

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



01/09/19

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on December 10, 2018 included adoption of the 2018 tax levy and general fund, special revenue, debt service funds; authorization for sale of the nursing home to Benedictine Health Systems; authorization to reimburse costs related to the Minnesota Square Park Pavilion project from future bond proceeds; appointment of former Councilmember Roger Parras to fill the vacancy City Council seat in Ward I; authorization for staff to submit a Safe Routes to School grant application; and adoption of non-union/non-contract wages for 2019.

The City Council also recognized outgoing Councilmember Jeff Brand.

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



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – Governing is messy business. Really messy business. I have known for almost three decades that it is

impossible to make everyone happy. I so much want to make everyone happy, but it just doesn't work that way. Oftentimes the City is faced with choices which by its' very definition means that opposing opportunities exist. Now those opposing opportunities may not be 180 degrees in different directions, but it likely means that one or the other is preferred by someone. Lots of choices exist and a large number of them are certainly not "slam dunks". Instead it is often about perspective.

My goal for the City Council is to help make sure they have an open and informed discussion and decision process. At times that process can mean that the conversation gets messy and while I really, really like to avoid messy, it really isn't always about the mess.

I think we are judged by how we clean up the mess to make sure we are doing "the people's business" in an open and thoughtful way. So if there is a mess, how do we jump in and make it right? It makes me wonder.....

COUNCIL OATH OF OFFICE – Newly appointed Councilmember Roger Parras will take the Oath of Office at the beginning of the regular Council meeting on January 14th.

Residents may remember that Mr. Parras was appointed to complete the unexpired term of former Councilmember Jeff Brand. The appointment is for the year 2019 at which time the seat in Ward 1 will be up for election.

RIVER'S EDGE HOSPITAL AND CLINIC HOSPITAL/BLUE CROSS MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PROGRAM - River's Edge Hospital was not invited by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota to participate in the Medicare Blue Plus Southern MN Network Advantage plan for 2019. Despite attempts by River's Edge Hospital administrators to reach out to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, the insurer has denied a request to allow River's Edge Hospital to be an in-network facility. Also excluded from the network are The Orthopaedic and Fracture Clinic (OFC) in Mankato, River's Edge Hospital's partner in the OrthoEdge joint replacement program.

Although River's Edge Hospital is an out-of-network facility for the BCBS Medicare Advantage PPO program for Southern Minnesota, people who wish to continue to use River's Edge Hospital for services can still do so with the understanding that out-of-pocket costs may be higher with this Advantage plan. Those Medicare enrollees who still choose to utilize River's Edge Hospital in-network, would need to choose a different insurance company that offers a Medicare Advantage plan. These individuals can still make changes to their plan through March 31, 2019.

Both River's Edge Hospital and The Orthopaedic and Fracture Clinic work hard to

provide high-quality, cost-effective care that patients are looking for. River's Edge is a nationally certified Hip and Knee Replacement Center of Excellence and ranks in the top five percent (5%) in the nation for patient experience as reported by Press Ganey. OFC consistently scores better than others in Southern Minnesota for outcomes as reported by MN Community Measurement.

While not an in-network provider for this Blue Cross Blue Shield Medicare Advantage Plan, River's Edge Hospital is an in-network provider for all other Blue Cross Blue Shield Medicare supplement plans and Blue Cross Blue Shield commercial plans. To find out if your plan is in-network, contact your insurance provider or River's Edge Patient Financial Services at 507-934-7605.

RECREATION WINTER BROCHURE IS OUT – The 2019 Winter Brochure has been mailed out to households in Saint Peter and this year's edition is packed full with all kinds of recreation offerings for all ages.

The brochure is published three times a year in conjunction with the School District #508 Community Education office.

Extra copies of the brochure are available in the City's Recreation and Leisure Services Department at the Community Center and in the Finance Department at City Hall.

Some classes fill up quickly so register early!



HOLIDAY CLOSURES –

Monday, January 21st is the Martin Luther King, Jr. legal holiday. All non-emergency City offices will be closed for this holiday.

- The City Council workshop that would normally take place that evening has been rescheduled for Tuesday, January 22nd. The workshop will take place at the St. Peter Room beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- City transit services will continue to operate as usual.
- The Library is closed.
- The Community Center will be open as usual; however the Recreation and Leisure Services Department will be closed.

Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 22nd.

RENTAL PROPERTY REGISTRATION - It is that time of year again! Time to renew rental property registrations. Property owners with last names

beginning with M-Z will need to complete the rental application and return it to the Building Department at City Hall as soon as possible since the December 31st deadline has come and gone. Inspections must be completed by March 31st.

Cost of the rental license is \$44 per unit plus a late fee of \$36.

Rental application forms are available on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/sites/default/files/images/RentalApplication.pdf> and can be printed out and returned to the Building Department with the payment or staff can mail an application to you. For an application, or for those with questions, please contact the Building Department at 934-0662.

SIDEWALK CLEARANCE REMINDERS – It's January and winter is official here. What do winter and sidewalks have in common? The need to clear those sidewalks of winter snow of course!

City regulations require sidewalks to be cleared the entire width within 24 hours of snow ending. This also includes keeping the sidewalk clear of



blowing snow and ice. With the thawing this past week and the colder temps the last two days, many sidewalks are now covered with ice which must be removed.

It's a hefty charge (minimum of \$75) if City crews come out and do the work for you so, and certainly the Public Works crews have other things to take care of than shoveling sidewalks, so please make arrangements to get those walkways and handicap sidewalk corners shoveled!

TREE TRIMMING – (Not the Christmas tree kind of trimming!) Why is it important to keep trimming our boulevard trees? The City's Parks crews trim trees to raise the tree canopy over sidewalks to a height of 8 feet and over roadways to a height of 14 feet.

Not only is it required by City Code regulations, but this allows larger trucks, (garbage, snow plows, etc.), to travel next to the curb without hitting and breaking off lower limbs. This also helps with intersection visibility and street light obstructions. In January City crews will



begin tree trimming of boulevard trees on Elm, Pine, Jefferson, Wabasha, and Jackson streets.

Of course this work is weather dependent and may be put on hold if the crew spends lots of time in snowplow trucks!

Property owners are reminded to remove Christmas lights from all boulevard trees when the holidays are over so the lights aren't damaged by this work.

Anyone with questions on the tree trimming work should contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.



SNOWSHOES FOR RENT - Bundle up, get outside (when the weather cooperates!), and experience nature. Enjoy the winter by taking a snowshoe stroll through

the woods. The Saint Peter Recreation Department and Treaty Site History Center provide adult and youth size snowshoes for rent. Rental fees: \$5 per pair per day, \$10 for the weekend, (Deposit of \$50 per pair due upon pick up). Adult and youth sizes are available. Please call ahead for larger groups. Call 934-0667 (Recreation) or 934-2160 (Treaty Site History Center) for more information.

WARMING HOUSE HOURS AT VET'S PARK RINKS –

Once the rinks are officially open, the City will staff the warming house with an Attendant who will be on duty during the following scheduled hours:

- Mon.–Fri. from 4–9 p.m.,
- Saturdays 10 a.m.–9 p.m.,
- Sundays 1–9 p.m.
- School Vacation Days from 1–9 p.m.

Leisure Skating only will be available at one of the Veteran's rinks during the following days/times:

- Monday–Friday, 6–7 p.m.*
- Saturday/Sunday from 1–3 p.m.*

Warming House/Rink Closure Guidelines: The rink/warming house will be closed if any of the following conditions exist:

- Air temperature at -15 or colder,
- wind chill temperature at -20 or colder,
- temperatures that soften the ice,

more than 1” of snow accumulates on the ice and maintenance crews are not available (e.g. holidays, weekends).

The Warming House/Rinks may also close early due to lack of skaters.

For more information on warming house/rink closures please call the Rec Hotline at 934-0070. We also encourage parents to call the Rec Hotline prior to dropping kids off or sending them to the rink to make sure the warming house is open.

And finally, for more questions please talk with the Warming House Attendant or contact the Recreation Department at 507-934-0667 or by email at jenh@saintpetermn.gov.



NO ICE IS SAFE ICE – If you've lived in Minnesota for even one winter season you probably know that even with our cold temps no ice is safe ice.

Children, adults including ice fishing folks, and even pets should stay off of the developing ice on ponds of water and that includes the Mill Pond, stormwater retention ponds, Hallett's Pond and the Minnesota River. Please be safe.

NO ICE FISHING – The City's Mill Pond is a popular place for fishing during the warmer months; however, it is not safe for ice fishing. The pond is



spring fed and as such, the ice never gets thick enough to be considered safe. The recent warm weather has just exacerbated the thin ice problems and made the situation even more dangerous. The Pond is posted with thin ice danger signs and anyone who ventures on to the ice will be asked to vacate by Police.

*****CITY OFFICE PHONE DIRECTORY*****

New To the City? Do you need to contact a City department and you aren't quite sure which one to call? The list below might help answer your questions:

Police/Fire/EMERGENCY 931-1550 or 911
Parking tickets

Safety programs/classes
Animal impound

Municipal Campground

City Administrator 934-0663

General City information
City Council meetings and Board schedules
City Code Information
Public Information Requests

Community Development 934-0661

Economic Development
Zoning Issues
Planning
Business licensing
Animal Licensing

Building 934-0662

Building permits
Building inspections
Rental inspections

Finance 934-0664

Utility payments (billing)
Refuse collection concerns/questions
Accounts Payable
New Utility Account Customer information
Trash bag sales
Billing questions

MRVT (Rides and office) 888--880-4696

Recreation and Leisure Services 934-0667

Program registration
Youth and adult activities
Park shelter reservations
Community Center Room Reservations
Public Access

Recreation Hotline 934-0070

Cancellations
Youth Center information
Senior Center information (934-7434)
Warming house hours
Swimming pool hours

Public Works 934-0670

Electric service construction/repair/outages
Water service construction/repair
Wastewater service construction/repair
Stormwater
Environmental services
Streets
Parks
Forestry

Public Library 934-7420

Mondays-Thursdays 10 am – 8 pm
Friday 10 am – 5 pm
Saturdays 9 am – 4 pm

Community Center 934-0667

City Information Line 934-0675

Snow emergency notices
Electric outages
City Council agendas
Meeting Schedules
Sidewalk complaints
Snow shoveling complaints
Weed mowing complaints
Campground information

CITY MEETING CALENDAR – This calendar is subject to change. Should you have a question on a meeting date/time, please contact the City Administrator’s Office at 934-0663.

Monday	January 14	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	January 21		MARTIN LUTHER KING JR HOLIDAY – CITY OFFICES CLOSED
Tuesday	January 22	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Wednesday	January 23	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	January 24	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	January 25	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	January 28	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting

Tuesday

January 29

5:30 p.m.

Heritage Preservation Commission

The full calendar of City meetings is available through the calendar section of the homepage of the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov.