RENTAL INSPECTIONS SUSPENDED – The increased community spread of the Coronavirus has impacted the City’s ability to complete rental inspections. With the need to protect City staff and the public, the City has temporarily suspended scheduling of rental inspections.

Inspections which are already scheduled will still take place if possible, but no further appointments will be accepted at this time. When the latest COVID surge eases and staff is able to inspect units without sick occupants, inspection appointments will once again be accepted.

Property owners with completely unoccupied rental properties may still call the Building Department (507-934-0662) to schedule an inspection, but units with occupants will not be inspected at this time.

No certificates of rental compliance will be issued until the inspections are completed.

For more information on rental housing requirements, please contact the Building Department.

FIRE DEPARTMENT YOUTH FISHING CONTEST – Looking for something for the kids to do? Then why not join the St. Peter volunteer Fire Department for their annual Youth Ice Fishing Contest at Hallett’s Pond? Kids and fishing! What’s more Minnesotan than that?

This fun event for ages 15 and under will take place on Saturday, January 29th between 1-2:30 p.m. at Hallett’s Pond.

Kids should bring their own pole, but if you don’t have one, the Fire Department will have one available for them. Bait will be provided. Hot dogs and hot chocolate will also be available and there will be prizes (1st, 2nd and 3rd) for the largest fish with other prizes also available.

Hats off to the local sponsors of this event for without their support this event wouldn’t be possible …Nielsen Blacktopping and Concrete, St. Peter Lawn and Sport, AmericInn by Wyndham, Hometown Bank, Arrow Hardware & Paint, Red Men Club, Scheels, Pioneer Bank, Family Fresh Market, Sign Pro of Mankato, Nelson Printing Company, and Nutter Clothing Company.

SNOW EMERGENCIES – If you were one of the dozens of vehicle owners who received a parking ticket after last weeks’ snow emergency declaration you probably wished you knew about the snow emergency before it started to snow. While the City works hard to get the word out when a snow emergency is declared, some folks just don’t get the message.

There is one great, free and super easy way to find out though. Sign up for the free community notification system through Nixle. (www.nixle.com). On those rare occasions when the City calls a snow emergency, folks who have signed up through Nixle will receive an email and/or text message within minutes.

You decide how you want to receive the notice…email, text or both. You can even decide if you want the messages restricted to certain times of the day or night. And did we mention it’s FREE?!

The City won’t bombard you with annoying messages. We utilize this service only for important community messages like snow emergencies and incidents that could impact public safety.
Now that you know about Nixle, here’s a list of other places the City advertises snow emergency declarations:

- The City’s website (on the homepage) at www.saintpetermn.gov.
- The City’s Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/CityofSaintPeter
- The City’s Twitter account at https://twitter.com/CityofStPeter
- Through local media
- And on the City’s information line at 507-934-0675

As you can see, we do what we can to get the word out, but during any plowable snow event it’s always a good idea, and very helpful to the crews that plow the roadways, to move every vehicle off the road. City crews work hard to keep us all safe, but they can’t do it without our community’s help.

And now you know…..

YOUR CITY COUNCIL – January of even numbered years is a big one for your City Council. That’s when newly elected or re-elected Councilmembers begin their term. For the Saint Peter City Council, it was a plethora of new faces as the Council welcomed a new Mayor (previous Councilmember Shanon Nowell), and three brand new Councilmembers – Dustin Sharstrom, Darrell Pettis, and Ben Ranft.

The new members are beginning to learn the ins and outs of serving on a City Council but one thing is for sure….they are ready and willing to work for the people they represent. If you need to contact a Councilmember we’ve made it easy to do. Councilmembers emails, phone numbers and mailing addresses are all available on the City’s website at https://www.saintpetermn.gov/337/City-Council.

And if you aren’t doing anything on Monday nights remember that Council meetings, workshops and goal sessions are open to the public. Agendas for meetings of the Council are available for public review on the City’s website the Friday before each meeting.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – The City Council meeting of January 10, 2022 included administration of the oath of office to incoming members; acceptance of the 2021 North Third Street Improvement (Livermore to Union) Project; authorization for purchase of surgical saws for River's Edge Hospital; adoption of an "incurrence of indebtedness” resolution for USDA related to Fire Station funding; adoption of a resolution opting into the State’s Opioid settlement; formal acceptance of the updated Spill Prevention and Countermeasures Plan; adoption of updated position descriptions for Apprentice Lineman and Facilities Maintenance Lead; authorization for submission of the pay equity report; authorization for assistance for the Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge event at Hallett’s Pond on February 5th; and a closed session to discuss union contract negotiations with the Police Officer and Street unions.

The next regular City Council meeting will be Monday, January 24, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Copies of the meeting agendas can be found on the City’s website (https://www.saintpetermn.gov/AgendaCenter) the Friday before the meetings.

NOW HIRING POLICE OFFICERS! - Did you know there is a dearth of Police Officers in Minnesota? Departments across the state are reporting vacancies. What’s more concerning is that many departments, Saint Peter included, are receiving no applications when vacancies are advertised.

Of course many employers are struggling to find employees these days, but when public safety is the focus of those employees, being short-staffed impacts the lives of each and every one of us.

That’s where we need your help. Saint Peter would love to hire experienced Officers to fill our ranks. If you know someone who is currently working as a Police Officer who would love to be part of a great department (just look at these smiling faces!) with a progressive management team in a position offering plenty of advancement and learning opportunities please encourage them to consider applying with the Saint Peter Police Department. We offer very competitive wages, great benefits and a sign on bonus complete with banked vacation and sick leave from day one.

Information on this recruitment process is available on the City’s website at www.saintpetermn.gov/365/employment

SAINT PETER POLICE RESERVES NEED YOU! - The Police Reserves are an integral part of Police Department operations. This all-volunteer group provides thousands of hours of service to the
community each year and provides support to the Police Department with duties like:
- Assisting with patrol activities
- Emergency Management Response and Support, e.g. floods, etc.
- Assisting with missing persons searches
- Securing and guarding crime scenes
- Organizing community events and special activities

The Police Reserve Unit has evolved over time into a true community service unit with an authorized strength of 24 volunteer members. Each member is trained in various areas of police response and members undergo various application and screening processes before being accepted as members of Reserves.

Without the service of the Police Reserves it would be extremely difficult for the Police Department to maintain order and provide for the safety of the community during large-scale community events such as the Fourth of July. Reserves provide in excess of 3,000 volunteer hours during the course of a year and without their efforts, the cost for large-scale events would be substantial.

This important group is in need of new members. If you or someone you know is seeking a highly rewarding volunteer opportunity in Saint Peter, please contact the Police Department (931-1550 or at 207 South Front Street) to request an application and for additional information on how you can qualify to join the Police Reserves.

**WINTERFEST MEDALLION HUNT** – The Chamber of Commerce’s annual winter celebration called “Winterfest” will get underway on January 28th. One of the most popular activities during Winterfest is the search for the elusive medallion.

As the medallion is usually hidden on City owned property, we would like to extend our annual words of caution to protect City property.
- The medallion will only be located in an area that is entirely accessible by the public. It won’t be behind locked doors, gates, or fences.
- No digging is allowed. The medallion is hidden above ground and no digging anywhere on City property is allowed or necessary. Likewise, you won’t have to climb a tree to get it.
- Be respectful of public property and be careful not to damage any facilities or structures as you search for the medallion.

The medallion hunt is a fun event for everyone so please be careful as you search and good luck!

**CITY MEETING CALENDAR** –***PLEASE NOTE...Meeting dates and times may change due to unforeseen circumstances. For up to date information on meetings please visit the City’s website at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov) or call the City at 507-934-0663.***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>January 24</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Heritage Preservation Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hospital Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>January 27</td>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
<td>Economic Development Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>January 28</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Tourism and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>February 3</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Planning and Zoning Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>February 7</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Meeting (and Valentine’s Day!)</td>
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| Monday    | February 21  | 5:30 p.m. | PRESIDENT’S DAY LEGAL HOLIDAY
City Offices Closed                           |
<p>| Tuesday   | February 22  | 5:30 p.m. | City Council Workshop                                                   |
| Tuesday   | February 22  | 5:30 p.m. | Heritage Preservation Commission                                         |</p>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Parks and Recreation Advisory Board</td>
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