

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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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

09/06/17

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council on August 28, 2017 included a public hearing on establishment of a Tax Increment Financing redevelopment district for the old Mary's Flowers property and the residential property to the north; authorization for execution of a guaranteed energy savings project with Ameresco; award of the bid for the Furnishing Padmount Switchgear 2017 project to WESCO; acceptance of the lowest cost formal written proposal for painting the Sunrise Water Tower from Osseo Construction; authorization to purchase a new squad car to be funded by the 2016 Equipment Certificate; and authorization to execute a renewal lease with Kids Corner Child Center for space at the Community Center.

The next City Council meeting is September 11, 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.

RECREATIONAL FIRE STANDARDS - Are you getting ready for a backyard recreational fire? Unfortunately we are getting more and more calls from Saint Peter residents concerned about the amount of smoke being generated from some recreational fires. Whether that is caused by burning materials that aren't allowed, having too big a fire, or whatever, it's important to make sure that everyone is playing by the same rules which should help but down on the complaints generated when a neighbor has a recreational fire. 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 define 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.

HOMEBUYER 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, September 16th 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.stpetercommunityedonline.com or for more information, please contact the St. Peter Community and Family Education office at 934-3048.

POLICE CYBER CRIME WARNING - The Saint Peter Police Department has issued the following information....

"Criminal cyber activity will increase in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Please remain vigilant for malicious cyber activity seeking to capitalize on your interest in Hurricane Harvey. Use caution when opening email attachments, ensure that anti-virus software is updated, and verify the legitimacy of any solicitation you receive via email by contacting the individual or organization via telephone before clicking on any unknown/unverified email attachment. Be very leery of any direct solicitation seeking donations for hurricane relief. It is always best to go to the website of verified and credible organizations such as The American Red cross, www.redcross.org or The Salvation Army, www.Salvationarmy.org or Team Rubicon, www.teamrubiconusa.org. Always think BEFORE you click!"



BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY – School starts in just a couple of weeks for Saint Peter students. And many students will be going to a brand new school. Lots of folks are sure to be confused or running late as they try to sort out that beginning of school schedule

and that could mean traffic safety issues. So, it's a great time to review back to school safety tips for drivers and pedestrians alike.

This information is a compilation of materials put out by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association.

If your child is going to ride the bus to school you probably already know that buses are safer than cars. However, that doesn't mean the bus won't pose a danger for your child. To help prevent injuries

involving school buses, here are some tips to pass on to your children:

- Have a safe place to wait for your bus, away

from traffic and the street.

- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk ten giant steps away. Remember that the bus driver can see you best when you are back away from the bus.
- Use the handrail to enter and exit the bus. Backpacks are heavy and can throw a child off balance when climbing steps. Using the handrail provides an extra measure of safety.
- Be aware of street traffic around you. Drivers must follow certain rules concerning school buses, however, not everyone does and it's better to wait until you see cars come to a complete stop before you try and cross the street.
- Only cross the street at corners in the crosswalk.

CHILD SAFETY TIP

Before departing with children/grandchildren/kids to any event, take a second, pull out your cell phone and take individual pictures of each child. That way, if the unthinkable happens and a child gets lost, you have a picture of how they are dressed and what they looked like that day.

The photo can then be immediately sent to police to aid in locating the child. Seconds can be precious in this scenario, so take a second, make it a habit and take a picture!

Not all children will be bused to school and if your child lives close enough to walk or bike to school, here's some tips to help limit their danger:

- Instruct your child to follow traffic signals and instructions from the crossing guard and never cross the street against the light.
- Know your child's route to and from school and the time it takes. Ask them to not deviate from the established path or timeline. If your child rides a bike to school or home, practice the route before the start of school and know where any crossing guards or help might be.
- Instruct your child to walk their bike through intersections.
- Instruct the child to walk with a buddy.
- Outfit your child with reflective material to make them more visible to traffic. Putting this material on their backpacks is also helpful. Remember that once daylight savings changes in the fall it might be dark in the mornings when they go to school or when they are coming home.
- Teach your children to lock up their bikes when they get to their destination, including when they get home. Bikes are often stolen from yards and unlocked garages.
- Get your child in the habit of always wearing a helmet when they get on their bike. Make yourself an example by wearing your helmet too.
- Ride with your child! Parents can always use the extra exercise, and a bicycle ride creates an opportunity for parent-child involvement and good quality conversation time.
- Have a safety contingency plan...just in case! Does your child know a certain neighbor whose home can be considered a "safe house" in the event of a bike or safety issue? Could your youngster carry a walkie-talkie or, if an older child, a cell phone (even if it's only for emergencies)? Parents should provide their kids with "what if" scenarios they can think through...just in case the unthinkable happens. When it comes to your child's well-being, there is no such thing as being over-prepared.



As the driver of a vehicle, whether you are taking a child to school or not, it's important to be even more alert and aware because once school begins there will be significantly more traffic in and around school zones. Here are some tips to help everyone be safer:

- Wear your seat belt! Seat belts are the best form of protection in the event of a crash. And everyone needs to be buckled up properly. That means older kids in seat belts, younger kids in booster seats and little kids in child safety seats. And you, the driver? Set an example for your children and remember to buckle up yourself.
 - Remember that in Minnesota it's illegal to pass a school bus with flashing red lights. And don't think you can get away with violating this rule just because there aren't any Police Officer's around! Bus drivers can and will pass on the license number of a driver violating this rule to the Police!
 - Reduce your speed in a school zone. Legal speed limits in these areas will be posted, but you can make it even safer by slowing down even further.
 - Be alert for children who might dart out between parked cars. Remember they are smaller than most vehicles and you might not see them until it is too late. And parents, teach your child to always cross at the crosswalk so that this situation doesn't happen.
- That's a lot of things to think about, but parents and children also need to be aware of personal safety. Here are a few more tips to keep your child safe:
- Never label or print your child's name on the outside of backpacks, lunches or clothing. Doing so will make it possible for criminals to learn your child's name and trick them.
 - Establish a "SECRET CODE WORD" with your child. Explain to your kids never to go with anyone that does not know the "code word" regardless of the circumstances.
 - Explain to your children to:
 - Never talk to strangers.
 - Never get in a car with strangers.
 - Never let a stranger into their home.
 - Never let a stranger touch them.
 - Never allow your child to play in a dimly lit or unsupervised place.
 - Remind your child to play and walk in a group. There is safety in numbers.
 - Take a current photo of your child. Should the child go missing, having a current photo will help the Police.



This is just a sampling of ideas that you can use to keep your children safe as they go back to

school. Talking to your children before school starts, and giving them gentle reminders throughout the year is a good start to ensuring everyone has a safe and enjoyable school year!

MAYOR FOR A DAY ESSAY CONTEST - This year's



League of Minnesota Cities "Mayor for a Day Essay Contest" Is now open! What would our cities look like if kids were in charge? Find out by having students you

know take part in the 2017 Mayor for a Day Essay Contest! The entry form is available at <https://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/mayorforadayessaycontest2017.pdf?inline=true>.

The contest is sponsored by the League of Minnesota Cities which is a member based organization promoting excellence in local government. The City of Saint Peter is a member.

The contest is open to Minnesotans who will be in the fourth, fifth, or sixth grades this school year and entries must be handwritten and postmarked by October 13th.

Three winners will be chosen and awarded \$100, as well as have their essays published in Minnesota Cities magazine. Winners will be notified by Dec. 1, 2017.

YOUTH ATV SAFETY COURSE -

The Saint Peter Police Department and Nicollet County Sheriff's Office will once again be holding the Minnesota DNR Youth ATV Safety Course. This course requires that the student first successfully complete the online ATV Safety course through the Minnesota DNR.



The riding/skills course will be held on October 7, 2017 from 9:00 AM to about 12:00 PM. The course will be held at the Nicollet County Fairgrounds at 400 W Union Street in Saint Peter.

To register for the course, please email the student's full name, date of birth, address, phone number, parent's name(s) and cell phone number to jthelemann@co.nicollet.mn.us. The roster is limited to the first 25 students. For questions, please contact Deputy Jared Thelemann at 507-934-7189.

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

- **BUS DRIVERS** - for the Minnesota River Valley Transit System. **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** High school diploma or equivalent; possession of, or ability to obtain within 30 days of employment, a valid State of Minnesota CDL minimum of Class C Driver's License with passenger endorsement. **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Previous experience working with the public; training in vehicle mechanics; experience operating a two-way radio/phone; and prior bus driving experience. Starting wage \$15.38 per hour. 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. September 14, 2017.** Faxed 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 as 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	September 7	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	September 11	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority

Monday	September 11	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 12	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	September 18	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	September 18	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	September 21	2:00-5:00 p.m.	Senior Expo at Community Center
Monday	September 25	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 26	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	September 27	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	September 28	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	September 29*	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau

*Rescheduled from September 22nd

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