

CITY OF SAINT PETER HOT SHEET



All the City news you need to know and a little bit more.
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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 www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



10/30/19

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on October 28, 2019 included adoption of a resolution allowing sale of refunding bonds if interest rates provide a target goal of savings; approval of a revolving loan to Keith and Carolyn Stelter for re-roofing the property at 213 South Minnesota Avenue; establishment of a Census 2020 Complete Count Committee; initiation of the process for assessment of unpaid municipal utility charges and unpaid miscellaneous charges; authorization for execution of a contract modification with LJP Waste Enterprises for the City's refuse and recycling contract agreement; and approval for purchase of two play structures to be installed in 2020 in Veteran's Memorial Park.

The next regular City Council meeting, will be Tuesday, November 12th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – So remember the visit I paid to AEKI and the three layers of Swedish helvete?.... Well this is what I learned.

Being mad about a chest of drawers is dumb. It is not a big deal in the scheme of things and my wife and I being mad at each other was most especially not worth it. Second, and this is where it relates to the City, sometimes as we (community members) work together, we need to listen to understand, not just listen to solve a problem.

When I told the AEKI folks I needed box #3 they looked for box #3, but even though I asked for box #3 that is not what I needed. What I needed was all the boxes, of which there were only two.

Sometimes no one is exactly sure of the path forward. How many times did I ask AEKI employees for box #3? Didn't it dawn on anyone to check to see if there really was a box #3?

Sometimes we just need to take a breath and examine the problem and asking the right question often elicits the right answer. We need to be understanding of the practical limitations of any solution. No matter how mad I was, the guy in the yellow and blue shirt was not able to make me a box #3.

Being flexible and giving the designated problem solver some room to solve the problem was what was needed. We can't be too quick to strictly define how the problem is solved. It took just two boxes, now put together into one chest of drawers.

Whether it is a chest, a new park, a roadway or solving the need for housing in our community, being calm and asking the right questions goes a long way to starting on the path to a solution.

Sometimes no matter what you do it is helvete to get there. It makes me wonder.....

COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE – Census 2020 will begin on April 1, 2020. In preparation for the big day the City Council has established a Census 2020 Complete Count Committee and is seeking applicants.

The Complete Count Committee will be tasked with developing and implementing community outreach projects to increase general knowledge about what the census is, how it is undertaken, and why the census is important not only to Minnesota as a whole, but to Saint Peter. Every uncounted person means \$15,320 in federal funding is lost. If just 50 people are missed, Saint Peter loses upwards of \$750,000 in the next decade. That's a lot of money.

The Committee will be especially focused on outreach to historically undercounted groups like immigrants and the elderly, both of which make up significant portions of Saint Peter's population.

Residents interested in being considered for appointment to the Committee are asked to submit a brief letter of interest to the City Administrators



Office (227 South Front Street) or by email to barbaral@saintpetermn.gov. Applicants should include their name, phone number, email and a brief paragraph or two about their background and their connection to the historically undercounted segments of Saint Peter's population.

Committee members will meet on a monthly basis beginning on the second Wednesday of each month (December 11th is the first meeting) through March, 2020. Meetings will take place at 6:30 p.m. and prospective members will be asked to make a commitment to attending each meeting.

For more information on this committee, please contact the City Administrator's Office at (507)934-0663.

LEAF COLLECTION UPDATE – At the October 28th regular meeting, the City Council heard a report on the City's curbside leaf collection schedule which has been shredded by the whims of Mother Nature.

The new plan is for the Public Works crews to once again collect leaves for properties north of Broadway Avenue beginning immediately. This process will continue for two weeks before starting collection for properties south of Broadway Avenue for the next two weeks.

For more information on the leaf collection process, please keep an eye on the City's website (www.saintpetermn.gov); the Hot Sheet; or the City's Facebook page at (www.facebook.com/CityofSaintPeter)

HALLOWEEN SAFETY – In the next couple of weeks Saint Peter children will engage in one of the most treasured traditions of childhood Trick or Treating! And while this wholesome, family activity brings back memories of our own childhoods, things have gotten a bit more risky for kids these days and children have to be wiser and more aware of their surroundings to be safe on Halloween. Here are some McGruff safety tips everyone in the family should be reminded of...

- Never, ever go into a stranger's house while trick or treating.
- Only ring the door of homes with lights on.
- Only cross streets at designated intersections.
- Never cross the street from between two parked cars. Drivers can't see little ones when they dart out from between a car. Only cross at designated intersections.



- Wear makeup instead of masks which can obstruct a child's vision. That will make it easier for the children to cross intersections and go up and down stairs.
 - Keep costumes short to prevent trips, falls and other bumps in the night.
 - Carry a flashlight or glow-stick with you. It will help prevent the little ones from tripping over unseen obstacles in lawns and gives drivers a chance to see everyone from further away.
 - Costumes may be highly flammable. Make sure to keep dresses or capes far away from any lit jack-o-lanterns on the steps of the homes you visit.
 - Teach children not to sample their treats until they are home and Mom and Dad can look through the candy first. Unopened candies or other treats that are in original wrappers are the best bet.
 - If you are an older kid or young teen, and going out with friends, make sure that your parents know where you are going and who you are going with.
 - Homeowners can prepare for their trick or treaters by turning on exterior lights, removing objects from yards that might present a hazard and making sure that pumpkins are lit with glow-sticks or other non-flammable sources.
- Using a little common sense on Halloween night will help make the evening fun for all.



MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING MARKET - The American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census bureau suggests that the rental vacancy rate in Saint Peter is 2.8% based on estimates from the five years between 2013 and 2017. Their data has a reported margin of error of +/- 3.4%.

We wanted better data. The Community Development office undertook a phone survey of the multi-family housing units containing four or more apartment units. What we found wasn't necessarily surprising. Of the 743 multi-family housing units surveyed, only 14 were currently available for rent. That calculates to a multi-family vacancy rate of only 1.9%.

For comparison, in 2018 the national rental vacancy rate was reported to be as high as 7.1% while the vacancy rate in Minnesota was at 5.7%.

A vacancy rate below 4% suggests that the market is extremely tight and does not encourage multi-family property owners to improve or upgrade their housing units. Investments are delayed and higher rental rates can be established due to the lack of apartment availability.

Such a low vacancy rate also doesn't provide choices for prospective Saint Peter residents who prefer not to own their home. Can I find a three bedroom, two bath, ground floor unit with garage parking close to the downtown for my family? Perhaps but most likely not.

There are a few multi-family developers in the very preliminary stage of exploring the Saint Peter market. It is too early to know if anything will materialize but the market seems to be ready for more construction.

ELECTION DAY REMINDERS –

Voters living in Ward I are reminded that voting will take place at Johnson Hall at the Fairgrounds.

Due to a lengthy renovation project at the National Guard Armory, the City relocated the Ward 1 polling place to the Nicollet County Fairgrounds last year. The project is wrapping up, but this year's voting will once again take place at Johnson Hall to ensure compliance with election regulations regarding changes of polling places.

Ward II voters will continue to cast their ballots at the Community Center.

The City is grateful for the Nicollet County Fair Board's cooperation in allowing use of Johnson Hall again this year.

Absentee ballots for the November 5th general election are available at the Nicollet County Property and Public Services Office in the Government Center (501 South Minnesota Avenue) through close of business on Monday, November 4th. This office will be providing absentee ballots for all eligible voters in School District #508 whether they live in Nicollet or Le Sueur Counties.

Voters no longer need an excuse to choose to vote by absentee and applications for absentee voting are available from the County or you can download an application from the Secretary of

State's website at [ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION](#).

HELP WANTED – The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the following position(s):

- **MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT** - Department of Public Works. Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma and associates degree in construction, construction management, Public Works operations or equivalent, five year's experience in a related field may be substituted for post-secondary education; possession of a valid driver's license; demonstrated proficiency using Microsoft Word and Excel software. Desirable qualifications include more than five years of experience in construction, construction management, and/or Public Works operations; demonstrated personnel supervision experience of greater than one year; demonstrated experience in assisting in preparation of budgets and monitoring expenditures; demonstrated knowledge of approved methods, materials, and tools used in the construction, maintenance, and cleaning of streets, other public right-of-ways, parks, structures, and recreational facilities; knowledge of municipal forestry operations; knowledge of environmental services operation; knowledge of heavy and light equipment operations; knowledge of operating characteristics and servicing of equipment; knowledge of traffic laws and regulations governing equipment operations; knowledge of applicable regulatory codes and laws related to Public Works departmental operations; demonstrated ability to read and interpret engineering and landscaping plans and specifications; demonstrated knowledge of pavement management and planning practices; demonstrated knowledge of parks and forestry operations; demonstrated knowledge of OSHA regulations and safety policy; knowledge of Federal and State vehicle operation regulations. 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. Starting pay range \$71,074 - \$75,483 per year. 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 Wednesday,

October 30, 2019. Faxed, e-mailed, and/or late applications will not be accepted. Interviews will be conducted Tuesday, November 12, 2019. AA/EOE

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	November 4	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	November 4	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	November 5		ELECTION DAY
Thursday	November 7	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	November 11		LEGAL HOLIDAY – VETERAN'S DAY CITY OFFICES CLOSED
Tuesday	November 12	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Tuesday	November 11	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	November 18	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Tuesday	November 21	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	November 22	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	November 25	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	November 26	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	November 27	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday - Friday	November 28-29		THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - CITY OFFICES CLOSED

