

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 www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



09/04/19

MINNESOTA SQUARE PARK PAVILION UPDATE –

Construction fencing is down as work on the new Pavilion at Minnesota Square Park is essentially complete just in time for Rock Bend Folk Festival! Landscaping continues and there may be a few areas roped off as the new grass starts to take hold, but the project is essentially completed.

The City extends special thanks to members of the Pavilion Task Force and the Building Committee who put in so many hours on the project:

- Nate Idso
- Greg Seitzer
- Kris Higginbotham
- Ann Volk
- Ben Leonard
- Bob Sandeen
- Roger Nelson
- Dan Welp
- Charles Burgess
- Larry Potts
- Jennifer Leslie
- Dave Detlefson
- Doug Minter
- Lew Giesking
- Russ Wille
- Jane Timmerman
- Bob Lambert
- Keith Bense
- Dean Wahlund
- Mary Ann Harty
- Marit Kvamme
- Tim Kennedy
- Jerry Pfeifer
- Arnie Nimps
- Ryan Kupcho
- Pete Moulton
- Scott Umhoffer
- Eric Barts
- Eric Oleson
- Chuck Zieman



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – *Budgets and taxes and things that are changing.....*The following is a excerpt from the budget memo that the Council sees

which is a portion of the staff report on the 2020 General Fund budget. That budget is the thing that drives what you pay in City taxes.

The items you see below are some of the bigger changes that we see from the 2019 budget to the 2020 budget. This list also contains a few items that are just plain good to know about the work plan for the 2020 year, if approved by Council. You can read the whole memo behind this link starting on page 4 [BUDGET MEMO](#).

The changes within the budget, as compared to 2019, are highlighted below:

- Elections include the costs for the March 2020 Presidential Primary which is now required by Legislative action, \$6,000.
- Municipal Building maintenance in 2020 is proposed to include \$5,000 for front door repair and carpet, and \$22,000 in repair and maintenance items to improve the building.
- Public Works Building maintenance in 2020 is proposed to include furnace (two of three) in the amount of \$5,000, a portable welder and \$12,000 for a floor scrubber for maintenance shop.
- As in 2017 and 2019 the sidewalk replacement plan will be in the amount of \$50,000; this is the final year of the three year plan.
- Street maintenance for 2020 is planned for an additional funding of \$83,325 over the 2019 budget. Wages and benefits account for \$43,325 of the increase and material cost (i.e. salt, sand, asphalt, etc.). Maintenance costs (i.e. seal coating, curb, gutter, mudjacking, sidewalks etc.) account for the increased \$40,000. The City's

ongoing street program provides maintenance on one of our biggest assets/investments that is very expensive to replace. This number represents our best guess of inflationary impacts and a small increase in scope.

- Working with Damon Farber Consulting to address park planning, signage and branding is budgeted to complete the third year of their recommendations with funding of \$10,000 in 2020.
- Parks budget increase by \$140,000 for new playground equipment at Veterans Memorial Park, with \$100,000 of the increase funded from Community Center levy completed February 2020 and the remaining \$40,000 from reserves.
- The Fire Department budget includes \$7,500 which will contribute a fourth year to a replacement fund for equipment items that have certification expiration needs. In addition we have \$60,000 budgeted using debt for matching funds for a new snorkel truck should grant funds be approved.
- The insurance fund has no contributions for the 2020 year. The 2019 projected ending fund balance is \$150,000. The Council's target here is \$300,000, but it will deplete without further funding. This area deserves a bit more discussion. Due to changes in rates over the last five plus years we are no longer realizing savings that we planned to place in this fund. For 2021 we may want to look at this differently.
- The 2019 and 2020 expenditures reflect no use of reserves to cover the expense of Community Spirit Park. This deficit is still projected to be covered by the sale of the wastewater ponds and utility funds.
- We have also provided funds to match School funding for an additional School Resource Officer expected to be in place for the 2019/2020 school year. You may recall we did budget for the amount needed for the portion of the school year that falls in our 2019 fiscal year.
- Local Government Aid (LGA) increased \$126,099 in 2020, as the Legislature increased funding back to 2002 levels.
- Health insurance renewal is projected to have a 10.0% increase.

Will you have time to read the entire budget memo? It makes me wonder.....

CITIZEN ACADEMY CANCELLATION – Due to a lack of interest the Citizen's Academy program has been

cancelled for this fall. Keep an eye on the Hot Sheet this spring for information about a possible second try at the program. Special thanks to the handful of people who did sign up.

WINTER PARKING – Seems kind of early to be thinking about snowfall and where you'll park your car when the heavy snows come, but it's important to sort out your off-street parking now. Although the City rarely calls a snow emergency, being able to have all vehicles off the streets during plowing allows the crews to get closer to the curb and spend less time plowing. That saves all of us money and headaches.



So, if you don't have off-street parking available to you, please find a spot now, before those first snowflakes start to fall! Thank you for your cooperation.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS AVAILABLE – Absentee ballots for the November 5th general election are now available at the Nicollet County Property and Public Services Office in the Government Center (501 South Minnesota Avenue). This office will be providing absentee ballots for all eligible voters in School District #508 whether you 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](#).

Absentee balloting is available through Monday, November 4, 2019.

CENSUS 2020 – It only happens once every decade and it's mandated by the constitution. What is it? Why the U.S. Census of course! The first Census occurred with the birth of the United States government when our founding fathers needed to know how to apportion our representation in Congress and it's happened every 10 years since then. Today, the data collected through the



Census helps determine legislative representation, conduct research, craft public policy, and allocate government funds.

Everyone who has established a residence in the U.S. is counted, including individuals with work visas, international students, and unauthorized immigrants, but excluding temporary visitors such as tourists. And for those of us in Minnesota, it's especially crucial that every single person is counted because one of our congressional seats may be on the line.

Do you think the work of the Census starts in April of 2020? Think again! City staff have been hard at work for months preparing for the Census, attending training and participating in the LUCA (Local Update of Census Addresses) program. During this phase, the City verifies every residential address within the corporate limits of the City to ensure that census materials are distributed to those properties. That helps ensure that every person is counted.

The second phase is for the Census Bureau to review what is returned to them and, if necessary ask for further information regarding a property they didn't previously have in their records. Census workers were in St. Peter just recently doing some in-person verification of addresses. Along with their in-person visits, the City submitted additional documentation on some properties. That phase has now also been completed.

Coming up in the next few weeks the City will create a "Complete Count Committee" that will help get the word out about the importance of every single person being counted. These folks will help us reach populations that tend to be undercounted....snow birds, college students, and others. More information on that activity will be provided in the Hot Sheet at a later date.

All this leads up to the big day.....April 1, 2020. That's when the public is asked to start completing the census questionnaire, either by paper copy or online. The law gives us one month to get the form completed before the Census Bureau sends out enumerators to ask the questions in person, but we hope everyone participates before that happens.

The 2020 Census will be the first time you can take the survey online. In fact, the Bureau's goal is to have 55% of responses submitted digitally, whether on a desktop computer or mobile phone. Most households will be contacted by mail with a unique code to fill out the survey online. However, in neighborhoods with low internet access or usage, the paper form will be distributed.

The more people who take the survey online, the more money the Bureau saves having to track down non-respondents. The proposed budget for the 2020 survey is \$15.6 billion, which works out to roughly \$111 per household surveyed, depending on population growth.

In 2010 Saint Peter had a great participation rate during that month long process....we were close to 90%. But 90% is not 100% and we hope to increase our numbers this year with your help. In addition to ensuring we keep all of Minnesota's congressional seats, every person who is counted helps bring federal money to St. Peter, southern Minnesota and indeed the entire State.

Will you be counted? We're "counting" on it!

TRAIL MAINTENANCE – Now that the City's street seal coating project is wrapping up, Public Works will turn its attention to maintaining the many miles of trails located throughout the community.

As with the roadways, the trails will be "fog sealed" to prevent water penetration which could destroy the trail surface. During this process, the trails will be closed to the public for a minimum of one day while the oil is applied. When dried, the trails will be reopened for the enjoyment of all.

The work will occur the week of September 9th, weather permitting. Notice of the trail closure will go up before the work begins. If you have children who utilize these trails to walk to school, please plan other routes for them now.

Residents are asked to adhere to the "Trail Closed" signs to avoid contact with the oil residue. It will dry in approximately 24 hours but that the material may stick to shoes, bicycles etc. if accessed before it dries.

Your cooperation is appreciated regarding this matter. Should you have questions about this process, please contact the Department of Public Works at 934-0670.

RIVER'S EDGE HOSPITAL URGENT CARE CENTER IS VA AUTHORIZED PROVIDER - River's Edge Hospital works hard to meet its mission and vision to provide quality healthcare services and improve the health of all those they serve. The hospital is also proud to serve Veterans and ensure they have access to quality care.

The Hospital has announced that the Urgent Care at River's Edge



Hospital is now a VA Authorized Urgent Care Provider. As a VA Authorized Provider, Veterans who receive health benefits through the VA can now use the River's Edge Urgent Care and receive their VA benefit. The River's Edge Urgent Care staff will verify the individual's eligibility when they present to Urgent Care.

As part of the VA Mission Act of 2018, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs offers an urgent

care benefit to provide great choice and access to quality care.

Urgent Care at River's Edge Hospital is open Monday through Friday, 12 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Urgent Care is closed on holidays.

Any questions about use of the Urgent Care and how individuals can receive their VA benefits by using Urgent Care can be directed to Sheri Schmidt, Patient Financial Services Manager, at 507-934-7605 or sschmidt@rehc.org.

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

- **PART-TIME BUS DRIVER** - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the position of Part-time Bus Driver for the Minnesota River Valley Transit system. 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 (30) 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. Candidates who possess the following desired experience or education will qualify for additional points towards an interview: previous experience working with the public; training in vehicle mechanics; experience operating a two-way radio/phone; and prior bus driving experience. Starting wage \$16.23 per hour. Applicants are required to complete a City application form which is available in the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street or by calling (507) 934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 p.m. September 30, 2019. Faxed, emailed, and/or late

applications will not be accepted. ****NOTE:** The successful candidates for this position will be required to successfully complete and pass a pre-employment drug test. The position is also subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing required by USDOT 49 CFR Part 655 (Federal Transit Administration) and USDOT 49 CFR Part 40. In addition, successful candidates for this position must have a vehicle driving record which is clear of revocations, suspensions and cancellations for the past three (3) years. Applicants may be required to submit to a criminal background check and be clear of convictions for crimes or anticipatory crimes (as defined in M.S. 609.17 and 609.175) within the previous fifteen (15) years. AA/EEO

- **PART-TIME BUILDING SUPERVISOR** - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the position of part-time Building Supervisor at the Saint Peter Community Center. Minimum qualifications include: High school diploma or equivalent. CPR and First Aid training or ability to be certified within six months of employment. Experience working with the public. Desirable qualifications include: Experience in building maintenance functions. Current CPR and First Aid Certification. \$10.88 per hour. Applicants must complete a City of Saint Peter available from the City Administrator's Office at 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 September 30, 2019. Faxed, emailed or late applications will not be accepted. 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.

Thursday	September 5	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	September 9	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	September 9	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 10	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	September 16	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop

Monday	September 16	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday	September 23	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 24	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	September 25	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	September 26	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	September 27	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Thursday	October 3	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
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