

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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05/23/18

MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURES – All non-emergency City offices will be closed on Monday, May 28th for the Memorial Day holiday.

Other City services will be impacted by the holiday as follows:

- Library – closed Saturday, May 26th as well as on Monday, May 28th.
- Transit services – Buses will not operate on Memorial Day.
- Community Center – The Community Center will be closed over the Memorial Day weekend, Saturday, May 26th through Monday, May 28th.
- The regular Council meeting of Monday, May 28th will take place on Tuesday, May 29th in the Governors' Room of the Community Center starting at 7:00 p.m.



TOWARD ZERO DEATH ENFORCEMENT WAVE – The Saint Peter Police Department is in the middle of a Toward Zero Death special enforcement wave. During this enforcement activity Officers will spend extra patrol hours concentrating on seat belt enforcement.

Also, here is a reminder for those with teen drivers:

- Nighttime Driving Limitations - For the first six months of licensure: Driving is prohibited midnight – 5 a.m. Exemptions:
 - Driving when accompanied by a licensed driver age 25 or older.
 - Driving between home and place of employment.
 - Driving to/from home and a school event for which the school has not provided transportation.
 - Driving for employment purposes.

The nighttime limitation is lifted after the first six months of licensure. Statute: 171.055 Subd. 2(b)

- Passenger Limitations: For the first six months of licensure: Only one passenger under the age of 20 is permitted, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. For the second six months of licensure: No more than three passengers under the age of 20 are permitted, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. Exemption: • Passengers under age 20 who are members of the driver's immediate family are permitted. Statute: 171.055 Subd. 2(c)
- Cell Phone and Texting - It's illegal for drivers under age 18 to use a cell phone, whether hand-held or hands-free except to call 911 in an emergency. It's illegal for drivers of all ages to compose, read, or send text messages or access the Internet while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic. Statute: 171.055 Subd. 2(a), 169.475

DONATE BLOOD - JOIN THE BATTLE OF THE BADGES!

The Saint Peter Police Department is sponsoring a "Battle of the Badges" blood drive on Thursday, May 31st from 1-7 pm at the Senior Center in the Community Center. It's a challenge between our men in blue and the boys in brown at the Sheriff's

Department to see who can get the most donors to participate. Summer is an especially difficult time

for blood banks and they need every pint they can get. Please consider donating. Call 1-800 RED CROSS or visit www.redcrossblood.org to schedule



an appointment and indicate "St. Peter BotB" for the donation site. Then when you arrive, tell them you are donating on behalf of the Saint Peter Police Department and help save a life!



ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED – Remember the last time you went to vote? Remember that nice man or woman who helped you through the process? That person was an Election Judge and the City of Saint Peter is currently seeking additional

judges to work for the 2018 elections in August and November.

To qualify as an election Judge, individuals must:

- Submit an Election Judge application available from the City Administrator’s Office. (Note that not everyone who applies can be appointed.)
- Be available to work on Tuesday, August 14th and Tuesday, November 6th.
- State an affiliation with one of the major political parties (Republic or Democrat).
- Attend a three hour mandatory training session that will take place in July.
- Be eligible to vote in the State of Minnesota; and be able to read, write and speak English.
- Be able to understand sometimes complex regulations and procedures.
- Be able to sit for extended periods of time. Election days are very long and this year’s general election day will be super hectic with few breaks.
- Be dependable. We need people who will show up on Election Day, be on time, and not back out at the last minute.
- Be able to work with all types of people and in sometimes challenging situations.
- Obey election laws and be able to withstand complaints and criticisms from voters who may be upset about the procedures they must follow.
- Like a doctor’s office, those who work with elections must be able to keep private information private.

An election judge cannot be a candidate in that election (i.e. be running for an office on the ballot used in that precinct); or the husband, wife, parent, step relative, child, brother, or sister of a candidate or another judge in the same precinct; or a challenger.

Judges are paid at the rate of \$10.25 per hour and will work on each Election Day either from 6:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.; or 5:30 p.m. until counting is done which can be as late as 1-2 am! And, if you are employed, State law (M.S. 204B.195) allows

individuals to be absent from work to serve as an Election Judge without penalty.

Being an Election Judge can be very challenging, but it is also very rewarding and if you think you meet the criteria outlined and wish to be considered for appointment as an Election Judge, please contact the City Administrator’s office (barbaral@saintpetermn.gov) for an application.

REAL ESTATE TAXES – PART II - In the last edition of the Hot Sheet, information was provided comparing real estate taxes in Saint Peter to similar sized Minnesota communities in our area. The data reported only included the municipal portion of the tax bill.

But what about the total tax bill? How do we compare when you include the County and School portion of the real estate taxes?

Once again the data presented assumes that the property is a homesteaded, residential property with an estimated market value of \$172,000 (the average for Nicollet and Blue Earth Counties).

City	Total Tax Bill
Mankato	\$1,846
Fairmont	\$1,978
Worthington	\$2,091
North Mankato	\$2,220
SAINT PETER	\$2,350
Jordan	\$2,467
Le Sueur	\$2,629
Owatonna	\$2,674
Hutchinson	\$2,676
Belle Plaine	\$2,702
Waseca	\$2,946

You can do your own analysis using the League of Minnesota Cities website. Pick a residential property value, choose the communities you wish to compare and pick a tax year. Here is the link: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/property-tax-calc-iframe.isp>. It is still that simple.

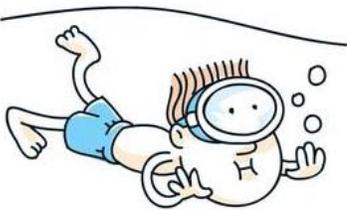
SPRING SAFETY TIPS – Warmer weather means more families and groups outside enjoying that weather. That means kids on bikes and skateboards, dogs being walked, strollers being pushed, and all kinds of activities on the sidewalks and roadways that haven’t been there for months.

And it’s up to all of us to keep everyone safe. Here are a few tips that might help do that...

- Teach your children to always wear a helmet when biking and teach them the rules of the road.

- Adults please remember to follow those same rules of the road whether you're in your car or on a bike.
- Walk on sidewalks if available.
- Follow the speed limits and make sure you come to a complete stop at stop signs.
- Keep your pets leashed and under control when you are walking to prevent them from darting out into traffic or rushing other pedestrians and dogs.
- Pick up after your dog. Although it's not strictly a safety issue, no one wants to walk in fresh dog droppings!
- Remind children not to talk to strangers and NEVER to get in a car with a stranger.
- Keep your bikes locked safely away in the garage when not in use, or chained to a sturdy structure to prevent theft.
- Remember to keep your doors and windows locked when you aren't home. And remember to make sure your garage door closes all the way when you leave the house.
- Remove valuables from your vehicle or at least keep them out of sight. No need to tempt a thief.
- Peddlers and solicitors start up in earnest each spring and summer. If someone comes to your door trying to sell something, ask to see their peddler permit from the City. If they aren't a company with a permanent fixed location in Saint Peter, they are required to have a peddler's permit to go door-to-door in a residential area....no matter what they claim! If they don't have one, feel free to contact the Police Department at 931-1550 and an Officer will check them out.

POOL OPENING - The outdoor pool opens on Saturday, June 2nd at 1 p.m. with free admission on opening day, open swim from 1–6 p.m., and family swim from 6:15–8:15 p.m.



Pool passes and ticket books are available for purchase now in the Recreation and Leisure Services Department located at the Community Center

and can be purchased at the pool during open hours.

Children ages 6 and under can use the wading pool free of charge but they must be accompanied by an adult or responsible supervisor-18 years or older. Concessions are available for purchase.

For more information on the City's outdoor pool, please visit our website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/outdoor-swimming-pool>.

WATER SAVING TIPS – To save money on outside water charges, here are some tips:

- Adjust lawn sprinklers so only the lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.
- Plant in the fall when temperatures are cooler and rainfall is more plentiful.
- Water lawns and gardens in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.
- Before watering, check the root zone of the lawn or garden for moisture using a spade or trowel. If it's still moist two inches under the soil surface, the area has enough water.
- Adjust lawn mowers to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds soil moisture better than if it's closely clipped.
- Collect water from roofs in a rain barrel to water garden or shrubs.

GARAGE SALE SIGN REMINDER

- It's that time of year again....garage sale season! The season comes with the usual collection of complaints and questions regarding garage sale signs, so here are the important facts to remember:



- No signs may be attached in any manner to a sign post, regulatory sign, street light, tree or any other City or State owned post or facility. Signs also must not block access on sidewalks.
- No signs may be posted on any City owned property including rights-of-way and/or City parks (with the exception of Johnson Park – intersection of Broadway/Washington Avenues.)
- Signs must not impede the sightlines of drivers.
- The person who puts the sign up is responsible for taking the sign down immediately following a garage sale and for removing signs which become tattered or loose.
- Any signs which violate these guidelines will be taken down by City employees and disposed of without notice.

And as you are scouting out locations of garage sales, please remember to pull over to the curb before writing down addresses for sales. Don't stop at a yellow painted curb, don't stop in the middle of traffic lanes, and be aware of and prevent traffic safety issues. Johnson Park is a particularly

dangerous area for vehicles and pedestrians alike when drivers stop or slow down for a look at the garage sale signs. Thanks for your cooperation!

LAWN MOWING REMINDERS – How many times have you mowed your lawn already this spring? Once, twice, more? As residents get into the weekly mowing routine, please remember the following.



First of all.....the need to keep up with mowing. The City has already begun to receive complaints from neighbors about unsightly lawns all over the community. Weeds and grass longer than six inches in height are prohibited by the City Code and if property owners don't take care of their yards, the property owner may receive a notice to comply or, in some cases, a citation. If the property owner still doesn't comply, the City will mow the property and provide the property owner with a very expensive bill.

Secondly.....it is illegal to mow lawn clippings into the street. If someone inadvertently (or on purpose) spreads lawn clippings into the street, it is up to the property owner to make sure the clippings are swept up and properly disposed of. This is easily avoided by simply turning the mower the other direction as you near the curb line.

Finally, residents are encouraged to leave the lawn clippings on their lawns or, if you absolutely can't bring yourself to do so, bag the clippings and dispose of the materials at the yard waste compost site at the corner of North Swift/St. Julien Street.

Clippings that wind up in the street eventually find their way into the storm sewer system and travel, untreated, to the Minnesota River. This increases the phosphorus level in the river and endangers wildlife and plant life. For more information about this topic, please visit www.cleanwatermn.org.

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 to discuss your situation with an investigator who may offer suggestions about how to resolve the dispute.

SUMMER YOUTH TRANSPORTATION - Need help transporting your children to their summer activities? Minnesota River Valley Transit (MRVT) will be discounting cash student (ages 5 to 17) fares on the Saint Peter route bus from June 7th through August 31st. The summer student route fare will be \$1.00 instead of the normal \$1.75. While maintaining the schedule at the regular bus stops, the route bus can make pickups and drop offs up to two blocks off of the route.

Passengers who are off the route will need to call (888) 880-4696 to schedule an off route pick-up. If you have specific questions about how this could help you, please call MRVT Dispatch at (888) 880-4696.

LOOKING TO DONATE ITEMS TO THE LIBRARY? – Garage sale time can be a boon or a bust for the local Library as folks line up to donate books that didn't sell.



The City loves receiving generous donations, but the Library staff has limited time to review donated goods and limited room to store them. With that in mind, the following donation policy is in place for donations to the Library:

- Please call ahead if bringing more than one dozen items.
- Please pre-sort donated items before bringing them to the library.
- Donations will only be accepted the first week of each month due to the overwhelming amounts of donations currently being provided.
- We appreciate items that are:
 - In "Good" or "Like New" condition
 - Not older than 2 years old.
 - Fiction, Non-Fiction, and children's hardcover and paperbacks.
 - CDs, DVDs and audiobooks
- We do not accept:
 - Text books
 - VHS or cassette tapes
 - Items that are very weathered, dusty, or

moldy

- National Geographic Magazine collections or similar large collections; however, we DO accept current magazines for our magazine exchange.
- The Lead Librarian will have the right to make the decision on how to manage the items that come in. If the material can't be used on the Library shelves, it may be offered as part of the book sale.
- If donated items don't meet these conditions, please consider making your donation area thrift stores, assisted living facilities, correctional facilities or the Regional Treatment Center.

SWIMMING LESSON CANCELLATIONS – One of the drawbacks of having an outdoor pool is that the weather doesn't always cooperate. So how do parents know if swimming lessons are canceled or the pool is closing?

To receive messages via text regarding cancellations or changes to swim lessons, open or family swim, lap swim or aerobics, send a text to 81010 or 651-691-4264 for each of the groups you wish to join:

For open or family swim text: @afteveswim
 For morning lessons ext: @amlessons
 For evening swim lessons text: @evelessons
 For aerobics or lap swim text: @aerobiclap

Not a texter? Then feel free to use the Recreation Hotline to call and check at 507-934-0070.

And if the weather is looking sketchy we encourage parents to find out about possible cancellations before dropping kids off at the pool.

CURBSIDE FURNITURE PICKUP - Friday, June 1st – Fees are as indicated below. Pre-registration is required at the Finance Department at 227 South Front Street by Tuesday, May 29th for this collection. Payment must be made at the time of registration. Items must be curbside by 8 AM on the collection date or you forfeit your fee.

Sofa	\$24.15	Misc. (door, bookshelf, table, etc.)	\$13.17
Mattress or Box spring	\$32.93	Cabinet	\$24.15
Chairs	\$18.66	Chest & Mirror	\$27.44
Recliners	\$24.15	Headboard	\$16.46
Hide-a-Bed	\$49.39	Footboard	\$16.46
Love Seat	\$24.15	Futon Mattress	\$32.93
Bed Frame	\$16.46	Dresser	\$24.15
Desk	\$24.15	Carpet roll	\$21.95 a roll

ELECTRONICS AND BICYCLE RECYCLING - Saturday, June 9th, 10 AM - 1 PM – taking place at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant – 400 West St. Julien Street. There is no pre-registration required for this collection and payment is collected by the contractor at the time the items are dropped off. Costs are as follows:

Monitors up to 20"	\$10	Large Printer/Copier	\$25
LCD monitor	\$10	DVD/VCR/cable box	\$5
LCD/Plasma TV	\$20	Stereo system/home electronics	\$5
TV - 19 or 20 inch	\$15	Appliances	\$15
TV - 25 or 26 inch	\$20	Microwave	\$5
TV - 27 or 36 inch	\$25	Computer tower, components, keyboard, mouse, laptop, cell phones, small electronics, batteries (excluding alkaline), heaters	Free
Console/big screen TV	\$40		
Small Printer	\$5		

All bicycles and bike parts will be accepted. Bikes will be refurbished or recycled by an area non-profit organization.

CURBSIDE APPLIANCE PICKUP - Thursday, May 31st, \$15.00 each. Pre-registration is required at the Finance Department at 227 South Front Street by Tuesday, May 29th for this collection. Payment must be made at the time of registration. Appliances must be curbside by 8 AM on the collection date or you forfeit your fee.

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

- **DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND LEISURE SERVICES**- Minimum qualifications include: Bachelor's degree in Recreational Services, Education, Sports Management, Library Services or related field from an accredited college or university; Three years' experience in progressively responsible positions with each of the following: recreational program development, developing recreation program budgets, and

employee supervision; Demonstrated knowledge of the principles and procedures of municipal recreational program administration; and previous experience working with the public. Desirable qualifications: More than three (3) years' experience supervising, training and hiring staff; Master's degree in Recreational Services, Education, Sports Management, Library Services or related field from an accredited college or university; Certification as a Parks and Recreation Professional; Demonstrated experience researching and applying for grants; Demonstrated experience working with recreation and facility scheduling software; and more than three years demonstrated experience developing recreation programming budgets. Starting salary range: \$68,000-\$71,000. Applicants are encouraged to review the position profile available at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/RecreationDirectorProfile2018.pdf>. Applicants must submit a cover letter; resume; minimum of three (3) professional references; Veteran's Preference form (whether claiming Veteran's Preference or not); and Affirmative Action form (both forms available in the position profile available on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/RecreationDirectorProfile2018.pdf>. Application materials must be received by the City Administrator's Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 14, 2018. Send applications to City Administrator's Office – Attn: Barbara; 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota

56082; or by email at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov. Late applications will not be accepted. Interviews will be conducted June 26, 2018 (with June 28th as the second date if needed). AA/EOE

- **PART-TIME BUILDING SUPERVISOR** - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the position of part-time Building Supervisor at the Saint Peter Community Center. Minimum qualifications include: High school diploma or equivalent. CPR and First Aid training or ability to be certified within six months of employment. Experience working with the public. Desirable qualifications include: Experience in building maintenance functions. Current CPR and First Aid Certification. \$10.56 per hour. Applicants must complete a City of Saint Peter available from the City Administrator's Office at 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082-2538 or by calling (507) 934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 1, 2018. Faxed, emailed or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EOE

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	May 23	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	May 24	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	May 25	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	May 28		LEGAL HOLIDAY – MEMORIAL DAY City Offices Closed
Tuesday	May 29	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Wednesday	May 30	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission (rescheduled due to Memorial Day Holiday)
Monday	June 4	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority



Monday	June 4	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Thursday	June 7	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	June 11	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	June 18	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	June 18	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Friday	June 22	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	June 25	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	June 26	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	June 27	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	June 28	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority

*Times for these meetings are approximate and will be confirmed closer to the meeting dates.