

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

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MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – *Were we sure it was April 10th?*



On that day I looked outside and by noon there was snow everywhere. That little blizzard was a big deal, but not because it was so unusual.

As we look back in history over the last decade or so, there were a number of years where we were greeted by an April snow storm. It may be important to note that snow in April is not uncommon, but what seemed to me to be uncommon was the amount of time and energy spent forecasting and discussing the upcoming "Snowmagedden" or "Aprilopocolypse". Even my close personal friend Al Roker told me how many millions of people would be "impacted" by this storm. It wasn't fun to have to deal with the inconvenience of snow yet again and it felt like a kick in the shorts even though we maybe should expect some snow in April.

My point is that whether it is main stream media, under stream media or social media, it seems that the circumstances of our fate, snow or anything else, is now amplified and sometimes in a way beyond the reality of the situation. We are continually bombarded with the messages of how awful things are now or may be in the future and that the fate of our existence hangs on whether it snows or not.

While Saint Peter is not Utopia, it is a pretty great place. We have clean air, the "best tasting water in Minnesota"; it's a safe place to raise a family with nice parks, good streets and some of the best people in Minnesota as neighbors and co-workers. So the next time others try to get us overly excited about snow, or locusts or bubonic plague, let's all take a collective deep breath and know we live in a pretty great place.

What's your favorite thing about our great community? It makes me wonder....

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 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.

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.

"BATTLE OF THE BADGES" BLOOD DRIVE – If you've ever considered donating blood or if you're an old pro at it, please consider signing up to participate in the second annual "Battle of the Badges" blood drive sponsored by the St. Peter Police Department through the American Red Cross.

The drive takes place on Wednesday, May 8th from 1-7 p.m. in the Senior Center of the Community Center. To schedule your appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter "St. Peter BotB" to schedule your appointment.

During last year's Battle of the Badges, our very own Police Department won the competition with more people donating blood on behalf of our Officers than the Nicollet County Sheriff's



Department's donors. We hope to extend that streak this year. It's all in good fun of course because the real winners are the people whose lives are saved by your donations.

ARBOR DAY – Did you know that in 1876 Minnesota became the fourth state to adopt “Arbor Day”? Trees are an increasingly vital resource in Minnesota today, enriching our lives by purifying air and water, helping conserve soil and energy, serving as recreational settings, providing habitat for wildlife of all kinds, and making our cities more livable. And if you've ever lost a tree, or in the case of Saint Peter over 10,000 all in one fell swoop, you realize just how much they add to our community.

As part of Saint Peter's decades long designation as a “Tree City USA” community, Mayor Zieman has proclaimed April 26, 2019 as “Arbor Day” in Saint Peter and the entire month of May, 2019 as “Arbor Month” and encourages all residents to add to our urban forest by planting a tree at homes and businesses.



EMERALD ASH BORER – EAB is a non-native invasive beetle whose larvae feeds on the inner bark of ash trees and attacks all species of ash trees found in Minnesota.

EAB has no natural predators in the United States and research has shown that it kills 99.7% of all ash trees.

As of January 2019, EAB has been confirmed within approximately 40 miles north in Scott County, 70 miles east in Dodge County and 70 miles south in Martin County. At this time EAB has **NOT** been detected in Saint Peter, but it may be only a matter of time.

In the fall of 2018, the City Council passed the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan. Information on this plan is available for public review at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/Emerald-Ash-Borer>.

The City encourages property owners to be proactive and vigilant for EAB. The more trained eyes with knowledge of EAB, the earlier it can be detected leading to more management options for the City to mitigate against EAB. Listed below are several resources on EAB that might help you learn more:

- MN Department of Agriculture: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/eab>
- Emerald Ash Borer Information Network: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/faq.php>

- MN DNR: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialanimals/eab/index.html>

- MN DNR: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialanimals/eab/idashtrees.html>

If you suspect an ash tree has EAB, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670 or by e-mail at angieg@saintpetermn.gov.

SIDEWALK PROBLEMS – One of the lesser recognized phenomenon's of spring is sidewalk heaving. It's that movement of sidewalks (usually in an upward trajectory) that occurs when the frost is leaving the ground and the concrete slab of the sidewalk moves as the ground shifts.

While it can happen every year, most of the time the sidewalk settles back into place without intervention. But sidewalks occasionally will deteriorate to the point where they no longer meet the City's standards for construction. In these instances, the sidewalks may pose a tripping hazard or be out of compliance with ADA regulations. When that's the case, property owners will be required to make repairs, or in some cases, replace the damaged portion of the sidewalk.

With limited staff it's difficult for the City to inspect every sidewalk in town and that's where you might come in. If you notice a sidewalk that is in disrepair and/or presents a tripping hazard, and it hasn't leveled out again after the frost leaves, please notify the Public Works Department at 934-0670. Please provide the address of the property and whatever additional information you can about the problem area. We'll send someone out to inspect the sidewalk and if necessary, issue a repair notice.

Thank you for your cooperation.

DOG WASTE PICKUP - Spring has finally arrived, at least on the calendar, and more people than ever are out and about with their four legged friends. It's a good time to clean up all the dog waste from your yards, but also a good time to get in the habit of picking up after your dog when you go for your daily walks.

Dog owners are required to clean up dog waste on the property of other's and it's important to also pick it up at your own home because it's a source of water pollution.

So please bag and seal your pet waste and provide for proper disposal. Thanks for your



cooperation and for helping to prevent the spread of diseases and water pollution.

TOP REASONS TO LICENSE YOUR PET:

- It greatly increases your chance of getting your pet back if lost.
- It proves your pet has current rabies vaccinations.
- It's the law!



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

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 completed 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.

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 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	9:00 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