

# 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)



05/03/17

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council on April 24, 2017 included a public hearing and subsequent action on a request to rezone the property at 1115 South Minnesota Avenue from RP-1 (Residential Professional Office) to C-4 (Highway Service Commercial); award of the sale of \$495,000 in general obligation water revenue bonds to Nicollet County Bank to finance the refurbishment of the Broadway Water Tower; approval of a request for City assistance for a Gustavus event to be held in Municipal Parking Lot #5 on June 3rd; and approval for purchase of a used roller for street maintenance work to be financed by the 2017 Equipment Certificate.

The next City Council meeting is May 8, 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).



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

The winner of last week's contest is Tim Loose. Congratulations Tim! The correct answer was former New York Yankees manager and coach Yogi Berra.

*Facebook is not the same as Facetime....* So here is what I have been thinking about. I think it is great that we are putting things on Facebook that are more immediate in nature. I think that generally it's a good thing and lets people know things in a familiar, and maybe fun, format. We want to have things on there that are more immediate and time sensitive. We also see some questions about our posts which I like, but oftentimes we do not answer back on Facebook.

Questions are sometimes not well answered using Facebook. So our goal is oftentimes to contact you, the questioner, directly. So, although Facebook works for some things, it does not work for them all.

If you have a question, give us a ring, have us come out and speak to your group, or check out our website at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov). Will you? It makes me wonder.....

**UTILITY BILL FLYER CORRECTION** – The utility bill flyer that Saint Peter utility customers just received contained incorrect information about the date of the ECFE Vehicle Fair. The correct date for this event is Thursday, May 4th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the parking lot at First Lutheran Church. In the event of inclement weather the event will reschedule to May 11th. We apologize for this error.

**FLUORESCENT BULB RECYCLING** - Residential and small business utility customers (organized for profit and less than 20 full-time employees) of Saint Peter Municipal Utilities, are eligible to recycle fluorescent lamps/bulbs at no or low cost. These customers should bring their bulbs to the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility, east entrance, (400 West Saint Julien Street) for recycling on Wednesday, May 3rd from 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The first 10 bulbs are free. If possible store the bulbs in the original container and do not tape bulbs together. This service is funded by the City's Electric Fund and you must be a City electric utility customer to participate.

**CURBSIDE APPLIANCE COLLECTION** - The City is offering curbside appliance collection on Friday, May 26, 2017. Those interested in participating must pre-register and pay for the collection in the Finance Department at City Hall by no later than Wednesday, May 24th. The collection will be

Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> and appliances must be at the curbside by no later than 8:00 a.m. that day or the fee will be forfeited. Please note....if you are recycling an old fridge or freezer, please secure (rope, tape, etc...) the door/top of the appliance to keep children out and prevent a tragedy.

**CURBSIDE FURNITURE COLLECTION** – The City is also once again offering a curbside furniture collection on Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. As with the appliance collection, residents will need to pre-register and pay the fee by no later than Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> to participate in this service. Items must be curbside by 8:00 a.m. on the collection day or the fee will be forfeited. The fees, excluding sales tax, for this collection are as follows:

Sofa	\$22	Misc. (desk, bookshelf, table, etc.)	\$12
Mattress/Box spring	\$20	Cabinet	\$22
Chairs	\$17	chest & Mirror	\$25
Recliners	\$22	headboard	\$15
Hide-a-Bed	\$35	footboard	\$15
Desk	\$22	carpet roll	\$20 a roll

**ELECTRONICS RECYCLING COLLECTION** – The City has once again arranged for an electronics recycling collection on Saturday, June 3rd from 9 am – 2 pm. at the Saint Peter Wastewater Treatment Plant – 400 West St. Julien Street. There is no pre-registration necessary for this program and those wishing to recycle certain electronics can just show up, pay the fee, and get the equipment unloaded. The recycler’s fees are as follows:

Monitors up to 20"	\$10	Large Printer/Copier	\$25
LCD monitor	\$5	DVD/VCR/cable box	\$5
LCD/Plasma TV	\$15	Stereo system/home electronics	\$5
TV - 19 or 20 inch	\$10	Appliances	\$15
TV - 25 or 26 inch	\$15	Microwave	\$5
TV - 27 or 36 inch	\$20	Computer tower, components,	Free
Console/big screen TV	\$30	keyboard, mouse, laptop, cell phones, small electronics, batteries (excluding alkaline), heaters	
Small Printer	\$5		

**FREE BICYCLE RECYCLING** - Do you have an old bike that you no longer use or maybe it needs extensive repairs? How about donating the bike for recycling?

The City will be accepting bikes for recycling on Saturday, June 3rd from 9 am – 2 pm at the Saint Peter Wastewater Treatment Plant – 400 West St.

Julien Street. Any bikes brought in for recycling will be refurbished or recycled by an area non-profit organization and donated to kids in need.

**RESIDENTIAL PARKING RESTRICTIONS** - Section 24-529 of the zoning ordinance contains the parking regulations for the various zoning districts and various uses of land. Subdivision 11 of that Section reads, “Within residential districts, no required off-street parking shall be located within any required front yard except as may be provided within the private driveway serving a residential structure.”

The obvious intent of the ordinance is to protect the aesthetics of Saint Peter neighborhoods. However, the regulation also serves to protect the environment and enhances the City’s ability to effectively manage stormwater runoff in compliance with our MS4 stormwater discharge permit issued by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

**SUMMER FIX UP PROJECTS** – Summer is here and you may be thinking of fixing up around your home. This is the second part of a two-part article that will help you as you plan your project.

The last time we visited about the research necessary to begin your project....setback requirements, property lines, permit requirements, etc... This part of the Summer Fix UP Projects article will focus on decks...one of the most popular improvements made to a home.

After finding out you meet City’s Zoning Codes the next step is to apply for a building permit. To do this you will need two sets of plans showing where the deck will be placed on your home, size of the deck, stairs and type of material you plan to use. You will also need to show the size of the joists, beams, and footings. After gathering all this information, you will bring it all in to the Building Department for a plan review. At this point we go over the plans to make sure they meet the City Zoning and Building Codes. If for some reason the plans do not meet the Codes we will contact you and let you know that some changes are needed. (Keep in mind that a plan review may take up to a week to complete)

Before beginning your building project, or if you have any concerns or questions on this information, please call the City Building Department at 934-0662. We are happy to help.

**HERITAGE PRESERVATION DISTRICT** - In 1989, the City Council adopted the heritage preservation ordinance to, “Preserve and promote the natural beauty and distinctive historic character of the Saint

Peter Heritage Preservation Property, which is so intimately connected with the history and life of the City, to maintain and promote the charm and atmosphere of an integrated shopping, living, entertainment, and recreation area for visitors and people of the City.”

At that time, the Council established the Heritage Preservation District. The District begins at Broadway Avenue and continues down both sides of Minnesota Avenue to Mulberry Street. The District then continues along the north side of Mulberry Street and then north to include the properties on the west side of Third Street to Nassau.

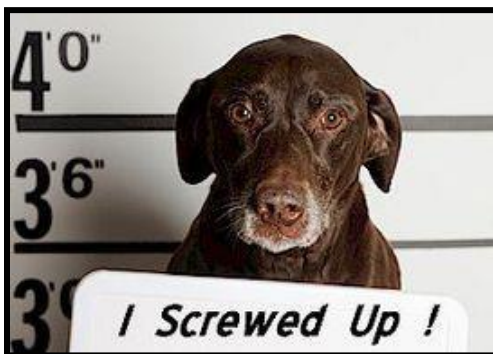
The ordinance requires that any construction, demolition, maintenance, repair, alteration, modification and painting of buildings, signs, graphics, visual displays, outdoor furniture, or fixtures on any Saint Peter Heritage Preservation Property be approved before work is done.

Essentially, any activity undertaken which alters the exterior appearance of the historic structure must be reviewed and approved by the Heritage Preservation Commission. The Commission follows the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings as they review new construction, renovations and the installation of signage.

Heritage Preservation Commission members are appointed by the Mayor and City Council and convene monthly to review and consider proposed projects.

To learn more about the Historic Preservation regulations, please contact the Community Development Office at 507-9340661.

**IS YOUR DOG A CRIMINAL?** – It’s official. If you haven’t applied for your dog license by now, your dog



is officially a criminal. Or should you, the owner, be the criminal?

Either way, the deadline has passed and now the

license will include a penalty fee. And if you wait even longer and don’t get the license you might even receive a formal citation from the Police Department.

Please apply now for your 2017-2018 dog license in the Community Development Department at City Hall. Cost with the penalty is now \$10 for

spayed/neutered dogs or \$30 for unaltered pets. The license is good for two years and you’ll need a current rabies certificate to get the license. Call the Community Development Department at 934-0661 for more information.

And in the unfortunate situation where you no longer have your pet, please contact the Department and let them know so we can update the database.

### LICENSE, LEASH AND LOOK AFTER

– What does it take for humans and dogs and cats to live in harmony? It takes people to be responsible pet owners who **license** their companion animals, have them on a **leash** when off the owner’s property; and who **look after** that pet and pick up waste when the need arises.



The City, and most communities in Minnesota, requires companion animals that are old enough to be vaccinated for rabies to be licensed. To license your dog or cat with the City of Saint Peter, pet owners have to provide proof of that rabies vaccination and then keep that information up to date. Should your dog or cat bite someone, the City can quickly check the vaccination records and possibly save the bite victim from having to undergo rabies vaccination shots. Likewise if your pet escapes from the confines of your yard and goes missing, having the license tag will help the Community Service Officer quickly find the owner and help get that pooch back home with its’ family without having to be impounded and the owner having to pay expensive charges. Of course the only way that all works is if the animal is licensed, and wearing that license on its’ collar at all times.



Having a dog or cat on a leash and under control of the owner when it is off the owner’s property is the law in our community. Dogs running at large generate a lot of calls to the Police Department. Is that dog a stray? Is it dangerous? Will it harm my kids or my own dog? And what if the animal darts into traffic and becomes not only a danger to the dog, but also to drivers? Unless you are at the official dog park on Highway 99, pet owners must

make sure their animal is on a leash when it is off the owner's property.

And we all know that dogs and cats will relieve themselves whenever and wherever the mood strikes. If that place is on someone else's yard or on public property the pet owner is required to pick up the waste material and properly dispose of it.

As of May 1st, the City will now allow leashed dogs and cats in additional recreation areas. Dogs and cats which are on leashes and under control of the owner will be allowed in:

- Riverside Park
- Riverside Park Extension
- Traverse des Sioux Park
- McGill Park
- Hallett's Pond (on the trail only)
- Public Conservancy Area in Nicollet Meadows 2 Subdivision (directly west of Jefferson Park)

The animals are allowed if the owner is in compliance with all additional animal regulations contained in the City Code including licensing, rabies vaccinations, and waste cleanup.

We all love our pets, but not everyone else does. Being a responsible pet owner helps bridge that gap and ensures we can live in harmony.

For more information on animal licensing or animal control regulations, please feel free to contact the City Administrator's office at 934-0663 or by email at [barbaral@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov).

**NO DRIVE THRU PARKS -** *(The following is a modified version of a previous "Makes me Wonder" column by City Administrator Prafke.)*

Most of us have used the drive thru at a McDonald's or Arby's or even Taco John's on occasion, but a drive thru park? There is no drive thru park in Saint Peter. It seems that many folks are starting to think that Minnesota Square Park is a drive thru.

Minnesota Square Park is our community's front yard. On a recent Sunday afternoon I received reports of up to a half dozen cars that just decided it would be great to drive up to the grills or park near the playground equipment or I don't know, maybe drop off their picnic basket in Minnesota Square Park. Hmmm...

Minnesota Square Park is NOT a drive thru. For specific events or festivals we sometimes allow vehicles in the park in support of the festival, but the park is not a drive thru. If you want to drive in Minnesota Square Park you need permission from the City to do so. If you don't have that

permission....don't do it. And the same goes for the other City parks.

I can list off a dozen safety reasons and park damage reasons why there should be no vehicles in the park. That park is a very special place; it is our community's front yard. We don't come and drive on your front yard so don't drive on our community's front yard. What are you not thinking? Minnesota Square Park is not a drive thru, or a drive in and drop off, or a place where cars or trucks should be except for special community activities with City permission. It makes me wonder.....where your front yard is, so we can drive on it.



### **BEFORE YOU HIRE A CONTRACTOR...**

Do your homework! Contractors need a license from the State of Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) and before you hire someone, the DLI suggests you ask for the contractor's license number and contact the Residential Building Contractors division at the DLI to verify the builder is currently licensed.

Other information on the contractor is also available from the State including any history of State disciplinary action against the contractor. And before you sign a contract, make sure the document includes a detailed summary of the work to be done; a description of materials to be used; the total contract price or how the price will be calculated; and specific timelines and provisions that address what will happen if the contractor fails to meet the contractual deadlines. If you have a problem or complaint with a residential building contractor, contact the DLI Residential Building Contractors unit at (651)284-5065, by fax at (651)284-5749; or by e-mail at [DLI.Contractor@state.mn.us](mailto:DLI.Contractor@state.mn.us) to discuss your situation with an investigator who may offer suggestions about how to resolve the dispute.



### **RECREATIONAL FIRE STANDARDS -**

Are you getting ready for a backyard recreational fire? Before you put match to

firewood, please review the standards and guidelines for having a recreational fire.

- Recreational fires must be at least 25 feet from all buildings or combustible materials.

Combustible materials are things such as wood, paper, and plastics.

- Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
- Recreational fires must be constantly attended until the fire burns out completely or is extinguished.
- A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with MSFC (07) Section 906 with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, or garden hose shall be readily available at all times until the fire is extinguished. Examples of other approved fire extinguishing equipment would be a charged garden hose, dirt, or sand (and a means of applying it).
- The only materials permitted in a recreational fire are wood from trees, small branches, brush, or charcoal. Treated lumber materials, construction debris, garbage, plastic materials, or waste materials are not allowed to be burned in recreational fires.
- Recreational fires must be immediately extinguished if they pose a fire safety risk, if they are not in compliance with the above, or when directed to do so by a Police Officer, Firefighter, Fire Warden, or DNR Officer.
- The MSFC (07) does not contain any regulations for immediate extinguishment if the smoke from a recreational fire is a nuisance to an adjoining property.

Also please note that Minnesota Statutes defines a campfire as: "Campfire" means a fire set for cooking, warming, or ceremonial purposes, which is not more than three feet in diameter by three feet high, and has had the ground five feet from the base of the fire cleared of all combustible material."

And finally, please help stop the spread of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) by only using firewood that is from the local area. As required by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, residents are not allowed to import materials to Minnesota that could harbor EAB such as ash firewood. Residents are not supposed to move firewood unless it's MDA Certified firewood (look for the MDA Certified Seal shown here) and are asked to remember that it is illegal to move all hardwood firewood outside of EAB quarantine areas. Let's work together to protect our urban forests from Emerald Ash Borer.



**COMMUNITY CENTER TRACK/GYM CLOSURE** - Monday, May 1st through Saturday, May 13th Community Center staff will be working on gym maintenance and the gym and track will both be closed during this time. Both will re-open to the public on Monday, May 15th. Thank you for your patience.

**COMMUNITY CENTER SUMMER HOURS** -

Hours at the Community Center adjust for the season and level of activity. During the month of May, the Community Center will close early on Fridays at 8 pm. Hours on Saturday will be 9 am to 4 pm. Beginning in May and throughout the summer, the building is closed on Sundays except by special arrangement. Please note that the Community Center will also be closed over the Memorial Day weekend, (May 27, 28 and 29).



In June summer hours begin and run through Labor Day weekend. Summer hours are:

- Monday through Friday 6 am to 8 pm
- Saturdays 9 am to 4 pm
- Closed on Sundays except for approved reservations.

For more questions about the hours change, or to inquire about room rentals, please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at the Community Center by calling 934-0667 or emailing [jenh@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:jenh@saintpetermn.gov). Hours are also available on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/community-center>.

**CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT/ACCESSIBILITY ENHANCEMENT LOAN PROGRAM** -

In 2016, the City Council tweaked the rules, regulations and terms of the loans made to maintain, repair and renovate historic structures within the Central Business District.

The purpose of the loan program is to "promote reinvestment in the properties within the Central Business District. Specifically, this program is designed to fund exterior historical enhancements or handicapped accessibility improvements to the commercial structures within the historic downtown."

Eligible applicants can access up to 90% of the identified project costs or a maximum of \$25,000 whichever is less. The loans are provided at 0% interest and the amortization is based upon the loan amount.

The key to the revised program is that the Council developed a partial loan forgiveness policy for loans made under this program. 50% of the original loan principle, to a maximum of \$5,000, will be forgiven if the recipient establishes and maintains an acceptable loan repayment history.

Prior to changing the program, a total of three loans were made in fifteen years from the historic enhancement loan program. The 2016 changes were made to encourage greater utilization of the loan funds which would result in increased

maintenance, repair and renovation of the structures within the historic downtown.

An initial analysis of the amended loan program suggests that utilization of the fund has expanded. In that last eleven months, six (6) loans totaling \$95,933 have been made from the Central Business District/Accessibility Enhancement loan program. As per the terms of the loan program, \$24,551 is scheduled to be forgiven subject to an acceptable repayment history.

**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	May 4	5:30 p.m.	Planning and zoning Commission
Monday	May 8	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Wednesday	May 10	2:30 p.m.	Minnesota River Valley Transit Board (Le Sueur)
Wednesday	May 10	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
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
Thursday	June 1	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	June 5	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	June 5	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session
Monday	June 12	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	June 19	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	June 19	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	June 22	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	June 23	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau

Monday	June 26	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	June 27	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	June 28	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission

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