

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

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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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10/23/19

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on October 14, 2019 included changes to the City Code related to the definitions of different types of day care establishments; designating City-owned property directly west of the wastewater treatment plant as a future dog park; establishing a grant program for central business district property owners to make their property more accessible; awarding bid for \$457,000 in equipment certificates to Pioneer Bank; adoption of job descriptions for two Recreation and Leisure Services positions; final acceptance of the T.H. Reconstruction Project; approval of a request for assistance from the Chamber of Commerce for the Halloween Fun run; and a closed session to discuss Parks Union negotiations.

The next regular City Council meeting, will be Monday, October 28th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – *So the story starts out with a great garage sale find...*

A dresser from AEKI - you know, one of those that you spend about a day and a half putting together. My wife buys it, brings it home, and we then need the chest of draws to match it. So we go online find out there they are and find out that there are four remaining in the store. She orders it to pick up a few hours later.

We get to the store (which I often think of as the three layers of Swedish *helvete* - kind of like Dante's Inferno although Dante's store has seven levels). We look up on the screen at the pick-up desk and our number is not there which means they have not "picked it" yet. So we decide to wander into the stacks of "you assemble it" boxes and find the chest of drawers.

Right above the slot or bin or whatever they call it is a big orange sign that says this product comes in 3 boxes. Orange sign "3 boxes". We look in the bin and there is box #1 and box #2 but no box #3. So we go get help and the helper in the yellow and blue striped shirt says, "Well it says on my computer there is one unit left so someone must have picked up the wrong box #3."

So crap, we already paid for it online so how did it get out of the store? So we go to a desk, talk to a manager in the same blue and yellow vertical striped shirt, and I tell him the story that we need box #3 and we already paid so what can he do?

So his customer service skills and his ability to be understanding about our frustration that we drove a long way to get it, not to mention that we already paid, and now no box #3, all see a bit shallow. More talk, more albeit louder talk, lots of unhappiness, wife mad, me mad, and basically we are mad at each other.

If you're married you have probably been here before too. So we leave with no chest of drawers, mad at each other vowing not to go back. We don't talk the whole way home and unhappiness abounds. But on the bright side this is no problem that a couple of lawyers couldn't solve. All over a chest of drawers, well technically over box #3 of a chest of drawers.

So a day or two passes, the ice between my wife and I thaws, no attorneys are called and we decide that I will go up and try again. We look online and see there are eight of these chests in the store. So off I go the AEKI store and more specifically level 3 of Swedish *helvete*. I go to the same spot and I find a big orange sign that says this is a 3 box set. What do I find? Eight box #1's and eight box #2's and ZERO box #3's. Uhg uhg uhg!!!!

So I go get a guy in a blue and yellow shirt, we walk back to where the sign is, where the 3 boxes for the chest of drawers are supposed to be. He looks up and down the pile of boxes and says to me "I know the sign says three boxes but that sign is wrong this item is only two boxes. Box #1 and Box #2 that's it."

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?????!!!!!!!
#%\$#%\$##@&#\$#! After a few unhappy words under my breath I asked, "Are you sure?" and he responded, "Yes". So I buy it and head home having learned a bunch of valuable lessons.

What are those lessons and how do they apply to the City? What the "helvete" am I talking about? Will you read next week to find out? It makes me wonder.....

(For those of you not of Swedish heritage, please note that "helvete" is not misspelled...it's a Swedish word. Google the definition if you need more insight into the particular use of this word in this column.)

ELECTION DAY REMINDERS – Voters living in Ward I are reminded that this year again, voting will take place at Johnson Hall at the Fairgrounds.

Due to a lengthy renovation project at the National Guard Armory, the City relocated the Ward 1 polling place to the Nicollet County Fairgrounds last year. The project is wrapping up, but to ensure election regulations regarding advance notification to voters when polling place changes take place, this year's voting will also take place at Johnson Hall.

The City extends its appreciation to the Nicollet County Fair Board for allowing use of the building again this year.

Ward II voters will continue to cast their ballots at the Community Center.

Absentee ballots for the November 5th general election are available at the Nicollet County Property and Public Services Office in the Government Center (501 South Minnesota Avenue). This office will be providing absentee ballots for all eligible voters in School District #508 whether you live in Nicollet or Le Sueur Counties.

Voters no longer need an excuse to choose to vote by absentee and applications for absentee voting are available from the County or you can download an application from the Secretary of State's website at [ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION](#).

Absentee balloting is available through Monday, November 4, 2019.

FUTURE DOG PARK – The City Council's recent action to designate approximately 1.5 acres of City-owned land immediately to the



west of the wastewater treatment plant as a dog park means dog owners in St. Peter will soon have another option for exercising their pets.

Unlike the current dog park which is frequently closed due to flooding of the Minnesota River, the new site will not only never flood (fingers crossed), but is more convenient due to its location within the city.

The River Valley Dog Park Association is raising funds for necessary fencing, water service to the site, and other amenities. Once a certain fundraising threshold is met and the donations turned over to the City, the Council is expected to authorize purchases necessary to get the park up and running. This work is expected in spring, 2020.

FALL YARD WASTE COLLECTION –

Update: - With many leaves not yet fallen, the crews are changing things up. Beginning October 24th they will begin collecting leaves on the south end of town too, but don't worry if you're not yet ready for them. They will make another pass through the entire community. Keep an eye on the City's website (www.saintpetermn.gov) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/CityOfStPeter) for more updates on the schedule.



The annual leaf and grass clipping collection continues for properties north of Broadway Avenue. Collection for properties **south of Broadway** begins at 7:00 A.M. Monday, November 4th.

To help ensure the process goes smoothly here's some tips:

- Place leaves parallel and adjacent to the curb (within six feet [6'] of the curb line).
- Do not put leaves in the street or on a tarp and don't cover the leaves with a tarp or put in bags.
- Do not include animal waste with the leaves, as the person using the vacuum hose gets covered with a fine dust of whatever is in the leaves.
- Help us serve you better by placing brush and leaves away from curbs, light poles, mailboxes, signs, trees, posts, utility boxes/pedestals, etc.
- If possible, do not put leaves on a curve in the street as the machine has a hard time picking up leaves that aren't in a straight line.
- Do not park in front of the yard waste until pick-up is complete and if possible, allow fifty feet (50') either side of the pile so the

machine has enough room to collect the material.

- If you live on a dead-end street, place material on the curb in front of the house, not on the dead-end.
- If you live on a corner lot it is possible that one side will be picked up before the other as the trucks run north to south and then east to west to be more efficient in the collection process. (Suggestion: Place all leaves on the same side of the street if you want all your leaves picked up at the same time.)

The collection process is quite lengthy, it took over 5 weeks in 2018, and in order to complete the process before it snows, crews sometimes have to start the collection before all the leaves have fallen. Collection dates for the areas north and south of Broadway are rotated each year.

Should you miss the collection dates, yard waste can be taken to the City's yard waste drop-off site.

Note: Snow may end the process prematurely but leaves, brush, and garden waste can still be taken to the drop-off site.

DROP-OFF SITE OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK - The brush and soft yard waste drop-off sites located at 1128 North Swift Street, (southwest intersection of St. Julien and North Swift Streets) with access from North Swift Street are open year around for your convenience in dropping off brush and soft yard waste. Brush and tree trimmings need to be cut shorter than 6 feet. **There is a separate bunker provided for dropping off fill (rocks, dirt, etc.).**

This service is provided and funded by the Environmental service fee on City residential utility bills.

PARK RESTROOMS TO CLOSE – The restroom facilities in all City parks will officially close on October 25th. This is done to ensure the facilities can be winterized to prevent broken pipes before cold weather sets in and to avoid the facilities becoming the targets of vandals on Halloween.

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

- **MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT** - Department of Public Works. Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma and associates degree in construction, construction management, Public Works operations or equivalent, five year's experience in a related field may be substituted for post-secondary

education; possession of a valid driver's license; demonstrated proficiency using Microsoft Word and Excel software. Desirable qualifications include more than five years of experience in construction, construction management, and/or Public Works operations; demonstrated personnel supervision experience of greater than one year; demonstrated experience in assisting in preparation of budgets and monitoring expenditures; demonstrated knowledge of approved methods, materials, and tools used in the construction, maintenance, and cleaning of streets, other public right-of-ways, parks, structures, and recreational facilities; knowledge of municipal forestry operations; knowledge of environmental services operation; knowledge of heavy and light equipment operations; knowledge of operating characteristics and servicing of equipment; knowledge of traffic laws and regulations governing equipment operations; knowledge of applicable regulatory codes and laws related to Public Works departmental operations; demonstrated ability to read and interpret engineering and landscaping plans and specifications; demonstrated knowledge of pavement management and planning practices; demonstrated knowledge of parks and forestry operations; demonstrated knowledge of OSHA regulations and safety policy; knowledge of Federal and State vehicle operation regulations. **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. Starting pay range \$71,074 - \$75,483 per year. 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 or by calling (507) 934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 30, 2019. Faxed, e-mailed, and/or late applications will not be accepted. Interviews will be conducted Tuesday, November 12, 2019. AA/EOE

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.

Friday	October 25	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	October 28	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	October 29	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Monday	November 4	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority

Monday	November 4	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
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Tuesday	November 5		ELECTION DAY
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Thursday	November 7	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
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Monday	November 11		LEGAL HOLIDAY – VETERAN'S DAY CITY OFFICES CLOSED
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Tuesday	November 12	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
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Tuesday	November 11	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
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Monday	November 18	3:00 p.m.	City Council Workshop
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Tuesday	November 21	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
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Friday	November 22	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
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Monday	November 25	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
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Tuesday	November 26	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
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Wednesday	November 27	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
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Thursday - Friday	November 28-29		THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - CITY OFFICES CLOSED
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