CITY OF SAINT PETER HOT SHEET

All the City news you need to know and a little bit more.
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6/17/2020

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 website the Friday before the Council meeting.

JEFFERSON PARK BASKETBALL OPPORTUNITIES - Come one, come all. If you’re looking to practice that jump shot, play a game of H-O-R-S-E or just show off your skills with your friends in a three on three game, Jefferson Park now has a new half-pad basketball court.

This new amenity planned for as part of the City’s Parks Master Plan and should be a welcome addition to this neighborhood park. Check it out when you get a chance!

SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMMING - When you think of an estate, you might think of a millionaire with valuable assets and you might assume that estate planning applies only to those wealthy people, but in fact, estate planning is for everyone.

The St. Peter Senior Center is now offering a program on estate planning designed to demystify the process and let you know when and how to do it. Armed with these facts, you can begin your estate planning journey and assist important people in your life to begin theirs. Instructor for the program is James W. Brandt of the Brandt Law Office and the program will be available either in person or through the GoToMeeting virtual software. Here are the details:

- Thursday, June 25, 11 a.m.,
- Saint Peter Community Center Room 219 or virtually at https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/576118229 or by phone +1 (571) 317-3122 using Access Code: 576-118-229

For more information on this program, please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-0667.

CENSUS 2020 UPDATE – Even in the midst of a nation-wide pandemic, the Census must go on. Here are excerpts from the latest press release from the Census Bureau....

"The U.S. Census Bureau continues to monitor the impact COVID-19 has on 2020 Census operations and follow guidance of federal, state and local health authorities to ensure the safety our staff and the public. The Census Bureau is ready to announce resumption of other operations in addition to the Update Leave operation and fingerprinting of new hires, which are already underway, in order to conduct a complete and accurate 2020 Census."
As of today, over 90 million households have responded to the 2020 Census, with over four in five households doing so online. People can still respond on their own online, over the phone or by mail — all without having to meet a census taker.

All census takers will be trained on social distancing protocols. They will be issued PPE and will follow local guidelines for their use.”

For those who are keeping track of the statistics on the 2020 Census, here’s a participation update:

- Nationwide 61.4%
- Minnesota 70.9%
- St. Peter 75.1%
- North Mankato 65.5%

The ability to participate by internet has been a welcome addition to the Census judging by the high percentage of people who have chosen to respond that way. In St. Peter the participation through the internet is just above 65%.

If you haven’t yet participated in the 2020 Census, what are you waiting for? Join the rest of us because…”WE COUNT MINNESOTA”!

GOT JUNK? – One of the lesser thought about cancellations related to COVID-19 was the City’s appliance and furniture collections which would normally have occurred in early May. But there is an option for City residents who have junk to get rid of and it is thanks to the Tri-County Solid Waste Office.

Tri-County is hosting a “Tire, Appliance And Electronics” collection at the Sibley County Fairgrounds in Arlington (801 West Chandler Street), on Thursday, June 18th from 9am – 4 pm. Granted that’s short notice, but it is an opportunity for residents of Nicollet, Sibley and Le Sueur Counties to get rid of tires, mattresses/box springs, electronics, and some furniture at reasonable prices. If you can transport your materials to Arlington it’s a good option. You’ll need to provide a MN driver’s license showing your residence in one of the three counties.

Can’t make it to Arlington on Thursday? Tri-County is doing the same collection in Le Center from 8 am to 12 pm on Saturday, July 18th at the Le Sueur County Highway shop in Le Center. Once again the July 18th collection is also open to St. Peter residents.

For more information visit Tri-County’s website at www.tricountyrecycling.org or call them at 507-381-9196.

CITY BUILDINGS OPENING AGAIN – City buildings that were previously closed due to COVID-19 have reopened to the public. While the doors are once again 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 guards in place; some will not. Those that do not have sneeze guards 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 reports to the City Council during the June 8th meeting and the June 15th workshop, 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. There isn’t much new this time around with the exception of the extension of the peacetime emergency, but here is the latest information as of June 17, 2020:

- The peacetime emergency has been extended an additional thirty (30) days, For more information on what the ever changing rules are,
go to the Governor’s Office website at https://mn.gov/governor/.

- 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.

JOIN US FOR A SUMMER OF EXPLORATION RECREATION - 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.
- Jefferson: 1 - 2:30p.m.
- Gorman: 3 - 4:30p.m.

**THURSDAYS**
- Ramsey: 10 - 11:30a.m.
- MN Square: 1 - 2:30p.m.
- Veterans: 3 - 4:30p.m.

PEDDLERS NEED LICENSES - 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.

TELEMARKETING SCAMS ON INCREASE - 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 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.

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](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, again 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 before they slip beneath the surface, 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](http://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 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

**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.

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 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 –***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.

Monday June 22  7:00 p.m.  City Council Meeting
Wednesday June 24  12:30 p.m.  Hospital Commission
Thursday June 25  12:00 noon  Economic Development Authority
Friday June 26  8:00 a.m.  Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday June 29  3:00 p.m.  City Council Goal Session
Tuesday June 30  5:30 p.m.  Heritage Preservation Commission
Thursday July 2  5:30 p.m.  Planning and Zoning Commission
Saturday July 4  5:30 p.m.  FOURTH OF JULY LEGAL HOLIDAY
Monday July 6  3:30 p.m.  Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday July 6  5:30 p.m.  City Council Workshop Session
Monday July 13  7:00 p.m.  City Council Meeting
Tuesday July 14  5:30 p.m.  Library Board
Monday July 20  5:30 p.m.  City Council Workshop
Monday July 20  7:00 p.m.  Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday July 22  12:30 p.m.  Hospital Commission
Thursday July 23  12:00 noon  Economic Development Authority
Friday July 24  8:00 a.m.  Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday July 27  7:00 p.m.  City Council Meeting
Tuesday July 28  5:30 p.m.  Heritage Preservation Commission