soon as they are available.

**HALLETT’S NATURE AREA PARK** – Thanks to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Recreation grant program, funding was provided to construct a handicap accessible fishing pier at Hallett’s Pond.

With the COVID-19 emergency, the timing of the new amenity isn’t the best, but the pier is ready and waiting for use.

**STORM SIRENS OR NOT?** – Summer storms can come up quickly and be quite violent and in the past the City has had questions from people about when storm sirens are used and what happens when the storm has passed.

Let’s start with the basics of severe weather lingo.....
• Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm “WATCH” - means that conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes or severe thunderstorms. When a watch is issued for our area, pay close attention to the weather and make sure that everyone in your family knows the correct action to take if the weather gets worse.

• Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm “WARNING” - means a tornado or severe thunderstorm has been reported or is indicated by weather radar. Warning information includes the tornado or storm’s location, direction and speed. If the warning is issued for our portion of Nicollet County, residents should TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY. Emergency sirens are only issued for Tornado Warnings...not for severe thunderstorms.

• Emergency Alert Testing – Testing of the City’s emergency sirens happens on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. However, if the weather is bad that day, the testing will not take place.

Now, with that knowledge in place, let’s think about how the National Weather Service issues their watches and warnings. For many years, warnings for tornadoes were issued for the entire county. That meant that if a storm was 40 miles away on the other edge of Nicollet County, the warning was issued for the whole of Nicollet County regardless of whether it would come near Saint Peter or not. That led to the sirens being activated a lot and people starting to ignore the sirens. When people stop paying attention it poses a danger.

Warnings by the Weather Service are now issued based on the geographic area of the storm and its predicted path. The “box” that you see on a radar screen for a warned area is oddly shaped to encompass only the area that is really in danger.

With all the apps available these days, many of us get notices of incoming storms on televisions or over our computers or smart phones; however, the Police Department gets notices sent directly from the National Weather Service.

When the warning is received, the Police Department reviews the more detailed information from the Weather Service, along with radar information from other sources including local television, to determine if City emergency sirens should be activated. If the direction and location of the storm indicate that a possible tornado will be near Saint Peter, the sirens are activated. If it looks like we are safe, sirens are not sounded, although Police Department personnel will continue to monitor the situation until any threat of tornadoes has passed our area.

Here are some more questions that we are frequently asked along with the answers we provide:

• How are we supposed to know when to come out of our basement if there is no “all clear” siren? There isn’t an “all clear” given. Everyone should take a NOAA weather radio or a portable battery powered radio, or television into the shelter with them. That way you will know when the warning has expired and it is safe to exit your shelter.

• There is no basement in my house. Where do I go in the event of a warning? That’s really something you need to determine before the weather turns nasty and there is no one good answer. Get to a windowless interior room, such as a bathroom, closet or inner hallway. Stay as far away from windows as possible. Go to the center of the room – corners tend to attract debris, and get under a sturdy piece of furniture, heavy table or desk. Protect your head and neck with a blanket, if possible. If you live in a rental property ask your landlord where the storm shelter is now….before you need it. If you live in a mobile home park, make sure your required emergency shelter is unlocked and accessible at all times and if not, check with the park owner to make sure that situation is changed before you need it. Traveling long distances across town to go to a shelter once the sirens have been activated is NOT a good idea, so make sure your emergency shelter is close at hand.

• Can I bring my cat/dog with to the emergency shelter? That’s up to the rules of the shelter you use. But if you do, make sure the animal is in a crate or on a leash. Animals get scared during storms just like humans do. An unrestrained scared animal may bite or bolt. And if a storm is approaching it might be a good idea to wrangle your dog or cat into a crate before the sirens start going off. Then you can just grab the container and head to your basement or shelter.

• You need to put in another siren tower because I can’t hear it in my house. The outdoor emergency sirens are NOT designed to be heard indoors. The system is specifically for those who are outside. If you don’t already have
It's official. If in the Recreation and
warn residents when the need arises, but each of us
just enjoy outdoor activities, invest in a
•
as individuals
own safety . And when those sirens do sound
so you can tune into weather updates when the sky
appears threatening, find a way to tune in to
•
GoToMeeting
platform.
The City will continue to do our part to monitor and
warn residents when the need arises, but each of us
as individuals also need to take responsibility for our
own safety. And when those sirens do sound
please....
• Don't stand outside and try and spot, or worse
yet, video the tornado. Head to your emergency
shelter.
• Don't get in your car to chase the tornado. Head
to your emergency shelter.
• Don't call the Police or City offices and ask why
the sirens are going off. Head to your
emergency shelter...that's where most of the
City employees will also be!

BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION – The City
Council will meet as the Saint Peter Board of Appeal
and Equalization on Tuesday, May 19th beginning at
6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually through
the GoToMeeting platform. Information on how to
log-in to that meeting will be included on the meeting
agenda which is on the City’s website at
https://www.saintpetermn.gov/AgendaCenter.
Property owners who believe the value or
classification which has been assigned to their
property by Nicollet County is incorrect are asked to
first contact the Nicollet County Assessor’s office at
507-934-7060. After conferring with the Assessor,
those who are still not satisfied may make an
appointment through the Assessor’s office to appear
before the Board. The Board will then review the
valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and
consider making corrections as needed. State law
requires property owners to appeal to the local board
before an appeal can be taken to the County Board
of Appeal and Equalization.
For questions about this process, please contact
the Nicollet County Assessor’s Office at 934-7060.

IS YOUR CAT A CRIMINAL? – It’s official. If you
haven’t applied for your cat license by now, your
cat is officially a criminal. Or should you, the owner,
be the criminal? Either
way, the deadline has
passed and now the
license will include a
penalty fee. And if you
wait even longer and still don’t get the license you
might even receive a formal citation from the Police
Department.
Please apply now for your 2020-2021 cat license
by contacting the Community Development
Department (934-0661). They will walk you through
what you need to do for no-contact issuance of the
license. Cost with the penalty is now $10 for
spayed/neutered cats or $30 for unaltered pets. The
license is good for two years and you’ll need a
current rabies certificate to get the license.
If you no longer have your cat please contact the
Community Development Department so the
information can be removed from the database.

HELP WANTED – The City of Saint Peter is now
accepting applications for the following full-time
position:
• LIBRARY SUPERVISOR - in the Recreation and
Leisure Services Department. This position
supervises the operation of the library and is
responsible for assisting in the development,
implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all
Library programs and activities. Minimum
qualifications: Bachelor’s Degree in Library
Media Science, Education or related field; Two
years demonstrated programming experience in
libraries, recreation, educational or related
areas, or equivalent; Demonstrated personal
computer experience; valid driver’s license;
Experience working with the public. DESIRED
QUALIFICATIONS include: Demonstrated
experience of two or more years provision of
library operations; Two or more years’ demonstrated
demonstrated employee supervisory
experience; Demonstrated experience in
preparation and implementation of budgets; Two
or more years’ demonstrated experience in
provision of literacy enhancing programing,
library program management, or delivery;
Previous demonstrated experience with
inventory or library materials circulation
software; Demonstrated experience in the
purchase of Library materials including books,
periodicals, and digital materials. Starting wage $22.60-$25.24 per hour. Applicants must complete a City application form available from the City Administrator's Office, 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082-2538; by calling (507)931-0663; or on the City's website at https://www.saintpetermn.gov/365/Employment. Completed applications will be accepted until 5:00 pm, June 12, 2020. Faxed or late applications will not be accepted. AAEOE.

**CITY MEETING CALENDAR**

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**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.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Meeting Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Parks and Recreation Advisory Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>City Board of Appeal and Equalization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Tourism and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>May 25</td>
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<td>MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY – All City offices Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>May 27</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hospital Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
<td>Economic Development Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Housing and Redevelopment Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Workshop Session</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>June 4</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Planning and Zoning Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Workshop Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Parks and Recreation Advisory Board</td>
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<td>June 22</td>
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<td>City Council Meeting</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>June 24</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hospital Commission</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
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<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Tourism and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>June 29</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Goal Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Heritage Preservation Commission</td>
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