

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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08/28/19

LABOR DAY CLOSURES – All non-emergency City offices will be closed on Monday, September 2nd in recognition of the Labor Day holiday. Minnesota River Valley Transit buses will not operate that day either. Both the Community Center and Library will be closed between Saturday, August 31st and Monday, September 2nd.

Everything will be open and running again bright and early on Tuesday morning.



CENSUS 2020 – It only happens once every decade and it's mandated by the constitution. What is it?

Why the U.S. Census of course! The first Census occurred with the birth of the United States government when our founding fathers needed to know how to apportion our representation in Congress and it's happened every 10 years since then. Today, the data collected through the Census helps determine legislative representation, conduct research, craft public policy, and allocate government funds.

Everyone who has established a residence in the U.S. is counted, including individuals with work visas, international students, and unauthorized immigrants, but excluding temporary visitors such as tourists. And for those of us in Minnesota, it's especially crucial that every single person is counted because one of our congressional seats may be on the line.

Do you think the work of the Census starts in April of 2020? Think again! City staff have been hard at work for months preparing for the Census, attending training and participating in the LUCA (Local Update of Census Addresses) program. During this phase, the City verifies every residential address within the corporate limits of the City to ensure that census materials are distributed to those properties. That helps ensure that every person is counted.

The second phase is for the Census Bureau to review what is returned to them and, if necessary ask for further information regarding a property they didn't previously have in their records. Census workers were in St. Peter just recently doing some in-person verification of addresses. Along with their in-person visits, the City submitted additional documentation on some properties. That phase has now also been completed.

Coming up in the next few weeks the City will create a "Complete Count Committee" that will help get the word out about the importance of every single person being counted. These folks will help us reach populations that tend to be undercounted....snow birds, college students, and others. More information on that activity will be provided in the Hot Sheet at a later date.

All this leads up to the big day.....April 1, 2020. That's when the public is asked to start completing the census questionnaire, either by paper copy or online. The law gives us one month to get the form completed before the Census Bureau sends out enumerators to ask the questions in person, but we hope everyone participates before that happens.

The 2020 Census will be the first time you can take the survey online. In fact, the Bureau's goal is to have 55% of responses submitted digitally, whether on a desktop computer or mobile phone. Most households will be contacted by mail with a unique code to fill out the survey online. However, in neighborhoods with low internet access or usage, the paper form will be distributed.

The more people who take the survey online, the more money the Bureau saves having to track down non-respondents. The proposed budget for the 2020 survey is \$15.6 billion, which works out to roughly \$111 per household surveyed, depending on population growth.

In 2010 Saint Peter had a great participation rate during that month long process....we were close to 90%. But 90% is not 100% and we hope to increase our numbers this year with your help. In addition to ensuring we keep all of Minnesota's

congressional seats, every person who is counted helps bring federal money to St. Peter, southern Minnesota and indeed the entire State.

Will you be counted? We're "counting" on it!

TRAIL MAINTENANCE – Now that the City's street seal coating project is wrapping up, Public Works will turn its attention to maintaining the many miles of trails located throughout the community.

As with the roadways, the trails will be "fog sealed" to prevent water penetration which could destroy the trail surface. During this process, the trails will be closed to the public for a minimum of one day while the oil is applied. When dried, the trails will be reopened for the enjoyment of all.

The work will occur the week of September 9th, weather permitting. Notice of the trail closure will go up before the work begins. If you have children who utilize these trails to walk to school, please plan other routes for them now.

Residents are asked to adhere to the "Trail Closed" signs to avoid contact with the oil residue. It will dry in approximately 24 hours but that the material may stick to shoes, bicycles etc. if accessed before it dries.

Your cooperation is appreciated regarding this matter. Should you have questions about this process, please contact the Department of Public Works at 934-0670.

MINNESOTA SQUARE PARK PAVILION UPDATE – Work on the new Pavilion at Minnesota Square Park is 99% completed. While final details of the actual structure are being completed now, work on the landscaping, including installation of sod, will begin soon weather permitting. The construction fencing is expected to come down in just a few days as the contractors move their equipment and materials out of the park.

The City's Construction Manager for the project, R.W. Carlstrom of Mankato, has done an exceptional job in bringing the project in on schedule. That's great news for the upcoming Rock Bend Folk Festival which will be the first large scale user of the new facility.

HIGHWAY 169 MAINTENANCE ROAD CLOSURES – The following notice was received from MNDOT District 7 regarding maintenance planned for Highway 169 in St. Peter Aug. 27-29.....

MANKATO, Minn. – The northbound right lane of Highway 169 in St. Peter from Broadway to Union Street will be closed for maintenance work Tuesday, August 27 through Thursday, August 29, weather permitting.

In addition to the right lane closure, city side streets will be closed off as the operation moves from south to north and driveway access will experience short term (one to two hours) closures after the maintenance operation goes through.

The maintenance work consists of micro-surfacing with asphalt and small rock to extend the life of the pavement and provide a smoother ride until MnDOT can resurface Highway 169 in 2022.

Motorists are asked to drive with caution through the work zone and watch for workers, traffic control and equipment. For updated road condition information, call 511 or visit www.511mn.org

RIVER'S EDGE HOSPITAL URGENT CARE CENTER IS VA AUTHORIZED PROVIDER - River's Edge Hospital works hard to meet its mission and vision to provide quality healthcare services and improve the health



of all those they serve. The hospital is also proud to serve Veterans and ensure they have access to quality care.

The Hospital has announced that the Urgent Care at River's Edge Hospital is now a VA Authorized Urgent Care Provider. As a VA Authorized Provider, Veterans who receive health benefits through the VA can now use the River's Edge Urgent Care and receive their VA benefit. The River's Edge Urgent Care staff will verify the individual's eligibility when they present to Urgent Care.

As part of the VA Mission Act of 2018, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs offers an urgent care benefit to provide great choice and access to quality care.

Urgent Care at River's Edge Hospital is open Monday through Friday, 12 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Urgent Care is closed on holidays.

Any questions about use of the Urgent Care and how individuals can receive their VA benefits by using Urgent Care can be directed to Sheri Schmidt, Patient Financial Services Manager, at 507-934-7605 or sschmidt@rehc.org.

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY – School starts in just a couple of weeks for Saint Peter students. And many students will be going to a brand new school.

Lots of folks are sure to be confused or running late as they try to sort out that beginning of school schedule and that could



mean traffic safety issues. So, it's a great time to review back to school safety tips for drivers and pedestrians alike.

This information is a compilation of materials put out by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association.

If your child is going to ride the bus to school you probably already know that buses are safer than cars. However, that doesn't mean the bus won't pose a danger for your child. To help prevent injuries involving school buses, here are some tips to pass on to your children:



- Have a safe place to wait for your bus, away from traffic and the street.
- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk ten giant steps away. Remember that the bus driver can see you best when you are back away from the bus.
- Use the handrail to enter and exit the bus. Backpacks are heavy and can throw a child off balance when climbing steps. Using the handrail provides an extra measure of safety.
- Be aware of street traffic around you. Drivers must follow certain rules concerning school buses, however, not everyone does and it's better to wait until you see cars come to a complete stop before you try and cross the street.
- Only cross the street at corners in the crosswalk.
- Not all children will be bused to school and if your child lives close enough to walk or bike to school, here's some tips to help limit their danger:
- Instruct your child to follow traffic signals and instructions from the crossing guard and never cross the street against the light.
- Know your child's route to and from school and the time it takes. Ask them to not deviate from the established path or timeline. If your child rides a bike to school or home, practice the route before the start of school and know where any crossing guards or help might be.

- Instruct your child to walk their bike through intersections.
- Instruct the child to walk with a buddy.
- Outfit your child with reflective material to make them more visible to traffic. Putting this material on their backpacks is also helpful. Remember that once daylight savings changes in the fall it might be dark in the mornings when they go to school or when they are coming home.
- Teach your children to lock up their bikes when they get to their destination, including when they get home. Bikes are often stolen from yards and unlocked garages.
- Get your child in the habit of always wearing a helmet when they get on their bike. Make yourself an example by wearing your helmet too.
- Ride with your child! Parents can always use the extra exercise, and a bicycle ride creates an opportunity for parent-child involvement and good quality conversation time.
- Have a safety contingency plan...just in case! Does your child know a certain neighbor whose home can be considered a "safe house" in the event of a bike or safety issue? Could your youngster carry a walkie-talkie or, if an older child, a cell phone (even if it's only for emergencies)? Parents should provide their kids with "what if" scenarios they can think through...just in case the unthinkable happens. When it comes to your child's well-being, there is no such thing as being over-prepared.
- As the driver of a vehicle, whether you are taking a child to school or not, it's important to be even more alert and aware because once



school begins there will be significantly more traffic in and around school zones. Here are some tips to help everyone be safer:

- Wear your seat belt! Seat belts are the best form of protection in the event of a crash. And everyone needs to be buckled up properly. That means older kids in seat belts, younger kids in booster seats and little kids in child safety seats. And you, the driver? Set an example for your children and remember to buckle up yourself.



- Remember that in Minnesota it's illegal to pass a school bus with flashing red lights. And don't think you can get away with violating this rule just because there aren't any Police Officer's around! Bus drivers can and will pass on the license number of a driver violating this rule to the Police!
 - Reduce your speed in a school zone. Legal speed limits in these areas will be posted, but you can make it even safer by slowing down even further.
 - Be alert for children who might dart out between parked cars. Remember they are smaller than most vehicles and you might not see them until it is too late. And parents, teach your child to always cross at the crosswalk so that this situation doesn't happen.
 - That's a lot of things to think about, but parents and children also need to be aware of personal safety. Here are a few more tips to keep your child safe:
 - Never label or print your child's name on the outside of backpacks, lunches or clothing. Doing so will make it possible for criminals to learn your child's name and trick them.
 - Establish a "SECRET CODE WORD" with your child. Explain to your kids never to go with anyone that does not know the "code word" regardless of the circumstances.
 - Explain to your children to:
 - Never talk to strangers.
 - Never get in a car with strangers.
 - Never let a stranger into their home.
 - Never let a stranger touch them.
 - Never allow your child to play in a dimly lit or unsupervised place.
 - Remind your child to play and walk in a group. There is safety in numbers.
 - Take a current photo of your child. Should the child go missing, having a current photo will help the Police.
- This is just a sampling of ideas that you can use to keep your children safe as they go back to school. Talking to your children before school starts, and giving them gentle reminders throughout the year is a good start to ensuring everyone has a safe and enjoyable school year!

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.

Monday	September 2		LABOR DAY – CITY OFFICES CLOSED
Tuesday	September 3	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Thursday	September 5	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	September 9	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	September 9	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 10	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	September 16	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	September 16	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday	September 23	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 24	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	September 25	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	September 26	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	September 27	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau



Monday

September 30th

3:00 p.m.

City Council Goal Session