HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY.

FOURTH OF JULY FESTIVITIES – St. Peter's annual Independence Day celebration, which is organized entirely by the Chamber of Commerce, will take place on...you guessed it...the Fourth of July. Activities begin with a parade down South Washington Avenue at 10:00 a.m. (see above map) followed by a picnic, entertainment and other activities in Minnesota Square Park before closing out the evening with fireworks at the Nicollet County Fairgrounds at approximately 10:00 p.m. For more information on the activities, please contact the Chamber of Commerce at 507-934-3400.

ARE YOU A PARADE SQUATTER? – Are you one of those folks who can't resist staking out your prime spot for the Fourth of July parade several days or even a week or more in advance? If so, then you are
Saint Peter isn’t the only area community that struggles with parade squatters and some have gone so far as to prohibit this practice along their parade routes. But we would like to avoid being the parade police, so, before everyone lines up to cordon off their spot or “save” it with blankets staked to the ground or chairs tied to each other, let’s take a moment to review the rules of the game that we hope everyone will abide by.

- The parade takes place in a residential neighborhood with mostly privately owned property. Although the boulevard is public property, the private property owners are responsible for maintaining the grass and they will most likely need to mow before the parade. Staking your spot too early won’t allow them to care for the lawn and they may remove whatever you left so they can maintain the lawn.

- Staking blankets or tarps to the ground will cause the grass underneath to become brown or yellow...even if the tarp is only down for a day or so. And staking something into the ground is dangerous especially in the boulevard where lots of utility lines and pipes are buried. This goes for those who put up tents and stake them to the ground also.

- Ever put down a chair or really nice blanket and come back on parade day with it nowhere in sight? That’s the risk you take of staking out your spot too early. Not everyone is honest and lots of stuff goes missing.

- Anything placed in Gorman Park will almost certainly be moved before the event. City crews work very hard to get the city looking spiffy for the Fourth when over 10,000 people come to town for the various events. Public Works crews will mow the parks a day or two in advance, set up bleachers in Gorman Park and generally work in all the areas where folks want to stake their claim. To prevent damage to our mowing equipment and injuries to our employees, anything left on the boulevard in any of the City’s parks earlier than the night before the parade may be removed and disposed of.

- Weather in July can include strong storms and if those storms come before the parade, a lot of the materials left to save a spot can end up blocks away or in stranger’s back yards. Keep that in mind when saving your spot.

- And then there is after the parade. Everyone is expected to clean up after themselves and when you leave, we ask that you pick up and properly dispose of the trash in one of the dozens of refuse containers along the parade route and take all of your personal belongings home with you. Unfortunately not everyone abides by this rule and the parade route is sometimes littered with broken chairs and other debris that just didn’t make the trip home with the owner. The property owners who live along the parade route are gracious hosts during the event and we don’t want them to have to clean up after parade watchers. With that in mind, we hope everyone continues to be a good guest.

So, as tempting as it may be to save a spot days in advance, we ask that everyone be courteous to those who live along the parade route and limit saving your spot to the day before. That also allows those who are coming from out of town to have the same opportunity for a prime viewing spot as those who live nearby and everyone can enjoy the parade.

**DOGS AND THE FOURTH:** Dog owners are reminded that with the exception of certified service animals, dogs and other pets are not allowed in Minnesota Square Park at any time and should be left at home during the Fourth of July festivities in the park. People with animals will be asked to leave the park and/or may be cited.

**FOURTH OF JULY CLOSURES** – The list below shows closures of City offices related to the Fourth of July:

- All non-emergency City offices will be closed on July 5th (this is not a typo – Monday the 5th is the official legal holiday for City employees)
- Community Center – closed July 3rd – July 5th
- Minnesota River Valley Transit – no service July 4th–July 5th
- Library – closed July 3rd – July 5th
FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS - Fireworks and celebrations seem to go together, especially during the Fourth of July, but firework celebrations can result in serious burns and eye injuries or even death. Before your family celebrates this year, make sure everyone knows about fireworks safety.

If not handled properly, fireworks can cause burns and eye injuries in children and adults. The best thing you can do to protect your child is not to use any fireworks at home - period. Attend public fireworks displays and leave the pyrotechnics to the professionals. Here are some tips that might save someone you love from injury or worse:

- Children should never play with fireworks. Things like firecrackers, rockets, and sparklers are just too dangerous. If you give your child a sparkler, make sure your child keeps it outside and away from their face, clothing, and hair. Sparklers can reach 1,800° Fahrenheit (982° Celsius) - hot enough to melt gold.
- Buy only legal fireworks and store them in a cool, dry place. Legal fireworks have a label with the manufacturer's name and directions; illegal ones are usually, but not always, unlabeled. Never try to make your own fireworks.
- Always use fireworks outside and have a bucket of water and a hose or a fire extinguisher nearby in case of accidents.
- Steer clear of others - fireworks have been known to backfire or shoot off in the wrong direction. Never throw or point fireworks at someone, even in jest.
- Don't hold fireworks in your hand or have any part of your body over them while lighting. Wear some sort of eye protection, and avoid carrying fireworks in your pocket - the friction could set them off.
- Point fireworks away from homes, and keep away from brush, leaves, and flammable substances. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that local fire departments respond to more than 50,000 fires caused by fireworks each year.
- Light one firework at a time (not in glass or metal containers), and never relight a dud.

- Don't allow your child to pick up pieces of fireworks after an event. Some may still be ignited and can explode at any time.
- Soak all fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them in the trash can.
- Think about your pet. Animals have sensitive ears and can be extremely frightened or stressed on the Fourth of July. Keep your pet indoors to reduce the risk that the pet will run loose or get injured.

If someone is injured by fireworks, immediately go to a doctor or hospital. If an eye injury occurs, don't touch or rub it, as this may cause even more damage. Also, don't flush the eye out with water or attempt to put any ointment on it. Instead, cut out the bottom of a paper cup, place it around the eye, and immediately seek medical attention - your eyesight may depend on it.

If it's a burn, remove clothing from the burned area and run cool, not cold, water over the burn (do not use ice). Call your doctor immediately.

Even if you have legal fireworks, NO FIREWORKS ARE ALLOWED ON PUBLIC PROPERTY including parks, streets, alleys, government property or school property.

To purchase fireworks, a person has to be at least 18 years of age. The penalty is pretty stiff for violations of fireworks regulations and could lead to imprisonment for anywhere from 90-365 days and/or payment of a fine of $700-$3,000, (depending on the amount of fireworks involved). The State Fire Marshall website says anything that flies or explodes is considered an illegal firework. For more information on the laws regarding fireworks and what's legal, what's not, please visit the State Fire Marshal website at https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/Pages/default.aspx. You can also check out this safety video from the State Fire Marshal... http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmT8qh5kvc&list=UUUtLz5GmDkDHIaViPlyRnQ&feature=share

Fireworks are meant to be enjoyed, but you'll enjoy them much more knowing your family is safe. Take extra precautions this Fourth of July and your holiday will be a blast.

MOSQUITO SPRAYING - Based on weather conditions and the impact that weather has had on the local mosquito population, City staff may spray for mosquitoes at Minnesota Square Park on July 4th. This work, if completed, is being done at the request of the Chamber of Commerce.
If the spraying does occur it will begin at approximately 6:00 a.m. and crews will use a contact type pesticide used to control adult mosquitoes which is safe for use around recreational and residential areas such as athletic fields, parks, and campsites.

Questions about mosquito spraying? Please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

EXPLORATION RECREATION AND THE LIBRARY ON THE LOOSE - Exploration Recreation and the Library on the Loose has been an amazing program since day one. Summer 2021 marks our third summer having this program. The main goal is to bring new faces to the recreation department - and we have accomplished just that. Through this program we are meeting new families, young families, grandma daycare families, families who are here from out of state visiting and everything else in between.

A few things that make this program special:

- We come to a park close to you. The hope is that we can break the transportation barrier that some folks have with coming to recreational programs.

- This program is free. It breaks another barrier of financial restraints that don’t allow everyone the same opportunity to participate.

- Exploration Recreation is for everyone. Each day is different. Each park is different. It is for all ages and abilities. It’s not just sports. It’s not just crafts. It’s not just your typical leisure activities. It’s everything and more.

- Do you want a library in your backyard? Yes please. This addition has allowed kids and adults to continue learning and reading throughout the summer. It is also a great way for us to promote the importance of reading and library events. In the first summer of this program we served over 1,600 people. We were incredibly pleased by this response and incredibly happy to bring it back this summer. Each week this summer is a different theme. You can check the City of Saint Peter Facebook page on Friday for the following week’s special activities. Come recreate with the Recreation Department at a park near you.

The schedule for these vents is shown below. Please note that in case of rain, a back-up location is listed after the park name. In case of stormy weather, programs in shelters will be cancelled, but those in gyms will still take place.

Mondays:
1-2:30p.m. North Elementary (North’s gym)
#-4:30p.m. Gorman Park (Community Center Gym)

Tuesdays:
9-10:30a.m. Gault (Gault Shelter) **Library will have the bookmobile staffed.
11-12:30p.m. Middle School (small gym)
2-3:30p.m. Minnesota Square Park (pavilion)

Wednesdays:
1-2:30p.m. North Elementary (North’s Gym)
3-4:30p.m. Pool (Lions Shelter at the Pool)

Thursdays:
9-10:30a.m. Ramsey (cancelled—no shelter) **Library will have the bookmobile staffed.

CASTING WITH COPS - June 19th was near perfect weather for the Third Annual Casting with Cops event at the Mill Pond. It was a fun morning of catching fish and making memories for all involved. Over fifty children participated in this fun event that allows local kids to fish with law enforcement officers from the St. Peter Police Department, Nicollet County Sheriff’s Department, North Mankato Police Department, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (enforcement division).
The event was made possible through the sponsorships of Fleet Farm, M.S.C.I.C. (Minnesota South Central Investigators Coalition), Enterprise Fleet Services, and Culligan Ultrapure of St. Peter. All of the fishing poles, bobbers and lures were provided by these wonderful sponsors.

Special thanks go out to the staff of the City’s Recreation and Leisure Services Department for their organizational skills on this event.

ENERGY REBATES - Rising temperatures mean higher utility bills, but the City can help save money on your electric costs. Rebates are available to City utility customers who have professional tune-ups on their cooling system or install new high-efficiency air conditioning equipment.

Rebates are also available to residential customers for purchase of qualifying:
- LED light bulbs
- Light fixtures
- Refrigerators
- Freezers
- Dishwashers
- Clothes washers
- Heat pump water heaters
- Smart thermostats
- Dehumidifiers
- Efficient furnace fan motors
- ECM Circulator pumps
- Room air conditioners
- Ground source heat pumps

Rebates are available for commercial customers for purchase of qualifying:
- HVAC equipment
- AC/ASHP/Chiller tune-ups
- Motors and pumps
- Refrigeration equipment
- Compressed air equipment and leak correction
- Guestroom energy management systems
- VendingMisers and SnackMisers
- Food service equipment

For more on all of these rebates, including the rebate forms, please visit https://smmpa.com/members/saint-peter.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING BACK TO IN PERSON - With the pandemic winding down and the local emergency declaration lifted, City Council meetings have returned to in-person only meetings. Virtual participation is no longer an option.

City Council advisory boards and commissions will continue to meet in virtual settings only (no in-person option at this time.) When those meetings return to in person, notice will be provided in the Hot Sheet and on the City’s social media pages as well as on the meeting agendas.

For more information on City Council meetings or meetings of the various advisory boards and commission, please contact the City Administrator’s office at 507-934-0663.

HELP WANTED - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the following position:
- MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT - in the Department of Public Works. Minimum qualifications include a High school diploma or equivalent; Associates degree in construction, construction management, or Public Works operations or equivalent. Five years of experience in a related field may be substituted for post-secondary education; Possession of a valid driver’s license; and demonstrated proficiency using Microsoft Word and Excel software. Desirable qualifications include: more than five years of experience in construction, construction management, and/or Public Works operations; demonstrated personnel supervision experience of greater than one year; demonstrated experience in assisting in the preparation of budgets and monitoring of expenditures; demonstrated knowledge of approved methods, materials, and tools used in the construction, maintenance, and cleaning of streets, other public rights-of-way, parks, structures, and recreational facilities; municipal forestry operations; environmental services operation; heavy and light equipment programming for Community Education; adoption of a resolution ending the local emergency (COVID-19); and retaining Bolton and Menk, Inc. to provide construction engineering for the North Third Street, Center and McLeod Streets From West St. Julien To 1,000 Feet North Project.

The next regular City Council meeting will be Monday, July 12, 2021 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors’ Room of the Community Center. The meeting agenda will be available the Friday prior to the meeting on the City’s website at www.saintpetermn.gov.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING - The City Council meeting of June 28, 2021 included authorization for execution of a Memorandum of Agreement with School District #508 for the City’s Recreation and Leisure Services Department to provide some
operations; operating characteristics and servicing of equipment; traffic laws and regulations and regulations governing equipment operations; applicable regulatory codes and laws related to Public Works departmental operations - demonstrated ability to read and interpret engineering and landscaping plans and specifications; demonstrated knowledge of pavement management and planning practices; demonstrated knowledge of parks and forestry operations; demonstrated knowledge of OSHA regulations and safety policy; demonstrated knowledge of Federal and State vehicle operation regulations. 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. Salary range $75,402 - $79,994 per year. Applicants are required to complete a City of Saint Peter application form available on the City's website at 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 July 8, 2021. Faxed and/or late applications will not be accepted. Interviews will be conducted Thursday, July 22, 2021. 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.

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