Masks Required in City Buildings – Due to Nicollet County reaching the highest level of COVID-19 community transmissions, masks are once again required in all City buildings regardless of vaccination status. This applies to staff and visitors alike.

If you feel you cannot safely or willingly comply with this requirement, we ask that you contact the department by phone to conduct your business in other ways. Direct dial department numbers are as follows:

- Finance Department: 934-0664
- Building Department: 934-0662
- Community Dev Dept.: 934-0661
- City Administrator’s Office: 934-0663
- Public Works Department: 934-0670
- Recreation/Leisure Services Dept.: 934-0667
- Transit: 1-888-880-4696
- Police (non-emergency): 931-1550
- Public Library: 934-7420

This process worked really well the last time we were forced to implement restrictions and we expect the same this time around.

Note...City Council meetings and those of our advisory boards and commissions, will continue to be held in person at this time.

If you have any questions about the City’s COVID-19 response, please contact the City Administrator’s Office at 507-934-0663.

City Council Meeting – The City Council meeting of August 23, 2021 included action to adopt an updated position description for Patrol Sergeant in the Police Department; establish authorized staffing levels for licensed Officers at the Police Department; approve preliminary engineering for a utility project in connection with MDOT’S project at the intersections of Highways 169, 99 and 22; authorize conversation of some of the Veteran’s Park tennis courts into pickleball courts; and a closed session and ultimate action to authorize sale of the former wastewater treatment ponds to Warren W. West Revocable Trust.

The next regular City Council meeting will be Monday, September 13, 2021 beginning at 7:00 p.m. As a reminder, Council meetings are once again back to in-person only. No virtual participation will be available.

Agendas for all City Council meetings are available on the City’s website (www.saintpetermn.gov) the Friday before the Council meeting.

Labor Day Closures - The upcoming Labor Day holiday (Monday, September 6th) will have an impact on City services as follows:

- City offices will be closed on Labor Day. The Council workshop that would regularly have taken place on Monday will take place on Tuesday, September 7th.
- Transit buses will not operate on Labor Day.
- The public library will be closed Saturday, September 4th – Monday, September 6th.
- The Community Center will be closed for the Labor Day weekend (Saturday, September 4th – Monday, September 6th).

Community Center Fall Hours: Beginning Tuesday, September 7th, the Community Center will switch to fall operational hours as follows:
Monday – Friday  6:00 am- 9:00pm
Saturday   8:00 am-6:00pm
Sunday     Noon - 6:00pm

For more information on the Community Center, please visit the City’s website at www.saintpetermn.gov or contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 507-934-0667.

PLEASE BE A GOOD PET OWNER – It’s unfortunate, but the continuing number of complaint calls being received by the City indicate some people just don’t want to be good pet owners. Please remember the following rules of the road when you take your dog off your property:

- Pet owners are not allowed to let their dogs or cats run at large (unleashed).
- Dogs (and cats, but this might not be such a good idea), are only allowed to be off-leash in a designated dog park.
- Leashed dogs are allowed in Riverside Park, Riverside Park Extension, Traverse des Sioux Park, McGill Park, Hallett’s Pond on the trail only; and the Public Conservancy Area in Nicollet Meadows 2 Subdivision directly west of Jefferson Park. Not sure where these parks are? Please use this link Parks Map.
- Dogs old enough to be vaccinated against rabies must be licensed by the City and under control of their owner at all times.
- Owners MUST pick up after their dog’s waste and properly dispose of said waste.

Being a responsible pet owner means being a good neighbor so we ask for all pet owners to comply with these regulations.

RIDE THE BUS FOR FREE! – Yup…it’s true. You can ride the Minnesota River Valley Transit buses for free through the end of the year. As part of COVID recovery efforts, extra funding is being provided to the transit system that allows fares to be waived through December 31st.

If your car is in the shop, or you’ve lost your license, or you’ve just decided to give up expensive auto related bills and sold your car, Minnesota River Valley Transit is the solution you need.

Service is door to door (like a taxi), and all you have to do is call a toll free number (1-888-880-4696) to schedule your ride! For more information on Minnesota River Valley Transit, please visit www.saintpetermn.gov/322/Minnesota-River-Valley-Transit.

FALL ACTIVITIES AND CLASSES – By now residents should have received the 2021 Fall City of Saint Peter Recreation and Leisure Services Department and School District 508 Community and Family Education brochure. If you didn’t get a brochure, extras are available at the Community Center and the Library. Check it out for all sorts of new and exciting programming!

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY – School starts soon for Saint Peter students and it’s time to review back to school safety tips for drivers and pedestrians alike.

This information is a compilation of materials put out by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association.

If your child is going to ride the bus to school you probably already know that buses are safer than cars. However, that doesn’t mean the bus won’t pose a danger for your child. To help prevent injuries involving school buses, here are some tips to pass on to your children:

- Have a safe place to wait for your bus, away from traffic and the street.
- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk ten giant steps away. Remember that the bus driver can see you best when you are back away from the bus.
• Use the handrail to enter and exit the bus. Backpacks are heavy and can throw a child off balance when climbing steps. Using the handrail provides an extra measure of safety.
• Be aware of street traffic around you. Drivers must follow certain rules concerning school buses, however, not everyone does and it’s better to wait until you see cars come to a complete stop before you try and cross the street.
• Only cross the street at corners in the crosswalk. Not all children will be bused to school and if your child lives close enough to walk or bike to school, here’s some tips to help limit their danger:
  • Instruct your child to follow traffic signals and instructions from the crossing guard and never cross the street against the light.
  • Know your child’s route to and from school and the time it takes. Ask them to not deviate from the established path or timeline. If your child rides a bike to school or home, practice the route before the start of school and know where any crossing guards or help might be.
  • Instruct your child to walk their bike through intersections.
  • Instruct the child to walk with a buddy.
  • Outfit your child with reflective material to make them more visible to traffic. Putting this material on their backpacks is also helpful. Remember that once daylight savings changes in the fall it might be dark in the mornings when they go to school or when they are coming home.
  • Teach your children to lock up their bikes when they get to their destination, including when they get home. Bikes are often stolen from yards and unlocked garages.
  • Get your child in the habit of always wearing a helmet when they get on their bike. Make yourself an example by wearing your helmet too.
  • Ride with your child! Parents can probably use the extra exercise, and a bicycle ride creates a great opportunity for parent-child involvement and good quality conversation time.
  • Have a safety contingency plan...just in case! Does your child know a certain neighbor whose home can be considered a “safe house” in the event of a bike or safety issue? Could your youngster carry a walkie-talkie or, if an older child, a cell phone (even if it’s only for emergencies)? Parents should provide their kids with “what if” scenarios they can think through...just in case the unthinkable happens. When it comes to your child’s well-being, there is no such thing as being over-prepared.

As the driver of a vehicle, whether you are taking a child to school or not, it’s important to be even more alert and aware because once school begins there will be significantly more traffic in and around school zones. Here are some tips to help everyone be safer:
• Wear your seat belt! Seat belts are the best form of protection in the event of a crash. And everyone needs to be buckled up properly. That means older kids in seat belts, younger kids in booster seats and little kids in child safety seats. And you, the driver? Set an example for your children and remember to buckle up yourself.
• Remember that in Minnesota it’s illegal to pass a school bus with flashing red lights. And don’t think you can get away with violating this rule just because there aren’t any Police Officer’s around! Bus drivers can and will pass on the license number of a driver violating this rule to the Police.
• Reduce your speed in a school zone. Legal speed limits in these areas will be posted, but you can make it safer by slowing down even further.
• Be alert for children who might dart out between parked cars. Remember they are smaller than most vehicles and you might not see them until it is too late. And parents, teach your child to always cross at the crosswalk so that this situation doesn’t happen.

That’s a lot of things to think about, but parents and children also need to be aware of personal safety. Here are a few more tips to keep your child safe:
• Never label or print your child’s name on the outside of backpacks, lunches or clothing. Doing so will make it possible for criminals to learn your child’s name and trick them.
• Establish a “SECRET CODE WORD” with your child. Explain to your kids never to go with anyone that does not know the “code word” regardless of the circumstances.
• Explain to your children to:
  o Never talk to strangers.
  o Never get in a car with strangers.
  o Never let a stranger into their home.
  o Never let a stranger touch them.
• Never allow your child to play in a dimly lit or unsupervised place.
• Remind your child to play and walk in a group. There is safety in numbers.
• Take a current photo of your child. Should the child go missing, having a current photo will help the Police.

This is just a sampling of ideas that you can use to keep your children safe as they go back to school. Talking to your children before school starts, and giving them gentle reminders throughout the year, is a good start to ensuring everyone has a safe and enjoyable school year!

**STREET PAINTING** — Public Works crews will be painting roadway stripes, crosswalks, parking stalls and intersections during the next few weeks. Please be extra careful in and around these areas as traffic may be restricted to one lane and intersections may be a little more difficult to traverse until the paint dries and the safety cones are removed. If you have questions on this work, please call the Public Works Department at 507-934-0670.

**CAMPAIGN SIGN RULES** —

**STATE** law allows temporary campaign signs to be up until just a few days after the election. There are several regulations that must be followed for campaign signs.

• Signs are not allowed anywhere on public property. This includes City, County and State owned rights-of-way, structures in the City-owned boulevard and City parks. The rules of thumb we follow to determine what is City owned boulevard (or right-of-way) are as follows:
  • If a public sidewalk exists, signs may be placed behind the sidewalk; or
  • If no sidewalk exists, it is safe to assume that a sign placed sixteen feet (16’) behind the curb line will be on private property.
  • If the sign is on a corner lot, the rules for placement include BOTH sides of the property as right-of-way’s exist next to all City roadways.

• Signs can only be put on private property with permission of the private property owner. When asking private property owners to place signs, candidates are encouraged to review the rules with the property owner. Oftentimes signs are initially placed correctly, only to have home owners move the signs closer to the curb line in violation of the regulations or to move the sign when mowing and not return it to the legal location. If you are a property owner with a campaign sign in your yard, please remember that illegal placement of the sign gets the candidate in trouble. Please make sure campaign signs are NOT in the right-of-way.

• Signs must not obstruct sightlines for drivers. On corner lots, signs are asked to be 25’ behind both curb lines to ensure vehicular traffic is not impeded.

• Signs cannot be attached to City light poles, street signs, traffic control devices like stop signs, trees, shrubs, rocks, fences or other City owned structures.

For more information on campaign signs or election regulations, please contact the City Administrator’s Office (934-0663).

**PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY** — To better evaluate the community’s parks and recreation needs and current facilities, the City is asking for residents to participate in an online survey.

If you are willing to participate, please access the survey by visiting the City’s website at https://www.saintpetermn.gov/155/Recreation. No access to the internet? You can also contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department by calling 507-934-0667 to have the survey sent directly to you.

It’s a short survey that should only take a few minutes so we hope that you will participate as your feedback is much appreciated.

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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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>August 25</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
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