6/10/2020

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – The City Council held a regular meeting on June 8, 2020 to consider the following actions: adoption of a park facilities naming policy; approval of a revolving loan for Mary L. Brandt to make repairs on the building at 219 West Nassau Street; and additional modification to the COVID-19 Micro Loan program to allow “business to business bookkeeping services” as a covered business sector.

The next regular City Council meeting will be Monday, June 22nd beginning at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be a hybrid allowing for in-person attendance or virtual attendance 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.

CITY BUILDINGS OPENING AGAIN – City buildings that were previously open to the public are tentatively set to reopen on Monday, June 15th. While the doors will once again be open, we ask that everyone coming into our buildings practice appropriate social distancing and proper hand washing to help keep our employees and visitors safe. If you feel ill or have one of the many common symptoms of COVID-19, we ask that you either delay your visit until you are feeling better, or call/email with your question. Numbers for all departments can be found on the City’s website at https://www.saintpetermn.gov/Directory.aspx.

You may notice some City employees wearing masks and/or gloves and others who have chosen not to. It is their choice. However, if you as a visitor wish to wear a mask, we thank you for it.

Some offices will have sneeze shields in place; some will not. Those that do not have sneeze shields installed, due to small office sizes, may restrict visitors to that particular office.

We appreciate the public’s patience and willingness to work with us while our doors were closed and we are happy to be back.

POOL OPENING UPDATE - As part of a report to the City Council during the June 8th meeting, Recreation Director Joey Schugel provided a report on the possibility of opening the outdoor pool. Working with MN Department of Health and CDC guidelines, a plan is being put together to determine if it is feasible to open the pool under the guidelines of MDH and CDC and the Governor’s executive order. We aren’t there yet, but we also haven’t given up on the possibility of opening the pool either. For all those posting questions on social media, please know that the City will post information on what the future holds as soon as a decision has been made. Info will be posted on Facebook, the City’s website and Twitter along with notices in the Hot Sheet and on public access Channel 8. We feel your need for a little fun in the sun Saint Peter so please be patient a bit longer!

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 and check out the Hot Sheet archives. Here is the latest information as of June 10, 2020:

- The peacetime emergency continues; however the Governor’s Stay at Home order has been turned into a Stay Safe order. For more
information on what the ever changing rules are, go to the Governor’s Office website at https://mn.gov/governor/.

- Last week the Governor eased restrictions on businesses and opened some more business sectors under certain conditions. For detailed information on those changes, please visit the Governor’s website listed above.

- City Council meetings will be conducted in a hybrid setting. Those who wish to attend in person may do so while some Councilmembers will continue to participate virtually. Due to the need to maintain social distancing in the meeting room, it is possible that meetings will be relocated to other areas of the Community Center. If you plan on attending a meeting in person, please contact the City Administrator’s office prior to attendance to make sure you know what room is being used.

- Meetings of City Council advisory boards and commissions will continue on a virtual meeting platform only. No in-person meetings are being conducted for these groups.

- With doors opening, some changes are being made at the Community Center and Library as follows:

  **Community Center Hours Starting June 15**
  Mon-Fri: 6am-8pm
  Sat-Sun: Closed
  ***Gymnasium, indoor track are closed to the public until further notice.

  In-person programming activities at the Senior Center are also closed until further notice. However, anyone wishing to reserve the Senior Center for a private event should contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department for more information.

  **Library Hours Starting June 15th**
  Mon, Wed, Fri: 10am-5pm
  Tues and Thurs: 1-8pm
  Sat-Sun: Closed

  Community Center and Library users are encouraged to wear face masks and conduct business in a timely matter and then exit the building. Loitering will not be allowed. If you are feeling ill please stay home.

**J O I N  U S  F O R  A  S U M M E R  O F  E X P L O R A T I O N  R E C R E A T I O N** - Exploration Recreation is back this summer and coming to a park near you with some exciting updates! Exploration Recreation Staff will again be leading activities and programs, but this summer they will be adapted for social distancing and safety. We are also very excited to unveil the traveling Bookmobile from the Saint Peter Public Library that will be full of books, games, crafts and more. Join us for a unique summer full of fun!

  Hours for this programming, and which parks they will be held in are as follows:

  **TUESDAYS**
  Gault: 10 - 11:30a.m.  Ramsey: 10 - 11:30a.m.
  Jefferson: 1 - 2:30p.m.  MN Square: 1 - 2:30p.m.
  Gorman: 3 - 4:30p.m.  Veterans: 3 - 4:30p.m.

  **THURSDAYS**
  Gault: 10 - 11:30a.m.  Ramsey: 10 - 11:30a.m.
  Jefferson: 1 - 2:30p.m.  MN Square: 1 - 2:30p.m.
  **P E D D L E R S  N E E D  L I C E N S E S** - Summer sees more door-to-door peddlers in the community so now is the perfect time for a refresher.

  If someone comes to your door trying to sell you goods or services, residents are encouraged to ask to see the City issued peddler's license (signed by the City Administrator) before purchasing anything or allowing a Peddler in your home. Being licensed by the City ensures the person has undergone a background investigation which helps protect our citizens from unscrupulous vendors. Each peddler must have a license on their person.

  If the person coming to your door can't or won't produce a license, don't let them in your house and don't purchase anything from them. Many of these unscrupulous peddlers may try and convince you that they don't need a license or are licensed by the State, but any salesperson going door-to-door in a residential area....unless you have invited them to your home....MUST have a license from the City.

  If an unlicensed peddler comes to your door, please don't hesitate to notify the Police Department (931-1550) and provide a description of the person, their vehicle and what direction they were traveling. If you have any questions about Peddler's and whether they are indeed licensed by the City, please don't hesitate to contact us at 507-934-0663 during business hours, or 507-931-1550 (the Police Department) after hours.

  **T E L E M A R K E T I N G  S C A M S  O N  I N C R E A S E** - Most telemarketing scams tend to target seniors and 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 coercion 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.

If you are a caregiver for an older adult, it’s a good idea to visit about these issues with them. Frequent reminders will help them remember what to watch out for.

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

**CONSTRUCTION ZONE SAFETY** - This summer, like so many before, is sure to see a lot of construction work on our roadways. The areas may be signed as “no thru traffic” or “closed to traffic”. Even with the appropriate signage, some motorists will ignore the signs and drive around the barricades to get where they want to go.

Sometimes the results are comical like the older man in 2018 who drove 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 harm’s 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!

**SILENT DROWNING** – You know how in the movies people who are drowning thrash around and cry out for help? They wave their arms above their head trying to signal someone on shore for help. They flail desperately and scream for help, a gain and again. Unfortunately that picture is what many of us have in our minds when we think of drowning. But it’s not real life.

Drowning isn’t loud – it’s silent. It’s quick and deadly and unless you’re a trained professional you may miss the signs of drowning all together. Drowning victims are using so much energy and air to keep alive, they don’t have the ability to call for help. As they struggle to stay above the water, their lungs may already be filling with water before they slip silently beneath the surface. While we might expect them to wave their arms in the air to attract help, in reality, their natural instinct will be to keep those arms moving in the water trying to stay above water.

There is a terrific public safety spot that airs each summer showing a little girl in a swimming pool while a group of adults are visiting on the pool deck behind her and no one is watching her. She starts….”Hi, in a minute, I’m going to drown in this pool surrounded by friends and relatives. That’s because Dad thinks Mom is watching me and Mom thinks Dad is.…..” It’s really an impactful message. If you’d like to watch, here’s the link. www.abbeyshope.org.

According to experts, unless the victim is rescued from the water, they have anywhere from 20 – 60 seconds before full submersion will occur and then this becomes an extremely dangerous scenario no one ever wants to experience.

Lifeguards know the warning signs of drowning but to untrained eyes, this is not what most think drowning looks like, which is even scarier.

Did you know that young children have what is called a diving reflex? If a toddler falls in the water, they have a natural instinct to hold their breath and sink. They won’t fight for the surface; they don’t splash and scream. When they slip under the surface, especially among a crowd of people, they can easily go unnoticed because drowning is silent.
Children, young children in particular, are noisy swimmers. When have you ever been at a pool when children aren’t splashing or playing loudly? It’s a terrifying sound when they’re quiet and by the time you’ve noticed the lack of sound, it might be too late.

Here are the real signs of drowning (for both adults and children) every person should watch for.

- **Head Tilted Back**: The victim will tilt their head back to attempt to get air and breathe.
- **Mouth at Water Level**: A drowning victim is trying to keep their mouth at water’s level to get air but has no time to yell for help because they are barely able to take in air. The mouth will bob up for air and back down under the water.
- **No Waving or Calling for Help**: Nature instinctively forces victims to extend their arms laterally and press down on the water. Pressing down on the surface of the water permits drowning people to leverage their bodies so they can lift their mouths out of the water to breathe.
- **Eyes Appear Glassy/Empty**
- **Bodies Stay Upright in the Water**: The victim will stay upright in the water because of the lateral arm pressing, but there is usually no supporting kick.

In the event of a near drowning incident for your family, do you know how to give a child CPR? One in three parents don't, but it's essential to have training for not only water saving and near-drowning resuscitation, but also for accidents, suffocation, smoke inhalation, electric injuries, SIDS (possible sudden infant death syndrome), and other medical issues. The American Red Cross offers CPR classes on a regular basis. If you’re not trained in CPR, it might be something to consider.

It only takes a moment for a child to drown so as we enjoy backyard pools, the lake, and even the City’s outdoor pool when it reopens, it’s up to each of us to know what to look for and possibly save a life.

For more information about water safety, please visit [RED CROSS WATER SAFETY](#)

**DOG PARK OPENS** – The new (second) City dog park has officially opened at 1125 North Swift Street. The park, located at the intersection of North Swift and West St. Julien Streets, features fenced areas for both small and large dogs to keep all breeds and their owners happy.

While this is a designated dog park, that doesn’t mean you don’t have to pick up after your pooch, so please make sure to be a responsible pet owner while enjoying this new amenity.

**DISTRACTED DRIVING WILL COST YOU** - Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system — anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving.

The Saint Peter Police Department has joined law enforcement agencies across Minnesota to put extra patrols on the road to help limit distracted driving in our area. This effort will continue through June 14th and is part of the state-wide “Toward Zero Deaths” initiative. #TZD

So if you regularly let yourself be distracted while driving, get out your check book because Officers will be looking for you!

**CITY DROP-OFF SITE VIOLATORS BEWARE!** The City offers a really popular service at 1128 North Swift Street. It’s a round the clock site for residents to drop off brush and soft yard waste like grass clippings and leaves. The site is heavily used by residents who are cleaning up their property.

Unfortunately the site, which is funded by the environmental services fee on City residential utility bills, has started to become a haven for people who are illegally dumping everything including trash, construction debris, appliances, furniture, tires and more; all in direct violation of City Code regulations specifically prohibiting such dumping and costing the City money to clean up and dispose of.

As much as we hate to take this step, the site is now under surveillance and violators will be prosecuted.

If you are a resident of the corporate limits of the City of Saint Peter, please feel free to continue to use the site. Make sure to follow the signs for what you can and can’t do there and, when available, help yourself to the woodchips and unscreened compost.
made available for City residents on a first come first serve basis.

But if you don’t live within the corporate limits of the City of Saint Peter, or if you leave materials other than soft yard waste and brush, remember the cameras are always on!

**Absentee Voting** – Yup, we’re reminding you again…..voters concerned about casting their ballot in person on Election Day have another option….absentee voting. It's a secure way to vote when you can't or don't want to go to the polling place. But before a ballot can be mailed to you, you'll need to apply and you can do so online at [https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote](https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote).

You'll need to provide some identifying information and once received, the election officials at Nicollet County will verify that information. Then when the time comes, the County will mail a ballot directly to you. The ballot can be completed, witnessed and sent back to be counted all without leaving the safety of your house.

Absentee ballot applications for both the primary election in August and the general election in November are being accepted now so if you want to avoid what is expected to be substantially long lines due to social distancing regulations and limitations on the number of voters allowed in the polling place on Election Day, please apply today.

**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 of demonstrated employee supervisory experience; Demonstrated experience in preparation and implementation of budgets; Two or more years’ demonstrated experience in provision of literacy enhancing programming, 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](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

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**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.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Meeting Name</th>
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<tbody>
<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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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>June 22</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>June 24</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hospital Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>June 25</td>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
<td>Economic Development Authority</td>
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<td>Day</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>June 26</td>
<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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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Planning and Zoning Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>July 4</td>
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<td>FOURTH OF JULY LEGAL HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>July 6</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Housing and Redevelopment Authority</td>
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<td>July 6</td>
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<td>City Council Workshop Session</td>
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<td>July 13</td>
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<td>City Council Meeting</td>
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<td>July 14</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Library Board</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Workshop</td>
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