

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  www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter

06/07/17

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council on May 22, 2017 included a public hearing and subsequent action to approve a request to rezone Outlot A of Hallett Pond Subdivision from C-4 (Highway Service Commercial) to C-5 (Business/Professional Office); a public hearing on a loan application to be submitted to USDA Rural Development for funding for the hospital expansion project; authorization for the City Administrator to negotiate the terms for the Ameresco energy savings project; award of the bid for the 2017 Equipment Certificate issuance to Hometown Bank; authorization for transfer of excess funds in the 2013 and 2014 equipment certificates to fund a portion of the 2017 equipment certificate purchases; approval of a Tree Worker license application; approval for City assistance for the Ambassador's Bluesfest event; authorizing Bolton and Menk, Inc. to provide for inspection of the Broadway Water Tower repainting project; approval for execution of an agreement with MnDOT for the LRIP grant funds awarded for the Gardner Road project; approval for vacation of a drainage easement in Cub's Court Subdivision; approval for execution of an agreement with MnDOT for shared costs for the Broadway Avenue project; and authorization to execute a contract amendment with LJP Enterprises that would extend the contract to summer 2023 and provide for weekly recyclables collection.

The next City Council meeting is June 12, 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 FIRES - As summer gets underway more residents become interested in spending time outdoors during the evening hours and for many of you that means having recreational fires on private property. But before you put match to firewood please note that fires are only allowed if they comply with the City's guidelines:



- There must be a fireproof fire ring separating the fire from the surrounding area.
- The fire ring cannot be larger than 36 inches in diameter.
- Only dry kindling wood can be burned in the fire ring. This prohibits the use of wood cut or designed for construction or from construction, including furniture, wood with any finish or foreign substance on it, twigs, leaves, green (wet) wood and anything other than wood cut from trees. (And to prevent the spread of Emerald Ash borer, please only use wood from this area. Transporting wood from other areas could spread the bug and harm our trees.)
- The wood must be entirely within the fire ring.
- Flames cannot be allowed to reach higher than three (3) feet.
- There must be a garden hose connected to a water source within reach of the fire.
- The fire must be tended at all times.
- The fire must be for recreation only.
- The fire cannot be deemed careless in any manner due to strong winds or other circumstances and if the fire is found to be careless in nature, violators will be prosecuted.

By following these guidelines, you and your guests should be able to safely enjoy a recreational fire. This information is also available on the City's website (<http://www.saintpetermn.gov/recreational-fire-standards>) should you need it at a later date. And remember.....in the event of a fire emergency, please dial 911.

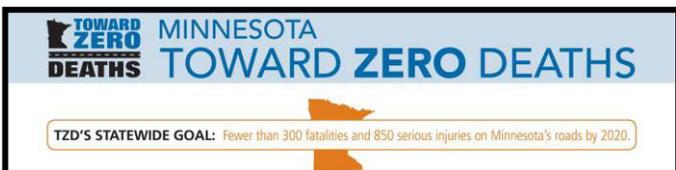
STUDENT ELECTION JUDGES – The City will soon begin the process of recruiting Trainee (student) Election Judges for the November 7th general election. High school students aged 16 and 17 can be Trainee Judges and we love to work with them. (Students 18 and over can serve as full-fledged judges.) Students must be in good academic standing, and have permission



from their school and parents. Trainee judges perform most of the same duties as the adult judges (except those requiring judges of different political affiliations) and they are paid for their service. Trainee judges will begin work at 6:00 a.m. and be done at approximately 8:30 p.m. It's a long day, but many students who have worked in these positions in the past have found it very rewarding.

To serve as a Trainee Judge, the student must also attend a mandatory training session before the election

If you have a student who would like to be considered for appointment as an election judge, or for more information on how you can serve your community in this way, please contact the City Administrator's office at 934-0663 or send an e-mail



to barbaral@saintpetermn.gov.

SEAT BELT ENFORCEMENT – Between May 22nd and June 4th the Police Department participated in a Toward Zero Death seat belt enforcement wave. During this wave, for both on-duty and grant-funded Officers, the Saint Peter Police Department conducted 352 traffic stops and wrote 38 citations for no seat belt use. Buckle up! Click it or Ticket!

The Police Department participates in the Toward Zero Death Program, (which is a grant-funded), which focuses on reducing traffic injuries and fatalities through the four E's: Education, Emergency and Medical Trauma, Enforcement and Engineering.

The enforcement tier of the program includes funding overtime shifts for the Officers with a goal of changing poor behavior related to violations of seat belt, child seats, impaired driving, distracted driving, and speed.

The next "wave" will take place from July 7th – July 23rd focusing on speeders and aggressive drivers. In 2013-2015 in Minnesota, illegal or unsafe speed was a contributing factor in 188 fatal crashes resulting in 201 deaths.

That wave will be followed by an Impaired Driving Wave from August 18th – September 3rd. Did you know that in 2015 there were 25,027 arrests for DWI? Plan ahead and have a sober driver.

The Officers of the Saint Peter Police Department thank you for doing your part and helping us strive towards our ultimate goal of zero deaths on our roadways.

WATERING TIPS FOR YOUR LAWN AND GARDEN – *(This information is provided by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency)* - Household water use swells in the summer due to irrigation of lawns and gardens, but according to the U.S. EPA as much as 50% of the water we use outdoors is wasted from inefficient watering methods and systems.

Quell the swell!
Conserve Minnesota's limited freshwater resources by using efficient watering methods this summer. Before you even turn on the hose, determine if you even need to water.



Trees and native plants do quite well with only rainwater. Except in times of drought, you don't need to irrigate these areas. Consider adding more of these plants to your yard. Find plant suggestions at www.BlueThumb.org.

Grass also does quite well with only rainwater. According to Minnesota Extension, lawn irrigation is optional in Minnesota's climate. If you choose not to irrigate your lawn, it may be brown for several months. But when the temperature cools in the late summer, the grass will green up and grow again.

Garden beds with non-native flowers or vegetables usually need some water in the driest months. Though plants vary, a rule of thumb is to water one inch a week (minus rainfall). Keep track

of rain and watering using a rain gauge placed in the garden. Also apply a layer of mulch around plants to reduce evaporation.

In the spring, look for leaks. Check the hose for leaks at its connection to the spigot. If it leaks, replace the nylon or rubber washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot using pipe tape and a wrench. To check for leaks in an in-ground irrigation system, contact a certified irrigation professional.

Water in the early morning. The wee hours of 4-8 a.m. are best for watering. Set up your sprinkler or irrigation system before you go to bed. In the morning, turn on the water while you get ready for the day. If the morning is too busy to add watering to the list, try a hose timer.

When hand watering, use a spray nozzle. A hose can waste 6 gallons per minute if you leave it running. A nozzle will stop the water until you are ready to use it.

Install micro irrigation along garden beds, shrubs, and trees. Micro irrigation—such as a soaker hose or drip tape—delivers low volumes of water directly to plants' roots, minimizing the water lost to wind, runoff, and evaporation. Simply run the irrigation hose along a row of plants and leave it there all season. Connect your main hose when you need to water. More complicated systems are available for larger areas.

Use a timer. It's easy to forget that you've turned on the water. A kitchen timer or hose timer can help you.

Don't sprinkle the driveway and sidewalk. It helps to select a sprinkler that matches your garden shape and size. Also choose a sprinkler that throws large drops, instead of a misty spray. This will ensure more water reaches plants and less is lost to evaporation and wind.

Consider an irrigation system. If maintained and properly set with a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller, an irrigation system—including in-ground sprinklers and/or micro irrigation—will water at the ideal time of day, adjust the amount of water according to the soil moisture, and will not keep running if you forget that it is on. An irrigation controller uses local weather and landscape conditions to tailor watering schedules to actual conditions on the site. These can also be added to older, existing systems.

Catch the rain. When the rain does come, saving rain water in rain barrels or cisterns is a great way to harvest rain water for irrigation. If the barrel is next to a garden, you can attach a soaker hose to the barrel and simply turn it on to let the water run.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FILING – Have you ever wished you could have a say in issues brought before the City Council? Your chance will be coming up this August when filing for City Council positions opens.

The filing period for seats on the City Council begins at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 and continues until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 15, 2017. The Election will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 to elect a Mayor, two Councilmembers from Ward I (North Ward) and one Councilmember from Ward II (South Ward). The terms of:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>TERM</u>
Charles Ziemann	Mayor	2 yrs.
Susan Carlin	Council Ward I	4 yrs.
Roger Parras	Council Ward I	4 yrs.
Stephan Grams	Council Ward II	4 yrs.

expire on December 31, 2017.

Any person wishing to file for City offices may do so at the City Administrator's office in the Municipal Building, 227 South Front Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. the filing process takes less than 30 minutes and the filing fee is \$5.00.

Persons with questions regarding the election or filing for office are encouraged to call the City Administrator's office at 934-0663.

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

- **Part-time CIRCULATION CLERK** in the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at the Library. Minimum qualifications: Experience working with public in customer service setting. Desired qualifications: Experience in provision of library services; ability to operate a PC and use internet and related programs including on-line cataloging system. Daytime hours with occasional Saturdays. Approximately 10-15 hours per week. Wage \$9.79/hour. Applicants are required to complete a City application form. Applications are available in the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1-5:00 p.m., by calling (507)934-0663 or sending a request for an application to barbaral@saintpetermn.gov. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 pm June 16, 2017. Faxed, late, and/or emailed applications will not be accepted. AA/EEO

OUTDOOR POOL OPEN – The City’s outdoor pool (located at 312 North Fourth Street), is open for business!

Open swim takes place each day from 1-6 pm and family swim from 6:15 – 8:15 pm weather permitting.

The admission price is \$3 per time for ages 5 and up, but don’t forget the pool passes and ticket books which can substantially reduce that cost! Passes and ticket books are available for purchase at either the Recreation or Leisure Services Department at the Community Center or at the pool during open hours.

Children ages 6 and under can use the Wading Pool free of charge although they must be accompanied by an adult or responsible supervisor (18 years or older). Concessions are also available for purchase.

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 text: @amlessons
- For evening swim lessons text: @evelessons
- For aerobics or lap swim text: @aerobiclap

Or you can call the City’s recreation hotline at 934-0070 for information on pool closure. More information on the City’s policy related to pool closures can be found on the website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/outdoor-swimming-pool>.

RECREATION HOTLINE – The City has a “hotline” available for Recreation and Leisure Services Department activities. Need to know if Softball is being cancelled (cancellations are always made by 4:00 p.m.)? Call the Hotline.

Need to know if the pool is closed before sending your kids down there? Call the Hotline.

The Hotline is an easy and free way to access all the latest information about Recreation and Leisure Services Department program activities and cancellations.

STORM SIRENS OR NOT? –

Last week’s stormy weather set off a storm of another kind...from people concerned about why the emergency sirens weren’t activated. How can people know when it’s safe to come



out of their basement shelters? Why isn’t there an “all clear” notice provided? We had all kinds of questions and concerns and it’s time for a refresher.

Let’s start with the basics of severe weather lingo.....

- Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm **“WATCH”** - means that conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes or severe thunderstorms. When a watch is issued for our area, pay close attention to the weather and make sure that everyone in your family knows the correct action to take if the weather gets worse.
- Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm **“WARNING”** - means a tornado or severe thunderstorm has been reported or is indicated by weather radar. Warning information includes the tornado or storm’s location, direction and speed. If the warning is issued for our portion of Nicollet County, residents should **TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY**. Emergency sirens are only issued for Tornado Warnings...not for severe thunderstorms.

Now, with that knowledge in place, let’s think about how the National Weather Service issues their watches and warnings. For many years, warnings for tornadoes were issued for the entire county. That meant that if a storm was 40 miles away on the other edge of Nicollet County, the warning was issued for the whole of Nicollet County regardless of whether it would come near Saint Peter or not. That led to the sirens being activated a lot and people starting to ignore the sirens. When people stop paying attention it poses a danger.

A few years back, the Weather Service changed their policy and now warnings are issued not based on county, but rather on the geographic area that the storm is actually in and/or traveling to. The “box” that you see on a radar screen for a warned area is oddly shaped to encompass only the area that is really in danger.

When the Tornado Warning was issued for Nicollet County on May 17th you may have got the notice on your television, or over your computer or smart phone. The Police Department gets notices sent directly to them by the National Weather Service. When the warning is put out, the Police

Department reviews the more detailed information they receive to determine if City emergency sirens should be activated. They also review radar information from numerous sources including local television stations. The direction of the possible tornado for which the warning was issued on

May 17th included the vague description of “southeastern portion of Nicollet County”. The actual tornado was not predicted to be near the Saint Peter area, therefore, the decision was made to not activate the sirens and instead, the Police Department closely monitored the situation until any threat of tornados had passed our area.

Some folks were upset that the sirens didn't sound and during and after the storm we had several calls/emails from folks expressing that opinion and asking additional questions. Here's a sample and the answers those callers were provided:

- **How are we supposed to know when to come out of our basement if there is no “all clear” siren?** *There isn't an “all clear” given. Everyone should take a NOAA weather radio or a portable battery powered radio, or a television into the shelter with them. That way you will know when the warning has expired and it is safe to exit your shelter.*
- **There is no basement in my house. Where do I go in the event of a warning?** *That's really something you need to determine before the weather turns nasty and there is no one good answer. Get to a windowless interior room, such as a bathroom, closet or inner hallway...Stay as far from windows as possible...Go to the center of the room – corners tend to attract debris...Get under a sturdy piece of furniture; heavy table or desk, and hold on to it...Protect your head and neck with a blanket, if possible. If you live in a rental property ask your landlord where the storm shelter is. If you live in a mobile home park, make sure your required emergency shelter is unlocked and accessible at all times and if not, check with the park owner to make sure that situation is changed. Traveling long distances across town to go to a shelter once the sirens have been activated is NOT a good idea, so make sure your emergency shelter is close at hand.*

- **Can I bring my cat/dog with to the emergency shelter?** *Probably, but if you do, make sure the animal is in a crate or on a leash. Animals get scared during storms just like humans do. An unrestrained scared animal may bite or bolt. And if a storm is approaching it might be a good idea to wrangle your dog or cat into a crate before the sirens start going off! Then you can just grab the container and head to your shelter.*
- **You need to put in another siren tower because I can't hear it in my house.** *The outdoor emergency sirens are NOT designed to be heard indoors. The system is specifically for those who are outside. If you don't already have one for your home, purchase a NOAA weather radio and keep it turned on at all times during severe weather season.*

We all need to be weather aware. If the skies appear threatening, find a way to tune in to local TV or radio. If you are a fisherman or enjoy camping or engage in a lot of outdoor activities, invest in a portable radio that you can tune to for weather updates so you can take shelter in the event of a fast moving storm while you are enjoying the great outdoors.

The City will continue to do our part to monitor and warn residents when the need arises, but each of us as individuals also need to take responsibility for our own safety. And when those sirens do sound please....

- Don't stand outside and try and spot, or worse yet, video the tornado. Head to your emergency shelter.
- Don't get in your car to chase the tornado. Head to your emergency shelter.
- Don't call the Police or City offices and ask why the sirens are going off. Head to your emergency shelter...that's where most of the City employees will also be!

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.

Monday	June 12	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Thursday	June 15	5:30 p.m.	Board of Zoning Adjustments
Monday	June 19	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	June 19	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Thursday	June 22	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	June 23	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	June 26	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	June 27	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	June 28	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Monday	July 3	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	July 3	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session (Governors' Room)
Tuesday	July 4		FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY – City offices closed
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



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