

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



04/10/19

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK!

Minnesota's "Severe Weather Awareness Week" is underway through April 12, 2019. Normally, jurisdictions throughout the state would have two statewide tornado drills on Thursday of Awareness Week, but the strong winter storm expected to impact most of the State has led to a decision to **cancel** those tests. If the tests had been completed, outdoor warning sirens and NOAA weather radios would have sounded in a simulated tornado warning.

Although you won't hear test sirens on Thursday, we encourage families and businesses to conduct their own mini preparedness drill and to talk about what you would do in the event of a real emergency. One of the things to discuss with your family and co-workers is the terms used when advisories are issued:

Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm "**WATCH**" - means that conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes or severe thunderstorms. When a watch is issued for Nicollet County, pay close attention to the weather and make sure that everyone in your family knows the correct action to take if the weather gets worse.

Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm "**WARNING**" - means a tornado or severe thunderstorm has been reported or is indicated by weather radar. Warning information includes the tornado or storm's location, direction and speed. If the warning is issued for our portion of Nicollet County, **TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY**.

Warning sirens are tested year round on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. to assure that the sirens will work in the event of an actual emergency. If you hear the steady tone of a siren at any other time, it means that severe weather has been sighted in

our area and you should take shelter immediately.

There is no all clear siren, so take a battery powered radio with you to the shelter so you can monitor when it is safe to emerge. More information on these topics is available on the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-awareness-week-program.aspx>.

Summertime is meant for enjoying outdoor activities, but if you hear thunder, that means lightning is close enough to put you in danger so remember the motto...."**When it Roars, Go Indoors!**" Lightning is one of the top storm-related killers in the United States and when thunderstorms are in the area and you hear thunder, it's time to get indoors and stay there for 30 minutes after the last roar of thunder.



If you would like more information about severe storms preparedness please call the Saint Peter Police Department (931-1550) or Nicollet County Emergency Management (934-7874). The severe weather information contained in today's Hot Sheet includes information from the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security website.

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on April 8, 2019 included a public hearing and subsequent action to provide for tax abatement of certain properties with proceeds going to fund issuance of general obligation tax increment bonds in the amount of \$1,350,000 for the Minnesota Square Park Pavilion Project; approval of the 2019 and 2020 budgets for the Environmental Services Fund with a corresponding rate increase effective July 1, 2019; approval for a taxi cab license for Blue Earth Taxi; and authorization to submit a grant application for a \$280,000 project to remove and replace outdated playground equipment in Veteran's Memorial Park in 2020.

Mayor Zieman also proclaimed April 26th as "Arbor Day" and May as "Arbor Month".

The next regular City Council meeting, will be Monday, April 22nd beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.

"BEST TASTING WATER IN MINNESOTA" - Officials at the Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) have found the best-tasting water in Minnesota and its right here in Saint Peter!

On March 6, 2019 at the 35th Annual MRWA Water and Wastewater Technical Conference, the winner of a statewide competition was announced in an effort to identify the best tasting water in Minnesota and participants hope, in the nation. Water utilities from around the state submitted samples of their



water, straight from the tap. The winner of the event was the City of Saint Peter, whose water sample was chosen by judges as the most appealing. "It tasted clean, pure and refreshing", stated the judges.

"Because of the quality of this water, Minnesota has a good chance at the national taste test in Washington, D.C." added Lori Blair, Executive Director of Minnesota Rural Water Association.

The competition is part of the "Quality on Tap!" campaign to emphasize the high quality,

standards and taste of water. Winners of the state taste test will compete in a national contest at Capital Hill in Washington, D.C. in February 2020. This event is part of the Rural Water Rally, an annual legislative event for the 49 state affiliates of National Rural Water Association.

Congrats to the City's Water Utility staff pictured from left to right are Foreman Chris Voeltz and Water Operators Jim Gruhot and Terry Kamm. Not pictured is Water Operator Curtis Thompson.

PAVILION PROJECT OFFICIALLY UNDERWAY – With the installation of construction fencing around the old Pavilion in Minnesota Square Park, the project to tear it down and build a new structure is officially underway. After seven long years in the discussion and planning stage, the project is expected to be complete by August of this year.



For those who wonder what will happen to BluesFest and the Old Fashioned Fourth of July picnic look no further than the Park. Although activities won't take place in the pavilion, the events will go on as usual utilizing other areas of the park.

HYDRANT FLUSHING –Spring hydrant flushing has begun and will continue until approximately April 19th. Flushing is done between the hours of 8:00 pm and 6:00 am to minimize disruption to our customers.



Hydrant flushing could temporarily make water cloudy. Please check your water before doing laundry. If you have questions about this process, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.



A MESSAGE FROM THE POLICE - Texting, reading, and/or accessing the web on your phone is illegal while driving, including at a stoplight/stop sign or even when you are stopped in

traffic. And it can really add up if you get ticketed:

- \$50 plus court fees for a first offense.
- \$275 plus court fees for a second and/or subsequent offense.

Saint Peter Police Officers have joined law enforcement Officers from around the State in enhanced distracted driving enforcement efforts from April 8th through April 30th. So turn on the “do not disturb while drive” feature of your phone before you put the key in the ignition, or put the phone in the back seat where you can’t reach if it you’ll be tempted to use it.

The life you save may be your own. #JustDrive

DOG LICENSES – New and renewal dog licenses are now available for purchase. Dogs (and cats) old enough to receive a rabies vaccination are required to be licensed by the City. Dog licenses are due on or before April 30, 2019 and costs are as follows:



Spayed/Neutered	\$5
Unaltered	\$25
After April 30th Penalty	\$5 (in addition to license fee)

To apply for or renew a pet’s license, owners must provide a current rabies vaccination certificate signed by a licensed Veterinarian. Licenses are available from the Community Development Department at City Hall (227 South Front Street) during regular office hours.

Even though this is not the cat licensing year, if you have a new cat you are still required to license the animal as soon as it is old enough to be vaccinated for rabies. Costs are the same as the license fees for dogs.

For additional pet licensing questions, please call the Community Development Department at 934-0661 or by email at cindym@saintpetermn.gov.

SAINT PETER FIESTA / XAFLAD
Join the City’s Recreation and

Leisure Services Department for a FREE family friendly celebration of culture at the Saint Peter Community Center on Friday, April 26th from 4:30 - 6:30 pm.

This celebration will include performances, arts and crafts, face painting, henna, bounce houses, Storytime, and so much more fun focusing on Spanish and Somali cultures. This promises to be a fun event for everybody and would not be possible without our community partners including Gustavus Adolphus College, Saint Peter Public Schools World Language Department, Saint Peter Community Childcare Center, Community & Family Education, Saint Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, and Minnesota State University, Mankato.

MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – *A lot of these....*



I have written a lot of these over the last 15+ years. So many so that at times I wonder if they are not just an ongoing cycle of the same stuff year in and year out.

They may be just that; similar reoccurring themes about community, about governance and about how we take care of each other. Once in a while I will have an in-depth article about some nuts and bolts stuff like taxes, or budgets or how certain kinds of meetings work, but I like to write about more thoughtful stuff.

As I said on one of my video blogs a few episodes back, sometimes my role here is to be a data provider, sometimes a thought provoker and sometimes an idea sharer. I like to provoke thinking coupled with some real data.

I worry more than ever about data and as we start any policy discussions we are pretty much in agreement as to the facts and the goals. We spend a fair amount to time on the fact issues and, frankly, spend even more time on the goals. The goal and what we want to see happen is so important in working towards a solution for anything.

Goals are much like targets...if we don’t know what our goal is, how in the world can we can plot a path, set a strategy, and/or make decisions?

So what is your goal for where you live? As a city are we part of the framework for you meeting your goals? Does where you live make a difference? It makes me wonder.....

CITY LINE CREW HONORED – The City’s Electric Utility staff have been honored with a national award for outstanding safety practices receiving the American Public Power Association’s Safety Award

of Excellence for safe operating practices in 2018. Members of the crew include Jerry Holsapple, Brian Shellum, Pat McShane and Lincoln Hooper.

Saint Peter was one of 113 utilities receiving the award and one of only 7 cities in Minnesota.

Keith Cutshall, Chair of the Association's Safety Committee and Safety Director at Clarksville Department of Electricity in Tennessee, presented the award during the Association's annual Engineering & Operations Technical Conference, held in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"Safety programs are paramount to the well-being of employees that work for electric utilities," said Cutshall. "The utilities receiving this award have proven that safety is of the utmost importance in the operation of their companies."

More than 325 utilities entered the annual Safety Awards, which is the highest number of entrants in the history of the program. Entrants were placed in categories according to their number of worker-hours and ranked based on the most incident-free records during 2018. The incidence rate, used to judge entries, is based on the number of work-related reportable injuries or illnesses and the number of worker-hours during 2018, as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

"The City of Saint Peter Electric Utility is proud of its safety record," said Pete Moulton, Director of Public Works. "This award is a testament to the hard work that goes into ensuring that our team members go home safe to their families every day." The Safety Awards have been held annually for the last 60 years. The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide.

CENSUS DAY 2020 – We're just under one year from Census Day 2020 when the United States Census Bureau will officially undertake Census 2020. Did you know the census is required by Federal law? Every 10 years, every single person

United States
Census
2020

in the United States is counted and the information gained from the census is used to determine congressional representation, distribution of federal funds and all kinds of

other really important decisions.

The City of Saint Peter will work hard to make sure that every single resident of our community is counted. Keep your eyes open for ways that you

can help as we spend the next year reminding everyone of the importance of this nationwide event.

NUISANCE ABATEMENT – It's the time of year again when the snow is melting and junk that was covered by crisp clean snow all winter raises its ugly head. Yep....it's nuisance abatement time.

The City's Community Service Officer will soon be patrolling the alleys and roadways throughout St. Peter in search of violations of the City's nuisance regulations. If you have items of junk that have accumulated in your backyard, by your



garage, or even your front yard, now is the time to remove those items or face a notice to "abate" the nuisance.

As provided in Chapter 30 of the City Code, nuisances can

be either to the health and/or peace and safety of the public and the list of offending items is a long one. Old appliances, construction materials, unregistered/inoperable cars, trash, and litter are all considered nuisances when stored outside.

If you stored junk outside on your property through the winter, now is the time to "abate" that nuisance by removing the materials. The City's curbside appliance and furniture collection is still more than a month away, but any of the licensed refuse haulers (listed in the phone book) can work with you to haul away your items. Watch City utility bills and our social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, and the website) and this newsletter for more information on upcoming opportunities to get rid of junk.

For more information on what is considered a nuisance, check out Chapter 30 of the City Code (https://library.municode.com/mn/saint_peter/codes/code_of_ordinances) or contact the Community Service Officer at the Police Department (931-1550).

SUMMER REC BROCHURE - The summer activity brochure from the Recreation and Leisure Services Department and St. Peter Community and Family Education has been delivered to area mailboxes with lots of opportunities and activities for all.

If you didn't receive a copy in the mail you can view it on the City's website, www.saintpetermn.gov or pick up a copy at the Community Center. On-line, in-person, or over the phone registration is currently open so plan your summer fun today.

CITY COUNCIL ADVISORY BOARDS – This is the last in a nine part series on the City Council’s advisory boards. These boards are comprised of mostly citizen members and are tasked with various responsibilities....the most important of which is providing recommendations to the City Council. Applicants are recommended for appointment by Mayor Zieman and the full Council votes on each appointment. Last week’s article focused on the Planning and Zoning Commission and we will conclude with the Tourism and Visitor’s Bureau.

The Tourism Bureau was created when the City instituted a lodging tax. The Bureau and its marketing and promotion activities for the community are funded using 95% of the money raised through the lodging tax.

The Commission is comprised of nine members serving three year terms. Members include: Jon Smithers, Jill Niebuhr, Bob Sandeen, Jerry Pfeifer, Chuck Zieman, Jerry Harty, Arlo Lehtinen and Keith Keogh. There currently is a vacancy on this board.

The Tourism Bureau meets on the last Friday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce building.

If you are interested in applying to be on one of the many City Council advisory boards or commissions, applications are available from the City Administrator’s Office at City Hall (227 South Front Street) or by emailing barbaral@saintpetermn.gov.

To be eligible for appointment to an advisory board, applicants must live within the corporate limits of the City and must commit to making the regularly scheduled meetings of the board.

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

- **ELECTRIC SUPERINTENDENT** - in the Department of Public Works. Responsibilities include but are not limited to planning, coordinating, directing, and monitoring the operation of the Electric Utility; planning and

supervising construction of the electrical generation and distribution system; setting priorities to deal with emergencies; coordinating activities with other divisions, departments, and organizations; assisting with planning, design, and construction of projects; evaluate need for and prepare specifications for materials and equipment; maintain operating records; prepare specifications for electric utility services, equipment, and materials; prepare reports as requested; assist in annual budget preparations; set quality standards for work to be performed; set priorities. Minimum qualifications: high school degree and satisfactory completion of a technical school program for lineman electricians and completion of a recognized apprenticeship in electrical line work, including eight years of responsible experience in electrical distribution systems. An additional five years of experience may be substituted for technical training. Possession of, or ability to obtain, a State of Minnesota Lineman Electrician License issued by the State Board of Electricity. Possession of a valid State of Minnesota Class A Driver’s License with air brake endorsement or ability to obtain such within one month of the date of employment with the City. **NOTICE:** The successful candidate must complete and pass a pre-employment drug test and is subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing. Starting salary \$81,120 to \$86,320 per year. Applicants must complete a City application form available in the City Administrator’s Office, 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082-2538 or by calling (507) 931-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator’s Office no later than 5:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 17, 2019. Faxed, e-mailed, or late application will not be accepted.

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	April 15	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	April 22	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	April 23	6:00 p.m.	City Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting
Wednesday	April 24	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	April 25	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority

Friday	April 26	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	April 29	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Tuesday	April 30	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Thursday	May 2	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	May 6	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	May 6	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	May 13	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Wednesday	May 15		POLICE OFFICER MEMORIAL DAY
Monday	May 20	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	May 20	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday	May 22	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	May 23	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	May 24	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	May 27		MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Tuesday	May 28	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Meeting (location to be determined)
Tuesday	May 28	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting