

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



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FROZEN WATER SERVICES - Winter is finally here and the cold temps outside might lead to some problems for people with certain water services. As provided by the City's Public Works Department, here are some steps you can take as a property owner to minimize the impact of the cold weather on your pipes and prevent your water service line from freezing.



First, if your service has a history of freezing please monitor the water temperature. Water coming into your dwelling

should be between 43 - 47 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter. Any temperature below that may indicate frost in the area of your service line.

Second, if your water temperature continues to approach 40 degrees you may want to let your water run in order to prevent it from freezing.

Why do service lines freeze? Frost depth is the depth to which the ground is frozen. Water services in Saint Peter are typically installed at a depth of over 7'. In most winter months frost doesn't get that deep; however, during very cold and long winters, frost depth can reach the depth of water lines. This usually occurs in February or early March. In early spring, it may seem warmer, but frost remains deep in the ground until regular overnight temperatures above freezing are reached.

If the ground surrounding the service lines becomes frozen, it will cool the already cold water in the pipes and they can freeze. When the water stops moving, the temperature can lower quite quickly and freeze the water. This is why it is important to keep the water running; it keeps warmer water moving through the frost zone. If the water temperature coming into your home goes

below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, you may want to consider running your water.

If your service line or plumbing are susceptible to frost, let cold water run from one faucet throughout the day and night. The amount of running water should be a little more than a trickle (the thickness of a pencil). The City cannot credit you for the water that you run, but the associated utility charges could be less than the cost to repair or thaw your water service line. Even as the weather warms up, the frost table is pushed lower, so the risk of frozen service lines could continue for several weeks.

So, what should you do if your pipes are frozen? Call the Saint Peter Public Works Department at (507) 934-0670 (7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday) or if it's after the hours shown above, please contact the City through the Police Department at 507-934-1550.

COUNCILMEMBER OATH OF OFFICE -

Councilmember-elect Edward Johnson will be sworn in at the regular City Council meeting on January 8, 2018. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.

Johnson replaces Councilmember Roger Parras whose term expired at the end of 2017. As shown in the photo Mayor Zieman thanked outgoing Councilmember Parras and presented him with an appreciation gift from the City as part of the December, 2017 regular meeting.



CITY ENGINEER RETIRES - Longtime Saint Peter City Engineer Timothy Loose has retired from Bolton and Menk, Inc. Loose served as City Engineer from July, 1989 through 2017. Through his service to the City, Tim was instrumental in the City's

various transportation projects as well as in our tornado recovery efforts.

Jeffrey Domras of Bolton and Menk, Inc. has been appointed as the new City Engineer.

The City Council and City staff wish Tim the very best in his retirement.

SNOW EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

– It's been a while since the City has declared a snow emergency, but if it were to happen do you know how to find out about it?

The easiest and quickest way to do so is to sign up for the Nixle community notification system. Once enrolled in this **free** system, residents can receive text messages, emails, or both about snow emergencies. You customize the notifications the way it works best for you.

Sign up today at <http://www.nixle.com/>.

And, in the event of a snow emergency declaration, the rules can be found on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city-snow-emergency-rules>.

HOME BUYER EDUCATION CLASSES – Are you interested in buying a lot or a speculative home in the City's Traverse Green Subdivision? To qualify for the many financial benefits available to new buyers in this subdivision, you must first complete a "Home Stretch Workshop" training session. Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership is offering one of these training sessions this Saturday, January 13th from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 pm at the Community Center.

The class is taught by HUD certified counselors to prepare home buyers for successful home ownership. Participants will learn budgeting and money management techniques as well as terminology used for mortgages and loan program options.

Completion of the class may qualify you for special mortgages, down payment assistance or other financing to make home ownership affordable.

For online registration go to www.stpetercommunityonline.com or for more information, please contact the St. Peter Community and Family Education office at 934-3048.

ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT – Have you considered "adopting" your neighborhood fire hydrant? With the minimal snow we have right now it's a perfect time to start the process.



As winter snows begins to deepen, residents can help out the Fire Department by keeping the area around the hydrant shoveled out as shown in the picture. In the event of a fire, this will save valuable time for the Firefighters who respond and even save a life.



SNOW SHOVELING REGULATIONS – Is your snow shovel handy? There are a lot of sidewalks around town that haven't been shoveled yet in violation of City regulations. City crews really hate having to shovel private property so hopefully everyone can help them out this year and keep all those sidewalks shoveled as required by City regulations.

Within 24 hours of a snowfall, property owners are required to ensure sidewalks are free of snow and ice across the entire width of the walk. That also means a little extra work to continue to ensure that blow back and drifting of snow is also removed.

Also, if you happen to live on a corner, you are required to ensure that the handicap crossing area is kept clear in both directions.

What's the cost if the City has to come out and shovel for you? Minimum of \$75 per hour with a minimum of one hour charge! City crews tackle properties in violation of the ordinance as soon as they are done with the City owned sidewalks.

So put that shovel to work, hire the neighbor kid, put your own kids to work, or hire one of the local snow removal companies to do the work for you and let's keep those sidewalks clean and safe!



CHRISTMAS TREE CURBSIDE COLLECTION

– Here's a bit of advance notice about the collection of Christmas trees after the holidays. City crews will collect real Christmas trees curbside on January 8th and 9th. The trees are chipped and used for composting.

Residents need to have all decorations removed from the trees and then place them curbside (not in the street). Trees should NOT be in bags.

No artificial trees, garlands or wreaths will be accepted.

And for those who need or want to dispose of their tree before this time, real trees may be taken to the City's compost site located at the southwest corner

of the West St. Julien/North Swift Street intersection.

If you will be having a real tree this Christmas, please note these important dates on your calendar!

CITY MEETING SCHEDULES – The City uses many different ways of notifying the public when and where City meetings take place. The one official spot is the legal notices bulletin board at City Hall. As required by the Open Meeting law, all official notices of meetings to be held by the City Council and its’ advisory boards and commissions are posted on this bulletin board at least 72 hours before the meeting.



We also include a calendar in the Hot Sheet and have a calendar available on the City’s website. Meetings are sometimes referenced on the City’s Facebook page. While we try to be as accurate as we can be in these different locations, the meetings are usually posted on the website a year in advance and sometimes things get changed.

Residents interested in attending a City Council meeting, or seeing what is on the agenda for an upcoming meeting, are encouraged to go directly to the Council packet for that meeting. The City Administrator’s Office uploads copies of all City Council meeting agendas and packet to the City’s website at www.saintpetermn.gov under the GOVERNMENT tab. Click on “current City Council agendas and packets” and you can see exactly the same notice and information that is provided directly to the Council.

And as always, if it is really important to ensure you are at the meeting, please feel free to contact the City Administrator’s Office (507-934-0663) to verify the start time and location of any meeting. We are happy to help.

HELP WANTED – The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the following temporary part-time position:

- **PART-TIME BUS DRIVERS** - for the Minnesota River Valley Transit system. Successful candidates for this position must have, at a minimum, a High school diploma or equivalent and a valid State of Minnesota CDL minimum of Class C Driver’s License with passenger endorsement. Candidates will have thirty (30) days from the date of employment to obtain the required driver’s license and the City will help the new employee train for the license test. Candidates who possess the following desired experience or education will qualify for additional points towards an interview: previous experience working with the public; training in vehicle mechanics; experience operating a two-way radio/phone; and prior bus driving experience. Starting wage \$15.76 per hour. Applicants are required to complete a City application form which is 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. January 5, 2018. Faxed, emailed, and/or late applications will not be accepted. ****NOTE:** The successful candidates for this position will be required to successfully complete and pass a pre-employment drug test. The position is also subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing required by USDOT 49 CFR Part 655 (Federal Transit Administration) and USDOT 49 CFR Part 40. In addition, successful candidates for this position must have a vehicle driving record which is clear of revocations, suspensions and cancellations for the past three (3) years. Applicants may be required to submit to a criminal background check and be clear of convictions for crimes or anticipatory crimes (as defined in M.S. 609.17 and 609.175) within the previous fifteen (15) years. AA/EEO

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.

Thursday	January 4	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	January 8	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	January 8	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	January 15		MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY – City offices



closed

Tuesday	January 16	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	January 16	7:00 p.m.	Parks Board Meeting
Monday	January 22	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Wednesday	January 24	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission Meeting
Thursday	January 25	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	January 26	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	January 29	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Tuesday	January 30	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission

*** Due to the holidays the dates/times for some of these meetings may be changed. Please contact the City Administrator's office (507-934-0663) for up-to-date meeting information.***