

# 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](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov)



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10/02/19

**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.

**NORTH THIRD STREET PROJECT OPEN HOUSE** – The City will host a meeting for the residents who live on North Third Street in the area north of St. Julien Street on Thursday, October 3rd from 5:00 – 7:00 PM at the Saint Peter Community Center (600 S 5<sup>th</sup> St.). The meeting will be held in the St. Peter Room #217.

At this open house meeting, City staff will be available to answer questions about the pending project which includes improvements to stormwater collection, curb and gutter, and surface improvements along this stretch of roadway

Please call the Public Works Department at 507-934-0670 for more information.

**ADA TRANSITIONING PLAN OPEN HOUSE EVENT** - The City of Saint Peter will be performing a self-evaluation of policies, practices and pedestrian infrastructure within public rights-of-way and preparing an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Transition Plan to identify ADA deficiencies that pose barriers to safe and efficient access for all users. The ADA Transition Plan documents the findings of the self-evaluation and will provide a detailed schedule and planning-level costs for the removal of barriers to accessibility within pedestrian infrastructure in the system. In addition, public input will be gathered to help City staff identify deficiencies.

An open house for this project will take place on Wednesday, October 16th from 5-7 PM in the St. Peter Room of the Community Center.

For more information on this project please contact the Department of Public Works at 934-0670.



## **MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE)**

*Budgets and questions.....* A week or so back I was making a presentation to a group and as a part of that presentation

I talked about budgets and taxes.

In the middle of the group of attendees a hand sprang up to ask a question. Usually I will get questions about we why do this or that? How will that impact my property taxes? How come it almost always goes up? But this time the question was unusual.

This time the question was "What philosophy do you approach your budget work with?" Now that is a thought provoking question. So here is the answer for those who may not have been at the meeting.

The philosophy is to bring the Council budgets based on the programs and service standards we have had in place without puffing it up needlessly, simply to be cut later in October or November to show how great a job we can do budget cutting. That is to say, we bring a budget that will provide for the operation the Council tells us they want. Reserves are used for emergencies or efforts that are unknown to us at budget time. In some past

years we have used reserves for a deal that is too good to pass up or to pay an unexpected costs. As we set the budgets in September we do not believe additional information about costs projected only a month or two down the line will substantially impact thoughts on needs and/or priorities so we don't plan to come back to the Council multiple times between September and December and modify the budget.

We also believe the results from past budgets speak for themselves and that our budgeting philosophy has shown very positive results both from a financial and a service perspective. The positive results are measured by the deviation from budget at the end of each year. That deviation has been very, very small, as reported by the City's auditors in past years. Further, the Council does not see a flurry of purchases at the end of each year based on the theory of, "if we don't spend it we won't get it next year." We just don't do that.

There are lots of factors and things to consider in a budget and I think the most important things to note here may be that the budget is not just about numbers - it is more about a plan, a work plan, a capital plan, a plan for operations. The philosophy and the story of a budget are very important; just as important in setting a budget as the numbers.

Do you agree? It makes me 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 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.

**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](http://www.saintpetermn.gov).

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