MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – The City of Saint Peter is now organizing and will be hosting “Community Conversations” throughout the summer and fall of this year. The goals of these conversations are to provide a communication opportunity to share information about the City’s Diversity/Equity/Inclusion (DEI) work to date and to listen and learn through community input about ways to provide equitable opportunity and access to City provided services. We hope to share information and spend more time listening to understand. Our goal will be one part sharing to five parts listening to understand.

With support of the Council, my office will initiate Community Conversations with specified demographic groups in our community. Each Conversation will include discussion of one to four “service areas”. Those “service areas” will be selected based on information gathered and received by my office to determine the most definable nexus of barriers, current provided services, and services that cities could provide as the basis for the service area discussion.

We hope to use current or newly developed networks to help determine the “service area” topics for each of the demographic groups that meet. Flexibility will be key in that we hope to meet with or have “ambassadors” or “community connectors” meet with proposed demographic subsets.

The City will work to have the Conversations in person along with interpreters to allow opportunity to focus on the unique aspects of service delivery/use in each demographic group. This allows for focus and time so each group and service area receives the appropriate time for review.

Each discussion will have an assigned facilitator. That individual that will not be a City employee but rather someone who may be familiar to the demographic groups the meeting is designed for.

If you have questions, would like to know how to participate or would like further information, please contact the City Administrator’s Office by phone (507)934-0663 or send an email to barbaral@saintpetermn.gov.

More information on this program will come out over the next few weeks including more specific dates, time and locations for these Community Conversation events as well as the topics for each.

Will you want to know more and participate? It makes me wonder.....

MEET THE CHIEF OF POLICE CANDIDATES – Lots of folks are interested in meeting the Chief of Police candidates and if you are one of them, please join us on Wednesday, May 26th at 8:30 a.m. in the Senior Center of the Community Center (an online option is available through the log-in information provided below).

CHIEF OF POLICE CANDIDATE MEET AND GREET EVENT
Wednesday, May 26, 2021 - 8:30 AM
Join from your computer, tablet or smartphone at https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/380979285
Join from your phone at (Toll Free): 1 877 309 2073
Access Code: 380-979-285
The online portion of this event is being provided using GoToMeeting software.

Our candidates include the following individuals:

- Dmitri Ikonitski – Chief of Police Henderson, Minnesota since January 2020, B.S. Metropolitan State University St. Paul
Paul Hagen – Saint Peter Patrol Sergeant (Officer) since May 1992 – B.A. Concordia College, St. Paul; M.A. MSU Mankato
Victor Siebeneck III – Division Commander, Salt Lake City, Utah Police Department since September 2001 – B.S. University of Utah; M.A. Arizona State University
Keith Ruffing – Saint Peter Police Officer since December 1999 – B.S. MSU Mankato
Matt Grochow – Saint Peter Detective (Officer) since April 1991 – B.S. MSU Mankato

Each of the five candidates will introduce themselves and provide a short presentation on a topic which was provided to them. When the presentations are done, all candidates will sit panel style to answer a series of questions and from approximately 10-10:30 a.m. the group will be available for the public to meet. Coffee and cookies will be served.

If you would like to submit a question for the panel discussion, please email your question to Barbaral@saintpetermn.gov by no later than Monday, May 24th at 8:00 a.m.

Those who participate will be encouraged to provide their thoughts on the candidates at the conclusion of the event. Forms will be available in the Senior Center the morning of the event and will also be available on the City’s website for those who participate virtually.

Can’t make the event? The presentations and panel discussions will be recorded and replayed on the City’s YouTube channel at a later date.

Masks in City Buildings - Pursuant to the most recent CDC guidelines and as directed by Governor Walz, individuals who have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 are no longer required to wear masks in City buildings.

Those who are not fully vaccinated, defined as “two weeks after the second Pfizer/Moderna shot or two weeks after the one shot Johnson and Johnson vaccine”, must still wear a mask under the same guidelines as previously directed.

PLEASE NOTE…...Those who ride the Minnesota River Valley Transit buses, MUST continue to wear a mask while driving whether they have been vaccinated or not.

Virtual Public Meeting on Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan - The City’s annual Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan meeting will be held virtually in 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Information normally provided as part of the in-person open house is available at https://www.saintpetermn.gov/251/Stormwater during the period May 10th - June 13th. The website offers links to the actual Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, a presentation based on that plan, and a comment sheet for public input on the City’s plan.

Those who wish copies of these documents, should please contact the Public Works Department at 507-934-0670 or email amyk@saintpetermn.gov.

Household Hazardous Waste - Are you in the process of cleaning out your garage or basement? If so, please remember when certain household chemicals are not used up, they can become household hazardous waste (HHW). Many household products contain the same chemicals as strictly regulated industrial wastes and pose similar environmental and health problems. Although the quantities of chemicals disposed of by individual households may be small, the number of households in Minnesota are many, and the amount of waste adds up.

Some of the products used in your home, garage, workshop, yard and garden can be considered hazardous. These products can contain components which have corrosive/caustic, explosive/reactive, flammable, irritant, toxic or radioactive properties. These products include: paint and decorating supplies; solvents and cleaning products; herbicides and pesticides, lawn care products, and automotive products. Household hazardous waste (HHW) is that portion of a household product which is no longer usable, leftover, or not wanted and has to be discarded or disposed.

The best way to learn what is hazardous is to read the product label. The labels contain signal words, which tell how hazardous the product is. (Signal words represent the hazard of a product, not its proper disposal.) Signal words and what they mean:
- Caution: mildly/moderately hazardous
- Warning: moderately hazardous
- Danger: extremely hazardous
- Poison: highly toxic
- No signal word: The product is probably not hazardous; however, the product may be too old; if produced before 1987 to have a signal word even if it is hazardous.

For everyday tasks, try household products that are less harmful. Remember to follow the same rules about storing these products and never mix these products together.
• Glass Cleaner: Mix 1 tablespoon of vinegar or lemon juice in 1 quart of water.
• Toilet Bowl Cleaner: Use a toilet brush and baking soda or vinegar. Note: these clean but do not disinfect.
• Furniture Polish: Mix 1 teaspoon of lemon juice in 1 pint of vegetable oil.
• Rug Deodorizer: Sprinkle liberally with baking soda and vacuum after 15 minutes.
• Plant Spray: Wipe leaves with mild soap and water and rinse.
• Mothballs: Use cedar chips, lavender flowers, rosemary, mint, or white peppercorns.

Did you know, the average home can have as much as 100 pounds of environmentally harmful products in the basement, garage and other storage areas? Make sure yours is safe.

If this information has got you ready to safely dispose of HHW, there is an upcoming collection sponsored by Tri-County Solid Waste on Thursday, May 27th from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Le Sueur County Highway Shop in Cleveland. Nicollet County is part of Tri-County so anyone in St. Peter is eligible to drop off residential household hazardous waste at this collection.

For information on household hazardous waste disposal please contact Tri-County Solid Waste at 507-237-4321 or visit their website at https://www.co.nicollet.mn.us/180/Tri-County-Solid-Waste

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – The City Council meeting of May 10, 2021 included approval of a license to use City owned right-of-way by Pearson Automotive, Inc.; approval of equipment purchases by River’s Edge Hospital exceeding $50,000 in value; award of the bid for the 2021 Minnesota Square Park North Plaza Project to Pember Construction; approval for transfer of property to ILI Agave, LLC to correct setback issues created after turn back of State Highway 169 property to the City in 1999 which made the property at 814 North Minnesota Avenue non-conforming; and closed sessions to discuss lease of the former wastewater treatment ponds and sale of City property in the North Industrial Park.

Mayor Zieman also proclaimed May 15th as “Police Officer Memorial Day” and May 9-16th as “Police Officer Memorial Week”.

The next regular City Council meeting will be Monday, May 24, 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.

LEVEE PARK TRAIL – Public Works crews have started construction on a trail in Levee Park that will run along the river bank from Broadway Avenue to the ring road surrounding the Mill Pond. The trail will be behind the Pearly Gates. This trail was included in the Parks Master Plan which was previously adopted by the City Council.

DOG LICENSES NOW PAST DUE – The deadline for renewal of dog licenses is now past. For those pet owners who still have not renewed their dog’s license, the fee has now increased to $10 for spayed/neutered or $30 for unaltered dogs.

If you have not yet licensed your dog please contact the Community Development Department (507-934-0661) at City Hall to apply now. A current rabies certificate must be presented before the license renewal is issued.

The clock is ticking to avoid a citation and those who have not purchased the license by June 1, 2021 may receive a Police citation.

BACKYARD FIRES – Picture this....a cool summer night when the mosquitoes haven’t yet hatched. A tray of s’more ingredients ready to go. A stack of firewood so fresh you can smell the sawdust and you’re ready to put match to kindling.

But are you really ready? Before you start your traditional recreational fire, give a little thought to how to keep you and your guests safe and how to protect your neighbors from a cloud of smoky soot.

First and foremost it’s important to make sure your fire is completely contained inside a solid fire ring. It
can be built of cinder blocks or metal or anything else that isn't flammable as long as it will contain the fire.

Is your pit far enough from things that could burst into flames if an errant spark flies out into the night? Your pit must be at least 25' from anything that could go up in flames.

Where is the closest fire extinguisher or hose with running water? Not only is this a good idea, but State law requires you to have one of these tools at your fingertips to extinguish the fire. Could you get to the hose fast enough in the event the fire gets out of control or worse yet, if someone gets too near the flames?

Have you considered what you are burning in your fire pit? Wet wood is going to smoke...a lot...and most likely really annoy your neighbors. Only natural (untreated) wood is allowed to be burned in fire pits. If you are the type who is trying to save money by burning all your garbage or construction materials in your pit, think again. Only natural wood is acceptable.

Remember that Minnesota Statute defines a campfire as: "...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." Police Officers can and will order fires that exceed this size to be extinguished and if you don't know, they get a LOT of complaint calls about backyard fires year round.

It's also important to remember that sound carries. Loud voices, sometimes made louder as the night progresses and music is turned up, can be very disruptive to others in the neighborhood. Try to avoid neighbor's complaints by keeping the volume down as the night goes on.

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.

Being respectful of your neighbors by adhering to the rules about what can and can't be done allows each of us to enjoy those long summer nights!

FURNITURE/APPLIANCE CURBSIDE COLLECTION – If you have unwanted furniture or appliances to dispose of the City has a relatively inexpensive curbside option for two collections:

- **Wednesday, May 26th, Curbside Furniture Pick Up** – You must register and pay in advance for the collection by 5:00 p.m. on May 21st. Registration is at the City's Finance Department at City Hall, 227 South Front Street. 21st. Furniture must be put out by Tuesday, May 25th even if it's raining. Fees for this collection, including sales tax, are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sofa</td>
<td>$32.93</td>
<td>Misc. (door, bookshelf, table, etc.)</td>
<td>$21.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mattress or Box Spring</td>
<td>$49.39</td>
<td>Cabinet</td>
<td>$32.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair (each)</td>
<td>$21.95</td>
<td>Dresser</td>
<td>$27.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recliners</td>
<td>$32.93</td>
<td>Headboard/Footboard</td>
<td>$21.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hide-a-Bed</td>
<td>$76.83</td>
<td>Futon Mattress</td>
<td>$49.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Seat</td>
<td>$32.93</td>
<td>Carpet Rolls/Area</td>
<td>$32.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed Frame</td>
<td>$21.95</td>
<td>Headboard/Footboard</td>
<td>$21.95</td>
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- **Appliances** - Wednesday, June 2nd - $25.00 per appliance. As with the furniture collection, residents must pre-register and pre-pay at City Hall in the Finance Department (227 South Front Street) by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 28th. The registered appliances must be at curbside by 8 a.m. on June 2nd or the fee will be forfeited.

For questions about these collections, please contact the Finance Department at 507-934-0664.

Nicollet County also has some other options for St. Peter residents to dispose of things they no longer need. Here is a list provided by them that might help:

- Mobile collections are posted on the recycling & solid waste page (toward the bottom) - [https://www.co.nicollet.mn.us/338/Recycling-Solid-Waste](https://www.co.nicollet.mn.us/338/Recycling-Solid-Waste)
- The hours for the household hazardous waste facility can be found here: [https://www.blueearthcountymn.gov/373/Household-Hazardous-Waste-HHW-Facility](https://www.blueearthcountymn.gov/373/Household-Hazardous-Waste-HHW-Facility)
- Tri-County’s webpage has information on collections in the other two counties - [https://www.co.nicollet.mn.us/180/Tri-County-Solid-Waste](https://www.co.nicollet.mn.us/180/Tri-County-Solid-Waste)
- Green Tech coupon (posted on Tri-County's page – link above) - $5 per item coupon that is good through Dec. 31, 2021
PETS AND PARKS – After a flurry of complaints about dog waste littering popular City parks, here is yet another reminder for pet owners.

Pets are not allowed on the grounds of any City park or playground unless the park is designated by resolution of the City Council as allowing pets. Areas where pets are allowed include: Riverside Park, Riverside Park Extension, Traverse des Sioux Park; McGill Park, Hallett's Pond (on the trail only); Public Conservancy Area in Nicollet Meadows 2 Subdivision (directly west of Jefferson Park); and the two designated dog parks.

While dogs are allowed in these specific parks, the dogs must be leashed and under control of the owner, vaccinated, licensed and the owners must abide by all other animal control regulations.

BIKE RODEO RETURNS - It's back! After a one-year break due to the COVID-19 pandemic, River’s Edge Hospital and the St. Peter Police Department will once again host the annual Bike Safety Rodeo.

The event is set to take place on Saturday, May 22 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the River’s Edge Hospital south parking lot. Stephanie Holden, Chief Experience Officer at River’s Edge Hospital and Janet Ireland, Saint Peter Police Community Service Officer, have been working on plans to host a safe event, keeping all COVID-19 best practices at the forefront.

"The pandemic got a lot of people out on bikes last year and we felt it was important to make sure the kids in our surrounding communities have what they need to be safe when they’re riding," Ireland said.

At the Bike Rodeo, children ages 0-17 will receive a free bike helmet. Additionally, there will be a bike safety course set up with officers on hand to help kids learn the rules of the road. Representatives from Nicollet County Public Health and St. Peter Community Center will have tables set up with program information for families to pick up.

The event will be held outside and River’s Edge Hospital asks that everyone in attendance practice social distancing and wear a mask.

"It is important to us to keep the community healthy in every way we can. We expect many to attend the event and social distancing and mask wearing is an important piece of the success of the event," Holden said.

The 2021 Bike Rodeo is a rain or shine event. In the event of rain, the event will move to the park shelter at Gault Park, located at 1901 North Sunrise Drive, where bike helmets will be given out. The Bike Rodeo is made possible with funds from the St. Peter Tourism and Visitor Bureau and the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation.

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 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 online at [https://www.saintpetermn.gov/365/Employment](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

**PT CIRCULATION CLERK** - in the Recreation and Leisure Services Department (Library). Seeking positive, energetic applicants to provide great customer service. Minimum qualifications: Experience working with the public in a customer service setting. Desired qualifications: Experience in provision of library services; ability to operate a PC and use internet and related programs including on-line cataloging system. Up to 15 hours per week with a flexible schedule including day and evening hours available. Wage $11.93/hour. Applications are available online on the City’s website at [www.saintpetermn.gov/365/employment](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/365/employment), 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. May 20, 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](http://www.saintpetermn.gov).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>May 24</th>
<th>7:00 p.m.</th>
<th>City Council Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Heritage Preservation Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hospital Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>May 27</td>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
<td>Economic Development Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Tourism and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY – City offices closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>June 3</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Planning and Zoning Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Workshop</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>June 14</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Housing and Redevelopment Authority</td>
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