7/22/2020

CRACK SEALING PROJECT - The City’s annual crack sealing project has begun. This work includes blowing out cracks in the roadway, placing a tacky oil into the now clean cracks and then placing a thin paper product (looks like toilet paper but it isn’t) on top of the oil. Workers will be in the roadway doing this work and everyone is asked to use extreme caution in and around the work zones.

“No parking” signs have been put up along the effected roadways. Moving vehicles along these routes will give the contractor full access to the work surface.

The following streets will be sealed as part of this project:

- Community Center Parking Lot Upper and Lower Lots
- Traverse Green Subdivision – Cook Street, Cullen Street, Essler Drive, Lundeen Street, Nelson Street
- North Washington Avenue – Dodd Avenue to dead end
- South Washington Avenue – Broadway Avenue to Minnesota Avenue
- Jefferson Avenue – Nicollet Avenue to roundabout
- Jefferson Avenue – South Minnesota Avenue to South Washington Avenue
- Mulberry Street – South Front Street to South Minnesota Avenue
- South Fourth Street – South Elementary School to Broadway Avenue
- South Fifth Street – Walnut Street to Grace Street
- South Minnesota Avenue Services Road – South Minnesota Avenue to Martin Street
- Old Minnesota Avenue – Center Street to Union Street
- Dranttel Street – Old Minnesota Avenue to North Minnesota Avenue
- North Fourth Street – Union Street to cul-de-sac
- North Front Street – All
- Madison Street – North Minnesota Avenue to North Front Street
- Madison Street – North Fourth Street to Cul-de-sac
- Chatham Street – North Minnesota Avenue to North Front Street
- Chestnut Street – North Minnesota Avenue to North Front Street
- South Front Street – Broadway Avenue to South Minnesota Avenue
- Freeman Drive – South Washington Avenue to Cul-de-sac
- Marshall Street – Klein Street to Dead end
- Mason Street – Klein Street to North Sunrise Drive
- North Sunrise Drive – Dodd Avenue to Dead end

The work could take up to two days, but once a roadway is done, traffic can drive and/or park on the roads.

Please use caution on these streets and watch for workers. If you have any further questions please contact Public Works at 507-934-0670.

COMMUNITY CENTER GYM REOPENS – Need some where for a quick pick-up game of basketball or a place for your kids to let off some energy when it’s raining or too hot to be outside. Great news! The Community Center gym is now open for open gym from 11am-1pm and 5-7pm Monday-Friday.
But there are rules that must be followed in this time of COVID-19. Here’s the scoop:

- A maximum of ten (10) people will be allowed in the gym at any one time.
- Open gym participants must sign-in before entering the gym and sign-out when done.
- All participants must enter/exit the gym through the north door (next to the Recreation and Leisure Service Department).
- Participants must bring their own balls. No equipment will be checked out.
- No children under the age of 12 will be admitted without an adult 18 or older.
- Gym use is for athletic activity only; no loitering please.
- Participants must practice social distancing as much as possible.
- Propping doors open or allowing anyone to enter other entrances and exits is not allowed.
- Participants must practice good hygiene, wash hands, cover cough, and stay home if sick.

If you have more questions on rules for proper use of the gym during open gym times, please call the Recreation Office at 507-934-0667.

**PRIMARY ELECTIONS AND COVID-19** - It seems everything in our day to day lives has been touched by COVID-19 and the August 11th primary election has also been impacted. But what should you as a voter know before you head to your polling place on primary election day?

The biggest change you will notice is fewer voters. Many eligible voters have chosen to submit their ballot by absentee voting. This easy to use process has been allowed in Minnesota for decades (see story below). It’s a safe and easy alternative to voting in person and can be used by any eligible voter.

Should more voters than we are expecting appear in person to cast a ballot, Election Judges will be stationed at the doorway to limit the number of persons in each polling place and ensure adequate social distancing is maintained through the day.

Next thing you might notice is all Election Judges will be sporting masks and many of them will also be sitting behind sneeze guards with one Judge to a table. This helps keep our election staff and those who choose to vote in person, as safe as possible. No voter will be turned away for lack of a mask, but if you choose to wear one we appreciate it. (Please note that depending on state or local laws regarding mask usage, this may change.)

Hand sanitizer will be prevalent in the polling place for use by voters and Election Judges who are being provided with their own personal use bottles.

Each voter will receive a sanitized pen along with their ballot and I Voted sticker. At the conclusion of the voting process, the pens will be returned and sanitized once again.

Secrecy sleeves, the manila folders used to keep ballots private as a voter moves around in the polling place, will be used once only.

The tables divided into voting stations will have every other space blocked off to ensure adequate distance between voters as they cast their ballots.

Hard surfaces will be wiped down on a regular basis throughout the day with sanitizing wipes.

And finally, the software of the DS200 ballot tabulator has been upgraded to be extra user friendly which will help eliminate the need for an Election Judge to watch over the equipment. However, if you still do need help, Judges are ready, willing and able to provide it.

This certainly will be an election year to remember from the March Presidential Nominating Primary where voters had to request a specific ballot to the impact of COVID-19 on elections. If you have questions about voting, please contact the City Administrator’s office at 934-0663 or by email at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov.

And if you are a Ward I voter, please remember that your polling place has been changed to Johnson Hall at the Fairgrounds (400 West Union Street)!

**ABSENTEE VOTING** – The primary election is just three weeks away (August 11th) and if you can't make it to the polls or have any hesitation about voting in person with everything that’s going on across the country, this is the prime time to apply for an absentee ballot.

Absentee ballots are available in Minnesota to any eligible voter and can be applied for at the Nicollet County Government Center or online at https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx. Once the application has been accepted, Election officials will determine if you are an eligible voter and if it all checks out, an absentee ballot will be mailed to you with a postage paid return envelope.

The ballot can be completed at home (instructions are included), and mailed back without ever leaving the comfort of your home.

If you’d like to do the same process for November, be sure and check the box (at the top of the application) to request ballots for both the primary
and general election. If you do, an absentee ballot will automatically be sent to you without further application in the fall.

And finally, one more reminder for voters in Ward I - we are unable to use the National Guard Armory for the primary election and if you choose to cast your ballot in person, Election Judges will be waiting for you at Johnson Hall at the Fairgrounds (400 West Union Street). Registered voters in Ward I have already been sent a postcard about the change in polling place.

Still have questions about voting in Saint Peter? Please feel free to reach out to 507-934-0663 or by email to barbaral@saintpetermn.gov.

CENSUS 2020 - On a recent visit to CHS Field, the Minnesota Census Bureau staff helped St. Paul Saints Baseball mascot Mudonna fill out the #2020census. She dressed as a #MnCensusHero for the occasion. They didn't have the heart to tell her that pigs don't count. But all of you reading this, you do! 😍

WATERING TIPS FOR YOUR LAWN AND GARDEN – (This information is provided by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) - Household water use swells in the summer due to irrigation of lawns and gardens, but according to the U.S. EPA as much as 50% of the water we use outdoors is wasted from inefficient watering methods and systems.

Quell the swell! Conserve Minnesota's limited freshwater resources by using efficient watering methods this summer. Before you even turn on the hose, determine if you even need to water.

Trees and native plants do quite well with only rainwater. Except in times of drought, you don't need to irrigate these areas. Consider adding more of these plants to your yard. Find plant suggestions at www.BlueThumb.org.

Grass also does quite well with only rainwater. According to Minnesota Extension, lawn irrigation is optional in Minnesota's climate. If you choose not to irrigate your lawn, it may be brown for several months. But when the temperature cools in the late summer, the grass will green up and grow again.

Garden beds with non-native flowers or vegetables usually need some water in the driest months. Though plants vary, a rule of thumb is to water one inch a week (minus rainfall). Keep track of rain and watering using a rain gauge placed in the garden. Also apply a layer of mulch around plants to reduce evaporation.

In the spring, look for leaks. Check the hose for leaks at its connection to the spigot. If it leaks, replace the nylon or rubber washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot using pipe tape and a wrench. To check for leaks in an in-ground irrigation system, contact a certified irrigation professional.

Water in the early morning. The wee hours of 4-8 a.m. are best for watering. Set up your sprinkler or irrigation system before you go to bed. In the morning, turn on the water while you get ready for the day. If the morning is too busy to add watering to the list, try a hose timer.

When hand watering, use a spray nozzle. A hose can waste 6 gallons per minute if you leave it running. A nozzle will stop the water until you are ready to use it.

Install micro irrigation along garden beds, shrubs, and trees. Micro irrigation—such as a soaker hose or drip tape—delivers low volumes of water directly to plants' roots, minimizing the water lost to wind, runoff, and evaporation. Simply run the irrigation hose along a row of plants and leave it there all season. Connect your main hose when you need to water. More complicated systems are available for larger areas.

Use a timer. It's easy to forget that you've turned on the water. A kitchen timer or hose timer can help you.

Don't sprinkle the driveway and sidewalk. It helps to select a sprinkler that matches your garden shape and size. Also choose a sprinkler that throws large drops, instead of a misty spray. This will ensure more water reaches plants and less is lost to evaporation and wind.

Consider an irrigation system. If maintained and properly set with a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller, an irrigation system—including in-ground sprinklers and/or micro irrigation—will water at the ideal time of day, adjust the amount of water according to the soil moisture, and will not keep running if you forget that it is on. An irrigation controller uses local weather and landscape conditions to tailor watering schedules to actual conditions on the site. These can also be added to older, existing systems.
Catch the rain. When the rain does come, saving rain water in rain barrels or cisterns is a great way to harvest rain water for irrigation. If the barrel is next to a garden, you can attach a soaker hose to the barrel and simply turn it on to let the water run.

**CITY MEETING CALENDAR** – ***PLEASE NOTE***…Until further notice, City meetings may be conducted electronically as authorized under Minnesota Statutes 13D.021. Log-in information for meetings being held either virtually or as a hybrid virtual/in-person will be 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hospital Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>July 23</td>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
<td>Economic Development Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>July 24</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Tourism and Visitors Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>July 27</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>July 28</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Heritage Preservation Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>August 3</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Housing and Redevelopment Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>August 3</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>August 6</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Planning and Zoning Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>August 10</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>August 11</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>PRIMARY ELECTION DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>August 17</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>August 17</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Parks and Recreation Advisory Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>August 24</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>August 25</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Heritage Preservation Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>August 26</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hospital Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>August 27</td>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
<td>Economic Development Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>August 28</td>
<td>8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Tourism and Visitors Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>August 31</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Goal Session</td>
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