

# 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. To request an email subscription to this newsletter, or for more information, please contact us at [barbaral@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov) [www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter](https://www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter)



07/05/17

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council on June 26, 2017 included rejection of the lone bid received for the Veteran's Memorial Park Sidewalk Improvements Project; approval of Change Order #1 for the Traverse Acres (Green) Street and Utility Improvements Project; approval of a five-year renewal lease for Community Education in the Community Center; approval of the 2017-2018 Water, Wastewater and Electric Fund budgets; approval of an electric rate increase; approval of changes to hours and days of sale for off-sale liquor license holders; authorization to enter a master government access agreement with the State of Minnesota; and approval of a tree worker's license.

The next City Council meeting is July 10, 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).

**RECYCLING CHANGES** – The City is pleased to announce that starting July 10, 2017, the curbside recycling program is expanding to collect recyclables every week!

All recyclables must be placed in the container curb-side by no later than 7:00 a.m. each week. Materials that may be recycled include glass, cans, plastics, paper and cardboard. The materials do not need to be separated.

Recycling is not only good for the environment, but it also keeps costs down which is good for all of our customers!. For more information on recycling with the City of Saint Peter, please visit our website at [www.saintpetermn.gov/single-sort-residential-recycling](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/single-sort-residential-recycling).



**CITY COUNCIL EMAILS CHANGE** – The email contacts for members of the City Council have changed. The new email addresses are:

**Mayor**

Zieman - [Councilzieman@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:Councilzieman@saintpetermn.gov)

**CITY COUNCIL WARD I (North)**

Carlin - [Councilcarlin@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:Councilcarlin@saintpetermn.gov)

Brand - [Councilbrand@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:Councilbrand@saintpetermn.gov)

Parras - [Councilparras@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:Councilparras@saintpetermn.gov)

**CITY COUNCIL WARD II (SOUTH)**

Grams - [Councilgrams@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:Councilgrams@saintpetermn.gov)

Pfeifer - [Councilpfeifer@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:Councilpfeifer@saintpetermn.gov)

Kvamme - [Councilkvamme@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:Councilkvamme@saintpetermn.gov)

**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.

Essentially, any activity undertaken which alters the exterior appearance of the historic structure

must be reviewed and approved by the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC). 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. For more information about the heritage preservation regulations or the HPC, please contact the Community Development Office at 507-934-0661.

**HIGH UTILITY BILLS? –** If your utility bill is creeping up as the summer warms and your grass needs a little sprinkling, here's something that might help you cut your bill. One of the biggest expenses on City utility bills is the wastewater fee which is directly tied to the number of gallons of water used by the customer.

This expense is even greater for customers who have not had an irrigation meter installed on their homes. Irrigation meters are separate utility meters that monitor the usage of water that does **not** go down the City's wastewater system.....outside uses like watering the lawn, washing the car, watering the garden, etc.... With an irrigation meter, the only charges the homeowner pays for this outside water use is the water cost. That can result in significant savings to the homeowner if you use a lot of outside water. Another plus is that during the winter months when outside water isn't used, customers don't pay a base charge for the irrigation meter!

So, how do you get an irrigation meter? The first step is to apply for one at the Building Department at City Hall. The cost is \$25. Then you'll need a plumber to install the meter. The cost for that depends on your plumber and what work is needed in your home to install the meter. (The homeowner is responsible for the plumbing costs.) From that point on, any water used from outside faucets will not be charged wastewater fees. If you would like more information on how irrigation meters work, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

**REDUCING ENERGY COSTS** - Summer heat is finally upon us. Here are some ways you can save energy costs and keep your utility bills lower:

- Be a speedy chef ...Nothing is more energy efficient for cooking than your microwave. It uses



two-thirds less energy than your stove.

- Push a button to wash your dishes. Surprise! Your dishwasher uses less water than washing dishes by hand. Then let dishes air-dry to save even more!
- Fill up the fridge. Having lots of food in your fridge keeps it from warming up too fast when the door is open, so your fridge doesn't have to work as hard to stay cool.



Cutting back unnecessary energy use is an easy way to reduce energy consumption while saving money. Here are some additional suggestions you can do at home, at absolutely no cost to you.

- Turn up your thermostat. Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home and 85 degrees or off when you are away. Using ceiling or room fans allows you to set the thermostat higher because the air movement will cool the room. Always take into account health considerations and be sure to drink plenty of fluids in warm weather. Use your appliances wisely. Avoid running your appliances during peak hours.
- Do your laundry efficiently by using the warm or cold water setting for washing your clothes. Always use cold water to rinse clothes.
- Line dry clothes whenever you can. If you have to use the dryer, make sure to dry loads back to back. Run full loads, use the moisture-sensing setting, and clean the lint trap after each use.
- Conserve energy by running your dishwasher only when it is fully loaded, and turn off the dry cycle and air dry dishes instead.
- Eliminate wasted energy. Turn off appliances, lights and equipment when not in use.
- Unplug electronic devices and chargers when they aren't in use. Most new electronics use electricity even when switched "off." Turn computers and printers off at the power strip.
- Unplug or recycle that spare refrigerator in the garage if you don't really need it. This will save you up to \$150 per year!

And for some inexpensive energy solutions, how about trying these ideas?

- Replace furnace/air conditioner filters. Dirty filters restrict airflow and can cause the system to run longer, resulting in increased energy use. Replace filters monthly for maximum benefit.
- Plug your home's leaks. Weather-strip, seal, and caulk leaky doors and windows and install foam gaskets behind outlet covers.

- Choose ENERGY STAR® products. Buy ENERGY STAR® certified table lamps and light fixtures, and replace your incandescent light bulbs that are used more than two hours per day with ENERGY STAR®



compact fluorescent bulbs. For example, install compact fluorescent bulbs in your porch light if you leave it on overnight. And remember, there are rebate funds available if you purchase energy star products including CFL bulbs.

- Install an ENERGY STAR® programmable thermostat.

And finally, are you planning to do some remodeling soon? Time to replace old appliances? Consider these energy efficiency suggestions when you make purchases.

- Install a whole house fan. A whole house fan is permanently installed in your attic and draws cool air into your home through the windows while forcing hot air out through your attic vents. Use after sundown when the outside temperature drops below 80 degrees, and in the early morning to cool your house and help reduce your air conditioning use.

- Install window shading. Install patio covers, awnings, and solar window screens to shade your home from the sun. For additional future savings, use strategically planted trees, shrubs and vines to shade your home.



- Solar control window films applied to existing glass in windows and doors is an effective method to reduce peak demand during hot months and conserve energy anytime air conditioning might be required. In addition to the energy management benefits, the use of these films can also reduce exposure to ultraviolet radiation and reduce glare.
- Invest in a new air-conditioning unit. If your air conditioner is on the way out, buy an ENERGY

STAR® air conditioner. Even if you currently have an energy star model, today's AC units are much more efficient than older models.

- Seal your ducts. Leaking ductwork accounts for 25% of cooling costs in an average home, so have your ducts tested and have any leaks or restrictions repaired by a qualified contractor. Note: duct cleaning is not the same as duct sealing.
- Replace your refrigerator with an ENERGY STAR® model. Refrigerators with a top or bottom freezer design can save you an additional 2-3% on your bill compared to a side-by-side design.
- Increase attic insulation. If your existing insulation level is R-19 or less, consider insulating your attic to at least R-30.
- Install ENERGY STAR® windows. If your windows are due for replacement, ENERGY STAR® windows can make your house more comfortable year-round.

Also please note that you may be eligible for rebates, tax breaks, federal stimulus funds or other financial incentives to help you afford some of these improvements. Talk to your tax professional to see if anything is available for you.

**HELP WANTED** - The City is currently accepting applications for the following position:

- **PART-TIME METER READER** – In the Finance Department. Minimum qualifications: high school diploma or equivalent; experience working with the public; and valid Class D driver's license. Desired qualifications: record keeping experience and previous meter reading experience. Position works full days over the first two weeks of each month. Meter Readers must work in all weather conditions. \$13.81 per hour with health insurance. 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 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's Office by 5:00 pm, July 14, 2017. Faxed, emailed and/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.

Thursday

July 6

5:30 p.m.

Planning and Zoning Commission

Monday	July 10	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	July 11	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	July 17	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	July 17	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday	July 24	7:00 p.m.	City Council meeting
Tuesday	July 25	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	July 26	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	July 27	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	July 28	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	July 31	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Tuesday- Tuesday	August 1 - August 15		City Council Candidate Filing Period
Thursday	August 3	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	August 7	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	August 7	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	August 8	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	August 14	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	august 21	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	August 21	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday	August 23	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	August 24	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	August 25	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	August 28	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	August 29	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission

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