CITY COUNCIL MEETING – The City Council meeting of January 11, 2021 included approval for purchase of a Police squad car to be funded by the 2020 Equipment Certificate; updates to the title for the property at 100 Dodd Avenue; action to authorize preliminary engineering work including receipt of bids for restroom/concession facilities at Community Spirit Park; authorization for receipt of bids for a project to improve Center Street, McLeod Street and the portion of North Third Street from St. Julien to a point 1,000’ north; approval for purchase of a specialized surgical table for River’s Edge Hospital; authorization to establish a temporary extended leave bank for employees for COVID-19 illnesses; and closed sessions to discuss offers to purchase City owned properties at 101 North Front Street and 2100 North Sunrise Drive.

The next regular City Council meeting will be Monday, January 25, 2021 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.

RECYCLING CHANGES – A higher than usual amount of materials that cannot be recycled is being thrown into recycling curbies by City refuse customers. Although you might think this is not a big deal, it can have huge consequences.

If the truck load contains enough non-recyclable materials, the load may be rejected by the recycling plant resulting in the entire load of materials, 99% of which could have been recycled, ending up in a landfill. So you can see why this is an important part of the process to get right.

With that in mind, here’s a reminder of the do’s and don’ts of recycling:

Guide To Single Sort Recycling

Accepted Items:
- Paperboard Boxes
- Aluminum & Metal Food & Beverage Containers
- Food & Beverage Glass Bottles & Jars
- Newspapers, Junk Mail & Greeting Cards
- #1, 2, 4, & 5 Plastic Food & Beverage Containers

Unaccepted Items:
- Plastic bags, wrap or films
- Styrofoam packaging, containers or cups
- Ceramics, pyrex, dishes or drinking glasses
- Auto or window glass, mirrors or light bulbs
- Wallpaper, gift paper, tissue paper, sticker releases paper, or wrapping paper
- Coffee filters or tea bags
- Candy/gum wrappers, plastic 4 or 6 pack holders
- Oil, antifreeze or fuel containers
- Photos, transparencies or slides
- Razors, needles or sharps
- Yard waste, weeds, wood, or brush
- Pillow envelopes
- Packing peanuts
- Lawn chairs or furniture
- Flower pots
- Carpet
- Clothing or blankets
- Shredded paper
- Holiday lights or extension cords
- Batteries of any kind.
- Pizza delivery boxes
- Plastic clam shell food containers

Please follow these guidelines carefully:
No need to remove stamps, address labels, tape, paper clips, staples, wire, metal fasteners, rubber bands, spiral bindings, caps, lids or plastic tabs.
Please flatten all cardboard boxes.
Do not flatten plastic containers.
Empty & rinse all containers.
Do not place in plastic bags, paper bags are accepted.

Recycling Questions?
Give us a call: 507-625-1968
COVID-19 Updates – Nicollet County has issued the following press release about COVID-19 vaccinations:

"NICOLLET COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH PARTICIPATES IN VACCINE PILOT PROJECT - Minnesota is piloting a community COVID-19 vaccine program, partnering with local public health and school districts, to place nine pilot sites across the state. These pilot sites will initially serve adults 65 years of age and older and prekindergarten through grade 12 educators, school staff, and childcare workers. This pilot program aims to increase vaccination capacity in communities across the state and to prepare for the future when more vaccine is made available from the federal government.

Nicollet County Health and Human Services has been given the opportunity to partner with the Minnesota Department of Health, Independent School District 77, and the State Emergency Operations Center to participate in this project.

"Our team is excited to be a part of this pilot project," said Cassandra Sassenberg, Nicollet County Health and Human Services Director. "We are eager to participate in any event that assists in vaccinating Minnesota’s population as quickly as possible. We’re also using this as a learning experience so that we can be best prepared for future mass vaccination events."

Sassenberg further stated, "These clinics will be in addition to, not instead of, our regular vaccine clinics. We want to emphasize that we will continue to simultaneously complete vaccinations for people who fall into Phase 1a and each phase to follow. Up until this point, Nicollet County Health and Human Services had received only 100 doses of vaccine, which were administered earlier this month through a series of smaller clinics. As we receive additional vaccine, we will continue to schedule clinics and communicate with our residents."

"We ask for patience," said Bree Allen, Nicollet County Health Promotion and Prevention Services Supervisor. "As we learn more, we will ensure everyone who is eligible for a vaccine knows how, where, and when they can get their shots. Until then, we must all continue taking important precautions to help slow the spread of the virus. This includes
wearing a mask, frequent hand washing, social distancing and limiting gatherings.”

**SPACE HEATERS AND YOUR ELECTRIC BILL** – As the temperatures drop many homeowners rely on space heaters to warm up those hard to heat areas of the house. It’s an efficient, but not very cost-effective way to heat your house as space heaters can dramatically increase your electric bill! Utility customers are already beginning to see big increases in their electric bills that upon careful questioning as to the customer’s electric consumption, can be directly tied to the use of space heaters.

Want to know how much a space heater could be costing you? Here’s a formula to determine the monthly cost of operating a space heater before you plug it in.

\[(\text{Wattage divided by 1,000}) \times \text{hours used} \times \text{cost per kWh} = \text{cost per day}\]

Using that formula and a 1,500 watt space heater, the cost would be:

\[(1,500 \text{ watts/1,000}) \times 24 \text{ hours} \times 11.67 \text{ cents per kWh} = \$4.20 \text{ per day}\]

Multiply that by a full month’s usage and that’s an extra $126 per month on your utility bill, so while space heaters may be convenient to use, and newer models are more energy efficient than their older counterparts, they are expensive and you’ll want to take that into consideration before your next utility bill appears in your mailbox.

Not only are space heaters expensive to use, they can be dangerous if used incorrectly. Here are some tips for proper use of a space heater:

**Do:**

1. Plug your space heater directly into the wall outlet.
2. Buy a space heater with automatic shutoff in the case the unit tips over, or you forget to shut it off.
3. Keep your space heater in low-moisture rooms.
4. Keep your space heater at a safe distance (at least 3 feet) from kids, pets and flammable items.
5. Always follow the directions and if repairs are needed to your space heater, have the work done by a qualified appliance service center.

**Don’t:**

1. Don’t leave your space heater unattended. Always unplug it before you leave the house or go to bed.
2. Don’t use an extension cord to plug in your space heater. It can cause the heater to overheat and can cause a tripping hazard.
3. Don’t place your space heater near curtains, clothing, furniture or bedding.
4. Don’t try to repair a broken space heater yourself.
5. Don’t put a space heater in the bathroom. The moisture can damage the unit, which could cause it to malfunction.

**MIND/BODY SPIRIT CHALLENGE** - The Mind/Body/Spirit Challenge is a great way to motivate yourself to be better this winter. The program is offered by the Recreation and Leisure Services Department as a community-wide challenge.

Registration is $15 per individual but additional household members can be registered for only $7. All participants will receive a long sleeve challenge t-shirt.

The goal of the challenge is to complete as many challenges as possible within six weeks once the challenge begins on February 1st. Each time a participant completes a challenge, their name will be entered into grand prize drawings. The more challenges completed the more chances those who participate have to win great prizes!

For more details and to register please visit [https://www.saintpetermn.gov/484/St-Peter-Challenge](https://www.saintpetermn.gov/484/St-Peter-Challenge), or call the Recreation office at 507-934-0667.

**HELP WANTED** – The City of Saint Peter is now taking applications for the following position:

- **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES SPECIALIST (NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR)** - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the position of IT Specialist (Network Administrator). **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Associates degree in Computer Science or related field; Two years of experience in data processing systems and software applications; Experience with LANS.
(Local Area Networks); Experience in installation, configuration, management and use of servers; Knowledge of Microsoft Word, Outlook and Excel software including installing and configuring Microsoft software; Experience working with the public; Valid Minnesota Class D driver’s license.

**DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Demonstrated minimum two years of experience in integration of SCADA, AMI or other data acquisition and control systems back-up and security; Demonstrated minimum of two years of experience in network design, support, back-up, security and documentation; Demonstrated two years of experience in deploying hardware including pc’s, VoIP phones, multifunction devices, smartphone and other peripheral devices; Demonstrated experience in wire pulling, termination and testing. Salary $64,500 - $71,500 per year. Applicants are required to complete a City application form available in the City Administrator’s office at 227 South Front Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1-5 p.m., by calling (507)934-0663 or online at https://www.saintpetermn.gov/365/Employment. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator’s office by 5:00 p.m. February 3, 2021. Online interviews will be scheduled February 10-11, 2021. Faxed and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EEO

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**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.

- **Friday** January 22 8:00 a.m. Tourism and Visitor’s Bureau
- **Monday** January 25 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
- **Tuesday** January 26 5:30 p.m. Heritage Preservation Commission
- **Wednesday** January 27 12:30 p.m. Hospital Commission
- **Thursday** January 28 12:00 noon Economic Development Authority
- **Monday** February 1 5:30 p.m. City Council Workshop
- **Thursday** February 4 5:30 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission
- **Monday** February 8 3:30 p.m. Housing and Redevelopment Authority
- **Monday** February 8 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
- **Monday** February 15 **LEGAL HOLIDAY – President’s Day – City offices closed**
- **Tuesday** February 16 5:30 p.m. City Council Workshop
- **Monday** February 22 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
- **Tuesday** February 23 5:30 p.m. Heritage Preservation Commission
- **Wednesday** February 24 12:30 p.m. Hospital Commission
- **Thursday** February 25 12:00 noon Economic Development Authority
- **Friday** February 26 8:00 a.m. Tourism and Visitors Bureau