

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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06/27/18

ST. PETER 4TH OF JULY PARADE



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP CANCELLED - The City Council workshop, regularly scheduled for July 2nd, has been cancelled. The next meeting of the City Council will be Monday, July 9th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.

fireworks at the Nicollet County Fairgrounds at approximately 10:00 p.m. For more information on the activities, please contact the Chamber of Commerce at 507-934-3400.



FOURTH OF JULY FESTIVITIES
- Saint Peter's annual Independence Day celebration, **which is organized entirely by the Chamber of Commerce**

(not the City), will take place on...you guessed it...the Fourth of July! Activities begin with a parade down South Washington Avenue at 10:00 a.m. (map will be published in next week's Hot Sheet) followed by a picnic, water slide, entertainment and other activities in Minnesota Square Park before closing out the evening with

ARE YOU A PARADE SQUATTER? - Are you one of those folks who can't resist staking out your prime spot for the Fourth of July parade several days or even a week or more in advance? If so, then you are a parade squatter!

Maybe the photo shown here is a little extreme, but sometimes it seems as if people start squatting earlier every year!



Saint Peter isn't the only area community that struggles with parade squatters and some have gone so far as to prohibit this practice along their parade routes. But we would like to avoid being the parade police, so, before everyone lines up to cordon off their spot or "save" it with blankets staked to the ground or chairs tied to each other, let's take a moment to review the rules of the game that we hope everyone will abide by.

- The parade takes place in a residential neighborhood with mostly privately owned property. Although the boulevard is public property, the private property owners are responsible for maintaining the grass and they will most likely need to mow before the parade. Staking your spot too early won't allow them to care for the lawn and they may remove whatever you left so they can maintain the lawn.
- Staking blankets or tarps to the ground will cause the grass underneath to become brown or yellow...even if the tarp is only down for a day or so. And "staking" something into the ground is dangerous especially in the boulevard where lots of utility lines and pipes are buried. This goes for those who put up tents and stake them to the ground also.
- Ever put down a chair or really nice blanket and come back on parade day with it nowhere in sight? That's the risk you take of staking out your spot too early. Not everyone is honest and lots of stuff goes missing.
- Anything placed in Gorman Park will almost surely be moved before the event. City crews work very hard to get the city looking spiffy for the Fourth when over 10,000 people come to town for the various events. Public Works crews will mow the parks a day or two in advance, set up bleachers in Gorman Park and generally work in all the areas where folks want to stake their claim. To prevent damage to our mowing equipment and injuries to our employees, anything left on the boulevard in any of the City's parks earlier than the night before the parade may be removed.
- Weather in July can include strong storms and if those storms come before the parade, a lot of the materials left to save a spot can end up blocks away or in people's back yards. Keep that in mind when saving your spot.
- And then there is after the parade.....everyone is expected to clean up after themselves and when

you leave, we ask that you take all of your personal belongings home with you. Unfortunately not everyone abides by this rule and the parade route is sometimes littered with broken chairs and other debris that just didn't make the trip home with the owner. The property owners who live along the parade route are gracious hosts during the event. We hope everyone continues to be a good guest.

As tempting as it may be to save a spot days in advance, we ask that everyone be courteous to those who live along the parade route and limit saving your spot to the day before. That also allows those who are coming from out of town to have the same opportunity for a prime viewing spot as those who live nearby and everyone can enjoy the parade!

DOGS AND THE FOURTH: Dog owners are reminded that with the exception of certified service animals, dogs and other pets are not allowed in Minnesota Square Park at any time and should be left at home during the Fourth of July festivities in the park. People with animals will be asked to leave the park and/or may be cited. So please leave Fido at home where he will probably be happier anyway!



FOURTH OF JULY CLOSURES – The list below shows closures of City offices related to the Fourth of July:

- All non-emergency City offices will be closed on July 4th
- Community Center – closed July 4th
- Transit – closed July 4th
- Library – closed July 4th

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS - Fireworks and celebrations seem to go together, especially during

the Fourth of July. Firework celebrations can result in serious burns and eye injuries or even death. Before your family celebrates this year, make sure everyone knows about fireworks safety.

If not handled properly, fireworks can cause burns and eye injuries in children and adults. The best thing you can do to protect



your child is not to use any fireworks at home - period. Attend public fireworks displays and leave the pyrotechnics to the professionals. Here are some tips that might save someone you love from injury or worse....

- Children should never play with fireworks. Things like firecrackers, rockets, and sparklers are just too dangerous. If you give your child a sparkler, make sure your child keeps it outside and away from their face, clothing, and hair. Sparklers can reach 1,800° Fahrenheit (982° Celsius) - hot enough to melt gold.
- Buy only legal fireworks and store them in a cool, dry place. Legal fireworks have a label with the manufacturer's name and directions; illegal ones are usually, but not always, unlabeled. Illegal fireworks usually go by the names M-80, M100, blockbuster, or quarter pounder. These explosives were banned in 1966, but still account for many fireworks injuries.
- Never try to make your own fireworks.
- Always use fireworks outside and have a bucket of water and a hose or a fire extinguisher nearby in case of accidents.
- Steer clear of others - fireworks have been known to backfire or shoot off in the wrong direction. Never throw or point fireworks at someone, even in jest.
- Don't hold fireworks in your hand or have any part of your body over them while lighting. Wear some sort of eye protection, and avoid carrying fireworks in your pocket - the friction could set them off.
- Point fireworks away from homes, and keep away from brush, leaves, and flammable substances. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that local fire departments respond to more than 50,000 fires caused by fireworks each year.
- Light one firework at a time (not in glass or metal containers), and **never** relight a dud.
- Don't allow your child to pick up pieces of fireworks after an event. Some may still be ignited and can explode at any time.
- Soak all fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them in the trash can.
- Think about your pet. Animals have sensitive ears and can be extremely frightened or stressed on the Fourth of July. Keep your pet indoors to reduce the risk that the pet will run loose or get injured.

If someone is injured by fireworks, immediately go to a doctor or hospital. If an eye injury occurs, don't touch or rub it, as this may cause even more damage. Also, don't flush the eye out with water or

attempt to put any ointment on it. Instead, cut out the bottom of a paper cup, place it around the eye, and immediately seek medical attention - your eyesight may depend on it.

If it's a burn, remove clothing from the burned area and run cool, not cold, water over the burn (do not use ice). Call your doctor immediately.

Even if you have legal fireworks, **NO FIREWORKS ARE ALLOWED ON PUBLIC PROPERTY** including parks, streets, alleys, government property or school property and to purchase fireworks, a person has to be at least 18 years of age. The penalty is pretty stiff for violations of fireworks regulations and could lead to imprisonment for anywhere from 90-365 days and/or payment of a fine of \$700-\$3,000, (depending on the amount of fireworks involved). For more information on the laws regarding fireworks and "what's legal, what's not", please visit the State Fire Marshal website at www.fire.state.mn.us/fireworksinfo.html or call the Police Department at 931-1550. You can also check out this safety video from the State Fire Marshal...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmT8Q-h5kvc&list=UUtlLz5GmDkDHIaAaVIPLYRnQ&feature=share>

Fireworks are meant to be enjoyed, but you'll enjoy them much more knowing your family is safe. Take extra precautions this Fourth of July and your holiday will be a blast!

MOSQUITO SPRAYING - City staff will be spraying for mosquitoes at Minnesota Square Park between 5:00-5:30 am on July 4th in preparation for Fourth of July activities. The spray is



a contact type pesticide used to control adult mosquitoes and is safe for use around recreational and residential areas such as athletic fields, parks, and campsites.

Questions about mosquito spraying? Please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on June 25, 2018 included corrections to the boundaries of Tax Increment Financing District No. 1-17; authorization for execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with School District #508 for City provision of certain School programming; approval for City assistance for community BBQ event organized by Arrow Ace Hardware; approval for modification to a lease with Mankato Clinic to extend their term in the City's

medical office building to December 31, 2018; approval for modifications to the Parks Foreman and Parks Construction Maintenance Worker job descriptions; authorization to modify the City's purchasing policy; and approval for City assistance for the Chamber of Commerce Fourth of July events.

Officials from the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) and the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) were also present at the meeting to



thank City Administrator Prafke for over two decades of service on the LMC and LMCIT Boards. The officials also thanked the City Council

for allowing City Administrator Prafke the time needed to serve on the boards.

The next regular City Council meeting will be July 9, 2018 beginning 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.

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on June 11, 2018 included final acceptance of the Jefferson Avenue/Gardner Road Improvements Project; approval for City assistance for the Ride Across Minnesota event in Gorman Park; award of the bid for the 2018 N 3rd Street Improvement (Broadway to Chatham) Project; authorization for a process to provide for finished basements in the speculative homes already constructed in Traverse Green Subdivision; rescinding a previous resolution related to fees paid to realtors for sale of homes in Traverse Green Subdivision and instead authorizing a percentage fee; approving modifications to the Billing Clerk job description; and approving City assistance for the Veterans Memorial dedication event.

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DNR GRANT AWARD

The City has been awarded grant funds from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for improvements at Hallett's Pond. The grant application was for a project to install a pier along the south side of the pond and asphalt trail surfacing over the existing gravel surface.



Hallett's Pond Natural Resource Area currently has an aggregate walking trail on the east and south side connecting to a concrete sidewalk near the Saint Julien intersection. This area is owned by the City, but not classified as a City park. A Natural Resource Area is defined within the City's Parks Master Plan as "A *Natural Resource Area is undeveloped and is left in its natural state, just the way it was intended to be. Natural Resource Areas are subject to flooding.*"

The public can walk this path, and leashed dogs are allowed on this path. Benches, trees and other natural plantings will eventually be installed along the path.

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

- **BILLING CLERK** - in the Finance Department.
MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High school diploma or equivalent; Clerical experience; Demonstrated computer use experience; and experience working with the public. **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Demonstrated knowledge and experience using Microsoft Word software; Demonstrated knowledge and experience using Excel software; Minimum of one year demonstrated accounting or bookkeeping experience; Associate's degree in accounting; Bachelor's degree with a major in accounting; Demonstrated knowledge and experience using utility billing software; Demonstrated experience using accounts receivable billing software; Two or more years' experience working with utility billing; Two or more years' experience working with accounts receivable. \$19.25-\$20.00 per hour depending on qualifications. Applicants are required to complete a City application form available in the City Administrator's office at

227 South Front Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1-5 p.m. or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 p.m. July 12, 2018. Faxed, emailed, and/or late applications will not be accepted. 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.

Wednesday	June 27	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	June 28	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority CANCELLED!
Friday	June 29	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	July 2	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	July 2	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop CANCELLED!
Wednesday	July 4		4th OF JULY - LEGAL HOLIDAY – City Offices Closed
Thursday	July 5	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	July 9	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	July 10	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	July 16	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	July 16	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday	July 23	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Wednesday	July 25	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	July 26	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	July 27	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Tuesday	July 31	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission