SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK!

Minnesota’s “Severe Weather Awareness Week” is scheduled for April 4-9, 2022, with the state-wide tornado drills scheduled for Thursday, April 7th. On April 7th outdoor warning sirens and NOAA weather radios will sound at both 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. in a simulated tornado warning.

During these drills, families and businesses are encouraged to conduct their own mini preparedness drill and to talk about what to do in the event of a real emergency. One of the things to discuss with family and co-workers is the terms used when advisories are issued:

**Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm “WATCH”** - means that conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes or severe thunderstorms. When a watch is issued for Nicollet County, pay close attention to the weather, and make sure that everyone in your family knows the correct action to take if the weather gets worse.

**Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm “WARNING”** - means a tornado or severe thunderstorm has been reported or is indicated by weather radar. Warning information includes the tornado or storm’s location, direction, and speed. If the warning is issued for our portion of Nicollet County, **TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY.**

Warning sirens are tested year-round on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. to assure that the sirens will work in the event of an actual emergency. If you hear the steady tone of a siren at any other time, it means that severe weather has been sighted in our area and you should take shelter immediately.

There is no all clear siren, so it’s wise to take a battery powered radio with you to the shelter so you can monitor when it is safe to emerge. More information on these topics is available on the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website at [https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-awareness-week-program.aspx](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-awareness-week-program.aspx).

Summertime is meant for enjoying outdoor activities, but if you hear thunder, that means lightning is close enough to put you in danger so remember the motto... **“When it Roars, Go Indoors!”** Lightning is one of the top storm-related killers in the United States and when thunderstorms are in the area and you hear thunder, it’s time to get indoors and stay there for thirty minutes after the last roar of thunder.
If you would like more information about severe storm preparedness, please call the Saint Peter Police Department (931-1550) or Nicollet County Emergency Management (934-7874). The severe weather information contained in today’s Hot Sheet includes information from the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security website.

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING** – The City Council meeting on March 28, 2022 included approval of a request to subordinate a City mortgage for the property at 424 South Fourth Street; award of bid for the 2022 Street Seal Coat and Fog Seal Project to Allied Blacktopping; authorization to purchase a new front loaded street sweeper from RDO Equipment; approval for Bolton and Menk, Inc. to provide project engineering for a project to extend Clark Street and utilities to serve a new multi-family housing project in Traverse Green Subdivision; and a closed session to discuss union contract negotiations with Law Enforcement Labor Services Local #241 (Communications Technicians).

Mayor Nowell also proclaimed March 29, 2022 as “Vietnam Veteran’s Day” in Saint Peter.

The next regular City Council meeting will be Monday, April 11, 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.

**LICENSED TREE WORKERS** - Are you in the market for tree trimming or removal? Before you hire a contactor, please make sure they are licensed by the City.

Any contactor who offers tree and bush trimming and/or removal services must be licensed by the City. Why you ask?

When a tree worker is licensed, the City has done the background investigation on the company. We ensure they have insurance in case they drop the tree on your house. We ensure they are a real company and not just a scam. We do what is needed to protect you and your property.

So, who is licensed? Head to the City’s website (https://www.saintpetermn.gov/BusinessDirectoryII.aspx?lngBusinessCategoryID=22) to see the list of licensed tree workers and then find the company you want to do business with. (Remember to check back after May 1st when these businesses need to renew their license for the coming season.)

**SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION** – Registration for summer recreation programs begins this Friday, April 1st at 8:00 a.m.

This is your chance to register children and adults for a variety of activities such as youth sports, camps, swim lessons, nature programs and so much more. Quick and easy registration can be done via the City’s website (Recreation Page) at www.saintpetermn.gov or, if you have questions, by calling the Recreation and Leisure Services Office at 507-934-0667.

**SPRING HYDRANT FLUSHING** - The semi-annual flushing of the City’s 625 fire hydrants begins at 8:00 p.m. on April 4th and will end around April 14th. This process could temporarily make water cloudy so please check your water before doing laundry.

Water Utility crews do this work twice a year to get fresh water running through the hydrants and to do flow testing. Work is done overnight (8:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.) to minimize the impact on residents.

Why is this work so important?

- Flushing helps improve water quality by removing residue from the main pipe system, which helps keep our water clear.
- It’s important for fire safety and to benefit the City’s fire rating. Testing flow levels helps ensure adequate pumping to the City’s fire tanker. Ensuring adequate pumping capabilities also helps keep fire insurance costs lower for all property owners.
- There is also an economic development benefit to hydrant flushing. Making accurate flow information available to prospective businesses and industries help these firms make decisions about locating in Saint Peter.

For questions about water quality or the hydrant flushing work, please contact the Public Works Department at 507-934-0670.

**MUNICIPAL CAMPGROUND RESERVATIONS** - Camping season is right around the corner! Reservations for the 2022 camping season at Riverside Park - Mill Pond Municipal Campground begins Friday, April 1st at 8:00 a.m. To reserve your campsite please visit the City of Saint Peter website Recreation Page or call 507-934-0667.

Here’s a bit of information about the City’s campground…

- The campground is open May 6th - October 30th
• 11 Electricals sites - $30.00 per night
• 5 Non-electrical sites - $20.00 per night
• Located within the 120-acre Riverside Park on the banks of the Minnesota River
• Boat ramp
• Heated restrooms
• Canoe landing
• Fishing pond
• Trails

Also, for a great aerial map of the campground, please visit the City’s website at https://www.saintpetermn.gov/490/Camping and scroll to the bottom of the page.

REDISTRICTING PROCESS – THE FINAL STEP – Hot Sheet readers may remember that on March 14th the City Council adopted new Ward boundaries as part of the state-wide redistricting process.

The final step in the process is for Nicollet County to adopt their Commissioner districts based on the changes made by the cities and townships in Nicollet County earlier in the process.

If you would like to review the County’s options for redistricting of the Commissioner districts, please visit their website at https://mn-nicolletcounty.civicplus.com/856/8541/Nicollet-County-Redistricting-Plan?activeLiveTab=widgets

BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION MEETING – The City Council will meet as the Board of Appeal and Equalization on Tuesday, April 19th beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Governors’ Room of the Community Center.

This is the annual opportunity for property owners to challenge the assessed valuation of their property as assigned by the Nicollet County Assessor’s office. (Please note…this is not an opportunity to challenge the amount of property taxes paid.)

If you are interested in appearing before the Board, please contact the Nicollet County Assessor to make an appointment.

Property owners who fail to appeal to the local Board may forfeit their right to appeal to the County Board.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM - Applications are once again being accepted for the City’s Accessibility Improvement grant program. This program provides funds to commercial properties for projects such as installation of automatic door openers, ramps, wheelchair ramps or other improvements that enhance accessibility for those with mobility impairments. When those improvements are installed and maintained for a specific period, the funding becomes a grant with no need for repayment.

This is the third year of the grant program and some of the past grant recipients have included Arrow Hardware, Nutter Clothing and Kind Vet Clinic. Each of these businesses used their grant funds to install handicap door opening systems.

While funds are limited each year of the program, those who are interested in applying should contact the Community Development Department at City Hall (507-934-0661, cindym@saintpetermn.gov, or in person at 227 South Front Street) for more information.

PET WASTE AND WATER QUALITY - Pollution from pet waste provides a very serious threat to our environment and does not simply disappear. Although it is not the most noticeable form of pollution, animal waste left on the ground can be washed into storm drains from rain and melting snow and ice. Once it has been washed into storm drains, the waste flows to rivers, lakes, oceans, and even drinking water. With its high concentration of bacteria and disease-causing microorganisms, animal waste poses a serious pollution threat to everyone within the community.

Nutrient loaded waters can become cloudy, green and unattractive for swimming, boating and fishing.

There are approximately 730 licensed dogs in Saint Peter and when you consider the number of unlicensed pets, that number is probably closer to 1,000. Considering that a dog creates an average of three-quarter pounds of waste daily, that means approximately 550 pounds of dog waste is generated in Saint Peter each day just from the licensed dogs.

To keep animal waste from contaminating the community, the City Code (Section 8-80) requires pet owners and those who care for them to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste. The bare material can be flushed down the toilet or wrapped and placed in the refuse bin.

PLEASE NOTE….. Thompson Dog Park remains closed to allow the turf to dry out (aka…not be a mud pit!). Dog owners are asked to use the Saint Peter Area Dog Park located at 43358 Rabbit Road. For any further questions on dog park availability, please contact the Public Works Department at 507-934-0670.

CITY JOBS – CHANGING THINGS UP – The City, like so many employers across the country, has struggled for some time to fill open positions. Where previously we would have received dozens, or
sometimes even hundreds, of qualified candidates, many current recruitment processes have ended with one, two, or worse yet, zero applications.

Because of this the City has had to become a bit more flexible in how the recruitment process is handled. Like departments across Minnesota, qualified Police Officer candidates are in very short supply and with two Police Department openings to fill the City upped our game by offering incentives to new Officers that included an upfront cash payment and banked vacation and sick leave. Lucky for us it worked, and we received several qualified applicants resulting in the hiring of experienced Officers Travis Sandland and William Reinbold. (Both of these Officers were officially sworn in at the most recent City Council meeting.)

Yet for other positions, most of them part-time, we are not able to offer those financial incentives and instead, we have had to change things up by having flexible recruitment dates. This edition of the Hot Sheet advertises two part-time transit related positions with no end date. These recruitments will be “open until filled”. If applications meeting the minimum requirements are received, staff will contact those applicants for an interview within one week rather than the sometimes month long wait to move forward.

Another area where the City has experienced a shortage of qualified applicants is for seasonal employees in both the Recreation and Public Works Departments. In fact, we have reopened our seasonal applications so if you missed the first-round deadline, you have a second chance. Please visit the City’s website at www.saintpetermn.gov/365/Employment for additional information on how to apply.

If you or someone you know is interested in any of the open part-time or seasonal positions, please visit the City’s website for additional information on how to apply.

Street Sweeping – The annual rite of spring – street sweeping – has begun. Those on the north side of the community may have already seen the big white sweeper traveling curbside to pick up as much debris and hazardous material as possible before spring rains wash it all into the City’s stormwater collection system.

Removal of what could be tons of materials left behind after a Minnesota winter helps prevent additional pollution in local waterways including the Minnesota River.

The process is tedious (the sweeper moves slowly) and can be dangerous for drivers and pedestrians alike, and that’s why City crews need your help.

If you see the sweeper in your area, please move vehicles from the roadway so the road can be cleaned curb to curb and please be patient as the sweeper works while also giving a wide berth to not only the sweeper, but also to the dump trucks hauling the materials away. Finally, if you must pass the vehicles, please make sure it is safe to do so.

City crews work hard to keep Saint Peter beautiful, but we need you to keep our crews safe! Thank you.

Help Wanted - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for several positions. Applications are available through the City’s website (www.saintpetermn.gov/365/employment). Important note….once you have completed the online application, save it to your computer with a new title, and then email or deliver it as shown on the front page of the application. The following positions are now open:

- **PART-TIME BUILDING SUPERVISOR** - at the Saint Peter Community Center. Evenings and weekends. Minimum qualifications include High school diploma or equivalent; CPR and First Aid training or ability to be certified within six months of employment; and Experience working with the public. Desirable qualifications include Experience in building maintenance functions. $13.28 per hour. Applicants must complete a City of Saint Peter application available from the City Administrator’s Office at 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082-2538, by calling (507)934-0663 or online at www.saintpetermn.gov/365/employment. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator’s Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 6, 2022. Faxed and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EOE

- **PART-TIME BUS DRIVER** - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the position of Part-time Bus Drivers for the Minnesota River Valley Transit system. This position will work various shifts including day, nights and occasional weekends. This position works primarily 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/phone; 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. This position will remain open until filled and qualified applicants will be offered an interview within one week of submission of application. **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

PART-TIME TRANSIT SUPPORT SPECIALIST (DISPATCHER) – for Minnesota River Valley Transit system. (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 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 operating a two-way radio/phone, 1+ year experience in an office setting, 1+ year experience in a municipal or other transportation system providing logistical support for moving people or materials, demonstrated ability to read and navigate a map, 1+ year experience with dispatching or vehicle routing software and hardware, 1+ year experience using social media such as Facebook or Twitter. Starting wage: $17.56 per hour. Applicants are required to submit a City application form available online at www.saintpetermn.gov/365/employment, from the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street or by calling (507) 934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator’s office. This position will remain open until filled and qualified applicants will be offered an interview within one week of receipt of application. AA/EEO

SEASONAL POSITIONS – The following seasonal positions at the Public Works and Recreation and Leisure Services Departments are now open. **NOTE:** #1-A condition of employment for all Public Works seasonal positions shall be successful completion of a background investigation and pre-employment drug test. Employees will be subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing as required by federal regulations. Must be at least 18 years of age for Public Works positions. #2 – Applicants must complete separate applications if applying in both the Public Works and Recreation Department. #3 -A condition of employment for aquatics program positions shall be successful completion of a background investigation, and successful completion of pre-employment drug test. Employees will be subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing. Must be at least 15 years of age for listed positions unless noted differently. These positions will remain open for application until filled, but don't delay in submitting an application if interested. Applications for these seasonal positions are available online at www.saintpetermn.gov/365/Employment.

- PUBLIC WORKS SEASONAL LABORER: Duties include a variety of manual labor tasks associated with the care, maintenance, and cleaning of City facilities and equipment including, but not limited to, painting, washing, mowing, weeding, digging, cleaning and organizing; planting, trimming, and removal of trees and shrubs and mowing and trimming facilities. 40 hours/week. Applicants must possess a minimum
valid Class C or D driver's license. Minimum age: 18. $11.75/hour

- TREE WORKER: Duties include work involving maintenance of City’s urban forest including tree planting and felling, tree trimming and pruning, stump grinding and site restoration, maintenance of plants, tree nursery and new trees; tree inventory and completing reports. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High school diploma or GED; Valid Class C or D driver’s license; Possession of an American Heart Certification as a Basic Rescuer for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency cardiac care or the ability to obtain within six months of employment with the City; Demonstrated related experience in tree maintenance. DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS: Demonstrated knowledge in the operation a woodchipper, aerial lift truck, skid steer, chainsaw and stump grinder; Demonstrated experience and education in landscaping, arboriculture, forestry; International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certification; Tree Inspector certification; Demonstrated knowledge of basic plant maintenance; Ability to speak conversational Somali or Spanish. 26 weeks per week April – October limited to 900 hours. Minimum age: 18. $13.75/hour

- LANDSCAPE GARDENER: Duties include work involving gardening, landscape maintenance, general maintenance of planters, flowerbeds, maintenance of parks, right-of-way, and other recreational facilities. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High school diploma or GED; Valid Class C or D driver’s license; Possession of an American Heart Certification as a Basic Rescuer for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency cardiac care or the ability to obtain within six months of employment with the City; Demonstrated related experience in tree maintenance. DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS: Demonstrated knowledge in the operation a woodchipper, aerial lift truck, skid steer, chainsaw and stump grinder; Demonstrated experience and education in landscaping, arboriculture, forestry; International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certification; Tree Inspector certification; Demonstrated knowledge of basic plant maintenance; Ability to speak conversational Somali or Spanish. May 1 to October 31 including weekdays, weeknights, holidays, and weekends. Must pass pre-employment drug test; subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing required by federal regulations. Minimum age: 18. $13.75/hour

- PARK RANGER: Duties include providing assistance at community events, recreational facilities, and maintenance activities; assuring park grounds and structures are neat and clean; assist citizens using City facilities, oversee entrance to Swift Street tree and grass clippings drop off site, assist with ball field maintenance during tournaments and weekend play. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High School diploma or GED equivalent; Valid Class C or D driver’s license; Possession of an American Heart Certification as a Basic Rescuer for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency cardiac care or the ability to obtain within six months of employment with the City. DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS: Demonstrated ability to deal with the public; Demonstrated problem solving abilities; Demonstrated communication skills related to City operations; Demonstrated knowledge and experience in park maintenance; Ability to speak conversational Somali or Spanish. Minimum age: 18. $13.00/hour

- HEAD LIFEGUARDS: Duties include supervision of aquatics personnel, pool patrons, and pool facility. Must have three years of lifeguard experience. Current WSI, LGT, First Aid and CPR certificates required. Strong leadership background. Minimum age: 18. $13.00/hour

- LIFEGUARD/WSI: Duties include teaching swim lessons and supervision of swimmers. Some maintenance. Full, part-time and substitute positions.
Current WSI, LGT, First Aid and CPR Certificates required. $12.15/hour

- LIFEGUARD (without WSI): Duties include supervision of swimmers and some maintenance. Full, part-time and substitute positions. Current LGT, First Aid & CPR Certificates required. $11.75/hour

- OUTDOOR POOL CASHIER: Duties include collection of pool fees, light bookkeeping, some maintenance, and strong public relations skills. Part-time. $9.50/hour

- RECREATION COORDINATOR: Train and supervise staff, organize, and implement summer sports programs (youth and adult) as well as mobile recreation program (Exploration Recreation). Need strong organizational, motivational, planning and leadership skills. Valid Class C or D driver's license is required. Experience with school age children. Minimum age: 18, 35–40 hours/week. Mid May–mid/end of August. $12.50/hour

- RECREATION LEADERS: Responsibilities include implementing youth summer recreation and sports programs and special events. Previous experience working with youth desired. Strong leadership and organizational skills required. Valid Class C or D driver’s license.

**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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Meeting Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Workshop</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Planning and Zoning Commission</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Housing and Redevelopment Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Workshop</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Parks and Recreation Advisory Board</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Board of Appeal and Equalization</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Tourism and Visitors Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>City Council Meeting</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Heritage Preservation Commission</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hospital Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
<td>Economic Development Authority</td>
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