

CITY OF SAINT PETER HOT SHEET



All the City news you need to know and a little bit more!
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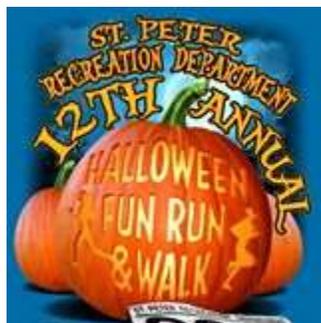
The following information is a publication of the City of Saint Peter, City Administrator's Office, 934-0663, 227 South Front Street. Please contact us at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



08/10/16

COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council at their regular meeting on August 8, 2016 included adoption of a resolution showing intent to work with the City of Le Sueur on forming a joint transit system and appointing Councilmembers to serve on a steering committee for that project; approval for execution of a contract with Gustavus for provision of transit services for students; approval for execution of a renewal contract with the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association to provide safety training services for City staff; approval of a request for City assistance for the Rock Bend Folk Festival; approval of modified guidelines for the Historic Loan program; and authorization for purchase of a transit bus.

The next City Council meeting is August 22, 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 <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city-council-minutes-agendas-packets>.



HALLOWEEN FUN RUN RUNS OUT - It's been a great (spooktacular) run Saint Peter! After 12 fun-filled, spooky years, the Halloween Fun Run event has come to an end.

The Saint Peter Recreation and Leisure Services Department introduced the first Halloween Fun Run in 2004. The inaugural run attracted 129 participants. Over the next 11 years the event expanded to include Spookyville, live music, a costume contest, prizes, refreshments and the first

in the area Lil' Monster Dash. Under the leadership of Recreation Program Supervisor, Lance Dlouhy, participation grew to over 1400 runners, walkers, dashers, and observers.

It's been a difficult decision. Although the success of the Halloween Fun Run and Walk has been gratifying, the Recreation Department is shifting their focus to future growth in a number of areas.

"With the continued growth and scope of the Recreation and Leisure Services Department and the needs of a changing and growing community", said Recreation Director Jane Timmerman, "we have been re-evaluating how to best serve the community. We believe it's the right time to refocus our efforts."

The City, through the Recreation and Leisure Services Department will continue to explore opportunities to meet the growing interests and needs of older adults and Saint Peter's ever increasing diverse population, which includes preparing for the new City/School park, as well as evaluating and providing enhancements to current programs.

Thank you to all those who participated in the Fun Run over the past 12 years and to the hundreds of you who volunteered time to help ensure successful events.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – Police Chief Matt Peters came to visit with the Council a few weeks ago, and as usual, he was great about

providing some statistical dashboard type info about the work of our Police Department and crime within our community.

My risk in writing about this is that it always seems like I am focusing on crime and other

tremendous numbers of great things that happen in our community, but I think there are a few things that were remarkable in the data he provided.

Most importantly is that that the data is NOT remarkable. There is really nothing that sticks out where, as it sometimes seems in the rest of the world, Saint Peter has gone crazy. There are no big jumps in crimes of a certain type and no big changes related to narcotic use crime, underage drinking or DWI stats. That's not to say that those things don't go on or that we don't catch and prosecute those perpetrators, because we do. It is saying that Saint Peter is a very safe place to live and enjoy.

Part of that has to do with our excellent Police Department and leadership, but honestly, much of it has to do with you and your friends and neighbors. While we have fantastic people wearing those blue uniforms, and those people have the right training and skills and they know how to work with people, it is equally important to have neighbors that care about each other and are responsible to themselves and the broader community.

Our goal is to be there when you need us and I know our Police Department does that and so many other things very, very well. That is one thing that I don't wonder about.



PRIMARY ELECTION RECAP –

Another step in the election process has been completed as the primary election is now a part of history. Unfortunately, not many voters chose to cast ballots on primary election day and Saint Peter saw only a 4.95% turnout rate.

But with the primary behind us, election officials and voters can turn our attention to what is predicted to be a historic election on November 8th.

More information on voter pre-registration and absentee voting will be provided in upcoming Hot Sheets.

LAWN MOWING REMINDERS – Did you know that City Code regulations prohibit mowing lawn clippings into the roadway? If someone inadvertently (or on purpose) spreads lawn clippings into the street, it is up to the property owner to make sure the clippings are swept up and properly disposed of. This is easily avoided by simply turning the mower the other direction as you near the curb line.

Residents are encouraged to leave the lawn clippings on their lawns or, if you absolutely can't

bring yourself to do so, bag the clippings and dispose of the materials at the yard waste compost site at the corner of North Swift/St. Julien Street. Clippings that wind up in the street eventually find their way into the storm sewer system and travel, untreated, to the Minnesota River. This increases the phosphorus level in the river and endangers wildlife and plant life. For more information about this topic, please visit www.cleanwatermn.org.



TRAVERSE GREEN LOT SALES – Are you interested in constructing or purchasing a new home? Lots are now for sale in the City owned Traverse Green Subdivision.

Interested individuals will need to contact the Community Development Department at City Hall (507-934-0661 or 227 South Front Street) for information. The Department has maps of the development, individual lot prices, information on restrictive covenants that will be implemented in the subdivision, and maybe most importantly, information on financing assistance programs for qualified buyers.

And if you would rather buy a completed home, construction will begin this fall on speculative homes that are being built by the City's Economic Development Authority. Once they are under construction, these homes will become available for public purchase.

More information on both the lot sales and sale of the spec homes is also available on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/traverse-green-subdivision> and from the Community Development Department at City Hall (934-0661).

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. Clicking on this link will take you to a map showing the [emerald ash borer status](#) in Minnesota. Let's work together to protect our urban forests from Emerald Ash Borer.

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.

Monday	August 15	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	August 15	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	August 18	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	August 22	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Wednesday	August 24	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	August 25	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	August 26	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitor's Bureau
Monday	August 29	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Tuesday	August 30	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Thursday	September 1	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	September 5		LEGAL HOLIDAY – LABOR DAY City offices closed
Tuesday	September 6		5:30 p.m.

Monday	September 12	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 13	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	September 19	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	September 19	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	September 22	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	September 23	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	September 26	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 27	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission