

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



03/30/16

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council on March 28, 2016 included approval of change orders and final acceptance for the Front Street Substation Roofing Project; approval of a façade renovation loan for Blaido, Inc. dba 4 The Team; approval for modification of benefit payout terms in the Fire Department bylaws; approval for transfer of \$450,000 in General Fund reserves to the Park Land Dedication Fund; authorization for Brett Annexstad to lease Outlot A of the Magner Farm Second Subdivision for one growing season; a closed session and subsequent action related to land acquisition negotiations with National Retail Properties for a portion of the property at the northwest corner of the Old Minnesota Avenue/West St. Julien Street intersection.

The next City Council meeting is April 11, 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)** - *For those of you that may be new to the HOT SHEET, this was a post from a few years back that I think is a good tale about community discourse for*

*those who either sit in or seek leadership roles in a community.*

A good "Dust Up"..... That's what one of my older, much older friends used to say about a confrontation at a meeting. He would say, "Now that was a good dust up." I can still hear him say it

in that deep baritone voice from the end of the table as he leaned forward ..."Now that was a good dust up".

Before I came to Saint Peter I worked in Blooming Prairie and before that I worked as the City Administrator of four towns all at the same time. They shared my time and their duties and on occasion, as with any group, there was bound to be a disagreement about what should happen.

That friend and Councilmember I am eluding to was never one to back away from a good "dust up". He would talk to me afterward about the value or lack of value in the "dust up" depending on how it happened. I think it is important to point out the how it happened part.

A good dust up was a disagreement about something. Not the flashy kind where someone calls someone stupid, or some other less than kind name, but an impassioned, civil discussion about facts, focused on goals, coming to a solution that most can agree to. That's a "good dust up". A meeting where feelings are stepped on, where civility is forgotten, where nasty words are exchanged, where people leave and know nothing was accomplished but an argument, where decisions are made by the loudest voice, and where understanding and consciousness building was not part of the discussion...that was a bad dust up.

As communities govern themselves through their elected officials it is sometimes fun to see a bad dust up, watch the crash, see the mayhem that ensues, view the argument like it is a drama or comedy on TV. But my Councilmember knew that a bad dust up was not good for the organization or his community. He knew that arguments rarely solved things for the long term and even more rarely provided the best solutions.

A "good dust up" helped issues come to a conclusion, helped people who were passionate

about their position get their ideas out on the table which ultimately leads to better governance. Better governance is what he was after; not entertainment value. He knew that he wanted a better community and so did the people who elected him. They didn't want a sideshow.

As we all try to do what we can to make our little corner of the world better, a good dust up might be just what is needed from time to time.

It makes me wonder.....



**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.

**BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION** – The City Council will sit as the Board of Appeal and Equalization for those wishing to appeal the market valuations on their properties. The meeting takes place at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5th at the Nicollet County Government Center.

Property owners wishing to appeal their valuations should contact the Nicollet County Assessor's office (934-7060) to make an appointment to appear before the Board.

**PARKLAND DEVELOPMENT** – City staff and the City Council continue to work on development of the new park land that is located adjacent to the new high school site. Although not all of the park land will be developed right away, work is being done to prepare the land for future development. The City Council is also taking action to designate funding sources for the development costs that will occur which has included transferring excess General Fund reserves into the Parkland Dedication fund.

The City Council's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will also provide advice on the park land development based on the Parks Master Plan.



**I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!** – Every so often City staff receives phone calls from folks asking questions about what they can and cannot do in Saint Peter. Here's a few of the recent ones:

- *Can I use a metal detector in the parks?* It is legal to use a metal detector on City owned land including in the parks; however.....it won't be much fun because if you find something it is illegal to dig on the City owned land to uncover it.



- *Can I burn garbage in my back yard?* As tempting as it may be to cut down on your refuse bill by this old fashioned way to get rid of garbage, burning these materials is not allowed. And if you have a recreational fire ring in your yard, the only thing that can be burned is regular, untreated wood.



- *My dog/cat is missing, can I put up flyers?* What a sad thing to go through, but unfortunately it is against the law to post anything on City owned street signs, utility poles or utility

boxes. Not only is that illegal in the City of Saint Peter, but it could also violate State and Federal laws. We recommend utilizing the various lost/found social media sites that are prevalent in our area. Also be sure and contact local veterinarians and the Police Department (931-1550) to see if the animal has been brought in for care or impounded.

- *So, if I can't put up a sign about my pooch being missing, why can candidates for political office put up signs everywhere?* Good point, but there is a law for that.



State law allows candidates for political office to post signs on private property during the period 46 days before an election until 10 days following the election even if the city has different laws about signs. But there still are rules regulating campaign signs including that the signs must be on private (not public) property. (As this year's elections draw closer, the Hot Sheet will have some more reminders about the rules relating to campaign signs.)

- *I think there is a skunk under my porch. What should I do?* Our first recommendation is always to call a company called “Critter Getters” who will come and deal with the problem. If you want to

solve it yourself, the Police Department has live traps available for the public to use so you can try and trap the animal yourself. (And if neither of those options works for you, we recommend stocking up on tomato juice!)

Those are just a few examples of some of the questions we get. If you have a rather unusual question, please feel free to give us a call at City Hall (934-0663) or send an email to [barbaral@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov). We are happy to help and if it is something really unusual, we might feature it here in a future edition of the *Hot Sheet*.

**COLD WEATHER RULE** – The State law known as the “cold weather rule” is ending on April 15th.

The cold weather rule goes into effect in October each year and it prevents, under certain conditions, utility providers from disconnecting a customer’s heat source for non-payment of bills. That protects customers from Minnesota’s severe winter weather.

In Saint Peter customers who fall under the rule are not disconnected during the cold weather rule period, but are fitted with meters that limit the amount of power used by the customer.

But starting April 15th, customers who are delinquent on their utility bills may once again be disconnected for non-payment under the City’s disconnect policy.

If you are one of those customers, please contact the Finance Department at City Hall as soon as possible to make payment arrangements that will keep your power connected. The Finance Department can be reached at City Hall (227 South Front Street), or by phone at 507-934-0664.

**PET ADOPTION** – Spring is the time of year for baby chicks and ducks and rabbits. Sometimes the Easter Bunny even delivers these little pets as Easter surprises. (Those of us of a certain age may remember the local Ben Franklin store selling these pets at Easter time and their fur/feathers were actually dyed pinks, greens, blues, and other spring colors! Imagine what PETA would do with that scenario today!)

But before you decide that a holiday is a good time to buy a cute little pet for your kids, please remember that those animals grow up and become a lifetime commitment.

If you are in the market for a new family pet, please consider adopting a homeless animal through Providing Animals With Shelter (PAWS) in



Saint Peter, or use one of the neighboring rescue organizations. There are many, many pets of all shapes, sizes, ages, breeds, and species, that are in need of a “fur”ever home and while they might not be the cute little baby animal you were originally considering, oftentimes these pets will be the best companions your family could ever ask for. And don’t dismiss the older pets. While their life span might be a bit shorter, you won’t have the hassle of bad habits and potty accidents. You’ll get a calmer pet that still has playfulness and lots of love to give.

**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
- **GROUNDSCKEEPER** - in the Parks Section of the Department of Public Works. Essential job functions include completing tasks associated with the maintenance, care, and cleaning of city parks and recreational facilities. Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma and one year of experience in the maintenance of parks and recreational facilities, possession of a valid State of Minnesota Class A Driver’s License with Air Brake Endorsement and Tanker Endorsement or to obtain within six months of employment with the City; possession of an American Heart Association Certification as a Basic Rescuer or obtain within six months. Desirable qualifications: knowledge of materials, methods, and practices used in the maintenance and care of parks recreational facilities; knowledge of the care of plants, trees, and shrubs; knowledge of OSHA regulations

and safety precautions; knowledge of equipment and its operation to perform related tasks in parks maintenance. NOTICE: The successful candidate must complete and pass a pre-employment physical and drug test and is subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing required by federal regulations. Starting pay \$17.15 per hour. Applicants are required to complete a City of Saint Peter application form available in the City Administrator's Office, 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082-2538 or by calling (507) 934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30, 2016. Faxed, e-mailed, or late applications will not be accepted. Interviews

will be conducted Thursday, April 14, 2016. AA/EOE.

- SEASONAL POSITIONS- The City of Saint Peter is accepting applications for seasonal positions for the 2016 summer season in the Public Works and Recreation and Leisure Services Departments. Applications are available online on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/news/summer-seasonal-employment-applications>, or from the City Administrator's office between the hours of 8 am–Noon and 1–5 pm at 227 South Front Street, or by calling 507-934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's Office by 5 pm on Friday, April 1, 2016. Faxed 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 or visit the City's website at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov).

Wednesday	March 30	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Monday	April 4	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	April 4	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session
Tuesday	April 5	6:00 p.m.	Board of Appeal and Equalization
Thursday	April 7	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	April 11	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
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