

# CITY OF SAINT PETER HOT SHEET



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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)



06/17/2015



## **MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) - Memorial Day...**

A month or so ago I went to Minnesota Square Park for the Memorial Day program. I think it is important to attend for so many reasons...too many to mention them all here, but what I wanted to express was my thanks to the folks that work to make that program happen.

This years' program featured a speaker, LeRoy McClellan III, who was "fired up". I liked it!

I have to say that I am not sure I agree with everything that he said, but I am sure he was revved up, or as my mother would say, "fired up", and that made me more fired up. Fired up about my country, fired up about patriotism, fired up about the need to thank and memorialize those that have served all of us, fired up that so many of us were there together to do that memorializing, fired up that there are still so many people that see the value in these types of traditions.

While the speaker did not use General Douglas McArthur's line it reminded me of his "Duty, Honor, Country" speech at West Point and while there are any number of versions of that speech on YouTube, I like the one in this link...<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhCrOPwVwKw>

Mr. McClellan's speech got me fired up just like I am when I hear the words "duty, honor, country". The music and narration by Hamilton and McArthur get me fired up just like those three words.... Duty, honor, country.

Now I know all of you were not able to be in Minnesota Square Park on Memorial Day, but if you take a few minutes to watch the link you may get fired up too. I hope you were there and if you were, I bet you were fired up.

Were you? Will you come next year? Will you be fired up then? It makes me wonder.....

**ARE YOU A PARADE SQUATTER?** – Are you one of those folks who can't resist staking out your prime spot for the Fourth of July parade several days or even a week or more in advance? If so, then you are a parade squatter! Maybe the photo shown here is a little extreme, but sometimes it seems as if people start squatting earlier every year!



Saint Peter isn't the only area community that struggles with parade squatters and some have gone so far as to prohibit this practice along their parade routes. But we would like to avoid being the parade police, so, before everyone lines up to cordon off their spot or "save" it with blankets staked to the ground or chairs tied to each other, let's take a moment to review the rules of the game that we hope everyone will abide by.

- The parade takes place in a residential neighborhood with mostly privately owned property. Although the boulevard is public property, the private property owners are responsible for maintaining the grass and they will most likely need to mow before the parade. Staking your spot too early won't allow them to care for the lawn and they may remove whatever you left so they can maintain the lawn.
- Staking blankets or tarps to the ground will cause the grass underneath to become brown or yellow...even if the tarp is only

down for a day or so. And “staking” something into the ground is dangerous especially in the boulevard where lots of utility lines and pipes are buried. This goes for those who put up tents and stake them to the ground also.

- Ever put down a chair or really nice blanket and come back on parade day with it nowhere in sight? That’s the risk you take of staking out your spot too early. Not everyone is honest and lots of stuff goes missing.
- Anything placed in Gorman Park will almost surely be moved before the event. City crews work very hard to get the city looking spiffy for the Fourth when over 10,000 people come to town for the various events. Public Works crews will mow the parks a day or two in advance, set up bleachers in Gorman Park and generally work in all the areas where folks want to stake their claim. To prevent damage to our mowing equipment and injuries to our employees, anything left on the boulevard in any of the City’s parks earlier than the night before the parade may be removed.
- Weather in July can include strong storms and if those storms come before the parade, a lot of the materials left to save a spot can end up blocks away or in people’s back yards. Keep that in mind when saving your spot.
- And then there is after the parade.....everyone is expected to clean up after themselves and when you leave, we ask that you take all of your personal belongings home with you. Unfortunately not everyone abides by this rule and the parade route is sometimes littered with broken chairs and other debris that just didn’t make the trip home with the owner.

As tempting as it may be to save a spot days in advance, we ask that everyone be courteous to those who live along the parade route and limit saving your spot to the day before. That also allows those who are coming from out of town to have the same opportunity for a prime viewing spot as those who live nearby and everyone can enjoy the parade!

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of June 8, 2015 included approval for the sale of \$3,540,000 in Electric Revenue Refunding Bonds that will save the City almost \$224,000 in interest costs; rejection

of a request for a letter of support for the Hallett’s Landing Apartment/Solace Project; approval for a wage increase for City Councilmembers; and a closed session to discuss land purchase negotiations for future development purposes.

The Council also had a special meeting on June 15, 2015 that included a closed session covered under the attorney-client privilege exemption from the Minnesota Open Meeting Law; and action to consider approval of a settlement agreement with Green Valley LLP.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, June 22nd 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).

**POUND ANIMALS LOOKING FOR HOMES** – The Saint Peter animal pound has several dogs, cats, and kittens looking for wonderful forever homes. If you have room in your heart and home for a new pet, please check out these beauties:

- **Clyde** is a male Chesapeake/Lab cross, about 1-2 years old, found in Nicollet County. He is a beautiful dog and full of energy! His adoption fee is \$155.
- **Prairie** is a female domestic short hair calico tabby cat, about 3 years old. She was found in Kasota. She is very friendly and is in need of a loving home. Her adoption fee is \$25.



- **Simon** is a male domestic short hair orange tabby and he is about 1 year old. He LOVES to play! And he also has a very interesting feature...look at his paws that he so proudly displays...an extra digit! This is pretty special and it is called being polydactyl. Nobel Prize-winning author Ernest Hemmingway was a famous aficionado of polydactyl cats, after being first given a six-toed cat by a ship’s captain. Upon Hemingway’s death in 1961, his former home in Key West, Florida, became a museum and a home for his cats, and it currently houses approximately fifty descendants of his cats (about half of which are polydactyl). Because of his love for these animals, polydactyl cats are sometimes referred

to as "Hemingway Cats". Simon's adoption fee is \$25.

- Next meet some of our kittens. They are about 5 weeks old and were found in Saint Peter. **Fozzie** is a male orange tabby, **Gonzo** a black male, **Henriatta** a torti female (Update...Henriatta has been adopted), and **Fifi** and **Sweet-ums** are both black females. The kittens are available for an adoption fee of \$155, which includes neuter/spay, wellness exam, 1st distemper, rabies, FeLV test and first deworming.



All animals have current vaccinations and have been spayed/neutered before adoption. For more information on these animals, please contact CSO Thompson at the Police Department (931-1550) or Alaina at Kind Veterinary Clinic (931-4700) during regular business hours.



**RAIN BARREL REBATES** – Time is running out if you want to participate in the City's rain barrel rebate program. The deadline for purchase of a qualifying rain barrel is July 15th although funding is limited and may be fully

expended before the deadline.

Rain water is great for gardens, houseplants, car washing, window washing, and other household chores. It also provides a good source of water during droughts and saves utility customers money by lowering the monthly water bill. Use of rainwater for these tasks also reduces stress on the City's storm drain and sewer systems.

Here's how the rebate program works..... City utility customers may purchase a 45-48 gallon rail barrel or rain barrel diverter and parts kit from one of three local vendors.....Arrow Ace Hardware, Mary's Flowers, or Traverse des Sioux Garden Center. At the time of purchase, a rebate form will be filled out at the store and the form will be provided to the City for processing. Purchase of one of the qualifying barrels entitles the utility customer to either a \$25 rebate on their utility bill or a \$10 rebate on the utility bill for purchase of a rain barrel diverter and parts kit.

Sorry, but barrels purchased from other vendors will NOT qualify for the rebate.

**PHOSPHORUS-FREE LAWN CARE** - Phosphorus is the primary nutrient that turns lakes and rivers green with algae and in Minnesota, it is illegal to apply phosphorus-containing fertilizer to lawns.

When you head to the hardware store or garden center to purchase your fertilizer, you'll want to know your numbers! Look for the middle number on a bag of fertilizer. It should be zero (0) which means the fertilizer is phosphorus free and can be used on your lawn.

There are some exceptions to the law.....

Fertilizers containing phosphorus may be used on lawns if a soil or plant tissue test indicates that phosphorus is needed or if you are establishing a new lawn by laying sod or seeding. These restrictions do not apply to fertilizers used for agricultural crops, flower and vegetable gardening, or on golf courses by trained staff.



It's also illegal to spread any fertilizer on hard surfaces such as streets, sidewalks, and driveways. Rain can wash the fertilizer into nearby storm drains or road ditches, eventually getting into a lake or river near you. If you accidentally spill or spread fertilizer on a hard surface, please clean it up immediately.

**ILLEGAL DUMPING** – One of the lesser known laws in Saint Peter has to do with illegal dumping. Most people think of this as disposing of old tires in ditches, or dumping a broken refrigerator in a wooded area. That's part of it, but it is also illegal to dump or place garbage in another person's garbage container.



As everyone does know, each property owner pays to have garbage hauled away. Whether you are a home owner or own a business, the cost to dispose of garbage adds up. If you have excess garbage at a home, you have to buy special bags to dispose of the excess. If you are a business with a dumpster, the cost is based on the weight of materials in the dumpster. So every bit of extra garbage costs more.

And yet there are some people in the community, or maybe they come from other communities, who try and toss their garbage in someone else's containers, but it's illegal! If you see someone illegally dumping garbage or other unwanted materials in a dumpster or container that is not theirs, please get a good description of the person and their vehicle and call the Police Department at 931-1550.

One more law that you may not know about....it's also illegal to dig through someone's recycling and

take out materials like aluminum cans once that recycling container has been set out for collection.

**CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT -**

Under the Consumer Confidence Rule the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires public water suppliers to send out information about the water quality which is made available to the public. Saint Peter does this annually through the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). The CCR summarizes information regarding sources used (i.e., rivers, or aquifers) and of any detected contaminants, compliance and educational material. The 2014 CCR report for the Saint Peter Water Utility is available on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/WaterConsumerConfidenceReport.pdf>. A paper copy will be sent to utility customers upon request by calling Public Works at (507) 934-0670.



**PARKS BOARD MEETING CANCELLED** – The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting in June has been cancelled. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 20th at 7:00 p.m. For more information on Parks Board meetings, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

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

- **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 19 hours per week (M-F days/evenings plus some Saturdays). Wage \$9.25/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 July 2, 2015. Faxed, late, and/or emailed applications will not be accepted. AA/EEO

**SPECIAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING** – The City's Planning and Zoning Commission will meet in a special session on June 18th beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center. For more information on this special meeting, please contact the Community Development Department at 934-0661.

**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).

Thursday	June 18	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission Special Meeting
Monday	June 22	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Wednesday	June 24	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Wednesday	June 24	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Thursday	June 25	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	June 26	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	June 29	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Tuesday	June 30	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Friday	July 3		CITY OFFICES CLOSED – FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY
Monday	July 6	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	July 6	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session

Monday	July 13	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	July 14	5:30 p.m.	Library Board Meeting
Thursday	July 16	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	July 20	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	July 20	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	July 23	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	July 24	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	July 27	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	July 28	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	July 29	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission