

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. Please contact us at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



04/27/17

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.

IS YOUR DOG A CRIMINAL? – If you haven't gotten your annual dog license by Sunday, April 30th, your dog could be a criminal! Don't let it happen to your pet.

Get your dog license from the Community Development Department at City Hall before the Sunday deadline. Cost is \$5 for spayed/neutered dogs or \$25 for unaltered pets and after Sunday a penalty will be applied. 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.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) –

“When you come to a fork in the road take it.”....Wise words in a world that is always changing. Sometimes we don't really want it to change. As I have gotten older, maybe more to the point, as my kids have gotten older, I

reminisce about days gone by thinking that they were so much simpler. I do this through the great luxury of loss of memory of all the hard times and challenges we face in life. I think that oftentimes we can be quick to dismiss the value of today and the opportunity we have in the future because we don't know the outcome.

Knowing the outcome is very comforting. That's the same reason I watch an old movie that I have seen before. I like to know how it ends.... I like to think that as part of your local city government we can look back and see good things, but more importantly, we need to be able to look forward, see the fork coming and make sound choices.

We know for sure that there will be lots of “forks in the road”. The trick is to plan to be ready. Planning and having a clear understanding of where we are at, having discussion about where we want to go and then gathering data about what we need to get us there is the best way to be ready for the fork.

The City, the School District and others have talked about starting a process to have a broad community discussion about where we are at today and where our community (that means all of you) wants to go. I think that visioning process will start slowly over the next year and take shape in the middle part of 2018 and into 2019 with a goal of having a common understanding of where we are while seeking community thought on where we

want to be in 5, 10 or maybe 20 years. Then we can gather the information and make plans to do what we can to make that 5, 10 or 20 year vision happen.

There will be forks in the road so....”When you come to a fork in the road take it” as our very wise quote eloquently stated.

If you know who’s quote I used at the start of this article and you are the first non-City employee to email barbaral@saintpetermn.gov with the correct **name and profession** of the quote, I will get you a very, and I mean very, small prize you can come and collect at City Hall. I will announce the winner in next week’s “Makes Me Wonder”.

Can we take the fork in the road together? It makes me wonder.....

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, require 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.

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 through 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 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 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.

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

The first thing you must do is a little research... If you are thinking of adding to the house or detached garage, or if you want to build a shed, fence or if you are just going to do some landscaping, you first need to know where your property lines are. Once you know that, you need to find out if there are any easements or if the City owned right-of way is in the area you are planning to work. Your abstract is a good place to look for all this information, but if you are lucky the City may have this in a file in the Building Department; otherwise you might need the services of a licensed surveyor before beginning your work.

The next thing you will want to know is if there are any setback requirements. A quick call to the City Community Development Department (934-0661) is where you can get those answers.

And don't forget to call Gopher State One Call (811) 48 hours before you do any digging on your property. Not only is it the law, but it's a free service that will help keep you safe when you work. Once you have called Gopher State, the State then contacts all the area utility providers (but not underground sprinkler systems), to ask for the lines to be "located" in the area where you plan to dig. You're required to call 48 hours before digging to give the City and other utilities time to respond to the request.

The second thing you should think about is whether or not you need a building permit. Here's a list of some of the common projects you will need a permit for:

- Building a one-story storage shed greater than 200 square feet in size
- Building a platform/deck more than 30 inches above grade that is attached to a permanent structure
- Installing fences seven feet or more in height.
- Building retaining walls over four feet high
- You will need a land disturbing permit if installing a sidewalk or driveway in the right way or which has more than 120 square feet of materials removed or added.

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.

COMMUNITY CENTER TRACK/GYM CLOSURE - Monday, May 1st through Saturday, May 13th Community Center will be working on gym maintenance. This means the gym and track will be closed during this time while the gym floor is resurfaced. 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 hours will be 6 am to 8 pm
- Saturdays 9 am to 4 pm
- The building is 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. 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.

EDA MEETING CANCELLED – The April 27th meeting of the Economic Development Authority has been cancelled. The next meeting will take place on May 25th at 12:00 noon.

YOUTH ATV CLASSES - The Saint Peter Police Department is once again partnering up with the Nicollet County Sheriff's Office and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to host a Youth ATV Safety Training Class. This class will be held on Saturday April 29th at 10:00 AM at the Nicollet County Fairgrounds (400 W Union Street) in Saint Peter.



This class is ONLY for youth at least 11 years of age that have successfully completed the online ATV training module offered through vendors authorized by the Minnesota DNR. In order to attend this "Riding Day" class, you must PRE-REGISTER through Officer Jon Hughes either by phone at (507) 931-1550 or by email at jonh@saintpetermn.gov.

BRUSH COLLECTION – Lots of little piles of brush and tree branches are already appearing on curbs around the community. The City's curbside brush and garden waste collection is scheduled to begin at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, May 1st.

Residents are asked to please separate brush and garden waste and place the materials parallel and adjacent to the



curb within six-feet (6') of the curb line. Please do not put brush or garden waste on the street, cover with a tarp, or put in bags. Brush and tree trimmings should be cut to lengths no longer than eight feet.

It takes more than one day to pick everything up in Saint Peter, but please note that the crews will only go through an area once and if the materials is not out by 7:00 A.M. Monday, May 1st, it will not be picked up.

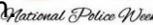
To make the process more efficient and to ensure your materials get picked up, don't place the materials by light poles, trees, posts, mailboxes, etc. and please refrain from parking within 50' or in front of the yard waste until pick-up is complete. Animal waste of any kind should not be mixed in with the yard waste or it won't be picked up.

Leaves will not be picked up during this collection, but can be taken to the yard waste drop-off site at 1128 West Swift Street (southwest corner of the intersection of St. Julien and Swift Streets). The site is open year around for Saint Peter residents and there are separate areas for leaves, garden waste, brush and now a separate bunker for dropping off fill (rocks, dirt, etc.). In addition, woodchips and sifted compost material, when available, will be available at no cost for Saint Peter residents although residents will need to bring shovels, bags or containers to load and transport.

These services are provided for and funded for Saint Peter residents by the Environmental Service charge on City utility bills.

For more information on these services, please contact the Department of Public Works at 934-0670 or visit the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/yard-waste-drop-site>.

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	April 27	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	April 28	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	May 1	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	May 1	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
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

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