Emerald Ash Borer in Nicollet County - Recently Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was discovered in western Nicollet County. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has confirmed the identification and set in place a quarantine over the county. With this the City of Saint Peter has set in place the 2018 EAB Management Plan.

The City’s goal is to mitigate the spread of Emerald Ash Borer and spread the physical and fiscal costs associated with the outbreak over an extended timeframe. The plan will help buffer that impact by implementing current best management practices.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), is an exotic beetle that attacks all species of ash trees found in Minnesota, which include green, black and white ash. Mountain ash are unaffected by EAB. Although EAB was first discovered in Minnesota in 2009 it has since spread throughout the state. While the EAB beetle has not been identified within the City of Saint Peter, there is great concern due to the large amount of Ash trees in the community. There are over 1,000 public boulevard Ash trees which is equates to approximately 22% of all boulevard trees.

Tree management will be key to avoiding a spike in the spread of EAB. Public Works will implement a “structured removal plan” of ash trees in decline and those requested to be removed in anticipation of the larger loss of the entire ash population. The intent is to slow the spread of EAB by reducing “host trees”. The City will continue to complete regular tree injections on the larger healthy trees in order to increase the likeliness of survival. Only those Ash trees with a high rating and those which are larger in nature will be injected.

The City has developed a three pronged response to addressing EAB which includes:

- Boulevard and Right-of-Way trees have been inventoried and evaluated. The condition and rating of each Ash tree is completed. Trees in poor condition in higher density areas will be removed. Larger trees in good condition will be injected.
- Public property trees, like those in City parks and other public spaces, will be inventoried and treated in similar fashion to boulevard trees.
- On private property the City plans to work with tree owners to guide them in the decision making process of removal or injection. The City’s has both ordinances and policies in place to outline actions for dealing with diseased trees.

For additional information on the City’s EAB Management Plan please visit the City’s website at https://www.saintpetermn.gov/Search?searchPhrase=2018%20Emerald%20Ash%20Borer%20Management%20Plan%20(PDF)

River’s Edge Hospital Visitor Policy - As positive COVID-19 cases continue to go up in the
Minnesota River Valley, River’s Edge Hospital is adjusting its visitor policy to help minimize exposure risks for employees and patients at the hospital. Effective November 29, 2021, all patients coming to River’s Edge Hospital will be allowed to have one support person with them during the patient’s stay. This includes the Emergency Room, Urgent Care, Same Day Surgery, Laboratory, Imaging, Hospital patients and Rehabilitation Services. Visitors will not be allowed for anyone coming to Urgent Care or the Emergency Department with COVID-19 symptoms until the patient has received a negative COVID-19 test.

“As healthcare providers it is difficult for us to make the decision to limit the number of visitors our patients are allowed,” said Paula Meskan, CEO at River’s Edge Hospital. “It is also our responsibility as healthcare providers to do all we can to ensure that our employees and patients have minimal risk of exposure to COVID-19.”

Throughout the pandemic, River’s Edge Hospital has modified its visitor policy based on COVID data provided by the Minnesota Department of Health. As the positivity rate changes in the region, the visitor policy will be reviewed and adjusted.

For more information on River’s Edge Hospital’s COVID-19 visitor policy, please visit www.REHC.org.

THE GREAT CANDY CANE HUNT – The Great Candy Cane Hunt is back for another fun filled year! Open to all ages (with an adult), the hunt features over 4,000 candy canes which can be found while exploring the Community Center (601 South Washington Avenue).

Participants should meet in the gym prior to their desired hunt time and the group will all start hunting together.

This fun family activity begins this Saturday, December 4th and it’s free! Available hunt times include:
- 9–9:10 a.m.
- 9:30–9:40 a.m.
- 10–10:10 a.m. or
- 10:30–10:40 a.m.

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING! – Last year’s special drive-by visit with Santa on top of a Saint Peter fire truck was such a highlight for residents of all ages that he’s coming back this year with a little help from the Recreation and Leisure Services and Fire Department!

Mark your calendars and bundle up the kids on Saturday, December 11th as Santa once again makes his way through town. Fire truck sirens will be wailing to announce his impending arrival in each neighborhood, but to help plan...we know it takes more than a few minutes to get the kiddos into their winter gear….check out the route map for both the north and south routes. While we can’t predict the exact time Santa will arrive in your neighborhood, this might help in family planning efforts.

One other thing….Santa is all about giving and his elves (St. Peter Firefighters), will be collecting food for the St. Peter food shelf as Santa makes his way. If you can give to those in need, please have your donations ready for the elves to collect.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – The City Council meeting of November 22, 2021 included authorization for execution of a School Resource Officer agreement with School District #508; formal acceptance of American Rescue Plan funds; award of bid for the PLC/SCADA Update project; approval for modification to several City fees; authorization for
execution of an updated contract with the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce for administration of the City’s Tourism and Visitor Bureau; scheduling of a public hearing on an assessment appeal related to the North Third Street, Center and McLeod Streets From West St. Julien To 1,000 Feet North Project; approval of the Minnesota Law related to the recently approved local option sales tax; adoption of a resolution establishing polling place locations for calendar year 2022; and authorization for execution of joint powers agreements with the State of Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

The next regular City Council meeting will be Monday, December 13th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors’ Room of the Community Center. Copies of the agenda will be available from the City’s website the Friday before the meeting.

HELP WANTED – The City is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- **POLICE PATROL OFFICER** – through the Civil Service Commission. We have a progressive department with numerous promotional and specialized assignment opportunities including Patrol, two Sergeants, two Detectives, two Tactical Response Team members, two School Resource Officers, multiple Field Training Officer roles, and flexibility for Officers to learn and grow in their profession. $28.97 - $36.21/hr, plus educational incentives and longevity steps at 8 years and 20 years of service. Qualified candidates could begin as lateral transfers at top pay rate. The City of Saint Peter offers an exceptional health, dental, and life insurance benefit package. Holiday pay, uniform allowance, tuition reimbursement, and a wellness program are some of the highlights included in the benefits package. Customizable/accelerated field training program may also be available based upon prior experience and competency. Saint Peter offers a small town feel close to big city amenities including college/pro sports, concerts, theater, education, low crime, family recreation programming, and a new state of the art High School. Minimum Qualifications: Two year degree in Law Enforcement from a P.O.S.T. accredited college or vocational school; or three years’ experience as a police officer or working in a related field such as Probation or Corrections. Possession of a valid Minnesota P.O.S.T. board license or eligibility to immediately receive a P.O.S.T. board license; possession of, or eligible for a Minnesota Class D Drivers’ license within 30 days of employment. Desired Qualifications: Four year Bachelor’s Degree in law enforcement or related field from an accredited college or university; Four or more years of experience as a law enforcement officer; Demonstrated specialized training or certificates in a law enforcement related subjects such as Emergency Management, Crime Scene Processing, Tactical Response, Mental Health Response, and/or Law Enforcement De-escalation Training; Ability to speak conversational Spanish or Somali. Applicants are required to complete a City application form which is available from the Saint Peter Police Department at 207 South Front Street, by calling (507)931-1550, or from the City of Saint Peter website at https://www.saintpetermn.gov/365/Employment. Applications must include a cover letter and résumé, and be received by the Saint Peter Police Civil Service Commission, c/o Saint Peter Police Department, 207 South Front Street, Saint Peter, MN 56082, and or malindam@saintpetermn.gov by 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 3, 2021. Oral interviews are scheduled to occur on Tuesday, December 14, 2021. Faxed/late applications will not be accepted. This process may also include the establishment of an eligibility list from this posting for future openings that occur within 12 months from the posting date. AA/EOE

- **PART-TIME BUS DRIVERS** - for the Minnesota River Valley Transit system. This position will work various shifts including day, nights and occasional weekends primarily positions in Saint Peter. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Must have a valid driver's license to begin and a State of Minnesota CDL minimum of Class C Driver's License with passenger endorsement within thirty (30) days of employment. (PLEASE NOTE - Minnesota River Valley Transit will help all new drivers train for the license test); High school diploma or equivalent. DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS: Experience working with the public; experience operating two-way radio/phones; training in vehicle mechanics; previous bus driving experience. Starting wage $16.72 per hour. Applicants must complete a City application form which is available in the City Administrator’s office by 5:00 p.m. December 9, 2021. Faxed and/or late applications will not be accepted. **NOTE: The
successful candidates for this position will be required to successfully complete and pass a pre-employment drug test. The position is also subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing required by USDOT 49 CFR Part 655 (Federal Transit Administration) and USDOT 49 CFR Part 40. In addition, successful candidates for this position must have a vehicle driving record which is clear of revocations, suspensions and cancellations for the past three (3) years. Applicants may be required to submit to a criminal background check and be clear of convictions for crimes or anticipatory crimes (as defined in M.S. 609.17 and 609.175) within the previous fifteen (15) years. 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.***

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>December 2</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Planning and Zoning Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>December 3</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Tourism and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>December 6</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Workshop</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>December 13</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Housing and Redevelopment Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>December 13</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Meeting</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>December 14</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Library Board</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>December 20</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Parks and Recreation Advisory Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>December 22</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hospital Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>December 23</td>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
<td>Economic Development Authority</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – CITY OFFICES CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>December 28</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Heritage Preservation Commission</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>December 31</td>
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<td>NEW YEAR’S HOLIDAY – CITY OFFICES CLOSED</td>
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