

# 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](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov) [www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter](http://www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter)



04/13/16

## SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 11-15, 2016. Each day of the week focuses on different weather-related hazards as follows:

- Monday – alerts and warnings
- Tuesday – severe weather, lightning and hail
- Wednesday – flooding
- Thursday – tornadoes (with statewide tornado drills)
- Friday – extreme heat



More information on these topics is available on the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-awareness-week-program.aspx>.



Two statewide tornado drills will occur on Thursday, April 14th (1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m.) and the Police Department will be testing emergency sirens at each of those times. During the test, outdoor warning sirens and NOAA weather radios will both sound in a simulated tornado warning. The first drill is intended for institutions and businesses. The evening drill is intended for second shift workers and families.



During this week of severe weather awareness, Nicollet County Emergency Management Department will also be testing their Emergency Notification system called "Everbridge". This will occur on **Tuesday - April 12, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.** The Everbridge system has the ability to quickly deliver messages to targeted areas or to the entire county in an emergency or disaster. It is important to periodically test the notification system to make sure it is working properly and if not, the County can address any issues experienced during the test call. **When you receive a call, it is important to listen to the entire message. Residents DO NOT NEED TO RETURN THIS CALL.** Citizens who do not receive the test call are encouraged to visit the County's website at [www.co.nicollet.mn.us](http://www.co.nicollet.mn.us) to sign-up for future emergency notifications and for more information on emergency preparations or management in Nicollet County, please call the Nicollet County Emergency Management Office at 934-7874.

As we enter into the severe weather time of the year, it is important to remember the terms that are used when advisories are issued:

\* Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm "**WATCH**" - means that conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes or severe thunderstorms. When a watch is issued for Nicollet County or our portion of the County,

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 Nicollet County, or our portion of Nicollet County, **TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY.**



\* Warning sirens are tested year round on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. to assure that the sirens will work in the event of an actual emergency. If you hear the steady tone of a siren at any other time, it means that severe weather has been sighted in our area and you should take shelter immediately.

\* There is no all clear siren, so take a battery powered radio with you to the shelter so you can monitor when it is safe to emerge.

\* When the sirens sound, please don’t call the City or the Police Department to ask why the sirens are going off. Emergency personnel will be busy tracking the storm and dealing with emergency calls while other City employees will be directed to emergency shelters. Take shelter immediately and save your questions for later!

\* If the sirens sound, don’t stand outside looking for the storm. Don’t climb on your roof to get a better viewpoint and don’t drive around trying to track the storms. Some storms move so quickly and are so unpredictable you might not have time to get to your shelter before the storm strikes or changes direction. Leave the storm spotting and tracking to the professionals.



\* Identify your storm shelter now....before you need it. When people change residences, identifying a storm shelter is not something that usually is discussed before moving in, but it’s important to think about exactly where you will go in the event of a storm warning and discuss it with your family. If you live in a mobile home community, make sure the storm shelter is accessible, clear of debris and stored materials and unlocked so that you can get in it in the event of an actual emergency.

\* If you are traveling in bad weather take note of the county you are in so you can take action in a severe storm warning. If you don’t know you are in Fillmore or Brown or Jackson County and a warning is issued over the radio for that county, you won’t know to take shelter!

If you would like more information about severe storms preparedness please call the Saint Peter Police Department (931-1550) or Denise Wright at Nicollet County Emergency Management (934-7874). Additional information is also available through the State of Minnesota Division of Homeland Security website at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-awareness-week-program.aspx>. The severe weather information contained in today’s Hot Sheet includes information from the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security website.

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council on April 11, 2016 included approval of the preliminary and final plats for a new housing subdivision to be called Traverse Green Subdivision; award of bids for construction of infrastructure in the new subdivision; scheduling a public hearing on establishment of a housing Tax Increment Financing district for the subdivision; award of the 2016 seal coating project to Allied Blacktopping Company; approval for purchase of a field maintainer/painter from Kromer Company to be funded by the 2016 equipment certificate; approval for temporary closure of South Seventh Street between West Elm/St. Paul Streets on April

29th for a Gustavus Adolphus College block party; approval for lease of Suite 211 at the Community Center to Good Samaritan Society Home Health Care; approval for Bolton and Menk, Inc. to serve as host for the City’s GIS project; and adoption of a traffic sign installation and maintenance policy.

The next City Council meeting is April 24, 2016 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).

**MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) - Partnerships...**

We have got a ton of them going on. We've got them in all shapes, sizes, and places.



The list includes other government entities, the private sector, not-for-profits, and many community based volunteer groups. The Council reviews our relationships with these partners on a regular basis at their Goal Sessions and as we review these partnerships, we often talk about goals and tasks and ways to enhance communication.

There are so many things that we partner on and while many are never seen by the general public, they can have a big impact on the quality of life that we have in our community. Some examples of these relationships include the Ball associations, School District, Nicollet County, Gustavus, and so many more. The Council believes that a strong community is made stronger through cooperative efforts and by many groups having opportunity to participate and to develop programs and projects. When the Council strategically thinks about opportunities to partner, it is important to make sure that common goals and objectives are shared with our potential partners.

We hope to do that through ongoing and enhanced communication, opportunities to meet together and discuss the objectives, and through sharing of expertise and resources. We see examples of this throughout the community including work that's done at Vet's Field, enhancements that have been made to Gault Park, a new big effort with the Arts and Historical Societies and the programs that teach our young people to play tee ball, to develop Lego projects, the and to encourage volunteerism within Saint Peter.

Let me know if you have a favorite partnership that involves the City of Saint Peter and your group. Have you seen some of these great partnerships in action? It makes me wonder...

**HYDRANT FLUSHING -**

The Water crew from the Public Works Department began spring hydrant flushing and flow testing on April 11th. The work is being done overnight between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. to



minimize disruption to customers. The work will

continue until all hydrants are flushed, but is expected to end by April 22nd.

Hydrant flushing could make water cloudy temporarily. Please check your water before doing laundry. If you have questions about this process, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

**WIPES CLOG PIPES**

– Please....DON'T FLUSH WIPES! Despite often



being labeled "flushable," disposable wipes that are flushed down toilets don't break down in the sewer system. These wipes are often used in private homes, medical facilities and nursing homes. Flushed wipes cause expensive problems for the City's Public Works Department which has to clean them out of screens and pumps, and remove wipe-based clogs. And as with most expensive problems, the cost is then passed on to customers.

Many homeowners have experienced plumbing problems because of wipes, so you may have expensive maintenance issues at home if you flush them. Wipes may be labeled "flushable," but they don't degrade in the system. Flushing them is like flushing a handkerchief or other item made of cloth as shown in this video created by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQEAiTUziOc>

Our sewer systems and treatment plants were not designed to handle wipes. They gum up the system, clog pipes and pumps, and cost taxpayers and residents lots of money in additional maintenance costs. So if you must use wipes, please put them in the trash, not the toilet!

And here's one more MPCA video that helps get the message out there...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nz0FFHL9rwr>

If you have questions about this topic, please contact the City's Public Works Department at 934-0670 for more information.

**SISTER CITY VISIT** - Mayor Ziemann recently traveled to Saint Peter's Sister City of Petatlan, Mexico. Here is a brief update on his travels.....

*"My wife, Woody and I recently returned from our Sister City, Petatlan, Mexico after a week-long adventure with a group of amazing Gustavus students and Saint Peter community members. We were part of the Learning To Serve program that was established by Gustavus in conjunction with the Sister*



*City program. The group of eighteen spent a week teaching English and building community and cultural involvement and relationships. We were hosted by local families who welcomed us as longtime friends. Woody and I were expecting an oasis that is located about 30 miles east of Ixtapa, but Petatlan and the surrounding smaller communities are very poor with high unemployment. The 1977 fire truck that St Peter donated to Petatlan remains a jewel to the residents and their fire department. Any help/donations/assistance we can provide to them is appreciated beyond belief.*

*The Gustavus students have made four short videos/documentaries showing their experiences which they are hoping to have available soon for viewing on SPPA.*

*“Anyone wanting more information about our adventure, please contact me @ 507 934-2107 or email [woody@hickorytech.net](mailto:woody@hickorytech.net).”*

**ATV YOUTH TRAINING COURSE** - The Saint Peter Police Department, with assistance from the Nicollet County Sheriff’s Office and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Enforcement Division are happy to announce a youth ATV course on Saturday, May 7, 2016 at 10:00 AM at the Nicollet County Fairgrounds. This course provides youth, ages 11 and older, an opportunity to learn about many topics related to ATV safety including but not limited to basic ATV controls, hand signals, basic operation, ATV laws, and how to respectfully ride and maintain our natural resources.



While bringing an ATV to the course is not required, mandatory rider safety equipment is needed to participate in the hands-on test. Also, completion of the online course is a prerequisite to this training. For details on how to locate an online course, please visit <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/vehicle/atv/index.html>

This class will fill to capacity very fast. If you have any questions, please contact Police Officer Jon Hughes at the Saint Peter Police Department by email at [jonh@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:jonh@saintpetermn.gov) or by phone at 507-931-1550.

**NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK** - The Saint Peter Public Library joins libraries in communities nationwide in

celebrating the dynamic changes that are happening in today’s libraries. April 11th-16th is National Library Week - a time to highlight the changing role of libraries.

During this week our Library staff invites the public to visit the library. Check out the display of library artifacts and documents from the turn of the century. Attend a screening of “Discovering Beverly Cleary”, one of the most beloved children’s authors, on Tuesday, April 12th (her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!) in the library meeting room; screenings at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Put your name into one of several prize buckets by making a small donation that will help support this year’s Summer Reading Program. Learn about Hoopla a new digital media service that will allow you to instantly borrow free digital movies, music, eBooks and more, 24/7, with your library card. Hoopla will soon be available at the Saint Peter Public Library.

I ♥  
MY  
LIBRARY



Libraries continue to level the playing field for people of any age who are seeking information and access to technologies that will improve their quality of life. First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April.

For more information, visit the Saint Peter Public Library, follow us on Facebook or check out our website at [www.saintpetermn.gov/library](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/library).

**BARBECUE SAFETY TIPS** - Barbecuing in any environment presents certain hazards that people should consider so that they can take precautions to reduce the likelihood of starting a fire. Here are a few tips that can help make barbecuing safer.

- If possible, it is best to keep your grill 15 feet from your home although some gas or electrical type grills can be within 18 inches of your home and installed on a deck. Before doing so, check and follow the manufacturer’s instruction guide for safe distances from combustibles.
- LP cylinders should be stored outside of the house.
- Keep charcoal briquettes and lighting fluid stored away from living areas of your home.



“How’s the grilling? Should I call in pizza yet?”

- Charcoal briquettes should be allowed to cool naturally then doused with water before being placed in the trash.
- If you live in an apartment building or a rental home always check with the landlord or management to find out if, and where, you can safely grill.

With a little pre-thought and common sense we can make this summer a safe and tasty one. More information on this and other tips can be found at the State Fire Marshal Division website at [www.fire.state.mn.us](http://www.fire.state.mn.us),



**UTILITY BILLS** – Did you know that City of Saint Peter utility customers can not only pay their bills online, but can also review them online? Although this feature has been around for quite a while, not everyone knows that the service is available. Check out your bill online

at <https://stpetermn.enerlyte.com/>.

And if you are not into paying bills online, the City offers automatic bank pay. The amount of your bill is taken out of a checking or savings account on the due date each month. You will still receive a

paper copy of your bill each month, but it will be marked “DO NOT PAY – PAID BY DRAFT”.

For more information on this program, please contact the Finance Department at 934-0664.

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

- **PART-TIME LIBRARY CIRCULATION CLERK** – in the Recreation and Leisure Services Department. 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. Up to 13 hours per week. (M-F days plus some Saturdays.) Wage \$9.50/hour. Applicants are required to complete 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 1-5:00 p.m. or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator’s office by 5:00 pm on April 20, 2016. Faxed, late, and/or emailed applications will not be accepted. 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 or visit the City’s website at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov).

Monday	April 18	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	April 18	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Friday	April 22	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	April 25	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	April 26	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	April 27	12:20 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	April 28	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Monday	May 2	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	May 2	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Thursday	May 5	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	May 9	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	May 10	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	May 16	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	May 16	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Monday	May 23	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Wednesday	May 25	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	May 26	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	May 27	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	May 30		MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Tuesday	May 31	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session