9/30/2020

TEMPORARY CITY OFFICE CLOSURE – All non-emergency City offices will be closed on Tuesday, October 6th until approximately noon for staff training. We apologize for this inconvenience.

GOT JUNK TO GET RID OF? – Here are some great opportunities to clean out your basement, garage, or even your junk drawer:

- Appliance, Tire and Electronics Collection, Saturday, October 10, 2020 at the Nicollet County Fairgrounds, 400 W. Union Street from 9 am - 1 pm. Disposal cost for each appliance is $10.00. Car/light truck tires are $2.00 each, $5.00 to $10.00 for larger tires. Tires on rims will be charged double. Mattress and box springs will be $10.00 per item. Any size TV is $10.00. For more information please contact Tri-County Solid Waste at 507-381-9196 or visit their website at http://www.tricountyrecycling.org/.

- Fluorescent Bulb Recycling, Hazardous Waste Disposal and Paper Shredding. All three events will be held Saturday, October 17th, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the City’s Wastewater Treatment Facility at 400 West St. Julien – (east entrance).
  - Residential utility customers of the City can bring fluorescent bulbs to the City Wastewater Treatment Facility to be recycled at no cost. Never tape lamps together.
  - Free household hazardous waste disposal for residents of Nicollet, Le Sueur or Sibley County.

Dispose of paints, stains, cleaners, degreasers, used oil, used gas, light bulbs, batteries, garden chemicals and farm chemicals.

- Paper Shredding - The first box (average size office box) is FREE, then $5 per box (check or cash paid to Nicollet County). There is a limit of five boxes per person. No binder clips or plastic clips are allowed on the documents, however, metal paper clips and staples are ok.

VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS UPDATE - The Food Coop chargers are fully operational and in-service. The chargers in Municipal Lot #2 are waiting to be commissioned and receive their identification numbers. Once that’s done, they too will be available for use by the public.

Parking stalls adjacent to the chargers have been reserved for electric vehicle parking.

FREE FALL FAMILY CAR PARK CINEMA - Drive in to see PG rated “The Addams Family” movie in the Library parking lot on Friday, October 16th. The movie will start at 8:00 p.m.

Participants will stay in their vehicles and listen to the movie over the car radio. Space is limited so reservations are required. Auntie Wendy’s Kettle
Corn will be available for sale so you have something sweet and crunchy to snack on as you enjoy this great family event. Reserve your parking spot now by calling the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 507-934-0677.

**ROAD CLOSURES DUE TO MAINTENANCE WORK** – Motorists can expect sporadic road closures through September 30th as the City’s contractor applies mastic sealing on the roads shown below. These streets will have “no parking” signs put up and then be temporarily closed to traffic for approximately one hour as the work is performed. Once completed, the roadway is reopened immediately and traffic may resume.

- W Nassau St- 3rd St to S Front St
- S 3rd St- Broadway to W Mulberry St
- W Mulberry St- 3rd St to S Front St
- W Grace St- 3rd St to S Front St
- W Park Row St- 3rd St to S Front St
- Intersection Saint Julien St and Old Minnesota Ave
- Intersection of W Broadway Ave and Sunrise Dr
- Intersection of W Broadway Ave and Washington Ave
- Intersection of Sunrise Dr and Grace St

Drivers are encouraged to use extra caution in and around the maintenance work areas. For questions related to this work, please contact Public Works at 507-934-0670.

**HOSPITAL COMMISSION VACANCY** – The City Council is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy on the Hospital Commission. Qualified applicants are those who live within the corporate limits of the City of Saint Peter, have the ability to attend the monthly meetings on a regular basis, and will make a commitment to completing the term of appointment. The Hospital Commission issue areas include: strategic planning, hire and review of CEO, budgeting, and helping develop policy related to hospital operations. Successful candidates will have experience with boards, group decision making, and an interest in promoting the value of community hospitals. Healthcare experience is not a prerequisite for appointment to this Commission.

The current vacancy is for a term ending December 31, 2023. Meetings of the Hospital Commission are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m.

Interested applicants should contact the City Administrator’s office to request an application. Email barbaral@saintpetermn.gov; call 934-0663 or stop in the office at City Hall (227 South Front Street).

**CENSUS 2020** – The U.S. Census Bureau will be wrapping up the 2020 census at midnight on October 5th. If you haven’t yet responded either online, by phone, by mail, or by talking to a Census worker, please do so! Minnesota needs everyone to be counted and missing someone has a negative impact for the next ten years. At risk? A congressional seat, funding for hospitals, schools, roads, bridges, and so much more.

Visit [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov) for information on how you can respond before it’s too late.

2020 LEAF AND GRASS CURBSIDE COLLECTION – The City’s fall curbside leaf and grass collection begins on October 19th for properties south of Broadway Avenue. Collection for properties north of Broadway will begin on November 2nd. Both collections begin at 7:00 a.m. on the specified Monday and property owners should have all their materials at the curb by this time on the specified date.

This is a lengthy process (five weeks in 2019) that pits the City’s crews against Mother Nature and the possibility of collection ending snowstorms. That sometimes means collection starts before all trees have shed their leaves and that’s one of the reasons why the start point rotates each year between the north and south ends of the community.

To help us do the best job, homeowners should note the following tips that will help speed up the process:

1. Place leaves parallel and adjacent to the curb on the lawn within six-feet (6’) of the curb line
2. Do not put leaves in the street, on a tarp, cover with tarp, or put in bags
3. Do not include grass clippings with the leaves
4. Do not include animal wastes with the leaves
5. Place brush and leaves away from curbies, light poles, mailboxes, signs, trees, posts, utility boxes/pedestals, etc.
6. Don’t park on the street in front of the yard waste until pick-up is complete (if possible, allow fifty
feet (50') either side of the pile so the tractor pulling a trailer with vacuum hose has enough room to collect the material.

7. If you live on a dead-end street, place material on the curb in front of the house, not on the dead-end.

8. If you live on a corner lot it is possible that one side will be picked up before the other as the trucks run north to south and then east to west to be more efficient in the collection process. Place all leaves on the same side of the street if you want all your leaves picked up at the same time.

If you hire a lawn service company to remove leaves and grass clippings, make sure to share this information with them.

As mentioned above, a good snowstorm may put an end to the collection process, but leaves, brush, grass clippings and garden waste can still be taken to the City’s yard waste drop-off site at 1129 North Swift Street.

The site is open 24-7 year round for the convenience of residential utility customers, but please remember that brush and tree trimmings need to be cut shorter than 6 feet.

This service is provided and funded by the Environmental Service Fee on City residential utility customer's bills.

**Hydrant Flushing** - Public Works will begin fall hydrant flushing and flow testing on October 5th. The work is being done overnight between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. to minimize disruption to customers. Flushing will continue until all hydrants are flushed, but is expected to end by October 16th.

Hydrant flushing could temporarily make water cloudy so please make sure to check the water before doing laundry.

Hydrant flushing is done twice a year (spring and fall) and has several benefits:

- Improved Water Quality - Hydrants are flushed to remove residue from the main pipe system which helps keep the water clear.
- Fire Safety and Fire Rating – During the flushing process, the hydrant flow is tested to ensure it is adequate to pump to the City’s fire tanker. This information is provided to insurance companies and helps control fire insurance costs for every property owner.
- Economic Development - Accurate flow information is also provided to any business or industry that might be considering locating in Saint Peter.

For questions about the hydrant flushing process, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

**Providing Animals With Shelter Walk** – Are you ready for the 20th Annual P.A.W.S. Walk?

This year’s walk takes place October 24, 2020. Registration begins at 9:30 am at the Mill Pond area of Riverside Park.

Start your fundraising efforts by asking family, friends, co-workers, neighbors and even complete strangers for donations for this year’s P.A.W.S. fundraiser.

The walk involves stopping at stations along the designated route and collecting donated items from generous sponsors. Pets and people alike are encouraged to dress for Trick or Treating and take part in the costume contest. And when you’re dressing your pet up (or even if they come only in their fur), remember to put them on a leash. All pets must be leashed for the walk.

It’s never too early to start your fundraising efforts. Walkers raising $20 or more will receive a trick or treat bag to participate in the treat stops and those raising $35 or more will also receive a free P.A.W.S. t-shirt.

All proceeds generated from this fundraiser are used to provide medical care and shelter for abandoned or surrendered animals while they wait for adoption by their forever families. The funds are sometimes also used to buy down the cost of adoption for animals that have been in the pound a long time.

For more information on this event, or to pick up a pledge sheet, please visit City Hall (227 South Front Street), the Police Department (207 South Front Street), or Kind Veterinary Clinic (109 West Grace Street). For more information go to: [https://www.saintpetermn.gov/171/Providing-Animals-With-Shelter-PAWS](https://www.saintpetermn.gov/171/Providing-Animals-With-Shelter-PAWS).

Don't worry if you don't have a pet to walk! If you love animals and want to help out, register to walk and make friends with someone else’s pet or just make a donation. Donations are always welcome!
**DO YOU HAVE A VOTING PLAN?** – That’s a question that has been floating around the internet for a few months now for several reasons including expected higher than normal voter turnout; COVID-19’s impact on voting; and even changes at the U.S. Postal Service that are expected to slow mail delivery.

The City of Saint Peter, working in conjunction with our election partners at Nicollet County, want to make this election as easy as possible for voters but we can’t do it alone. Here are the steps you should be taking now:

- Make sure you are registered to vote. If you have never registered, have moved, have changed your name, or even if it has been several years since you last voted, you need to make sure you are registered at the correct address. This will eliminate standing in at least one line on Election Day and it will also prevent any delays in receipt of an absentee ballot if you request one. You can check the status of your registration at [https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx](https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx).

- Request an absentee ballot if you can’t or don’t want to go to the polling place on Election Day. Absentee ballots are available to any eligible voter in Minnesota, but you have to apply for it. You can do so in person at the Nicollet County Government Center (501 South Minnesota Avenue (use the Mulberry Street entrance) or 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). Once your application has been received, your personal information will be verified and if you are eligible, an absentee ballot will be mailed to you with a return envelope. But here’s the thing....your completed ballot must be postmarked by November 3rd AND received within seven days of the election to be counted. Postal service delays make it imperative that anyone voting by mail do so as early as possible. Don’t wait until the last minute to request your absentee ballot because we want every vote to count.  
  a. If you don’t trust the mail, you can show up in person at the Government Center, fill out the application, and receive your ballot that same day. Fill it out, seal it in the envelope and hand it back to the clerk who will ensure everything is done correctly so your ballot can be counted.  
  b. Are you someone who tends to procrastinate? If you have your ballot mailed to you and there is not enough time to mail it back, you can always drop it off in person at the Government Center as long as that is done by Election Day. *(Special note....do NOT bring an absentee ballot to a City polling place. Election Judges are NOT allowed to accept them.)*

- Not interested in voting by absentee? That’s fine too, but be aware we are expecting long lines due to social distancing regulations and limits on the number of voters who will be allowed in the polling place on Election Day. Bring a mask and something to occupy your time while you stand in line and the City’s Election Judges will be ready to help you once you get inside. We’re taking every precaution to keep voters and staff healthy like providing each voter with a pen that has been sanitized for your safety, having sanitizer available for everyone as they come and go from the polling place; placing sneeze guards in front of most Election Judges; sanitizing hard surfaces throughout the day; only using ballot secrecy sleeves once; and providing masks to every voter who needs one while making sure Election Judges are all wearing masks.

There’s a lot going on for this election and this year like never before, voters need to make a plan of action for casting their ballot. Make yours now and have a backup plan just in case.

Minnesota voters, and especially those in Saint Peter, can proudly boast of historically high voter turnout and for an election that will surely see a record number of voters across the country, we want to continue that trend. We hope that you will be part of that and however you choose to cast your ballot, the important thing is always to VOTE on November 3rd!

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – The City Council meeting of September 14, 2020 included adoption of the 2021 preliminary levy; authorization for issuance of the permanent debt for River’s Edge Hospital Expansion Project (and refinancing of the original debt) through the USDA; and authorization for
execution of a renewal contract with Minnesota Municipal Utility Association (MMUA) for administration of the City’s employee safety program.

The next regular City Council meeting will be Monday, September 28th beginning at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held electronically 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.

**HELP WANTED** – The City is now accepting applications for the following position:

- **VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER** - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the position of VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER in the Fire Department. Up to three (3) Firefighters will be hired. Minimum qualifications: High school diploma/GED; at least 18 years of age; reside within a six (6) minute response time from the Fire Station; possess a valid driver’s license; and ability to read and write the English language. Successful candidates must also pass pre-employment physical, drug and alcohol tests. An open house for interested candidates and their significant others will be held on September 23rd from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Station (227 West Mulberry Street). This event provides an opportunity for prospective candidates and their family members to ask questions and learn more about what is involved in service as a Volunteer Firefighter. Successful candidates will begin service December 1, 2020 and will be required to successfully complete required Firefighter schooling within one year. Applicants are required to complete a City application form which is available in the City Administrator’s office at 227 South Front Street, or online at https://www.saintpetermn.gov/365/Employment, or by calling (507)934-0663. Complete position descriptions for Firefighters are also available in the City Administrator’s office. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator’s office by 5:00 p.m. on October 2, 2020. Faxed and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EEO

---

**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>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>October 5</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>October 5</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>October 6</td>
<td>until 12:00 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>October 12</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>October 19</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>October 19</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>October 23</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>October 26</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>October 28</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>