Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan Open House - One more reminder of the City’s Stormwater Utility open house regarding the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). This informational event will take place on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Saint Peter Room located at the Community Center at 600 South Fifth Street.

At the open house Stormwater Utility staff will provide the public with an opportunity to review the SWPPP and the annual report, ask questions, and receive some additional literature on stormwater prevention.

Redistricting – Every ten years the City is required to reaffirm or redraw our representation boundaries. As provided for in State law, the City’s two Wards must have population that is as “equal as practical”. At their workshop session on February 22nd, the City Council reviewed four different options for redrawing the boundary line between Ward I (North) and Ward II (South). As there is currently a substantial difference in the population between the two Wards, keeping everything status quo would not be in keeping with the intent of the law and so the Council needed to review other options.

Some people believe redistricting is determined based on registered voters living in a Ward. It is not. Redistricting is calculated based on the actual number of people living in a Ward as determined by the decennial Census. Boundary lines must be composed of compact, contiguous territory with boundary lines following generally accepted features (streets). When drawn, the boundaries will go down the middle of the street.

The changes, as proposed by staff, aim to equalize the population within each Ward, while impacting the lowest number of individuals.

Once options are developed, the City Council considers the information at a workshop session which is open to the public. The packet from that workshop is also available online so the public can see what the Council is considering. Once the City Council seems to have a consensus on the new boundaries, a draft ordinance will be prepared and posted for a minimum of ten days on the City’s website.

Following that public posting period, the City Council will be asked to adopt the ordinance at their next regular meeting. This must all be done before March 29th which is the statutory deadline for the City to complete their part in the redistricting process.

It’s important to note that both workshops and City Council meetings are open to the public and, while there won’t be an official public hearing on the proposals, the City Council has a process already in place for the public to attend a meeting and raise comments or concerns.

When the City has done our work for redistricting, the County and Secretary of State’s Office will be notified of the new Ward boundaries which will take effect on August 9th (State primary day). Before that date, the City will work with Nicollet County to send postcards to each registered voter confirming the location of their polling place.

If you’d like to see the options the City Council is considering, you may do so on the City’s website beginning on page 13 of the packet found here https://www.saintpetermn.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/02222022-691. Following the workshop session on February 22nd, the Council consensus was to move forward with Option 4 (page 20 of the packet). The boundary for this Option starts on the east side at Broadway Avenue to Sunrise Drive and then north to West Traverse Road west to the corporate limits. Action to adopt the new Ward
boundary is scheduled for the March 14th City Council meeting.

**DOWNTOWN SNOW REMOVAL** – For those of reading this edition on February 23rd, please note that downtown snow removal will happen tonight, Wednesday, February 23rd, beginning at midnight. The work is expected to be completed by Thursday, February 24th at 8:00 AM.

If your vehicle is on the street, towing of the vehicle will be at the owner’s expense. Please help the crews with a fast and safe snow removal by keeping all vehicles off of the streets in the downtown.

Need a place to park while the snow removal is going on? Parking is available in the following City lots:
- Lot #1 – located south of City Hall at 227 South Front Street
- Lot #2 – located west of the CenturyLink building at 100 Nassau Street
- Lot #3 – 100 block of Nassau Street (behind Godfather’s Pizza and Arrow Ace Hardware)
- Lot #4 – 200 block of Park Row (west of the south bound alley) can be accessed from Park Row

For additional questions about this work, please contact the Public Works Department at 507-934-0670.

**FIRE STATION PROJECT UPDATE** – It’s been months since the voters of Saint Peter adopted a local option sales tax to pay for the new fire station that will be constructed in the northeast corner of the Broadway Avenue/Sunrise Drive intersection. The rendering shown above will be the view from Sunrise Drive.

Last night at their workshop, the City Council received an update on the project from project architects from Five Bugles Design and the project Construction Managers at R.W. Carlstrom.

Their information, which included budget numbers, design elements and renderings of the finished building, showed the project is well in hand. The budget is on target. Construction bids will be let in March with construction likely to begin in August. This timetable will coincide nicely with the proposed construction of a roundabout at the Broadway Avenue/Sunrise Drive intersection which should begin in June.

This specialized building will take some time to finish and occupancy is planned for the summer of 2023 subject to material deliveries, weather conditions and other factors that may delay construction.

Once finished, a public open house will be scheduled so the Fire Department can show off their new house.

As the project moves forward, additional updates will be provided through the Hot Sheet.

**M A K E S M E W O N D E R (B Y C I T Y A D M I N I S T R A T O R T O D D P R A F K E)** – The following is a reprint of a 2019 column. Checking out the competition on the World Wide Web… A couple weeks after participating in a discussion about possible changes to our website in 2019, I took a few minutes to check out the sites of some other communities. Please know that I am not a graphic design guy, nor am I really a big social media guy, but I understand the importance of both of those things to how we get our information out and, more importantly, how you want to get or consume that information.

As I was checking out about a half dozen greater Minnesota cities websites and Facebook pages, here are a couple things that I think I noticed. First, ours looks pretty good and certainly has a boat load of usable information in it. I noticed that each one has a different way of organizing the data or what you click to find certain things. Also, some communities are more formal and some more casual about how they reference their elected officials. We tend to use title and surname and some just say “Jane” even though Jane happens to be the Mayor.

I also noticed that compared to most, we have a lot of Facebook “likes”. I mean a lot more especially in relation to our population. One city that I viewed with a population of about 24,000 people had about 2,000 “likes” where we have about 2,000 likes and our population is about 12,000.

Casual or formal? Like or not? Where do you get your information and does what we do with our website or Facebook page help meet your needs? Do you have an idea for us on either of these?

It makes me wonder………

**P A R K V I E W M A N O R** – The City Council has been talking recently about Park View Manor. This aptly named facility is located directly west of Minnesota Square Park at 1010 South Fourth Street.
Park View was constructed by the City as a HUD housing project in 1970. As a HUD project, the 62-unit Park View Manor filled a rental housing void for low to moderate income residents and it continues to do so today under the thoughtful guidance of Executive Director Michelle Connor and the City appointed members of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA). The building is 100% occupied with a waiting list so it’s easy to see the importance this facility has within our community.

But as with any older building, things eventually deteriorate and such is the condition of the roof and air handling system. With a replacement price tag estimated at up to $825,000, finding an inexpensive source of funding for this improvement project was a priority for the City and the HRA until a pre-application to the Small Cities Development Program administered by the State’s Department of Employment and Economic Development resulted in a request to submit a full application.

While funding is still not guaranteed, submission of a full application is a major step in possibly being awarded $500,000 in interest free, forgivable funding to help with the project costs. If awarded, this funding will help Park View Manor keep housing costs affordable for those who need it most.

DNR Grant Award – The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently announced the City was awarded $128,480 in Protecting Forests by Managing Ash for EAB Grant funds.”

This grant will be used to help fund management of emerald ash borer (EAB) on public land over the next five years. The grant is designed to help support communities establish a diverse Urban Forest through the planting of many different species of trees.

The funding will be used for city-wide removal/stump grinding for 245 Ash trees and planting of 490 new (non-Ash) trees in the boulevards following the City’s EAB Management Plan.

While the City has already implemented the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan, these grant funds will allow the previously stated goals to be expanded.

For more information on the fight against Emerald Ash Borer and to see the City’s EAB management plan, please visit the website at https://www.saintpetermn.gov/242/Emerald-Ash-Borer.

Fire Relief Association – When perspective Firefighters consider applying to be part of the St. Peter Fire Department, they may ask, “What does the job pay?”

In reality, our Fire Department is a volunteer department. Members serve without pay to support their community, but that’s not to say they put in thousands of hours of volunteer time without recognition.

Members of the Department are also members of the Fire Relief Association; a non-profit entity authorized under State Statute to provide “pensions” for those who protect us as volunteers. The Statute authorizing the Association lays out regulations covering the manner of incorporation, general powers, scope of bylaws, function of the board and officers, rights and obligations of members, processes of consolidation, merger, or dissolution. The Board of the St. Peter Fire Relief Association includes members from the Fire Department, but it also includes the Mayor and the City’s Finance Director.

Funding for the pensions provided by the Relief Association comes from each of us through a two percent tax on fire insurance. Insurance companies pay that tax to the State which then provides money to the Relief Association. That money is invested and hopefully grows enough that the service benefit paid to a retiring Firefighter is covered by the Relief Association accounts.

So where does the City enter into this? The City has a fiduciary responsibility to ensure that those pensions are available to retiring members. If the invested funds maintained by the Association become insufficient to cover the pension amount, the City is required to make up the difference. It has been many years since the City has been required to make a contribution thanks to the efforts of the Association board.

It has been many, many years since that has been needed as the accounts of the Association are very well managed and invested. In fact, the accounts are healthy enough that the Association has requested, and the Council has approved, an increase in the annual service benefit amount to $3,900 per year of service effective April 1, 2022. After that date, any retiring Firefighter who meets certain conditions, will receive a one time “pension” check from the Association in the amount of $3,900 for each year of service.

When you think about how many times a Volunteer Firefighter gets up in the middle of a cold dark night to fight a fire, or the thousands of hours they spend during their career doing public service
in other ways, having this “pension” to look forward to at the conclusion of their often decades of service is well deserved.

On behalf of the entire Saint Peter community, thank you Saint Peter Volunteer Fire Department!

HELP WANTED - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- **FORESTER** - The City of Saint Peter is accepting applications for the position of Forester in the Department of Public Works. Minimum qualifications include: High school diploma or equivalent; One or more years of experience in a forestry or landscape related position; Possession of a valid State of Minnesota Class A Driver’s License with Air Brake Endorsement and Tanker Endorsement or to obtain within six months of employment with the City; Possession of a Minnesota Department of Agriculture noncommercial pesticide applicators license with endorsements in Categories A - Core, E - Turf and Ornamentals, F - Aquatic, J - Forestry, Rights-of-Way, and Natural Areas, L - Mosquito, Black Fly, Tick Pest Control within six months of the date of employment with the City; Possession of or ability to obtain valid State of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) tree inspector's license within six months of the date of employment with the City; Possession of or ability to obtain an American Heart Association Certification as a Basic Rescuer for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency cardiac care within six months of the date of employment with the City. Desired qualifications include: Demonstrated knowledge of approved methods, materials, and equipment used in the care, maintenance, removal, and planting of trees; demonstrated knowledge of tree physiology, structure, and growth; demonstrated ability to classify trees according to species; Demonstrated knowledge of the operating characteristics and servicing of equipment; Demonstrated ability to operate light and heavy equipment and trucks including but not limited to wheel loader, bucket truck, dump truck, wood chipper, snow plow truck, and chain saws; Demonstrated ability to read and interpret landscaping plans and specifications; AAS, BS or BA degree in arboriculture, forestry, landscaping or a related field from an accredited college or university; One or more years of supervisory experience of two or more employees; Demonstrated knowledge of OSHA regulations and safety precautions of the trade; Demonstrated knowledge of Urban Forestry principles and practices; Possession of an Arborist Certification from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA); Demonstrated ability to speak conversational Spanish and Somali. 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. Wage is $26.52 – $27.63 per hour. Applicants are required to complete a City of Saint Peter application form available in the City Administrator’s Office, 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082-2538, by calling (507) 934-0663; or online at www.saintpetermn.gov/365/Employment. The position will remain open until filled. AA/EOE

- **FACILITIES MAINTENANCE LEAD** - in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Services. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS include: High school diploma or equivalent; Two years of responsible construction and/or maintenance experience in carpentry and masonry; Possession of a valid Driver’s License; Two years demonstrated working knowledge of methods and practices of mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems including maintenance and repair; Demonstrated knowledge of cleaning, use of cleaning chemicals and custodial equipment; Possession of or ability to obtain an American Heart Association Certification as a Basic Rescuer for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency cardiac care within six months of the date of employment with the City. DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS include: Possession of a valid State of Minnesota Class B Drivers’ License with Air Brake Endorsement; Demonstrated: knowledge of the practices, methods, tools, and equipment used in the construction trades; skill in the use of construction tools and equipment; ability to read and interpret blue prints, diagrams, and engineering sketches; ability to make moderately complex mathematical calculations; knowledge of state and local building codes; Demonstrated knowledge of bidding and quote process and ability to work with vendors; Demonstrated knowledge of OSHA regulations, safety precautions of the trade and equipment operation; Two or more years of supervisory experience in the field of construction or maintenance.
experience; Previous experiencing performing job duties related to building maintenance and repair in a facility larger than 40,000 square feet; Demonstrated ability to speak conversational Spanish or Somali. $25.78-$28.05 per hour.

Applicants are required to complete a City of Saint Peter application form available in the City Administrator’s Office, 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082-2538, by calling (507) 934-0663; or online at www.saintpetermn.gov/365/employment.

Applications must be received by the City Administrator’s Office by 5:00 p.m. on February 24, 2022. AA/EOE

**TRANSIT SUPPORT SPECIALIST** - (Dispatcher). This position will work mostly late afternoon, evening and weekend hours. Transit Support Specialists assist Minnesota River Valley Transit riders in scheduling rides, directing drivers to stops and pick-ups, providing clerical support for Transit Operations and Compliance Managers, and operating dispatching software.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** High school diploma or equivalent; demonstrated experience working with the public; demonstrated ability to operate a personal computer; ability to read, write, and speak the English language; and ability to answer multi-line phone system.

**DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Experience working with the public; experience operating two-way radio/phones; training in vehicle mechanics; previous bus driving experience. Starting wage $17.56 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. March 2, 2022. 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…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 or call the City at 507-934-0663.

- **Wednesday** February 23 12:30 p.m. Hospital Commission
- **Thursday** February 24 12:00 noon Economic Development Authority **CANCELLED**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Board of Zoning Appeals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>February 25</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Tourism and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Planning and Zoning Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Goal Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Library Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Housing and Redevelopment Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Board of Zoning Appeals</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Parks and Recreation Advisory Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>8:00 – 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>CITY OFFICES CLOSED – ALL STAFF TRAINING</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hospital Commission</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Heritage Preservation Commission</td>
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