

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



03/02/16



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) - *Housing and Growth* .. These are issues currently being discussed within our community. A while back I saw an article in the

Minneapolis Star Tribune which is linked here...

<http://www.startribune.com/data-reveals-sharp-divide-between-twin-cities-rest-of-the-state/360017421/>

It was interesting to see the State data (on housing, religion, income, population, social, age, and race) presented in this way and it allowed me, for a minute or two, to take a bigger picture look at what is going on with us. I think this is a great question in whether we should grow or not. Is it really a good thing to grow?

As I look at the article and move my cursor across the counties with no growth or negative growth, I start to trace my travels. Which of those counties have I been to? Some of those I have lived in. It makes me wonder whether there really is a choice in these matters...do we really have much control over it at all?

It does come down to choices about what you want to have happen. Knowing that we really don't have as much control over growth as we might like to think, I know for sure that some of the places I love are going backwards and it makes me very sad. Not from the numbers standpoint, but from the perspective of when I stop in or travel through they are not what they used to be and not what they aspire to be.

How lucky are we to be able to think about whether growth is good or not. As the map shows, many don't even get to think about it as their choices have been lost.

It makes me wonder.....

STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN MEETING

- The City of Saint Peter Stormwater Utility will conduct a public meeting regarding the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) on Wednesday, March 2, 2016, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Senior Center at the Community Center at 600 South Fifth Street. At the meeting the public will have the opportunity to review the SWPPP, ask questions, and receive some additional literature on stormwater pollution prevention. For more information on the City's SWPPP, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

PARK CLOSURES

- While the recent spate of warm weather had many people out in the City's parks, the parks facilities won't officially open until May 1st. Parks are closed during the winter months (October 31st-May 1st) to eliminate the possibility of frozen pipes and damage that can occur during cold weather. Even though the temps seemed nice and warm, and even though temps next week are forecast to be warm, it still isn't warm enough to ensure that damage won't occur if the water is turned back on to the buildings and they are opened to public use. Staff will continue to monitor the weather conditions.



COUNCIL

WORKSHOP CANCELLATION - The March 7th City Council workshop has been cancelled. The next meeting of the City Council will take place on

March 14th.

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council at their special meeting on February 29th included approval of a lease for office space in the former River's Edge Hospital Clinic to Mankato Clinic, LLC.

Action taken by the Council at the regular meeting of February 22, 2016 included annexation of 62.72 acres of land to be used for a housing subdivision; approval for City assistance for the St. Patrick's Day parade; approval of a Tobacco License application; modification to the staffing levels in the Parks Section of the Public Works Department; approval of a modification to construction standards; closed session and subsequent action regarding the 2016-2017 union contracts with the Streets, Parks, and Utilities unions.

The next City Council meeting is March 14, 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.

COULD FLINT'S WATER PROBLEMS HAPPEN HERE? –

The media has given a lot of coverage to recent health concerns that developed when the City of Flint, Michigan changed their water source, which was coming from Lake Huron, to water drawn from the Flint River in an effort to control costs. The river water was considered highly corrosive (according to researchers from Virginia Tech, the water is 19 times more corrosive than the Lake Huron water) which resulted in elevated lead levels in the tap water provided to water customers and what may be severe health consequences for children and the elderly. All that media coverage has left some folks wondering...."Could the same thing happen in Saint Peter?"

Flint's high lead levels were created by the corrosiveness of the water from the new source, which was surface water. "Surface water" is water in lakes and rivers which collects above ground and doesn't have the chance to filter naturally. The water from the Flint River, which wasn't treated to remove the corrosiveness as required by Federal law, allowed lead to be scoured from Flint's water distribution system as well as the plumbing in private homes and leach into the water itself which was then ingested by residents or used for bathing.

Lead pipes in older homes which were also connected using lead solder have contributed to the problem. (New construction methods using lead-free solder have reduced this problem dramatically. And while there are means to reduce exposure to

lead in drinking water in older homes, it can still cause problems.)

This went on for over two years before being detected and the public being informed even with complaints from City residents about the brown water that was coming out of their faucet since the switch to the river water supply. (Shown here in the photo of a Flint hydrant being flushed).



Unlike Flint, which used surface water, the City of Saint Peter draws its water from underground aquifers and completes treatment using a reverse osmosis process. Our aquifers are tested and approved by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) using testing parameters that meet the standards and guidelines outlined by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The City also must meet Primary and Secondary public water supply standards and the City's wells are also monitored and tested on a regular basis.

Testing is done on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis to certify the levels of any containment levels in our drinking water. This schedule is dictated by the Department of Health and includes testing for bacteria, Total Chlorine Residual, Nitrate, Lead/Copper, Fluoride, Turbidity, Total Organic Compounds (TOC), Alkalinity, THM/HAA5, and Source Nitrate. These results are public information and are published yearly in the City's Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), which is available on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/water>, as well as being reported to the Department of Health.

Saint Peter's water utility has been required to test for lead and copper levels in its water distribution system since 1992. In addition to the monthly/quarterly/annual testing on the system as a whole, testing is also done every three years on a rotational basis at 30 different houses within our water distribution system. The houses selected for testing are at a higher risk for elevated lead and copper levels because of plumbing materials that exist in the homes. Those factors include interior copper piping with lead solder that was installed before 1983 and/or having lead water lines.

The last test of these houses was in 2014, and at that time the lead and copper levels indicated that none of the sample homes exceeded the EPA's action level of 15 ug/l for lead or 1300 ug/l for copper. Because we don't have a high risk of

contamination, Saint Peter is not required to complete this testing again until 2017.

So why do we have such low levels in our water? In 2011, the new water treatment facilities were put into service. The new treatment includes balancing the pH of the water from 7.8 to 8.2, where it is least corrosive. Staff also adds a corrosion inhibitor in the process which is a blend of ortho and poly phosphates. Phosphates supply a protective coating to the water mains and services in our system and protect interior plumbing from corrosion.

The City works hard to ensure we have the safest possible public water system. That includes continual investments in upgraded technologies and practices, keeping our staff well trained and educated, and working hand in hand with the Department of Health to ensure we provide the safest water to our customers.

If you have questions about the City's water supply, please don't hesitate to contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

EDA REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS - The original revolving loan fund goes back decades when it was started with personal donations made from members of the Saint Peter Development Corporation. Since that time, the Revolving Loan funds, which are maintained and administered by the Economic Development Authority (EDA), have received additional funding through federal disaster funds provided to the City of Saint Peter which were loaned to eligible businesses negatively impacted by Minnesota River flooding in 1993 and 1997 and then the 1998 tornado.

As the businesses repaid the loans, the City was allowed to keep the repaid principle and interest and expand the revolving loan program to assist the general business community through issuance of below market-rate loans.

The current liquidity of the revolving loan funds are as follows:

\$1,508,330	On Deposit
\$2,017,426	Loan Principle
\$3,525,756	TOTAL RLF FUNDS

The \$2,017,426 in outstanding principle is composed of 24 individual loans with original principle amounts of between \$5,000 and \$500,000. The vast majority of the loans are current as to the repayment schedule and are expected to be repaid in full as per the established promissory note.

This past month, the final Construction Mitigation Micro-Loans were to be paid in full. These loans

were made to Highway 169 frontage businesses to assist in cash flowing during the 2009 downtown improvement project.

A total of 24 Construction Mitigation loans were provided to eligible businesses. The maximum loan amount under this program was capped at \$6,000. A total of approximately \$130,000 in loans were provided as not all accepted the maximum loan amount. All but three of the Construction Mitigation loans have been paid in full. There are three public benefits resulting from the EDA loans. The EDA generally considers the public benefits of new taxable construction value, new job opportunities and municipal utility sales when considering participating in business financing. The post-loan performance of the Food Co-op is a great example.

The Food Co-op relocated to their new Mulberry Street facility in April, 2011. Following their relocation, Food Co-op electrical billings increased 71% due to the increased size of the new building and the purchase of additional freezers and refrigerated display cases.

The relocation of the Food Co-op resulted in the need for additional employees and payroll hours. In the first year after the Mulberry Street relocation, an additional 13,771 employee hours were required to sufficiently staff the larger grocery store. This resulted in annual payroll increasing by \$201,786, nearly a 50% increase over the year before the relocation.

The Food Co-op loan is one of the larger made by the EDA in recent years. However, big or small, Saint Peter businesses have access to the financing necessary to support their business operations.

The revolving loan fund remains sufficiently capitalized. Monthly receivables average approximately \$20,000 in principle and interest payments.

For more information on the City's revolving loan program, please contact the Community Development Department at (507)934-0661, 227 South Front Street.



HIGHWAY 169 FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT - The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Highway 169 Flood mitigation project will begin soon. MnDOT has provided a page on their website that will give project information to the public. The public is also able to sign up for

email updates on the project on this page and here is the link...
http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d7/projects/floodmitigation/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=.

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

- **MARKETING INTERNSHIP** - The City of Saint Peter is seeking a marketing student to work as an intern for development of a marketing campaign related to recycling and refuse

reduction. The successful candidate will develop and present a full marketing plan during the term of the internship which is expected to last between three and six weeks. The intern will be paid a stipend for this work in addition to any school credits that may be available through your university. Some work will be required to be done at City Hall in Saint Peter; however flexibility will also be provided for the intern to work remotely. If you are interested in this opportunity, please submit a resume by no later than March 11, 2016 to:

City of Saint Peter
 Attn: City Administrator Todd Prafke
 227 South Front Street
 Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082

Should you have any questions about this information, please don’t hesitate to contact the City Administrator’s Office at (507)934-0663.

****PLEASE NOTE....Information on Seasonal positions will be coming soon in the Hot Sheet and on the City’s website at www.saintpetermn.gov/employment.

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.

Wednesday	March 2	1-4 pm	Stormwater Pollution Prevent Plan Meeting
Thursday	March 3	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	March 7	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	March 7	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	March 8	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	March 14	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	March 21	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	March 21	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Tuesday	March 22		CITY OFFICES CLOSED UNTIL 1:30 pm STAFF TRAINING
Thursday	March 24	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	March 25	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	March 28	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	March 29	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	March 23	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission