

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



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CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council on May 23, 2016 included...adoption of a resolution of support for the Solace Project; authorization for execution of a pre-development services contract with Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership for Traverse Green Subdivision development; acceptance of a proposal from Wells Federal Bank for sale of \$365,000 in equipment certificates; approval of City assistance requests for BluesFest and the Fourth of July community events; and approval of two new Tree Worker license applications.

The next City Council meeting is June 13, 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.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – *Toying with an idea....*As I have been writing the last few "Makes me Wonders" I was thinking about other ways

to intentionally connect with people on questions or maybe policy issues or other issues facing our community. Oftentimes it's hard to find time to go to a stale, dry meeting.

A few communities have been experimenting with alternative locations and formats. So what do you think about an evening of "Pub and Policy"? Have a beer and talk about policy issues facing the City or community.

Now, under the rules I cannot buy the beer, but maybe we can set a few meetings up where we can

get together and see how it goes. Keep a meeting to a narrow band of issues and make the meeting be less "dry" through Pub and Policy discussion.

Get it...the meeting will be less "dry"! Here is another one...some of the issues discussed are easier to take with a stiff drink ;)

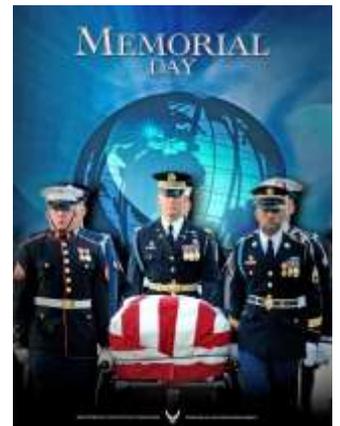
Anyway, let me know what you think or if you have thoughts about a topic or two. Email us at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov or give us a ring at 507-934-0663. Are you interested in the less dry meeting option? Makes me wonder.....

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE – The City Council Goal Session that was originally scheduled for May 31st has been rescheduled for Monday, June 6th beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center. The Goal Session will take the place of the regular workshop session that had been scheduled for June 6th.

There will be no Council workshop the week of Memorial Day.

MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURES - The Memorial Day (May 30th) holiday will impact several City offices as follows:

- All non-emergency City offices, including the Library and the Community Center will be closed on Monday, May 30th. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, May 31st.
- Transit service will NOT be running on Memorial Day.



- The Library and Community Center will also be closed on Saturday, May 28th and Sunday, May 29th.
- Because of the Memorial Day holiday there will be not *Hot Sheet* published that week.

Regular hours for all of these offices/services will resume on Tuesday, May 31st.

MOSQUITO SPRAYING – We occasionally receive comments and/or concerns about mosquito spraying when the public sees something on the City website about mosquito control. Sometimes the concerns are from folks who wish to avoid exposure to the mosquito control products, but surprisingly more often than not, its calls from people who hate mosquitos and think the City isn't doing enough to eradicate mosquitos.



Many years ago, the City changed its' policy related to mosquito spraying. Those of us of a certain age may remember when Public Works crews, in the wee hours of the morning, would drive around every City street towing a fog machine that left a cloud

of mosquito killing pesticides in its' wake.

As concerns came about related to the safety of the product being used not only by the City, but also by other municipalities across the United States, the process was changed and the blanket fogging of the City ended. Today, the City only sprays for mosquitos in City parks prior to community events if requested by the organizers. (Community events are large scale functions like the Fourth of July or Rock Bend Folk Festival.)

And with that limited application of mosquito control measures, residents who want to avoid the pesky bites from mosquitos are encouraged to provide for their own mosquito protection when out an about.

Make it a great summer in Saint Peter!

OUTDOOR POOL OPENING –

The Roy T. Lindenberg Memorial Outdoor Swimming Pool will open at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 4th. There will be free admission all day. Opening day schedule includes Open Swim from 1–6 p.m. and Family Swim from 6:15–8:15 p.m. The wading pool is free of charge all summer long. Passes can be purchased in advance at the Recreation Department in the



Community Center or at the pool beginning on opening day.

Need to learn how to swim? Register now for Red Cross swim lessons through the Recreation and Leisure Services Department.

For pool information, swim lesson cancellations and pool closings information, please call the pool at 934-3951, call the Recreation Hotline at 934-0070, or contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at (934-0667 or by email at jenh@saintpetermn.gov.

Information on pool rates, hours, and policies is also available on the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov.

TOWN-GOWN COOPERATION – “Town-Gown” is a phrase many folks may not be familiar with. It refers to the relationship between a community and a college located in that community...or more specifically in Saint Peter, the relationship between Gustavus and the residents of Saint Peter.

Saint Peter is one of the lucky college communities that enjoy a good town-gown cooperative relationship. Some residents don't see that cooperative relationship and that may be because they aren't aware of the good deeds that students at Gustavus do for the Saint Peter community. Some of those good deeds involve Gustavus students volunteering to help with many of the City's athletic programs like the youth football, b-ball, and volleyball programs; serving as Pound Pals to help walk and play with impounded animals or volunteering at fund raising or adoption activities for P.A.W.S.; volunteering for projects in City parks like efforts to remove buckthorn in McGill Park nature area or pulling trash out of trees and brush areas in all the parks. Many students are heavily involved in giving back to the Saint Peter community through volunteer programs and activities during their tenure at Gustavus.

As Gustavus students leave for the summer break, the City would like to recognize and thank all those Gustavus students who participated in community volunteer opportunities throughout the year. You're all part of what makes Saint Peter a great place to live and work and we appreciate your contribution!

ROUTE BUS FARES –

Discounted fares on the ROUTE bus for students ages 5 to 17 begin May 31st and end August 19th. Students in that age group may ride the ROUTE bus for a \$1.00 cash fare instead of the normal fare of \$1.75. The



ROUTE bus deviates up to two blocks from the path between scheduled stops to pick up or drop off passengers. This means that passengers may be picked up and dropped off at stops that are not on the schedule such as Jefferson Fields, the swimming pool or Gault Park.

A passenger wishing to be picked up at a location other than a scheduled stop simply needs to call 934-6070 and request the ROUTE bus pick up at their location. Once on the bus the passenger should tell the Driver where he or she wishes to go, if it is not already a scheduled stop.

The City hopes the discounted fare will assist parents with their transportation needs over the summer and also encourage those who do not already use public transit to give it a try.

Please call Transit Coordinator Wayne Albers at 934-0668 with any questions concerning how the transit system can best serve your needs.

RIVER'S EDGE HOSPITAL RECEIVES AWARDS - The Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) on May 20 honored innovative programs and outstanding leaders in health care at its 32nd annual awards ceremony.

River's Edge Hospital and Clinic received awards for "Best Minnesota Hospital Workplace" and "Patient Safety Improvement".

Seventeen awards were given for extraordinary achievement in categories ranging from advocacy on behalf of hospitals and volunteerism to innovation and improvement in patient care and patient safety.

"Each day, all across the state, Minnesota's hospitals and health systems are working to strengthen the health of our communities," said MHA President and CEO Lawrence Massa. "Our exceptional care teams set the bar high for patient care and for meeting the needs of their communities. Thanks to their expertise, diligence and commitment to excellence, Minnesota's hospitals continue to be among the best in the nation."

Congratulations to officials and staff at River's Edge Hospital and Clinic!

LAWN MOWING REMINDERS – How many times have you mowed your lawn already this spring? Once, twice, more? As residents get into the weekly mowing routine, please remember the following.

First of all.....the need to keep up with mowing. The City has already begun to receive complaints from neighbors about unsightly lawns all over the community. Weeds and grass longer than six inches in height are prohibited by the City Code and if



property owners don't take care of their yards, the property owner may receive a notice to comply or, in some cases, a citation. If the property owner still doesn't comply, the City will mow the property and provide the property owner with a very expensive bill.

Secondly.....it is illegal to mow lawn clippings into the street. 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.

Finally, 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.

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS – Summer vacations are right around the corner. Here are some safety tips to keep the whole family safe this summer:

- Swimming – Limit swimming activities to the City's outdoor pool where Lifeguards are on duty to keep everyone safe. Never swim alone and never leave children unattended while swimming. If children can't swim, make sure they are wearing a lifejacket when participating in all water-related sports or activities. Avoid "floaties" (inflatable floating aids), which offer a false sense of security; they do not substitute for lifejackets. If your child doesn't know how to swim, enroll him or her in American Red Cross sanctioned swimming lessons through the City's Recreation and Leisure Services Department.
- Recognize the signs if someone is drowning. The wild flailing and screaming that you see in the movies? Unfortunately, you won't often get those cues. People are too busy to scream; they're trying to breathe. Their mouths begin sinking underwater, so they can't call out. They won't wave for help; their arms instinctively push downwards to help propel their bodies higher above the surface. Watch for glassy or unfocused eyes, hyperventilation or gasping, hair over the face, or head too low



in the water. Instinctively, drowning people remain upright and forget to kick in order to stay afloat—remind them to kick, or (if possible) to relax and float on their back. They often have only 20-60 seconds before submersion, unless rescued.

- Keep your doors and windows locked – Many residential and vehicle thefts occur in homes or cars that were left unlocked. Keeping your property securely locked helps deter would be thieves who are looking for easy pickings. Keep your garage door down when not in the garage and if you have to leave something of value in your vehicle, make sure it is kept out of sight. Remove keys from the ignition (even when the vehicle is in the garage) and lock the door between the garage and the main part of your home. And keep those doors locked while you are home too. We spend a lot of time in the back yard during the summer months and it's easy for a thief to walk in the home from an unlocked front door when the family is out back.
- Never leave a child alone in the car. Aside from abduction dangers, in the summertime, car temperatures can soar very quickly -- even if it the temperature isn't ridiculously hot. Even with the windows down, a car can get very warm, very fast. Best bet; take your child with you, even if you are going into a store for just a minute. (And remember the same rules for pets. Leave them at home rather than risk leaving them alone in a scalding hot vehicle.)
- If you are headed to a place where you know there will be lots of crowds, review some ground rules before you get there. Make sure your child knows what to do in case you get separated or lost from one another. Teach him to look for a person who can help them like a uniformed police officer, park worker or even a mother with children. Pick a spot upon your arrival and designate it as your meeting place in case someone gets lost. Use your cell phone to take photos of each child so that in the event the child wanders off, you have an accurate description to aid law enforcement.
- Children who are home from school may be left alone more hours than they are during the school year. Make sure their internet use is monitored and they know the dos and don'ts about providing personal information over the internet.



- Make sure your children know not to open the (hopefully) locked door of your home to strangers.
- Bike safety is an important part of summer. Always wear your helmet and obey bike traffic laws....stopping at stop signs, signaling turns, riding with traffic, etc.... Make sure your bike is the proper fit; oversized bikes are particularly hazardous for children. Use reflectors and lights when riding at night.
- Teach children not to cross roadways in the middle of the road or from between two parked vehicles. They are small enough that drivers might not see them crossing in these unexpected areas.
- When vacation time rolls around, don't post your plans on Facebook and make sure your children refrain from doing so also. You never know which of your "friends" has a "friend" who might see it and turn out to be a thief while you are gone. Save your social media posts for when you come back.
 - Set indoor lights on timers.
 - Ask a trusted neighbor to pick up your newspaper or mail (or stop delivery of these items while you are gone).
 - Arrange for someone to mow your lawn while you are away.
- Wear sunscreen if you are going to be outside, even on cloudy days. Burns can happen in just a few minutes and have lifetime consequences.
- Picnics and barbeques can be fun for the whole family, but keep your food safe. Cook meat thoroughly and avoid cross-contamination by using separate plates for raw meats and the final product. Use a meat thermometer to check doneness. Ground beef should reach an internal temp of 160°. Keep food stored in a cool and dry place and remember a full cooler is colder than a half-empty one. Summertime is also a time for lots of mayo based salads. Make sure that these products stay cold and promptly refrigerate leftovers or throw them away.



PET SAFETY...It's equally important to keep our pets safe during the hot summer months. Here's some handy safety tips to protect Fido....

- Provide a shady spot for your pet to rest when outdoors; dog houses can trap heat and get really uncomfortable. Don't overexpose your pets to hot sand or asphalt which can burn their paws.
- If you own a dog with a short- or flat-face, remember these breeds can't pant as effectively as long-jawed dogs, so make sure to provide it with a cool indoor space.
- Ensure the pet's vaccinations are up-to-date since your pet will probably spend more time outdoors and in contact with other animals.
- Keep pets away from chemically-treated lawns, as well as toxic plants and flowers.
- Use a vet-recommended preventive to keep parasites like fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes at bay.
- Provide plenty of drinking water and a regular shower or dousing with a hose to cool your dog off. Or buy a shallow children's pool and let your dog use it to cool off.
- If your dog is outdoors most of the day, try putting a large chunk of ice in the pet's water dish a couple of times a day to help keep the water cool.
- Don't force your pet to swim and never leave it unattended in the water. Some dogs are not natural swimmers and they can drown if left unattended.
- Be on the lookout for heatstroke indicated by the following signs: heavy panting, quick or labored breathing, bright red tongue and gums that may be dry to the touch, or woozy movements. If your pet is experiencing these systems, contact your Veterinarian immediately for assistance and directions on how to safely lower the pet's temperature. Heat stroke can be just as deadly for pets as it is for people and these symptoms require immediate attention.
- Don't ignore your daily walks with your pet, but if need be, change the time so that you are walking in the cooler early morning or late evening hours.



(Great idea for people too!) Of visit Saint

Peter's dog park with your pet which offers a safe, off-leash area to exercise your dog on a grassy surface with areas of shade. But a word of caution...there is no water available at the dog park so bring along water to quench the thirst of both your dog and yourself. And remember to always leash your pet when leaving your property. This protects not only the public, but also protects your pet.

STORM SIRENS – This week's unsettled weather forecast includes the possibility of some strong storms.

In the last few years, the National Weather Service (NWS) has modified how they declare severe weather warnings. Previously the warnings were issued county-wide. That meant that a severe storm could be just touching the western tip of Nicollet County and the warning would be issued for the entire county sending thousands of people who were not in the path of the storm to their emergency shelters for no reason.



So, the NWS changed how they issue warnings and now create "boxes" that are shaped like polygons (irregular shapes) to more accurately reflect the path of the storm and narrowing down the focus of the warnings may help people realize that when the sirens go off, it's time to head to the basement.

Here's a little refresher on the storm siren system:

- Sirens are sounded once. The siren sounds for about three minutes. If the siren sounds again, the severe weather threat continues and people should stay in their shelters.
 - To find out when it is safe to leave the shelter, take a battery powered radio or cell phone to the shelter with you.
 - (And here's a handy tip...if bad weather is predicted, make sure your family's cell phones are fully charged. If the power goes out it might be some time before you can get to a source to recharge your phones.)
- There is no "all clear" siren. If the siren sounds more than once, it means the danger is still in the area.
- Outdoor emergency sirens are meant for just the outdoors. They are not designed or placed to be heard indoors. The public is encouraged to use a NOAA weather radio for emergency notices while inside buildings or to sign up for any of the numerous electronic apps that provide those services.

- Area counties may have different policies about sounding the outdoor sirens. Some may trigger the siren when hail or strong winds that may create property damage are imminent. Saint

Peter only sounds the sirens when a tornado warning has been issued for our direct area. City staff takes our responsibility to protect the public very seriously and we will continue to do our best to warn the public when the threat of severe weather is in the Saint Peter area.

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	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 – LEGAL HOLIDAY - City offices closed
Tuesday	May 31	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Thursday	June 2	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	June 6	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	June 6	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	June 13	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	June 20	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	June 20	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday	June 22	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	June 23	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	June 24	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	June 27	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	June 28	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission