

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



www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter

09/25/19

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on September 23, 2019 included public hearings and subsequent action on modifications to the City Code relative to the definition and zoning of religious vs. public assemblies and parks and recreation services; a public hearing and subsequent action to approve transfer of increments generated by Tax Increment Financing District No. 1-15 to fund debt service payments for the bonds used for Traverse Green Subdivision; approval for purchase of a replacement motor grader to be funded by the 2020 Equipment Certificate; and authorization for City assistance for the Nicollet County Trails Association Club Haunted Hayrides fundraising event in October. Proposed modifications to the City Code related to definition of day care operations were tabled.

The next regular City Council meeting, will be Monday, October 14th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – *Big Romantic....*

The other day I spotted one of the kids dropping off papers in our neighborhood. It reminded me of the time

when I asked my wife on the route with me about five years ago.

Big romantic that I am, I invited the love of my life, my wife Ytive, on the paper route I shared with our boys. It was a nice evening and I thought we could walk and visit and maybe she would carry some of the papers. I am after all a big romantic....

Anyway, as I am walking a block ahead just pounding out the route like usual, she had stopped to visit with neighbors or text or call her Mom. When we got back together, she said, "Isn't there a more efficient way to do this?"

I responded loudly - only in my head because I am not dumb - that we have only had this route for eight years and we have tried all kinds of ways to deliver the papers... different directions, bags, skating, biking, running, etc... You name it we tried it.

The actual answer that came from my mouth was "What...you come on the route one time for about 15 minutes and you are questioning efficiency? It is so great you care."

Ytive smiled that wry smile she has and probably thought, "It makes me wonder... Hmmm.?"

As soon as I got over the pure audacity of the question, I started to think a fresh pair for eyes on this route might be good thing. A bit of self-reflection and outside analysis is a good thing from time to time.

I think that is true in City operations as well. It is generally bad to do things "this way" because we always do it "this way". As I look at Transit and the changes that have been made, I see what we are doing and what we are really looking for is a needed change. We are working to experiment a bit with ways to continue service and meet the goals we have for money and replacement of equipment.

As we look at doing the nice work that Parks has done in downtown lights over the holidays, with snow plowing by the Streets crew or providing space at the Community Center, please know that the plans will be looked at many times over the months and years. We all need to be ready for changes in the future as use changes, people change, and destinations change.

So as we make changes and experiment please hang with us and know that we are open to ideas and know that as we gain a new perspective we might need to change some more.

Now back to the paper route. Did I change how I walked the route? Officially I said, "No, not at all!" but a few tweaks might happen from time to time. After all, I am a big romantic and this time, it makes HER wonder...

FALL HYDRANT FLUSHING – The Water Utility crew will begin fall hydrant flushing and flow testing between 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. on October 7th, and continue until all hydrants are flushed - approximately October 18th.



This process could make water cloudy temporarily and residents are reminded to check the water clarity prior to doing laundry during this period.

For more information on hydrant flushing, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

TIRE, APPLIANCE AND ELECTRONICS COLLECTION – The Tri-County Solid Waste office has announced a tire, appliance and electronics collection for residents of for Nicollet, Sibley and Le Sueur county residents (proof of residency may be requested).

The event will be held at the Nicollet County Fairgrounds, 400 West Union Street on Saturday, October 5, 2019 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.. Here's the list of what they will accept:

- Kid's car seat disposal: FREE.
- Mattress and box springs: \$10/item. Will not be accepted if wet from being outside or deemed infested.
- Appliances: \$10 each. Extra fee charged if appliance is not emptied
- Tires: Car/light truck tires \$2 each
- Semi/small implement tires \$5 each
- Large implement tires \$10 each.
- Tires on rims will be charged double
- TV's any size \$10
- Small electronics \$5
- Computer hard drives \$5

The contractor has the right to reject any and all appliances that do not conform to their state permit requirements. For more information on this collection, please contact the Tri-County solid Waste Office at 507-381-9196

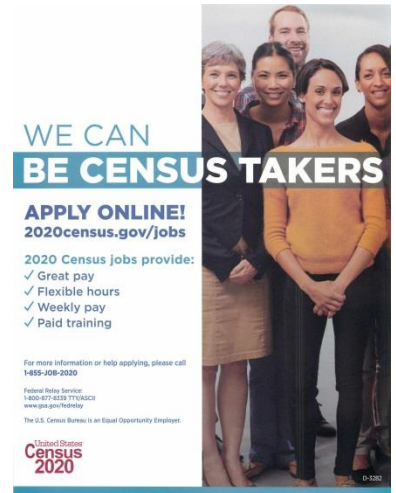
CENSUS 2020 JOBS – The United States Census Bureau is gearing up for the 2020 Census. While most of us will only participate by filling out the survey, other people have the opportunity to be more involved by working for the Census directly.

If you're looking for a short-term gig to make extra money it's something to consider. All the info you need is on the poster shown here.

And as a reminder....participation in the Census is vitally important to not only Saint Peter, but to all of Minnesota. In 2020 it is projected that Minnesota may lose a congressional seat and that's just one reason why it's so important that every resident be counted.

Census numbers are also used in the distribution of grants and aid from the Federal government to the state and every person counted helps Minnesota maintain the level of funding we receive for services. It is estimated that on a per capita basis, \$1,532 of these funds comes to Minnesota for every resident. That's over \$8 billion! For every one person who is missed during this census, Minnesota stands to lose \$15,320 until the next census in 2030. Multiply that by even a few hundred people missed during the Census and it adds up quickly.

So you can see why participating in Census 2020 is so vitally important to all of us.



HOUSE ADDRESSING – The City's Building Official reminds property owners of the need to install house numbers on their homes. The numbers must be plainly visible from the street, be in contrasting colors to the siding and be at least 4" in height. This requirement is included in the City Code as part of the 2015 Minnesota Fire Code and applies to all properties within the community.



Having these numbers helps ensure that emergency services can easily find your home.

For residents who might be transplants from southern states or other areas where house numbers are painted on the curb line, please note this is not an option in Saint Peter where winter snows would obscure the numbers six months out of the year.

Those with questions on this requirement are encouraged to contact the Building Department at 934-0662.

PROVIDING ANIMALS WITH SHELTER WALK – Are you ready for the 19th Annual P.A.W.S. Walk?

This year's walk takes place October 12, 2019. Registration begins at 9:30 am at the Mill Pond area of Riverside Park.

Start your fundraising efforts by asking family, friends, co-workers, neighbors and even complete strangers for donations for this year's P.A.W.S. fundraiser.

The walk involves stopping at stations along the designated route and collecting donated items from generous sponsors. Pets and people alike are encouraged to dress for Trick or Treating and take part in the costume contest.

Pets must be leashed and pledges should be collected before walk day. Walkers raising \$20 or more will receive a trick or treat bag to participate in the treat stops and those raising \$35 or more will also receive a free P.A.W.S. t-shirt.

All proceeds generated from this fundraiser are used to provide medical care and shelter for abandoned or surrendered animals while they wait for adoption by their forever families. The funds are sometimes also used to buy down the cost of adoption for animals that have been in the pound a long time and need a forever home.

For more information on this event, or to pick up a pledge sheet, please visit City Hall (227 South Front Street) or the Police Department (207 South Front Street) or check out the PAWS page at [PAWS PAGE](#).

Don't worry if you don't have a pet to walk! If you love animals and want to help out, register to walk and make friends with someone else's pet or just make a donation. Donations are always welcome!

Thank you for your participation.

COLD WEATHER RULE – The State law known as the "cold weather rule" will go into effect October 15th. That's a month away, but never too early to remind folks who are behind on their utility bills about this important date.

Under certain condition, this law prevents utility providers from disconnecting a customer's heat source for non-payment of bills. That protects customers from Minnesota's severe winter weather.

Saint Peter customers who fall under the rule are not disconnected during the cold weather rule period. Instead special meters are placed on the



account to limit the amount of power used by the customer.

If you have fallen behind on your utility bill, now is the time to stop into the City's Finance Department and make arrangements for payment of your past due account. Payment plans are available and staff is happy to work with you to find a solution that will avoid having a limiting meter placed on your account.

Please contact the Finance Department at City Hall (227 South Front Street), or by phone at 507-934-0664.

FALL YARD WASTE COLLECTION – The annual leaf and grass clipping collection begins soon. The process, which is done using a vacuum hose, will begin at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, October 21st for properties **north of Broadway Avenue**. Collection for properties **south of Broadway** begins at 7:00 A.M. Monday, November 4th.

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

- Place leaves parallel and adjacent to the curb (within six-feet (6') of the curb line).
- Please do not put leaves in the street, on a tarp, cover with tarp, or put in bags
- Please do not include animal wastes with the leaves, as the person using the vacuum hose gets covered with a fine dust of whatever is in the leaves
- Please 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, please do not put leaves on a curve in the street (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 (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.)



- Please share this information with your yard service company as different towns have different regulations.

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 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 Swift Streets) with access off 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. **Separate bunker now provided for dropping off fill (rocks, dirt, etc.).**

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

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

- **PART-TIME BUS DRIVER** - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the position of Part-time Bus Driver for the Minnesota River Valley Transit system. 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 (30) 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. Candidates who possess the following desired experience or education will qualify for additional points towards an interview: previous experience working with the public; training in vehicle mechanics; experience operating a two-way radio/phone; and prior bus driving experience. Starting wage \$16.23 per hour. Applicants are required to complete a City

application form which is available in 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. September 30, 2019. Faxed, emailed, 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

- **PART-TIME BUILDING SUPERVISOR** - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the position of part-time Building Supervisor at the Saint Peter Community Center. Minimum qualifications include: High school diploma or equivalent. CPR and First Aid training or ability to be certified within six months of employment. Experience working with the public. Desirable qualifications include: Experience in building maintenance functions. Current CPR and First Aid Certification. \$10.88 per hour. Applicants must complete a City of Saint Peter available from the City Administrator's Office at 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 September 30, 2019. Faxed, emailed or late applications will not be accepted. 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.

Wednesday September 25

12:30 p.m.

Hospital Commission

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Thursday | September 26 | 12:00 noon | Economic Development Authority CANCELLED |
| Friday | September 27 | 8:00 a.m. | Tourism and Visitors Bureau |
| Thursday | October 3 | 5:30 p.m. | Planning and Zoning Commission |
| Monday | October 7 | 3:30 p.m. | Housing and Redevelopment Authority |
| Monday | October 7 | 5:30 p.m. | City Council Workshop |
| Monday | October 14 | 7:00 p.m. | City Council Meeting |
| Monday | October 21 | 5:30 p.m. | City Council Workshop |
| Monday | October 21 | 7:00 p.m. | Parks and Recreation Advisory Board |
| Wednesday | October 23 | 12:30 p.m. | Hospital Commission |
| Thursday | October 24 | 12:00 noon | Economic Development Authority |
| 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 Commissions |