SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK!

Minnesota’s “Severe Weather Awareness Week” is April 12-16, 2021 with siren testing scheduled for twice on Thursday, April 15th. The City of Saint Peter will participate in the April 15th testing at 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. Outdoor warning sirens will sound in a simulated tornado warning. Please note that according to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, there will be no NOAA weather radio or broadcast TV/radio alerts this year during the 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. drill times to inform the public about why sirens are going off.

Families and businesses are encouraged to conduct their own mini preparedness drills and to talk about what you would do in the event of a real emergency. One of the things to discuss with your family and co-workers is the terms used when advisories are issued:

Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm “WATCH” - means that conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes or severe thunderstorms. When a watch is issued for our portion of Nicollet County, pay close attention to the weather and make sure everyone in your family knows the correct action to take if the weather gets worse.

Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm “WARNING” - means a tornado or severe thunderstorm has been reported or is indicated by weather radar. Warning information includes the tornado or storm’s location, direction and speed. If the warning is issued for our portion of Nicollet County, TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY.

Warning sirens are tested year round on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. to assure that the sirens will work in the event of an actual emergency. If you hear the steady tone of a siren at any other time, it means that severe weather has been sighted in our area and you should take shelter immediately.

There is no all clear siren, so take a battery powered radio with you to the shelter so you can monitor when it is safe to emerge. More information on these topics is available on the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website at...
Summertime is meant for enjoying outdoor activities, but if you hear thunder, that means lightning is close enough to put you in danger so remember the motto…. *"When it Roars, Go Indoors!"* Lightning is one of the top storm-related killers in the United States and when thunderstorms are in the area and you hear thunder, it’s time to get indoors and stay there for 30 minutes after the last roar of thunder.

If you would like more information about severe storms preparedness please call the Saint Peter Police Department (931-1550) or Nicollet County Emergency Management (934-7874). Some of the severe weather information and the tornado and road safety graphic contained in today’s Hot Sheet are from the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security website.

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING** – The City Council meeting of March 22, 2021 included corrections to the assessments for the North Third Street, Center and McLeod Streets From West St. Julien To 1,000 Feet North Project and award of sale of $720,000 in general obligation bonds to finance the project; award of sale of $2,120,000 in general obligation refunding bonds to save $118,000 (net present value) over the cost of the original issuance; award of the bid for construction of two concession/restroom buildings in Community Spirit Park (one owned by the School District #508); adoption of an updated AWAIR safety program; adoption of updated position descriptions for the positions of Building Official and Chief of Police; award of the bid for purchase of a used (2017) four-wheel drive telehandler; closed session to discuss and subsequent action to approve the 2021 union contracts for the Parks, Streets and Police Officers unions.

The next regular City Council meeting will be Monday, April 12, 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.

**HYDRANT FLUSHING** – Spring hydrant flushing will begin at 8:00 p.m. on April 5th and will continue through approximately April 16th. This work is done by the Water Utility crew during overnight hours (8:00 p.m. – 6 a.m.) to minimize disruption to utility customers. Hydrant flushing could temporarily make water cloudy. Please check your water before doing laundry. If you have questions about this process, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

**YARD WASTE DROP-OFF SITE CHANGES** – As the amount of materials being dumped at the yard waste drop-off site at the intersection of North Swift/West St. Julien Streets continue to increase, changes are being implemented to curb unlawful dumping and the increased costs being passed on to Saint Peter residents.

The April 1st utility bills will include a small orange sticker that will become that residential utility customer’s pass to utilize the yard waste site. The sticker is to be placed on the driver’s side window of vehicles when dropping materials off at the site. If you have more than one vehicle used to haul materials to the site, additional stickers can be purchased at the Public Works building (right across the street at 405 West St. Julien), or from the Finance Department at City Hall. The fee for a second and each subsequent sticker is $5.00.

Those who aren’t Saint Peter residents, or tree workers or lawn care companies that wish to drop-off materials at the site, will be required to purchase an annual permit to cover the City’s costs in maintaining the site. Purchase of those annual permits is available at the same locations as above.

The drop-off site is under video surveillance and part-time City staff will also be assigned to work at the site to ensure those who are dropping materials off are compliant with the regulations.

For more information on this policy, please contact the Public Works Department at 507-934-0670.

**NUISANCE ABATEMENT** – It’s the time of year again when the snow is melting and junk that was covered
by crisp clean snow all winter raises its’ ugly head. Yep….it’s nuisance abatement time.

The City’s Community Service Officer will soon be patrolling the alleys and roadways throughout St. Peter in search of violations of the City’s nuisance regulations. If you have items of junk that have accumulated in your backyard, by your garage, or even your front yard, now is the time to remove those items or face a notice to “abate” the nuisance.

As provided in Chapter 30 of the City Code, nuisances can be either to the health and/or peace and safety of the public and the list of offending items is a long one. Old appliances, construction materials, unregistered/inoperable cars, trash, and litter are all considered nuisances when stored outside.

If you stored junk outside on your property through the winter, now is the time to “abate” that nuisance by removing the materials. The City’s curbside appliance and furniture collection is still a couple of months away, but any of the licensed refuse haulers (listed in the phone book) can work with you to haul away your items. Watch City utility bills and our social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, and the website) and this newsletter for more information on upcoming opportunities to get rid of junk.

For more information on what is considered a nuisance, check out Chapter 30 of the City Code (https://library.municode.com/mn/saint_peter/codes/code_of_ordinances) or contact the Community Service Officer at the Police Department (931-1550).

HELP WANTED – The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the following positions

- **CHIEF OF POLICE** - for the City of Saint Peter. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor’s degree (BA or BS) in law enforcement or related field from an accredited college or university; Possession of a Peace Officers License issued by the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training or ability to transfer from another State; Five or more years’ experience as a Police Officer, at least three of which were in a supervisory capacity; Demonstrated knowledge of all applicable State Statutes, investigative procedures and techniques, court decisions and other legal guidelines and current law enforcement practices and techniques; Possession of, or eligible for a valid State of Minnesota Class D Drivers’ license. DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS: Master’s degree in Law Enforcement, Public Administration or a related field from an accredited college or university; Ten (10) years’ experience as an administrator or supervisor in a Police Department with ten or more personnel; Demonstrated experience in working with a State Hospital or Correctional Facility and/or a postsecondary education institution; Emergency Management Certification from an accredited training program; Demonstrated experience in the field of Police Administration and community outreach programming; Ability to speak conversational Spanish or Somali. The successful candidate must list within a six (6) minute response time. Salary $101,500 to $109,500. Applicants are required to complete a City application form available on line at https://www.saintpetermn.gov/365/Employment or from the City Administrator’s office at 227 South Front Street or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator’s office by 5:00 p.m. April 30, 2021. A two-day interview process will take place May 26-27, 2021. Faxed and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EEO

- **BUILDING OFFICIAL** - for the City of Saint Peter. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High school diploma or GED; Possession of a State of Minnesota Class II Building Official Certification; Two (2) years’ experience in any of the skilled construction trades; Ability to perform plan review for residential, commercial, and industrial building construction and alterations; Possession of a valid State of Minnesota Class C Drivers’ License; Two (2) years’ experience as a Building Inspector; Demonstrated knowledge of building codes inspection and enforcement principles; plumbing/mechanical inspection and enforcement principles; demonstrated knowledge of principles and procedures of rental code enforcement; demonstrated knowledge of OSHA regulations. DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS: Associates degree in construction trades from an accredited post-secondary educational institution; Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university in Construction Management or related field; More than two (2) years of experience as a Building Inspector; More than two (2) years’ experience in performing plan review for commercial and industrial building construction and alterations; Currently possess State of Minnesota full-delegation agreement approval; Demonstrated knowledge of Minnesota State Building Code, current Uniform Building Code, current Minnesota Plumbing Code, current Uniform Housing Code, and the Minnesota Uniform Fire Code, and other laws regulating building construction; Demonstrated knowledge of building construction methods and materials; Demonstrated knowledge of the principles and practices of plumbing and heating.
code enforcement; Demonstrated knowledge of the principles and procedures of rental code enforcement; Demonstrated ability to read and interpret building and plumbing plans and specifications. Salary $75,500 to $80,500 per year. Applicants are required to complete a City application form available on line at https://www.saintpetermn.gov/365/Employment or from the City Administrator’s office at 227 South Front Street or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator’s office by 5:00 p.m. April 30, 2021. Interviews will be scheduled the week of May 17, 2021. 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.

Wednesday March 24  12:30 p.m.  Hospital Commission
Thursday March 25  12:00 noon  Economic Development Authority
Friday March 26  8:00 a.m.  Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday March 29  3:00 p.m.  City Council Goal Session
Tuesday March 30  5:30 p.m.  Heritage Preservation Commission
Thursday April 1  5:30 p.m.  Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday April 5  5:30 p.m.  City Council Workshop
Monday April 12  3:30 p.m.  Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday April 12  7:00 p.m.  City Council Meetings
Tuesday April 13  5:30 p.m.  Library Board
Monday April 19  5:30 p.m.  City Council Workshop
Monday April 19  7:00 p.m.  Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday April 22  12:00 noon  Economic Development Authority
Friday April 23  8:00 a.m.  Tourism and Visitor’s Bureau
Monday April 26  7:00 p.m.  City Council Meeting
Tuesday April 27  5:30 p.m.  Heritage Preservation Commission
Tuesday April 27  6:00 p.m.  City Board of Appeal and Equalization
Wednesday April 28  12:30 p.m.  Hospital Commission