

CITY OF SAINT PETER HOT SHEET



All the City news you need to know and a little bit more.

City Info Line 507-934-0675 TDD #711

The City of Saint Peter is an equal opportunity provider.



The following information is a publication of the City of Saint Peter, City Administrator's Office, 934-0663, 227 South Front Street. To request an email subscription to this newsletter, or for more information, please contact us at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov



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11/06/19

CITY COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS – Another election is in the books and here are the results for the City Council races in Saint Peter:

MAYOR

Charles Zieman	839
Shawn Schloesser	816

COUNCIL WARD 1 (4 year term)

Harry Youngvorst	221
Keri Johnson	867

COUNCIL WARD 1 (to complete term 12/31/2021)

Shanon Nowell	585
Dustin Sharstrom	487

COUNCIL WARD 2 (elect 2)

Terry L. Bergemann	147
Emily Bruflat	378
Bradley DeVos	322
David B. McGuire	113

Precinct by precinct totals are available on the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov. Results for the School District #508 Board races are available from the School District #508.

Congratulations to the newly-elected Councilmembers and our thanks to everyone who ran. Thanks also to the City's hard working Election Judges. Many of these folks have been Judges for a number a years and they work hard to ensure all election laws are followed while making each voter's experience on Election Day a good one.

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on October 28, 2019 included adoption of a resolution allowing sale of refunding bonds if interest rates provide a target goal of savings; approval of a revolving loan to Keith and Carolyn Stelter for re-roofing the property at 213

South Minnesota Avenue; establishment of a Census 2020 Complete Count Committee; initiation of the process for assessment of unpaid municipal utility charges and unpaid miscellaneous charges; authorization for execution of a contract modification with LJP Waste Enterprises for the City's refuse and recycling contract agreement; and approval for purchase of two play structures to be installed in 2020 in Veteran's Memorial Park.

The next regular City Council meeting, will be Tuesday, November 12th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE)

Well it is over... the local election that is. Congrats to all who ran. They all deserve a kind word of thanks. As I have written

before it takes some courage to plunk down \$5 to put your name on the ballot and say you want to serve the entire community. And, judging by the number of lawn signs, more than I ever remember in the past, we have a lot of very engaged and serious candidates.

But the election is over and now the real work starts. One of the things I have noticed over the 30 plus years I have been doing this City Administrator work is that running and governing are two very different things and while it is not easy to articulate, there are some very important differences in campaigning and governing.

Campaigning is done, at least in Saint Peter, "in season". By that I mean it is not done year around. Governing on the other hand is done year around and in every place you go whether that be in church, at the store, or at a game. People want you to know what they think and what they do or don't want the City to do for them.

When campaigning it is easy to take sides but when you're governing taking sides is oftentimes a bit harder as many times the answers you get to

choose from are not good or great. Often they are worst or least worst.

Governing is sometimes about compromise, communicating and sharing information with others to hear many perspectives before reaching a consensus. Campaigning, particularly at the national level, seems to be about making sure someone else knows less than you, and not sharing or communicating with those who disagree with you.

Governing at the local level is about finding those things that are priorities that you can agree on and making those happen. Sometimes it often seems at the national level it is pointing out those things that you disagree on so no one can get anything done.

One of the cool things that happens in Saint Peter is that after the election a letter goes out to those who were not elected thanking them for their desire to serve and asking them if they may have interest in serving on one of the many volunteer boards or commissions in the City.

So thanks again for all who ran and best of luck to those that won remembering that as you succeed so does our entire community.

Will you thank those who didn't win and encourage those who did, even if you didn't vote for them? It makes me wonder.....

CURBSIDE LEAF COLLECTION UPDATE - Beginning Monday, November 4th City staff began the second round of leaf collection for properties south of Broadway Avenue.

This has been such a muddled process this year and the Public Works Department will try and we will continue to provide residents updates in the days and weeks ahead. Please make sure to have vehicles away from piles for the machinery to be able to pick up your pile. If you have any questions, please call Public Works at 507-934-0670.

Residents are encouraged to use the yard waste site located at 1128 North Swift Street. This site is open to residents at any time to drop off. This service is provided by the Environmental Service fee in the City residential utility bills.

COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE – Census 2020 will begin on April 1, 2020. In preparation for the big day the City Council has established a Census 2020 Complete Count Committee and is seeking applicants.

The Complete Count Committee will be tasked with developing and implementing community outreach



projects to increase general knowledge about what the census is, how it is undertaken, and why the census is important not only to Minnesota as a whole, but to Saint Peter. Every uncounted person means \$15,320 in federal funding is lost. If just 50 people are missed, Saint Peter loses upwards of \$750,000 in the next decade. That's a lot of money.

The Committee will be especially focused on outreach to historically undercounted groups like immigrants and the elderly, both of which make up significant portions of Saint Peter's population.

Residents interested in being considered for appointment to the Committee are asked to submit a brief letter of interest to the City Administrators Office (227 South Front Street) or by email to barbaral@saintpetermn.gov. Applicants should include their name, phone number, email and a brief paragraph or two about their background and their connection to the historically undercounted segments of Saint Peter's population.

Committee members will meet on a monthly basis beginning on the second Wednesday of each month (December 11th is the first meeting) through March, 2020. Meetings will take place at 6:30 p.m. and prospective members will be asked to make a commitment to attending each meeting.

For more information on this committee, please contact the City Administrator's Office at (507)934-0663.

LEAF COLLECTION UPDATE – At the October 28th regular meeting, the City Council heard a report on the City's curbside leaf collection schedule which has been shredded by the whims of Mother Nature.

The new plan is for the Public Works crews to once again collect leaves for properties north of Broadway Avenue beginning immediately. This process will continue for two weeks before starting collection for properties south of Broadway Avenue for the next two weeks.

For more information on the leaf collection process, please keep an eye on the City's website (www.saintpetermn.gov); the Hot Sheet; or the City's Facebook page at (www.facebook.com/CityofSaintPeter)

MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING MARKET - The American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census bureau suggests that the rental vacancy rate in Saint Peter is 2.8% based on estimates from the five years between 2013 and 2017. Their data has a reported margin of error of +/- 3.4%.

We wanted better data. The Community Development office undertook a phone survey of the multi-family housing units containing four or more apartment units. What we found wasn't

necessarily surprising. Of the 743 multi-family housing units surveyed, only 14 were currently available for rent. That calculates to a multi-family vacancy rate of only 1.9%.

For comparison, in 2018 the national rental vacancy rate was reported to be as high as 7.1% while the vacancy rate in Minnesota was at 5.7%.

A vacancy rate below 4% suggests that the market is extremely tight and does not encourage multi-family property owners to improve or upgrade their housing units. Investments are delayed and higher rental rates can be established due to the lack of apartment availability.

Such a low vacancy rate also doesn't provide choices for prospective Saint Peter residents who prefer not to own their home. Can I find a three bedroom, two bath, ground floor unit with garage parking close to the downtown for my family? Perhaps but most likely not.

There are a few multi-family developers in the very preliminary stage of exploring the Saint Peter market. It is too early to know if anything will materialize but the market seems to be ready for more construction.

HELP WANTED – The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the following position(s):

- **PART-TIME RECREATION LEADER** - in the Recreation and Leisure Services Department. The Recreation Leader assists, conducts, leads, and evaluations programs, projects and special events and facilities. **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** 16 or older with a valid Minnesota non-provisional driver's license. Afternoon, evening and weekend hours, including holidays. \$10.00 per hour. Applicants must complete a City of Saint Peter application available from the City Administrator's office, 227 South Front Street. Deadline for receipt of completed applications by the City Administrator's office is 5:00 pm on November 26, 2019. Faxed, emailed and/or late applications not accepted. AA/EEO

- **PART-TIME RECREATION COORDINATOR** – in the Recreation and Leisure Services Department. The Program Coordinator works to plan, develop, coordinate, implement, and supervise recreation and athletic programs and special events. **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** 18 or older; high school diploma or equivalent; valid Driver's license; have CPR and First Aid training or ability to be certified within six months of employment; and experience working with the public. Afternoon, evening and weekend hours, including holidays. \$11.25 per hour. Applicants must complete a City of Saint Peter application available from the City Administrator's office, 227 South Front Street. Deadline for receipt of completed applications by the City Administrator's office is 5:00 pm on November 26, 2019. Faxed, emailed and/or late applications not accepted. AA/EEO
- **PART-TIME BUS DRIVER** driving for the Minnesota River Valley Transit. This position will work nights and weekends with an occasional day shift. Positions in both Saint Peter and Le Sueur available. Successful candidates for this position must have, at a minimum, a High school diploma or equivalent and a valid State of Minnesota CDL minimum of Class C Driver's License with passenger endorsement. Candidates will have thirty days from the date of employment to obtain the required driver's license and the City will help the new employee train for the license test. \$16.23 per hour. All applicants must complete a City application form which is available 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 by 5:00 p.m. on November 27, 2019. Faxed, emailed, and/or late applications will not be accepted. For more information go to www.saintpetermn.gov/city. AA/EEO

CITY MEETING CALENDAR – For questions on meeting dates/times, please contact the City Administrator's Office at 934-0663. Full calendar available at www.saintpetermn.gov.

Thursday	November 7	5:30 p.m.	 Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	November 11		 LEGAL HOLIDAY – VETERAN'S DAY CITY OFFICES CLOSED
Tuesday	November 12	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Tuesday	November 11	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting

Monday	November 18	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Tuesday	November 21	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	November 22	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	November 25	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	November 26	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	November 27	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday - Friday	November 28-29	 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - CITY OFFICES CLOSED	