

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



04/19/17



## SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

Minnesota's "Severe Weather Awareness Week" continues through April 21, 2017 and two statewide tornado drills will occur on Thursday, April 20th (1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m.). 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) –**

*It was a sunny meeting.....a few weeks back I had the fortune to go to a meeting sponsored by a local group of folks who are interested in solar energy. There were maybe 50 or 60 people that showed up to hear about what we plan to do to offer solar energy opportunities to*

our utility customers. The event was sponsored by a nice group of local folks who care about their community and our planet who are letting their faith be their guide.

Anyway the issue of solar energy and what the City (as the electrical provider) should do about it is a great question. The word “balance” was used in the discussion and those that came to the meeting to gather more information and better understand the topic likely went away with both information and better understanding.

There are a number of things to balance and as the discussion moved forward it was clear, to me anyway, that this issue is very challenging in a number of ways. Balance might mean different things to different people, but all seemed to agree it was needed and that this issue is a bit more complicated than trying to balance on a see saw. Here it is more like balancing a fifty cent piece on the tip of a pencil. Hard doesn't mean it cannot be done. It just means it may take a bit more work and a bit more patience.

On the solar issue the Council has set some goals that were shared at the meeting that I think can point the way to finding some balance. Those goals are:

- No financial subsidies over the long term
- Ease City operations
- Reduce costs to customer and the City
- Positively impact cost of energy supply
- Community based opportunity
- Sustainability

Now these should not be interpreted to be the “end all” of goals. They might need some word smithing and a couple could be combined, but these goals seem like a pretty good place to start. The discussion a few weeks back was a great opportunity to outline ideas about a solar subscription plan. If you want to know more about the plan let me know, but as with many things, it is hard to have one plan or even a series of plans that do all things for all people.

The plan we are putting in place does a good job of meeting many people's wants, meeting a City Council need to achieve their goals, and having a small but important impact on our world, or our little slice of it. As we promote the plan more and you have questions, please let us know. It is our goal to have it be something that can work for a good portion of the community.

Will it work for you? Are you interested in balance and solar? It makes me wonder.....

**LIBRARY BOARD MEETING RESCHEDULED** – the May Library Board meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, May 10th at 5:30 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room. For information on the Library Board meetings please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-0667 or visit the City's website at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov).

**YOUTH ATV CLASSES** -

The Saint Peter Police Department is once again partnering up with the Nicollet County Sheriff's Office and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to host a Youth ATV Safety Training Class. This



class will be held on Saturday April 29th at 10:00 AM at the Nicollet County Fairgrounds (400 W Union Street) in Saint Peter.

This class is ONLY for youth at least 11 years of age that have successfully completed the online ATV training module offered through vendors authorized by the Minnesota DNR. In order to attend this "Riding Day" class, you must PRE-REGISTER through Officer Jon Hughes either by phone at (507) 931-1550 or by email at [jonh@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:jonh@saintpetermn.gov). Officer Hughes will be able to answer any of your questions.

**BRUSH COLLECTION** – Lots of little piles of brush and tree branches are already appearing on curbs around the community. The City's curbside brush and garden waste collection is scheduled to begin at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, May 1st.

Residents are asked to please separate brush and garden waste and place the materials parallel and adjacent to the curb within six-feet (6') of the curb line. Please do not put brush or garden waste on the street, cover with a tarp, or put in bags. Brush and tree trimmings should be cut to lengths no longer than eight feet.

It takes more than one day to pick everything up in Saint Peter, but please note that the crews will only go through an area once and if the materials is not out by 7:00 A.M. Monday, May 1st, it will not be picked up.

To make the process more efficient and to ensure your materials get picked up, don't place the materials by light poles, trees, posts, mailboxes, etc. and please refrain from parking within 50' or in front of the yard waste until pick-up is complete. Animal waste of any kind should not be mixed in with the yard waste or it won't be picked up.

Leaves will not be picked up during this collection, but can be taken to the yard waste drop-off site at 1128 West Swift Street (southwest corner of the intersection of St. Julien and Swift Streets). The site is open year around for Saint Peter residents and there are separate areas for leaves, garden waste, brush and now a separate bunker for dropping off fill (rocks, dirt, etc.). In addition, woodchips and sifted compost material, when available, will be available at no cost for Saint Peter residents although residents will need to bring shovels, bags or

containers to load and transport.

These services are provided for and funded for Saint Peter residents by the Environmental Service charge on City utility bills.

For more information on these services, please contact the Department of Public Works at 934-0670 or visit the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/yard-waste-drop-site>.

**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 improvements:

*"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](#).

**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 developing 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, 90itrees 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.

**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.

**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.

**CITY MEETING CALENDAR** - This calendar is subject to change. Should you have a question on a meeting date/time, please contact the City Administrator's Office at 934-0663.

Monday	April 24	7:00 p.m.	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.\*\*\*