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 Departments!

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 an agreement with School District #508 for the City to provide two School Resource Officers; formal acceptance of American Rescue Plan funds; award of the bid for the PLC/SCADA Update Project; modifications to the municipal fee schedule; authorization for an updated contract for the Chamber of Commerce to administer the City’s Tourism and Visitors Bureau; scheduling a public hearing on an assessment appeal; approving a Minnesota Law allowing the City to implement the local sales tax; designation of polling places for calendar year 2022; and execution of agreements with the State of Minnesota (Bureau of Criminal Apprehension) for the Police Department and City Attorney’s office to access information.

The next regular City Council meeting will be Monday, December 13, 2021 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.

The City Council is expected to take action on December 13th to cancel the last workshops of the
year and the last regular meeting of the year. If that occurs, the next regular City Council meeting will take place on January 10, 2022.

**HOT SHEET HIATUS** – This will be the last Hot Sheet for 2021. For all the up to date news you need to know during the hiatus, please visit the City’s social media pages at:
- Website – www.saintpetermn.gov
- Facebook – https://www.facebook.com/CityofSaintPeter
- Twitter - https://twitter.com/CityofStPeter
- The Hot Sheet will return in January, 2022.

**TASTE OF WINTER** – We had a taste of winter this week with yesterday’s surprise (at least to some of us) snowfall, but it looks like much more may come this weekend. Are you ready for it?

Do you have an off-street place to park? Moving all vehicles off the roadway helps the plow crew remove the snow more efficiently which saves all of us money. Remember tickets are expensive and having your car towed is even more so. Find an off-street place to park your vehicle now to avoid those costs.

Is your shovel handy? If you have a public sidewalk abutting your property, you must clear the entire width of the sidewalk of snow and ice within 24 hours after the snowfall ends. This includes any handicap ramps. If property owners don’t do the work themselves, City crews may be dispatched to clear the walk at a minimum cost of $75!

Do you hire someone to clear out your driveway for you? If so, please make sure they know that snow cannot be removed from your property and placed on another.

If your car winter ready? Bald tires and windshield wipers that don’t work are a recipe for disaster during winter.

Clearing a path for your mail carrier, meter reader, newspaper delivery person and others who come to your home is always nice. Starting to create those paths at the beginning of winter makes it much easier to do so when snow really begins to pile up.

Don’t forget to shovel a spot on the boulevard for your garbage and recycling curbies. While many in town continue to put these receptacles in the roadway, they are supposed to be on the boulevard out of the way of vehicular traffic and pedestrians. Never place the curbies on top of snow piles where they may tip over and injure someone.

Don’t forget to keep your gas meter and furnace exhaust pipes clear of drifting snow. It’s easy to forget but snow blocking these can lead to serious problems within your home. Use extra care around the gas meter though and use your hands to clear snow rather than a shovel that can damage the meter.

Please don’t call 911 to find out about traffic conditions. 911 is for emergencies only. You can find all the traffic and road condition information you need at https://511MN.ORG/

Lastly, make sure to keep a weather kit in your car (search online for what the kit should contain), and dress for the weather. We just never know when Mother Nature will pull a fast one!

**MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY TRANSIT FARES** – Thanks to COVID funding from the Federal government, riders of the Minnesota River Valley Transit system have enjoyed free rides for months, but that is about to end.

On January 3, 2022, fares will once again be required as follows:

- Adults/Seniors $3.00
- Student* $2.00
- Kasota $4.50

*Student fares apply for students traveling to or from a secondary school building on school days between 7 am and 4 pm

More changes are coming in the form of the new EZ-Pay system. Also beginning on January 3, 2022, riders can utilize accounts into which they deposit money to pay for future fares. When a rider boards the bus, the driver will debit the fare from the passenger’s account. Passengers can deposit money into their account through the fare box or online with a credit or debit card. (Note…using credit or debit cards will require passengers to register on the EZ-Pay portal. Passengers who wish to use cash for fares or to make deposit into an EZ-Pay account may do so without further registration.

With the implementation of the EZ-Pay system, all old tickets will be phased out, but those who still have old tickets can use them through the month of January 2022. They will still need to be in the appropriate amount and two tickets per ride are required. As of February 1, 2022, Minnesota River Valley Transit will no longer accept tickets.

More information on the new fares, using old tickets and the new EZ-Pay system will be available soon on https://www.facebook.com/MRVTransit, website or https://www.saintpetermn.gov/330/Dial-a-Ride or by calling 1-888-880-4696 for assistance.

**EMERALD ASH BORER IN NICOLLET COUNTY** - Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been discovered in
western Nicollet County. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has confirmed the identification and set established 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 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.

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

- **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 at 227 South Front Street, by calling (507) 934-0663 or online at https://www.saintpetermn.gov/365/Employment. Completed applications must be received by 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

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 December 13  3:30 p.m.  Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday December 13  7:00 p.m.  City Council Meeting
Monday December 20  7:00 p.m.  Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday December 22  12:30 p.m.  Hospital Commission
Thursday December 23  12:00 noon  Economic Development Authority
Friday December 24  12:00 noon  CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – CITY OFFICES CLOSED
Tuesday December 28  5:30 p.m.  Heritage Preservation Commission
Friday December 31 - Saturday January 1st  NEW YEAR’S HOLIDAY – CITY OFFICES CLOSED
Monday January 3  5:30 p.m.  City Council Workshop
Thursday January 6  5:30 p.m.  Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday January 10  3:30 p.m.  Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday January 10  7:00 p.m.  City Council Meeting – new Council takes office
Tuesday January 11  6:00 p.m.  Library Board
Monday January 17  5:30 p.m.  MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY LEGAL
Holiday – City offices closed
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Tourism and Visitors Bureau</td>
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