

# 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](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov)  
[www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter](https://www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter)



12/2/2020

**LEAF COLLECTION CONCLUDED** – After many, many weeks, the City's curbside leaf collection process has officially ended for 2020 with roughly 505 tons of leaves and garden waste collected. Residents who still have leaves to dispose of are encouraged to use the yard waste drop-off site located at the southwest corner of the St. Julien/North Swift Street intersection. The site is open year-round for the convenience of residents. The curbside collection and the drop-off site are funded by the environmental services charge on City residential utility bills.

**DISTRICT 19A RECOUNT** – Several City Election Judges joined with their counterparts from the City of North Mankato and Nicollet County staff to conduct a recount of the District 19A Representative race between Democrat Jeff Brand and Republican Susan Akland. There were a few vote total changes, but in the end, Akland continued to lead Brand after the recount. Final numbers will be certified by Nicollet County to the Secretary of State's office in the next few days.

The recount, which had been scheduled by the Secretary of State's office to take place December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, went smoothly enough that the recount was completed the first day.

As you may or may not know, the tabulating equipment (DS200) used in St. Peter and many other areas of Minnesota is extremely accurate. The equipment is tested in public prior to every election to verify it is working correctly and then, after election day, random precincts within the County are selected for a Post-Election Equipment Review (PEER) where certain races on the ballot are hand counted to verify the machine totals. This year's PEER review showed no problems with the vote count.

So, if a recount comes up with different totals, how does that happen? In almost every instance it comes down to a voter not completing their ballot by

completely filling in the oval next to the candidate of their choice. Maybe they circled their preferred candidate's name instead of filling in the oval. The machine would not recognize that as a vote, but a hand count would. Maybe the voter used a pencil instead of the pen provided. If a light enough mark, the machine might not have been able to read the mark, but the Judges doing the hand count would easily see it. Did the voter cross out one name and underline another name? Those are the kind of things that come up when a hand recount is done that may change the final tally.

So, the moral of this story is....when you step into the voting booth next time, fill that oval in nice and full so there is no question who you are casting your ballot for.

Kudos to the Election Judges from the cities of North Mankato and Saint Peter who participated in the recount and to the election staff at Nicollet County. Finally we can put the 2020 elections to bed and look forward to the November, 2021 for City Council/School Board elections.

**CITY ADVISORY BOARDS** – Have you ever wondered how cool it would be give the City Council advice on topics like the Hospital, Library, parks, civil service issues, heritage preservation, tourism or planning and zoning? The City Council has numerous advisory boards and commissions that frequently need members.

Vacancies currently exist on the Hospital Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission. In January there will also be vacancies on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Library Board and vacancies do occasionally pop up during the year.

Terms on these boards range from three to five years; most boards meet on a monthly basis (at varying times); and the City Council carefully considers the board's recommendations before taking action.

To qualify for appointment, a candidate must live within the corporate limits of the City of Saint Peter, commit to completing the full term and making the regularly scheduled meetings.

So how do you apply? Contact the City Administrator's office at [barbaral@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov) or by calling 507-934-0663 for an application.

To find out more about the various advisory boards, please check out the City's website at [Commissions & Boards | Saint Peter, MN.](#)

## IMPORTANT COVID-19 ANNOUNCEMENTS

City offices, while operational, continue to be closed to the public.

Due to the increase in COVID-19 cases in Nicollet County, City buildings have once again been closed to the public until further notice. This includes the Community Center and Library and all office buildings. Staff will still be working, but to limit possible exposure to the virus, doors will be closed to the public.

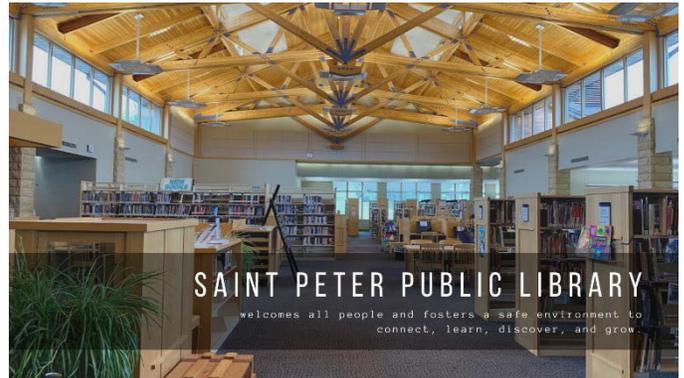
At the Community Center, tenants in the building and the Recreation and Leisure Services Department will still operate during the building closure. Please contact tenant offices directly for further information on how to access their services. For more information on the Community Center and Library, please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at (507)934-0667. See the story below for additional information on Library services during the closure.

Also of note is that due to COVID-19, a temporary reduction in service hours for Minnesota River Valley Transit has been implemented due to a driver shortage. Hours will be limited to 6:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. **through December 31, 2020.**

If you have business with the City that can't be conducted over the phone or by email, please feel free to contact the appropriate department using the numbers below. If needed someone will come to the door to assist you:

Finance Department (utility bills)	934-0664
Building Department	934-0662
Community Development Dept.	934-0661
City Administrator's Office	934-0663
Public Works Department	934-0670
Recreation/Leisure Services Dept.	934-0667
Public Library	934-7420
Minnesota River Valley Transit	888-880-4696
Police (non-emergency)	931-1550

For email contact information for these offices, please visit the City website at [www.saintpetermn.gov/directory](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/directory).



**LIBRARY ACCESSIBILITY DURING CLOSURE** - With the Governor's Order 20-99, the library will be closed to the public starting Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>; however, the library will be open by appointment only, starting Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

What services are available? While we hope Library patrons will take advantage of the many different digital offerings, staff will be working and available to provide "library by appointment" or the pick-up window option that was available during the last closure. If you have questions on what services are available or need assistance please contact us at 507-934-7420 or [lib@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:lib@saintpetermn.gov).

What is "library by appointment"? Families of the same household and/or single patrons may call to set up an appointment to browse and check out items. Limited computer time and study sessions will also be available. To schedule your appointment call 507-934-7420.

Never used the pickup window? It's easy to do. Use the library's online catalog which can be accessed from the City's website at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov), to place holds on items you are looking for. When items are ready, your hold may be picked up using the pick-up window option. You may also call the library (507-934-7420) to place holds with a librarian.

When notified that your hold is ready for pickup:

- Drive up to the book drop curb and call 507-934-7420.
- Hold pick-ups will be available 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday
- Library staff will then pull your hold and place it on the windowsill near the book drop in a plastic bag. Walk up to the window (sorry no curbside delivery is available) to collect your materials.

Interested in using digital services but haven't yet taken advantage of this option? All you need is your library card to explore the digital options from the

comfort of your own home 24 hours a day. E-books, audio books and even movies and music are just a click away with more titles are being added every day, especially in this time of need!

Don't know your library card number or don't have a card? Contact the library at 507-934-7402 or by email at [lib@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:lib@saintpetermn.gov). Your library card is your passport to e-books, audio, or hoopla streaming services.

The doors may be closed, but staff will continue to work hard to assist with questions from patrons while maintaining proper COVID-19 safety measures.

**THIN ICE WARNINGS** – The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has issued its' annual thin ice warning. Folks in Minnesota have heard it on an annual basis for years, but it's a caution worth repeating. No ice is ever 100% safe and that includes ice on the Minnesota River and the Mill Pond as well as the various storm water retention basins that are scattered around the community. For



more information on how you can be safe on the ice, please visit the DNR's website [Ice safety | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ice/safety/)

**WHAT'S MISSING?** – If you live in the very south part of the community you might realize that after sitting in ruins for many months, something is finally missing. What is it you ask? The former Kingpins bowling alley which was destroyed by fire in February, 2020.

Following the fire and the owner's inability to remove or repair the building, the City Council followed the advice of the City's Building Official and declared the property a hazard. With that designation and with the approval of a District Court Judge, the City's contractor, Rehne Excavating, began demolition of the structure and footings. Their work will end this week and City crews will then mill and remove the former parking lot, haul in fill to level the entire site, and hydroseed the property.

**DOG PARK TEMPORARILY CLOSED** – The delayed turf maintenance work at Thompson Dog Park showed even worse damage to the park than expected and has led to an unfortunate decision to temporarily close the park. The soil conditions at the site and the wear and tear on this heavily used park made repairs difficult and until the ground freezes, the park

has been closed to prevent further damage. Once the ground freezes, the park will be opened for use again. Notice of the reopening will be published through the City's usual notice channels (Hot Sheet, Facebook, website, etc.)

Worried about not being able to exercise your dog? Don't forget the original dog park located on Highway 99 east. The site is still being maintained as a dog park and is available for use.

We apologize for the inconvenience caused by closing the Thompson Dog Park and hope to reopen it soon. For more information on City parks, please visit our website at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov) or contact the Public Works Department at 507-934-0670.

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING** – The City Council meeting of November 23, 2020 included a public hearing and subsequent action to approve the vacation of the west one-half of the east-west alley in Block 44, Skaro and Evenson's Subdivision; adoption of the 2021-2022 budgets for the Electric and Environmental Services Funds; designation of 2021 election polling places; approval for assignment of the development and Tax Increment

Financing agreements with Growth Holdings, Inc. for the property at 1123 South Minnesota Avenue; approval for purchase of a new snow blower, mower, and tool cat all of which will be funded by the 2021 Equipment Certificate; acceptance of a proposal from Bolton and Menk, Inc. to prepare an Environmental Protection Agency mandated engineering report on the City's water system; approval of a Tree Worker license; and a closed session to discuss an offer to purchase the City-owned land at 101 North Front Street.

The next regular City Council meeting will be Monday, December 14th beginning at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held electronically as authorized under Minnesota Statutes 13.021. For log-in information, please visit the City's website. The log-in information will be at the bottom of the meeting agenda page which will be available under the "meetings and minutes" section of the homepage the Friday before the Council meeting.

**IMPORTANT WINTER REMINDERS** – The official start of winter might be a month off, but it will eventually arrive and even though most of us are seasoned winter survivors, we all can use a reminder about how to keep safe and on the right side of local regulations.

- **Snow emergencies** – While not declared often, snow emergencies are always declared by 5:00 p.m. and take effect at midnight. Once a snow emergency has been declared, there is NO PARKING on any snow emergency route for 48 hours even if the street has been plowed curb-to-curb. In the downtown area, beginning at 2:00 a.m. there is no parking on downtown streets between 2-6 a.m. for two days....even if the street



has been plowed curb-to-curb. To find out more about snow emergency rules, check out our website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city-snow-emergency-rules>. Want direct notice when a snow emergency has been declared? Sign up now for the City's community notification system at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com). The service is free. Or you can call the City information line at 934-0675 and follow the prompts but remember to wait until after 5:00 p.m. to do so.

- Want to save money? Don't we all? Snow plowing goes faster and the crew does a better job when all vehicles are off the roadway. You can do your part by moving vehicles from the road each time there is a plowable amount of snow. This allows the clearing to be done in less time which saves all of us money! Those who don't currently have off-street parking available should find it now.
- **Snow removal on sidewalks** – Property owners are responsible for removal of all snow and ice (including blowback snow) across the entire width of the sidewalk within 24 hours of a snowfall ending. Those who fail to do so run the risk of the City coming out and doing it for you at a cost starting at \$75. And don't forget those handicap accesses if you own property at a corner!
- **Private snow removal** – Lucky enough to have someone come and plow snow for you? Make sure to remind your contractor that it is illegal to plow snow out into the streets.
- **Help out your Meter Reader, Mail delivery person and newspaper person** – As the snow begins to accumulate, why not help out those people who walk door to door to your homes and shovel a path from your house to your neighbors

for them and from the utility meter to your sidewalk? They will appreciate you for it!



- Have you considered "adopting" the fire hydrant in your neighborhood? As winter snows begins to deepen, residents can help out the Fire Department by keeping the area around the hydrant shoveled out as shown in the picture. In the event of a fire, this will save

valuable time for the Firefighters and may even save a life.

**HELP WANTED** – The City of Saint Peter is now taking applications for the following position:

- **FULL-TIME BUS DRIVER** driving for the Minnesota River Valley Transit. Days, nights and occasional weekends in Saint Peter. 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 days from the date of employment to obtain the required driver's license and Minnesota River Valley Transit will help the new employee train for the license test. \$16.72 per hour. All applicants must complete a City application form which is available from the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street or by calling (507)934-0663 or online at <https://www.saintpetermn.gov/365/Employment>. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 p.m. on December 10, 2020. Faxed and/or late applications will not be accepted. For more information go to [www.saintpetermn.gov/city-AA/EEO](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city-AA/EEO)
- **PART-TIME BUS DRIVER** driving for the Minnesota River Valley Transit. Days, nights and occasional weekends in Saint Peter. 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 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. \$16.72 per hour. All applicants must complete a City application form which is available from the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street

or by calling (507)934-0663 or online at <https://www.saintpetermn.gov/365/Employment>. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 p.m. on

December 10, 2020. Faxed and/or late applications will not be accepted. For more information go to [www.saintpetermn.gov/city](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city). AA/EEO

**CITY MEETING CALENDAR** –\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE...Until further notice, City meetings may be conducted electronically as authorized under Minnesota Statutes 13D.021. Log-in information for meetings being held either virtually or as a hybrid virtual/in-person will be included at the bottom of the agenda page. Agendas are all posted on the City's website at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov).

Thursday	December 3	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Friday	December 4	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau (This meeting replaces both the November and December meetings for the Tourism Bureau.)
Monday	December 7	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	December 7	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	December 14	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	December 22	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday-Friday	December 24-December 25	12:00 noon - all day	 LEGAL HOLIDAY – CHRISTMAS CITY OFFICES CLOSED
Tuesday	December 29	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Friday	January 1		 LEGAL HOLIDAY – NEW YEAR'S DAY City Offices Closed

The upcoming holiday season may impact meeting dates and times. Members of the public who wish to participate in a public meeting are encouraged to contact the appropriate department prior to the meeting to confirm the meeting details.