WE'RE MISSING 2,600 PEOPLE! — You won’t see any of them on the back of a milk carton, but this might be the biggest missing person case in St. Peter history!

Now that got your attention didn’t it? What’s all this about? The 2020 Census of course. As of August 3rd, St. Peter’s response rate is only 76.2%. Using rough numbers, that’s 2,607 people (from a population of 11,000) that aren’t yet counted. So where did all those people go?

Getting responses is tough enough when the country is healthy, but in the midst of COVID-19 things have gotten even more difficult. People have a lot on their minds including worries about their health, jobs and everything in between, but COVID-19 is a perfect example of why the Census is so important.

Census data has been used throughout the pandemic to determine hospital needs, testing strategies, and even distribution of PPE’s. Without accurate data from the Census, response to something like this pandemic could easily be misconfigured. And when you consider that the next Census won’t happen until 2030, that’s a long ten years the country could be at risk.

So, we have a challenge for all of you St. Peter. For the next month or so, please ask everyone you know if they have completed their 2020 Census response and ask them to ask people they know. If they have, give them a smile and a virtual fist bump and if they haven’t, encourage them to do so right away. It’s easy to respond online, by phone or mail and more info is available at the 2020 Census website… https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html.

So let’s all work together to find those 2,600 St. Peterites and get them counted!

ELECTION LAST CHANCE — If you want to avoid in-person voting for the August 11th primary your opportunity to vote by absentee ballot is running out.

Changes in election law that took effect for calendar year 2020 require absentee ballots to be postmarked by August 11th and received within two days of Election Day to be counted. So if you haven’t already mailed back your voted ballot, or even worse, haven’t even applied for an absentee ballot yet, the clock is ticking!

Absentee ballot applications are available through the Nicollet County Government Center (501 South Minnesota Avenue) or you can apply online at https://mnyvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx.

For those who still wish to cast their ballot in person, polls open on Tuesday, August 11th at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m.

Ward I voters (north end of town) will cast their ballots at Johnson Hall at the Fairgrounds. Ward II will cast their ballots at the Community Center. To find out which Ward you’re in, go to https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/.

STREET PAINTING WORK — The Public Works crew will be painting stripes, parking stalls, sidewalk crossings and intersection markings throughout the month of August. Please be extra careful in and around these areas as traffic may be
restricted to one lane and intersections may be a little more difficult to traverse until the paint dries and the safety cones are removed.

Help us keep City crews safe by obeying signage, taking alternative routes when work is going on, slowing down and avoiding driving distractions.

**SEAL COATING PROJECT** - During the week of August 10th the City’s seal coat contractor, Pearson Brothers of Hanover, Minnesota, will complete the annual seal coating project. The City has worked with this contractor for a number of years and as the contractor works together with City staff seal coating happens quickly before the crews move on to the next area.

“No parking” signs will be put up along the work route and during this time residents are asked to park their vehicles elsewhere. The road will be completely closed while the materials are being placed but as soon as the rock is in place vehicles and traffic are once again allowed on the route.

Seal coating is a process where a tacky oil is placed across the entire width of street and then small rocks are placed on top of the oil. That material is allowed to settle for a few days before crews return and sweep up the excess rock.

Seal coating is done on each street in approximately five year rotations to help eliminate penetration of water under the street surface. This significantly extends the life of the road surface and in the long run, saves every tax payer money. The streets being sealed this year are listed below.

- South Third Street – South Washington to Mulberry
- Martin Street
- South Fourth Street – Broadway to South Third Street
- Stones Way
- South Fifth Street – Broadway to Wabasha Street
- South Seventh Street – South Elementary to Broadway
- Park Row – South Third Street to Dead End
- Nassau Street – South Third Street to High School Parking Lot
- Grace Street – South Third Street to Gustavus Entrance
- Sunrise Drive – Grace Street to Broadway
- Mulberry Street – South Third Street to South Fifth Street
- Myrtle Street
- Walnut Street – Minnesota Avenue to South Washington Avenue
- Locust Street – Minnesota Avenue to South Washington Avenue
- Locust Street – Cul-de-sac
- College Avenue – Minnesota Avenue to South Fourth Street
- College Avenue – South Fourth Street to South Seventh Street
- St. Paul Street – South Fourth Street to South Seventh Street
- Elm Street – Minnesota Avenue to South Seventh Street
- Pine Street – Minnesota Avenue to South Seventh Street
- Jefferson Avenue – Minnesota Avenue to South Seventh Street
- Wabasha Street
- Jackson Street

Please use caution on these streets and watch for workers. The parking on these streets will be limited for this process. None of the streets will be closed, but will have sealant and pea rock on them. City crews will be coming through with the street sweeper and picking up after the street has been sealed. If you have any further questions please contact Public Works at 507-934-0670.

**LUNCH AND LEARN: AGING, DEMENTIA, AND CAREGIVING, OH MY!** - Will you be or are you already involved with caring for an aging loved one or a loved one with dementia issues? If so, please consider attending the Recreation and Leisure Services Department lunch and learn program on Wednesday, August 12th beginning at 12:00 noon in the St. Peter Room (#219) of the Community Center.

Participants will enjoy a free, boxed lunch provided by Gustavus catering while social workers and educators with Moments Hospice answer questions you don't know how to ask when it comes to Aging, Dementia, and Caregiving. This 90-minute program will help participants understand the aging process, provide some "why" behind what dementia brings to the table and offer some caregiver clarity that will sustain even the most burnt out caregivers.

Space is limited and registration is required so please call 934-0667 or register online at [https://secure.rec1.com/MN/stpeter-mn/catalog](https://secure.rec1.com/MN/stpeter-mn/catalog). Registration closes on August 6th.

Participants will be required to wear a mask as outlined in the Governor’s Executive Order and to practice social distancing.
HOSPITAL EXPANSION PROJECT COMPLETED - After two years of planning and just over two years of construction, the $33.8 million expansion and renovation project at River’s Edge Hospital is complete. The finished project includes a new, secure main entrance, new Emergency Department and Urgent Care, two new patient wings featuring 25 private patient rooms, an Outpatient Infusion Therapy center and an inpatient physical and occupational therapy gym. Existing Hospital space was remodeled to expand operating rooms from two rooms to four and add a new outpatient surgery center, new Rehabilitation Therapy, café and dining service for patients, expanded laboratory space, and expanded billing and registration space.

“The bright, new chapter for health care in St. Peter is completed at River’s Edge Hospital. The upgrade in its facilities will enhance the quality of care that patients receive at the hospital,” said John Lammert, River’s Edge Hospital Commission Chairperson.

The original hospital was completed in 2004. The facility had 17 private patient rooms and a small emergency department. In 2009 the Medical Office Building was opened and featured a retail pharmacy, a chiropractic office, River’s Edge Clinic and the Mayo Clinic Health System, St. Peter.

Growth in surgical services led to growth in other services, prompting in 2016 the thought of expanding the hospital campus. In 2016 a master facility plan was presented to the Hospital Commission and City Council and in 2017 both groups approved moving forward with the project. The project is funded through a United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Loan and through hospital funds. The loan from the USDA also includes paying the City’s $10 million bond for the original construction.

In May 2018 the Hospital administration, Hospital Commission, City Council and other dignitaries officially broke ground on the project. 33,000 square feet was added to the hospital campus and 40,000 square feet was renovated. The project was finished on time and within budget.

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.

Thursday August 6 5:30 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission - Cancelled
Monday August 10 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
Tuesday August 11 PRIMARY ELECTION DAY
Monday August 17 5:30 p.m. City Council Workshop
Monday August 17 7:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday August 24 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
Tuesday August 25 5:30 p.m. Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday August 26 12:30 p.m. Hospital Commission
Thursday August 27 12:00 noon Economic Development Authority
Friday August 28 8:00 p.m. Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday August 31 3:00 p.m. City Council Goal Session
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>September 3</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Planning and Zoning Commission</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>September 7</td>
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<td>LABOR DAY HOLIDAY – City offices closed</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>September 8</td>
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<td>City Council Workshop</td>
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<td>September 8</td>
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<td>Library Board (may be rescheduled)</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>September 14</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Housing and Redevelopment Authority</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Meeting</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>September 21</td>
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