

CITY OF SAINT PETER ©

HOT SHEET



All the City news you need to know and a little bit more.
City Info Line 507-934-0675 TDD #711
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The following information is a publication of the City of Saint Peter, City Administrator's Office, 934-0663, 227 South Front Street.
To request an email subscription to this newsletter, or for more information, please contact us at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov
www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



4/14/2021

ONE FINAL REMINDER.... – 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. Be safe and weather aware everyone!

SPRING IS HERE – With at least one temp in the 80's last week lots of folks were in the parks which has prompted the decision to provide for an early open of the City's parks. Normally park restrooms and drinking fountains are locked up until May 1st, but everything will be open and operational starting April 15th this year.

Restroom facilities will be sanitized once a day and please remember to follow all COVID-19 hygiene protocols including washing your hands for 20 seconds after using the restrooms.

And here's more park news....following a lengthy closure to allow for turf maintenance, Thompson Dog Park will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 19. Pet owners should be mindful of the few areas that are still wet and muddy.

For more information on the City's parks facilities, please contact Public Works at (507)934-0670. Or, if you would like to reserve a park shelter for a family reunion, party or general get together, contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at (507)934-0667.

SUMMER PROGRAM REGISTRATION - The Recreation and Leisure/Community and Family Education summer program brochure will hit mailboxes this week, with registration opening Wednesday, April 14th at 8:00 a.m.

This year's summer programming includes a variety of programs and activities for all ages including t-ball, swim lessons, a variety of youth camps, fitness classes, and adult athletic leagues.

Registration is available online at www.saintpetermn.gov or by visiting the Recreation Office at the Community Center (600 South Fifth Street) or by calling (507)-934-0667.

JUNK DISPOSAL – Those of you who want an easy way to dispose of inoperable appliances or furniture that has seen better days will want to keep an eye on next month's utility bill for information on the City's curbside appliance and furniture collection signup. These are the collections where you must register and pay in advance and then, on collection day, have your items at the curb where the City's contractor will haul it away for you.

TREEMENDOUS PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE –City crews will install new wood chip fiber at the TREEmendous Playground in Gorman Park on April 19th – 21st. During this maintenance work, the playground will be closed during the hours of 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. each day.

If you have any further questions about this work, please contact the Public Works Department at (507)934-0670.



CITY HONORED WITH SAFETY AWARD – The City of Saint Peter has earned the American Public Power Association’s Safety (APPA) Award of Excellence for safe operating practices in 2020. The City’s electric utility earned first place in Group A, which consists of systems with less than 15,000 worker-hours of exposure. There were 28 utilities in this Group.



“Utilities that receive an APPA Safety Award have demonstrated that they have made the health and safety of their employees a core value,” said Brandon Wyle, Chair of APPA’s Safety Committee and Director of Training &

Safety at Electric Cities of Georgia. “Designing and maintaining a top-notch utility safety program takes a lot of hard work and commitment. These utilities and their communities should be very proud.”

Over three hundred utilities from across the country entered the annual Safety Award. Entrants were placed in categories according to their number of worker-hours and ranked based on the most incident-free records during 2020. The incidence rate, used to judge entries, is based on the number of worker-related reportable injuries or illnesses and the number of worker-hours during 2020, as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

“City of Saint Peter values employee safety above all else,” said Pete Moulton, Public Works Director. “We all recognize the importance of going home to our families each day; this is what drives our dedication to safety.”

The Safety Awards have been held annually for more than 65 years. APPA is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide.

BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION – The City Council will sit as the Board of Appeal and Equalization for those wishing to appeal Nicollet County’s valuations on their properties. The meeting takes place at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27th. The meeting will be held virtually using GoToMeeting software. Log-in information for the meeting is provided to all property owners who make an appointment and will be part of the meeting agenda which will be posted on the City’s website (www.saintpetermn.gov) as the meeting date draws closer.

Property owners wishing to appeal their valuations should contact the Nicollet County Assessor’s office (934-7060) to make an appointment to appear before the Board.

EMERALD ASH BORER FOUND IN BLUE EARTH COUNTY - The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has put out the following notice...



“Emergency quarantine on wood movement put in place The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has confirmed emerald ash borer (EAB) in Blue Earth County. There are now 27 counties in the state with EAB.

A resident in the city of St. Clair was cutting down an ash tree and noticed insect galleries in the wood. The homeowner contacted a local Department of Natural Resources forester who notified the MDA. MDA staff were able to find live EAB larvae and collect samples for federal identification.

Emerald ash borer larvae kill ash trees by tunneling under the bark and feeding on the part of the tree that moves nutrients up and down the trunk. Often, the trees show several signs of infestation because of this. Woodpeckers like to feed on EAB larvae and woodpecker holes may indicate the presence of emerald ash borer.

Also, the EAB tunneling can cause the bark to split open, revealing characteristic S-shaped galleries underneath.



Because this is the first time EAB has been identified in Blue Earth County, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture is enacting an emergency quarantine to limit the movement of firewood and ash material out of the county. The MDA issues quarantines for all counties known to have EAB to reduce the risk of further spreading the tree-killing insect.

There is more EAB information on the MDA website at www.mda.state.mn.us/eab.”

With EAB as close as Blue Earth County, the Emerald Ash Borer program adopted by the City in 2018 is even more important to help minimize the spread of the pest in our area. In 2018 approximately 22% of the 4,800 trees on public property were ash trees so it’s important that the City be proactive in saving the trees we can.

Staff has described the plan as “best management practices based on the urban forest guidelines and

established policies for removal, disposal and chemical treatment of affected ash trees.” That unfortunately means some very large ash trees, and some not so large ones, will be taken down by Public Works crews.

RECREATIONAL FIRE STANDARDS - Are you getting ready for a backyard recreational fire? To be safe, please follow the City’s standards and guidelines for having a recreational fire.



- Recreational fires must be at least 25 feet from all buildings or combustible materials. Combustible materials are things such as wood, paper, and plastics.
- Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
- Recreational fires must be constantly attended until the fire burns out completely or is extinguished.
- A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with MSFC (07) Section 906 with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, or garden hose shall be readily available at all times until the fire is extinguished. Examples of other approved fire extinguishing equipment would be a charged garden hose, dirt, or sand (and a means of applying it).
- The only materials permitted in a recreational fire are wood from trees, small branches, brush, or charcoal. Treated lumber materials, construction debris, garbage, plastic materials, or waste materials are not allowed to be burned in recreational fires.
- Recreational fires must be immediately extinguished if they pose a fire safety risk, if they are not in compliance with the above, or when directed to do so by a Police Officer, Firefighter, Fire Warden, or DNR Officer.
- The MSFC (07) does not contain any regulations for immediate extinguishment if the smoke from a recreational fire is a nuisance to an adjoining property.

Minnesota Statutes defines a campfire as: "Campfire" means a fire set for cooking, warming, or ceremonial purposes, which is not more than three feet in diameter by three feet high, and has had the ground five feet from the base of the fire cleared of all combustible material."

This article wouldn't be complete without an additional word of warning. Before disposing of the ash left behind by your recreational fire, please make sure that not a single spark remains. Although the debris may look like there is no fire, embers could still be burning underneath and disposing of the materials before they are completely cold could ignite a fire when you least expect it.

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

- **WASTEWATER OPERATOR** - in the Department of Public Works. Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma or equivalent; possession of a State of Minnesota Wastewater Treatment Facility Operator Certificate or ability to obtain within one year of the date of employment with the City; possession of a State of Minnesota Type IV Biosolids Operator or ability to obtain within one year of the date of employment with the City; possession of a valid State of Minnesota Class A driver's license with Air Brake Endorsement and Tanker Endorsement or ability to obtain within six months of the date of employment with the City; possession of an American Heart Association Certification as a Basic Rescuer for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency cardiac care or ability to obtain within six months. Desirable qualifications: Satisfactory completion of a technical school program related to wastewater systems operations; up to six years of responsible experience as a wastewater system operator with at least two years' experience in the operation of a Class A, B, or C system or facility, or similar industrial facility; knowledge of the principles, practices, chemicals, and equipment used in wastewater treatment, biosolids treatment and disposal, and pumping operations; ability to perform a wide variety of tests on raw and treated wastewater, raw and treated bio-solids; knowledge of the principles of plumbing and hydraulics; knowledge of and ability to operate Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) system; knowledge of the functions and service requirements of mechanical equipment and machinery; knowledge of OSHA regulations and safety precautions of the trade; demonstrated ability to operate a variety of wastewater plant pumping, treatment, and control equipment, biosolids treatment and disposal equipment; demonstrated ability to diagnose problems under emergency conditions and take corrective action; knowledge and experience in the

operation of equipment including but not limited to backhoes, dump trucks, jet rodder machine, tanker trucks, main line TV cameras, and line locators. NOTICE: The successful candidate must complete and pass a pre-employment physical and drug test and is subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing required by federal regulations. Pay range \$21.34 - \$23.60 per hour. Applicants are required to complete a City of Saint Peter application form available on line at <https://www.saintpetermn.gov/365/Employment> or from the City Administrator's Office, 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082-2538 or by calling (507) 934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 27, 2021. Faxed and/or late applications will not be accepted. Interviews will be conducted Thursday, June 10, 2021. AA/EEO

- **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 programing; 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.

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
Monday	May 3	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Thursday	May 6	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	May 10	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	May 10	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	May 11	2:30 p.m.	Minnesota River Valley Transit Board
Tuesday	May 11	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	May 17	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	May 17	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday	May 24	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	May 25	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	May 26	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	May 27	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	May 28	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	May 31		MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY – City offices closed