

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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03/20/19

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on March 11, 2019 included award of bids for Phase 2 of the Minnesota Square Park Pavilion Project; approval for award of an alternate bid to install piping for in-slab snow melting at the new entrance of River's Edge Hospital; approval for Brett Annexstad to lease 11 acres of City owned land for agricultural purposes in 2019; and a closed session to discuss land purchase negotiations for land for a future fire station.

The next regular City Council meeting, will be Monday, March 25th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – Tis the season. Snow, rain, sunshine, rain, snow, freeze, potholes.

What is probably the number one enemy of streets? It's that freeze, thaw, water, freeze cycle that helps develop potholes. During the last couple of weeks, potholes have sprung up like dandelions in my yard. One day nothing, the next day well.... Uhhgg!?!#\$\$%?!

I would challenge you, as you are out and about in other communities to take a drive around and find a town whose streets are in better shape than Saint Peter. While we know we have a few problem areas, like frost boil heaves in two areas of South Front Street, we are in really pretty darn good shape.

Why? It has to do with the maintenance that is done in the summer. "Full depth patching" is the process you see our crews use in many areas. This process is where we take a pot hole or a bigger area of roadway that looks like alligator skin and dig it up, sometimes a few feet down, and put in new base material, pack it nice and hard, and then put new blacktop (bituminous) in its place, smoothing it out nicely. The secret to this fix and

keeping a pothole from reappearing is the new base material and packing it right. "Alligating" and pot holes are usually caused by problems under the blacktop and of course, water and the thaw-freeze cycle.

The other important process we use is "seal coating". Seal coating is the process where we put that "oil" (emulsifier) on the street and then cover with those small rock chips. You drive on it for a week and the little rocks get mushed into the emulsifier and it all adheres to the road surface. This process is designed to do a few things, but one of the biggest things it does is help keep the roadway more watertight which prevents water from seeping through cracks and ultimately, avoids the creation of potholes. We usually do over a hundred blocks of that seal coating each year and most streets are done sealed about every seven years or so. That timeline can change based on the condition of the road, plans for more work under that road in the future and the level of traffic.

These two processes, full depth patching and seal coating, are not cheap in the short run, but are much, much cheaper in the long run. It is much less expensive in the short run to see a hole, throw some black top in it and smooth it out, but those are usually only temporary fixes and we have to go back and repeat the repairs time and again. The work we do to help prevent problems is the foundation fix that helps prevent reoccurrence. The right work in the summer helps our long term goals which are: keep the road in good shape for users and reduce costs in the long term by fixing the problem right the first time. As my Grandpa would say "an ounce of prevention is cheaper than....." Well, you know the saying. Summer preparation is the difference.

Have you noticed what we do? It makes me wonder.....

CITIZENS ACADEMY – The City Council has discussed the establishment of a "Citizens Academy". The goal of this academy would be to

give members of our community an opportunity to get to know City staff and learn more about the City and how it operates. The academy would be a free program that takes place over five evenings at various locations throughout the City. Each session would include meeting staff, getting to know some of the things that go into everyday activities of the City, and tours.

The Academy gives participants the opportunity to learn more about each City department, including Police, Fire, Administration, Community Development, Public Works (including the Utilities divisions), Building, and Recreation. Each session will be about an hour and a half in length. Graduates, those attending four or more of the five sessions, will receive special recognition by the City Council in the HOT SHEET and at a Council meeting. The Academy will start after Labor Day and will be on Wednesday evenings.

At this point in time, we are just trying to determine how many might be interested in participating in the program. If you think you might be interested, please contact my office at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov or 507-934-0663. A minimum of 12 participants will be required. Actual registration will take place sometime this summer.



FROZEN WATER SERVICES –

There are a few properties in Saint Peter that are prone to frozen water lines and in the last week or so, calls have come

in asking for help. As a property owner there are things you can do to minimize the impact of frozen water lines and also to prevent your service line from freezing in the first place.

First, if your service has a history of freezing you should monitor the water temperature. Water coming into your dwelling should be between 43 - 47 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter. Any temperature below that may indicate frost in the area of your service line.

Second, if your water temperature is beginning to approach that 40° threshold, you may want to let your water run in order to prevent the line from freezing. A steady slow trickle, the width of a pencil eraser should do the trick. The cost of letting the water run should be substantially less than the repair cost if your lines freeze.

But what should you do if your lines do freeze? Call the Public Works Department at (507) 934-0670 (7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday) or Saint Peter Police Dispatch at 507-934-1550, after hours and weekends. We're happy to provide information on how to thaw your water service line. Information is also available on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/sites/default/files/documents/public-works/Frozen%20Water%20Services2017.pdf>.

POTHOLES, POTHOLES, POTHOLES – They are the bane of existence for streets crews throughout Minnesota and it seems as if overnight they have started to appear everywhere!



The problem at this time of year is it's almost impossible to provide for permanent fixes to the roadway. Asphalt plants are not in operation and

cold mix repairs just don't seem to stick making the word of the day for drivers.....CAUTION!

Be safe out there everyone! (And just to clarify...the photo here is a stock photo and not an actual road in Saint Peter! ☺)

CITY COUNCIL ADVISORY BOARDS – This is the sixth in a nine part series on the City Council's advisory boards. These boards are comprised of mostly citizen members and are tasked with various responsibilities....the most important of which is providing recommendations to the City Council. Applicants are recommended for appointment by Mayor Zieman and the full Council votes on each appointment. Last week's article focused on the Hospital Commission and this week we're highlighting the Library Board.

The Library Board is made up of seven individuals serving three year terms. Unlike most of the other city advisory Board's, this group meets on alternating months on the second Tuesday of that month beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The board makes recommendations regarding policies and programs of the Library.

The seven members include Susie Carlin, Karen Snay, Sally Geary, James Nickras, Meredith McLaughlin, Michelle Twait and Loehrl Pillers. The City's Recreation and Leisure Services Director and Lead Librarian serve as ex-officio's on the board.

If you are interested in applying to be on one of the many City Council advisory boards or commissions, applications are available from the

City Administrator's Office at City Hall (227 South Front Street) or by emailing barbaral@saintpetermn.gov.

To be eligible for appointment to an advisory board, applicants must live within the corporate limits of the City and must commit to making the regularly scheduled meetings of the board.

Next week's edition of the Hot Sheet will provide information on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING COMING TO SAINT PETER

- Here's a little heads up on a new program coming to Saint Peter...food waste "green" composting. Starting sometime this spring, the City will offer drop-off site food waste composting to residential customers at two locations. This great program comes with no additional utility charges and the added benefit of possibly reducing the size of your refuse curbie to save additional money too.

Drop off locations for food waste will be provided and customers who sign up for the program will be provided a code to use at the drop-off facility.

By offering this program, the City hopes to reduce waste going to the landfill, see the use of these materials go to better environmental purposes, and, hopefully in the future, save a few dollars on overall disposal costs; not to mention making the world a better place for gosh sakes!

Keep an eye on the Hot Sheet and the City's social media sites for more information on this great program.

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

- **ELECTRIC SUPERINTENDENT** - in the Department of Public Works. Responsibilities include but are not limited to planning, coordinating, directing, and monitoring the operation of the Electric Utility; planning and supervising construction of the electrical generation and distribution system; setting priorities to deal with emergencies; coordinating activities with other divisions, departments, and organizations; assisting with planning, design, and construction of projects; evaluate need for and prepare specifications for materials and equipment; maintain operating records; prepare specifications for electric utility services, equipment, and materials; prepare reports as requested; assist in annual budget preparations; set quality standards for work to be performed; set priorities. Minimum qualifications: high school degree and satisfactory completion of a technical school program for lineman electricians and

completion of a recognized apprenticeship in electrical line work, including eight years of responsible experience in electrical distribution systems. An additional five years of experience may be substituted for technical training. Possession of, or ability to obtain, a State of Minnesota Lineman Electrician License issued by the State Board of Electricity. Possession of a valid State of Minnesota Class A Driver's License with air brake endorsement or ability to obtain such within one month of the date of employment with the City. **NOTICE:** The successful candidate must complete and pass a pre-employment drug test and is subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing. Starting salary \$81,120 to \$86,320 per year. Applicants must complete a City application form available in the City Administrator's Office, 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082-2538 or by calling (507) 931-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's Office no later than 5:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 17, 2019. Faxed, e-mailed, or late application will not be accepted.

- **WASTEWATER OPERATOR** - in the Department of Public Works. Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma or equivalent; possession of a State of Minnesota Wastewater Treatment Facility Operator Certificate or ability to obtain within one year of the date of employment with the City; possession of a State of Minnesota Type IV Biosolids Operator or ability to obtain within one year of the date of employment with the City; possession of a valid State of Minnesota Class A driver's license with Air Brake Endorsement and Tanker Endorsement or ability to obtain within six months of the date of employment with the City; possession of an American Heart Association Certification as a Basic Rescuer for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency cardiac care or ability to obtain within six months. Desirable qualifications: Satisfactory completion of a technical school program related to wastewater systems operations; up to six years of responsible experience as a wastewater system operator with at least two years experience in the operation of a Class A, B, or C system or facility, or similar industrial



facility; knowledge of the principles, practices, chemicals, and equipment used in wastewater treatment, biosolids treatment and disposal, and pumping operations; ability to perform a wide variety of tests on raw and treated wastewater, and raw and treated bio-solids; knowledge of the principles of plumbing and hydraulics; knowledge of and ability to operate Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) system; knowledge of the functions and service requirements of mechanical equipment and machinery; knowledge of OSHA regulations and safety precautions of the trade; demonstrated ability to operate a variety of wastewater plant pumping, treatment, and control equipment, biosolids treatment and disposal equipment; demonstrated ability to diagnose problems under emergency conditions and take corrective action; knowledge and experience in the operation of equipment including but not limited to

backhoes, dump trucks, jet rodder machine, tanker trucks, main line TV cameras, and line locators. 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. Pay range \$21.16 - \$31.38 per hour depending on certification level. 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 April 2, 2019. Faxed applications will not be accepted. Interviews will be conducted April 19, 2019. 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.

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| Friday | March 22 | 8:00 a.m. | Tourism and Visitors Bureau |
| Monday | March 25 | 7:00 p.m. | City Council Meeting |
| Tuesday | March 26 | 5:30 p.m. | Heritage Preservation Commission |
| Wednesday | March 27 | 12:30 p.m. | Hospital Commission |
| Thursday | March 28 | 12:00 noon | Economic Development Authority |
| Monday | April 1 | 3:30 p.m. | Housing and Redevelopment Authority |
| Monday | April 1 | 5:30 p.m. | City Council Workshop |
| Thursday | April 4 | 5:30 p.m. | Planning and Zoning Commission |
| Monday | April 8 | 7:00 p.m. | City Council Meeting |
| Tuesday | April 9 | 6:00 p.m. | Library Board |
| Monday | April 15 | 5:30 p.m. | City Council Workshop |
| Monday | April 22 | 7:00 p.m. | City Council Meeting |
| Tuesday | April 23 | 6:00 p.m. | City Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting |
| Wednesday | April 24 | 12:30 p.m. | Hospital Commission |
| Thursday | April 25 | 12:00 noon | Economic Development Authority |
| Friday | April 26 | 8:00 a.m. | Tourism and Visitors Bureau |

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| Monday | April 29 | 3:00 p.m. | City Council Goal Session |
| Tuesday | April 30 | 5:30 p.m. | Heritage Preservation Commission |