

# 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  
Please contact us at [barbaral@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov) [www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter](http://www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter)



Front Street.

04/12/17



## SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK COMING SOON!

Minnesota's "Severe Weather Awareness Week" will take place April 17-21, 2017. Two statewide tornado drills will occur on Thursday, April 20th (1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m.) and the Police Department will be testing emergency sirens at each of those times. During the test, outdoor

warning sirens and NOAA weather radios will both sound in a simulated tornado warning. The first drill is intended for institutions and businesses. The evening drill is intended for second shift workers and families.

As we enter into the severe weather time of the year, it is important to remember the terms that are 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>. 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.

*(NOTE....The photos shown here are from Saint Peter. The damage photos are from the March 1988 tornado and the other two photos are from a tornado that struck just west of Saint Peter along Highway 99 a few years after the 1998 tornado.)*



**MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE)–**

*A Long Time....*I have been in the City Administrator business for almost 28 years now. One of the things I truly love about being able to work for you is that I get to help solve community problems and, I hope, make a positive difference in people's lives. It is a great honor

and privilege to serve in such a special place as Saint Peter.

People talk to me on a regular basis and say things like, "I wouldn't want your job", or "Don't you hear a lot of complaints? I don't know that I could handle that", or "Government at every level is stupid."

There may be a small portion of truth in all of those statements, but it is mostly because democracy is hard work. Democracy is messy, but at its' best it provides the framework for our society to make great strides in how we live together and the quality of that life. The challenge is that not every person shares the same vision for how that framework should look.

I have known for more than a couple years that it is impossible to make everyone happy. We so much want to make everyone happy, but it just doesn't work that way. Just like at the Federal and State levels, our City is faced with choices. Sometimes none of the choices are great, but choice by its' very definition means that opposing opportunities exist.

Before we can choose among the opposing opportunities we must be able to agree that a problem exists. We must be able to agree on the definition of the problem or that thing we are trying to impact. Even further, we must be able to define what outcome we want. So before we can find a solution, we must be able to articulate what a solution would look like as that will set the path towards a solution.

Even in Saint Peter it is hard for us to come to universal agreement as to what the problem is; what a solution looks like; and how a fix should be implemented. My job is sometimes to help your elected decision makers find ways to better describe the problem, better prioritize, better illustrate what a solution(s) looks like and the most efficient way to implement a change.

Do we get it right all the time? I am pretty confident we don't. Some of that is on us because like all people, we are not perfect, but some of it is that not everyone in our community can agree on the problem, priority, solution and implementation.

But it is okay that we don't all agree. We all have different thoughts, sometimes different values, and we all live unique lives that bring us together with different perspectives. But one thing we can all agree on is that the process we use should be open, methodical and thoughtful and, maybe as important as anything else, it must be civil. Civil in that we are open to other's thoughts and ideas; giving all a chance to share; and following the "Golden Rule". Name calling and finger pointing is not our way here in Saint Peter.

With all the challenges we face today can we keep it that way? Can we continue to promote civility in our community discussions? I sure hope so, but with all that is going on it sometimes makes me wonder.....

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council on April 10, 2017 included authorizing issuance of a request for proposals for Construction Management services related to an expansion of River's Edge Hospital and Clinic; award of bids for the Jefferson Avenue/Gardner Road Project, the Main Substation Switchgear Project; and the 2017 Seal Coat Project; approval of a revolving loan to Kaduce Properties LLC for the property at 424 South Minnesota Avenue; authorization for execution of an agreement with School District #508 for provision of certain programs; approval for

execution of an agreement with the Chamber of Commerce for administration of the St. Peter Tourism and Visitors Bureau; and approval for renewal of a franchise agreement with Mediacom Minnesota LLC. Mayor Zieman also proclaimed April 28th as “Arbor Day” and May, 2017 as “Arbor Month” in the community and encouraged residents to participate in the Arbor Day ceremony at Jefferson Park on April 28th at 9:30 a.m.

The next City Council meeting is April 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center. For more information on City Council meetings, please contact the City Administrator's office at 507-934-0663. Copies of the Council packet are also available on the City's website at [www.saintpetermn.gov/city](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city).

**ROAD CONSTRUCTION:** Nicollet County has provided the following press release regarding an area road improvement:

*“Improvements to Nicollet County State Aid Highway 5 (Broadway Avenue) in the City of St. Peter beginning May 1st. County Road 5 motorists will encounter a detour between County Road 40 and Sunrise Drive as improvements to this section of County Road 5 are made. Improvements to CSAH 5 (Broadway Avenue) include rehabilitation and concrete surfacing from Sunrise Drive to Oshawa Township Road #357, construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Oshawa Township Road #357 and the St. Peter High School entrance, right turn lane at 361st Ave, and a right turn lane at the intersection of CSAH 5 and CSAH*

*20. Detour route will include County Road 40, State Highway 99, and State Highway 169. Motorists are asked to allot extra time to reach their destinations safely during construction. Mathiowetz Construction Co. of Sleepy Eye is the prime contractor on the \$2,997,061 project. Work on this project is anticipated to be completed by late*

*August 2017. Project Contact Information Nicollet County Public Works Department 507-931-1760, Dave Sandvik, Assistant County Engineer”*

For those who might not be familiar with all the County Road numbers, this project will close Broadway Avenue from the intersection with Sunrise Drive west to the next High School. The map below shows the detour route. The City will provide updates on this project on the City's Facebook page [CITY OF SAINT PETER FACEBOOK](https://www.facebook.com/CITY_OF_SAINTPETER).

**PARK FACILITIES OPENING EARLY** – The wonderful spring weather has led to a decision to open the City's parks shelters/restrooms early. The normal opening date is May 1st, but this week the Public Works Department announced park facilities will be opened for the season beginning Friday, April 21st.

**HALLETT'S POND TRAIL** – The City is working on development of a trail system around the portion of Hallett's Pond that is owned by the City. As shown in

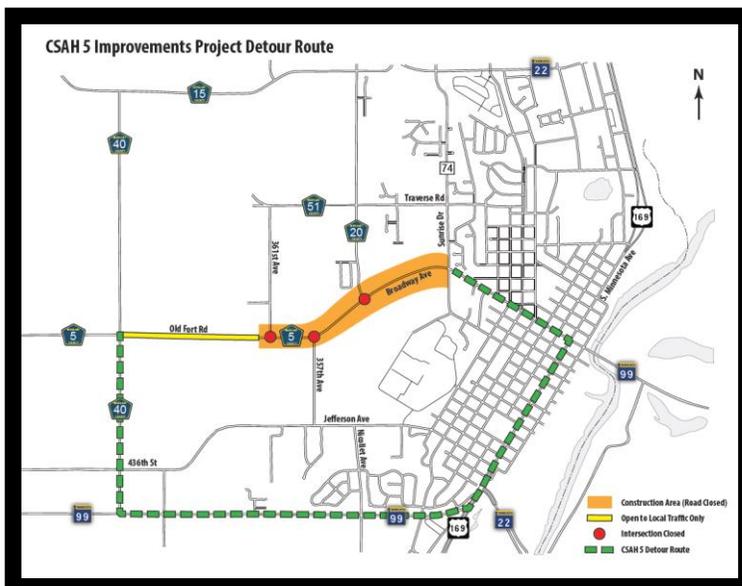


the photo above, the trail is made of aggregate gravel and it is located on the east and south sides of the Pond. It will connect to a concrete sidewalk/trail near the Saint Julien intersection and be available for public use.

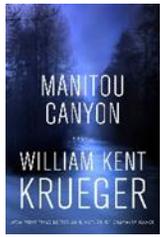
In the future, the City hopes to install benches, trees and other natural plantings along this path as funding permits. The Friends of Lake Hallett organization have verbally agreed to donate \$20,000 for the trail and for construction of a handicap fishing pier at Hallett's Pond. The group also worked with City staff on submission of a

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Recreation grant program application for up to 50% of the cost of the project.

You may have read recently that the City Council has voted to allow dogs in additional parks beginning May 1st. Hallett's Pond is one of those areas, but the dogs can only be on the trail and



must be licensed, leashed and looked after (meaning waste picked up. Remember you can't have dogs on this trail until May 1st!



**ST. PETER READS PROGRAM** - St. Peter Reads proudly presents a book signing with author William Kent Krueger on Thursday, May 4th at 4:00 p.m. in the St. Peter Public Library. The one hour signing event will then be followed at 7:00 p.m. by a

talk by Mr. Krueger at the Treaty Site History Center. Both events are free and open to the public.

and in future editions of the Hot Sheet.

**DISTRACTED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT**

– A word of caution from the Saint Peter Police Department...“You may not be looking at the road — but we'll be looking for you.”



Do you text and drive? Then consider this. At 55 mph, texting and driving is like traveling the length of a football field without looking up. Scary thought. If that's not enough to get you to stop texting and driving, maybe this is....

The Saint Peter Police Department and other law enforcement officials today announced a campaign they hope will help motorists understand the dangers of distracted driving. Extra distracted driving enforcement will be on Minnesota roads April 10-23, 2017 and that includes the Saint Peter Police Department.

So put those phones down and pay attention to your driving and let's have an especially safe prom, graduation and summer travel season.

**BROADWAY WATER TOWER WORK**

- The 1984 Broadway Water Tower, which has a 500,000 gallon storage capacity, is scheduled for structural repairs, sand blasting, and new painting of the tower and logo early this summer. City staff inspects the tower each year looking for defects and to ensure the coating hasn't exceeded the product life cycle. The tower was last refurbished in 2001 and it is nearing the end of the product life so bids were solicited for a project to refurbish the tower. The



Council awarded the bid to Osseo Construction Company, LLC of Osseo, Wisconsin and work will begin this summer.

During the maintenance work the tower will be off-line for approximately 75 days. Although the tower won't be in use, there shouldn't be any noticeable impact on the City's water supply.

When completed, the tower will look like the Sunrise Water Tower which is located at the north end of North Sunrise Drive with a matching logo and color.

For more information on this project please call the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

**LIFE CLASSES** - The LIFE: Learning is ForEver program is a venture of the Saint Peter Recreation and Leisure Services Department (including the City's Senior Center), and St. Peter Community and Family Education. The vision of the program is to embrace aging by offering opportunities and experiences to learn and grow, to be inspired, and to connect with ourselves, others and the world around us. We do this by providing stimulating humanities-based educational programs and encouraging social and personal growth for life-long learners.

The next class will feature Public Works Director Pete Moulton who will present an overview of the City's parks and trails system including the two newest parks: Prairie Ridge and Community Spirit. Moulton will also discuss how the City plans and funds the trails/parks and what it takes to maintain the system.

The class will be held on Thursday April 20th from 9-11 a.m. at the Community Center in the St. Peter Room. Cost is \$5 and there is a minimum of 5 people required to hold the class and a maximum class size of 25. Interested participants may register at the Community and Family Education office; by phone at 934-3048; or online at [www.stpetercommunityedonline.com](http://www.stpetercommunityedonline.com) by April 10th using class code LI-W07.

**SPRING STREET SWEEPING**

- Street sweeping throughout the City has begun. The City's Street crew sweeps the streets twice a year, in the spring and fall.

The spring sweeping is done with a side cast



sweeper and then the materials are picked up at the curb line with the ELGIN Pelican sweeper (shown in the photo).

On average the City picks up between 350 and 450 tons of sand and other materials during this process. The sand is recycled into the salt/sand mix to be used during the next winter season to keep costs down.

The Streets Section tries to get all the streets swept before spring fire hydrant flushing begins (see related story) and they rotate which end of the community they begin on. This year the work will begin on the north end of Saint Peter.

Residents are asked to help with the process by moving vehicles off the roadway until the road is completely swept. Not having to work around parked cars will make the process go faster and provide better results which saves us all money.

For questions on this process, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

**TRANSIT GRANT** - The Minnesota River Valley Transit (MRVT) was notified last week of the award of a \$59,000 grant from the State of Minnesota to be used in the next two years to provide extended dial-a-ride service during peak afternoon hours.

During week days in January and February between the hours of 1:30 PM and 4:30 PM, the dial-a-ride service moved an average of eight passengers per hour and accounted for nearly 50 miles within the service area.

These ridership levels have caused long wait times and, on occasion, we have been unable to provide rides due to the high demand. Service will be increased during these hours by adding another bus to shorten wait times and eliminating the need to turn down requests for service. The added service is expected to start in late summer.

For more information on the Minnesota River Valley Transit system, please call at 888-880-4696.

**HYDRANT FLUSHING** - Spring hydrant flushing will begin



**CITY MEETING** have a question on a at 934-0663.

Thursday  
Board of Zoning Appeals

Monday April 17 5:30 p.m.

Monday April 24 7:00 p.m.

Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and is expected to be completed by no later than April 21<sup>st</sup>. 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.

**HELP WANTED** - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the following position:

- **OFFICE ASSISTANT** - in the Finance Department. **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** High School Diploma or equivalent; Demonstrated knowledge of office operations (education or experience); Demonstrated experience working with the public; and knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel software. **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Payroll processing experience; two or more years' experience working in an office environment; demonstrated knowledge of fund accounting principles, practices, and terminology; one or more years' experience working in the accounting field; demonstrated ability to speak conversational Somali or Spanish; advanced training in office skills exemplified by a certificate or AAS Degree in office procedure or Administrative Assistant through an accredited post-secondary educational institution. Starting wage \$12.60-\$14.50 per hour depending on qualifications. Applicants are required to complete City application form 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. April 19, 2017.** Faxed and/or late applications will not be accepted. The successful candidate for this position will be required to successfully undergo a background investigation.

**CALENDAR** - This calendar is subject to change. Should you meeting date/time, please contact the City Administrator's Office

April 13

5:30 p.m.

City Council Workshop

City Council Meeting

Tuesday	April 25	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	April 26	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	April 27	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	April 28	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	May 1	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	May 1	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Thursday	May 4	5:30 p.m.	Planning and zoning Commission
Monday	May 8	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	May 9	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Wednesday	May 10	2:30 p.m.	Minnesota River Valley Transit Board (Le Sueur)
Monday	May 15		POLICE OFFICER'S MEMORIAL DAY
Monday	May 15	5:30 p.m. 	City Council Workshop
Monday	May 22	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Wednesday	May 24	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission Meeting
Thursday	May 25	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority Meeting
Friday	May 26	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau Meeting
Monday	May 29		MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY – City Offices Closed
Tuesday	May 30	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Tuesday	May 30	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission

\*\*\* Please contact the City Administrator's office (507-934-0663) for up-to-date meeting information.\*\*\*