

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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CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on April 22, 2019 included final acceptance of the Ameresco energy savings project; authorization for purchase of a replacement vacuum debris collector; approval of the 2019 street maintenance program; award of bids for the 2019 asphalt materials bid project, the North Third Street and miscellaneous sidewalk project, and the street seal coating and fog seal project; authorization for issuance of a request for proposals for Construction Manager services for construction of a new fire hall.

The next regular City Council meeting, will be Monday, May 13th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – *Checking out the competition on the World Wide Web....*

A couple weeks after participating in a discussion about possible changes to our website in 2019, I took a few minutes to check out the sites of some other communities. Please know that I am not a graphic design guy, nor am I really a big social media guy, but I understand the importance of both of those things to how we get our information out and, more importantly, how you want to get or consume that information.

As I was checking out about a half dozen greater Minnesota cities websites and Facebook pages, here are a couple things that I think I noticed. First, ours looks pretty good and certainly has a boat load of usable information in it. I noticed that each one has a different way of organizing the data or what you click to find certain things. Also, some communities are more formal and some more casual about how they reference their elected officials. We tend to use title and surname and

some just say “Jane” even though Jane happens to be the Mayor.

I also noticed that compared to most, we have a lot of Facebook “Likes”. I mean a lot more especially in relation to our population. One City that I viewed with a population of about 24,000 people had about 2,000 “Likes” where we have about 2,000 likes and our population is about 12,000.

Casual or formal? Like or not? Where do you get your information and does what we do with our website or Facebook page help meet your needs? Do you have an idea for us on either of these?

It makes me wonder.....

SPRING YARD WASTE COLLECTION - The City will be collecting **branches, brush, and tree trimmings** at curbside the week of May 6th. Staff will begin collection at **7:00 A.M. Monday, May 6th.**

Here are some tips to facilitate and speed up the collection process:

1. Please place materials on your yard, parallel and adjacent to the curb within 6' of the curb line.
2. Please do not put brush on the street.
3. Brush and tree trimmings should be cut to lengths less than six feet.
4. Please help us serve you better by placing brush away from curbs, light poles, trees, posts, mailboxes, utility boxes/pedestals, etc.
5. Please refrain from parking near (within 50') or in front of the yard waste until pick-up is complete.

It does take more than one day to pick up but we only go through an area once; therefore, if your yard waste is not out by **7:00 A.M. Monday, May 6th**, it will not be picked up. Should you miss the collection, brush can be taken to the City's yard waste drop-off site.

There is no curbside collection for leaves and grass clippings in the spring, but if you have these materials, they can be taken to the yard waste drop-off site at 1128 North Swift Street. If these

materials are left at curbside with the brush, they will not be picked up.

The yard waste drop-off site located at 1128 North Swift Street is open year around and, as with the curbside collection, brush and tree trimmings must be cut shorter than 6 feet. A separate bunker is provided for dropping off fill (rocks, dirt, etc.).

FREE woodchips and sifted compost material, when available, will be at the site for Saint Peter residents. While the material is free, please bring your own shovels, bags or containers to load and transport.

This service is provided and funded by the Environmental Service fee on City utility customer bills. For questions about these services, please contact Public Works at 934-0670.

SCULPTURE GARDEN DEVELOPMENT - The City, working with Ann Rosenquist Fee of the Arts Center of St. Peter, is in discussion to develop a sculpture garden within Levee Park to feature the works of Paul T. Granlund who served as the Artist in Residence at Gustavus Adolphus College from 1971 to 1996. Mr. Granlund's sculptures are displayed worldwide and the Gustavus Adolphus campus is dotted with examples of his artwork.

Along with Mr. Granlund's work, the sculpture garden park will showcase sculptures and artwork created by Granlund's former students and protégés which have been heavily influenced by his instruction and methods. A number of these artists have expressed interest in participating in the sculpture garden development given their respect and admiration for Mr. Granlund. Jonathan Granlund, the son of the artist, is serving as a conduit between the art community and the artist working group.

Preliminary plans call for repurposing a portion of Levee Park along the 100 block of South Front Street. This park is also the location of the Chamber of Commerce and an underutilized playground structure. Given its size and proximity to the Arts Center, Mill Pond area and businesses in the central business district, the site is ideal for attracting the public while allowing an opportunity to connect to the Minnesota River with the development of a scenic overlook or perhaps a pedestrian trail.

Saint Peter Architect Matt Byers, of the Practice of Lasting Art, Architecture and Design (PLAAD) firm, is donating his time, talents and services in the development of the sculpture garden design. Mr. Byers has met with the small planning group and led them through a process to conceptualize possible sculpture garden components and design elements.

Design work and development of a preliminary budget are underway. Once the costs have been determined, fund raising efforts will begin in earnest as the sculpture garden is intended to be privately financed through donations solicited from individuals, businesses, foundations and patrons of the arts.

Watch the Hot Sheet for more information as this project progresses.

FLIP YOUR FRIDGE – Got an old fridge? It's time to flip it! Recycle that old energy wasting refrigerator and replace it with a new ENERGY STAR® certified model. You'll save energy and can save even more with a utility rebate.

The City offers rebates of \$25 on the purchase of ENERGY STAR refrigerators, plus an additional rebate of up to \$50 to pay for recycling your old working fridge.

Rebate forms are available from area retailers and on the City's website at www.SaveEnergyInSaintPeter.com.

Refrigerators 15 years or older use twice as much energy as a new model. Replacing that old energy-wasting fridge with a new ENERGY STAR certified model could save you more than \$300 in energy costs over the next five years.

Learn more and get guidance on choosing the right fridge for your home at www.energystar.gov/flipyourfridge.



“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.

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.

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
Thursday	May 16	5:30 p.m.	Board of Appeals
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