

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



06/24/2015

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of June 22, 2015 included a public hearing on annexation of School District #508 owned property for the new High School; presentation by the City's Auditor of the 2014 audit of the City's finances and formal acceptance of the audit results; approval for annexation of the School District #508 owned land as well as the City owned land for the new City park; approval of a request by the Chamber of Commerce for City assistance for the Fourth of July celebration; approval of two new Tree Worker licenses; appointment of a Special City Attorney (Kathleen Brennan) to negotiate electric service territory issues on behalf of the City; and approval of a renewal Memorandum of Understanding with School District #508 for City provision of certain programs for Community Education.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, July 13th 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) - A week or so ago, on a rainy morning I was driving from the DQ on Highway 169 south to my office. As I drove, I noticed the fantastic growth that the

trees along the boulevard seem to have made this year. It is not just that they are taller, but it is also that they are so much fuller.

The flowers downtown are looking great for this early in the season (only being out a week or two) and the median is starting to jump back to life. It is beautiful and noticed by so many people.

Over the last week or two I have been to a number of different locations in the State and when people hear I am from Saint Peter, the number of compliments I hear about the trees, medians, and flowers is fantastic. I also hear about local businesses that are frequented by the folks from outside of our community and on a few occasions I hear about their emotional attachment to our community.

How great is that? People that I have never met before come up to me and discuss why they think Saint Peter is so great. Sometimes when we see it every day, we lose track of what a really special place this is. Not just for the flowers or the trees, but really for the people that live and work here. Do you see it? It makes me wonder.....

RECREATIONAL FIRES - As

the temps get warmer more residents become interested in spending time outdoors during the evening hours and for many of you that means having recreational fires on private property. But before you put match to firewood it is a good idea to review the standards and guidelines for having recreational fires in Saint Peter.



- There must be a fireproof fire ring separating the fire from the surrounding area.
- The fire ring cannot be larger than 36 inches in diameter.
- Only dry kindling wood can be burned in the fire ring. This prohibits the use of wood cut or designed for construction or from construction,

including furniture, wood with any finish or foreign substance on it, twigs, leaves, green (wet) wood and anything other than wood cut from trees.

- The wood must be entirely within the fire ring.
- Flames cannot be allowed to reach higher than three (3) feet.
- There must be a garden hose connected to a water source within reach of the fire.
- The fire must be tended at all times.
- The fire must be for recreation only.
- Fires cannot smolder or produce large amounts of smoke.
- The fire or smoke cannot bother any neighbor or other resident of the City.
- The fire cannot be deemed careless in any manner due to strong winds or other circumstances and if the fire is found to be careless in nature, violators will be prosecuted.
- Make sure that the firewood you are burning has not been transported from outside of Nicollet County. This will help stop the spread of Emerald Ash Borer!

By following these guidelines, you and your guests should be able to safely enjoy a recreational fire. This information is also available on the City of Saint Peter website at (<http://ci.st-peter.mn.us/police/RecreationalFire.php3>). If you need more information, the link below is to a YouTube video provided by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. It includes some great tips for having a safe campfire and a touching story from a campfire burn survivor: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_bCMcO2Vs4#t=179

And remember.....in the event of a fire emergency, please dial 911.



FOURTH OF JULY FESTIVITIES – SAINT Peter's annual Independence Day celebration, which is organized entirely by the Chamber of

Commerce (not the City), will take place on...you guessed it...the Fourth of July! Activities begin with a parade down South Washington Avenue at 10:00 a.m. (map will be published in next week's Hot Sheet) followed by a picnic, water slide, entertainment and other activities in Minnesota Square Park before closing out the evening with fireworks at the Nicollet County Fairgrounds at approximately 10:00 p.m. For more information on the activities, please contact the Chamber of Commerce at 507-934-3400.

DOGS AND THE FOURTH: Dog owners are reminded that dogs (and other pets) are not allowed in Minnesota Square Park at any time and should be left at home during the Fourth of July festivities in the park. People with animals will be asked to leave the park and/or may be cited. So please leave Fido at home where he will probably be happier anyway! (Just for future reference, the only City Park that allows pets is the official dog park on Highway 99 east or on the road surrounding the Mill Pond if the animal is on a leash.)

FOURTH OF JULY CLOSURES – The list below shows closures of City offices related to the Fourth of July:

- All non-emergency City offices will be closed on July 3rd
- Community Center – closed July 3rd and 4th
- Transit – closed July 4th
- Library – closed July 3rd and 4th

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS - Fireworks and celebrations seem to go together, especially during the Fourth of July. Firework celebrations can result in serious burns and eye injuries or even death. Before your family celebrates this year, make sure everyone knows about fireworks safety.

If not handled properly, fireworks can cause burns and eye injuries in children and adults. The best thing you can do to protect your child is not to use any fireworks at home - period. Attend public fireworks displays and leave the pyrotechnics to the professionals. Here are some tips that might save someone you love from injury or worse....

- Children should never play with fireworks. Things like firecrackers, rockets, and sparklers are just too dangerous. If you give your child a sparkler, make sure your child keeps it outside and away from their face, clothing, and hair. Sparklers can reach 1,800° Fahrenheit (982° Celsius) - hot enough to melt gold.
- Buy only legal fireworks and store them in a cool, dry place. Legal fireworks have a label with the manufacturer's name and directions; illegal ones are usually, but not always, unlabeled. Illegal fireworks usually go by the names M-80, M100, blockbuster, or quarter pounder. These explosives were banned in 1966, but still account for many fireworks injuries.
- Never try to make your own fireworks.
- Always use fireworks outside and have a bucket of water and a hose or a fire extinguisher nearby in case of accidents.
- Steer clear of others - fireworks have been known to backfire or shoot off in the wrong

direction. Never throw or point fireworks at someone, even in jest.

- Don't hold fireworks in your hand or have any part of your body over them while lighting. Wear some sort of eye protection, and avoid carrying fireworks in your pocket - the friction could set them off.
- Point fireworks away from homes, and keep away from brush, leaves, and flammable substances. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that local fire departments respond to more than 50,000 fires caused by fireworks each year.
- Light one firework at a time (not in glass or metal containers), and **never** relight a dud.
- Don't allow your child to pick up pieces of fireworks after an event. Some may still be ignited and can explode at any time.
- Soak all fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them in the trash can.
- Think about your pet. Animals have sensitive ears and can be extremely frightened or stressed on the Fourth of July. Keep your pet indoors to reduce the risk that the pet will run loose or get injured.

If someone is injured by fireworks, immediately go to a doctor or hospital. If an eye injury occurs, don't touch or rub it, as this may cause even more damage. Also, don't flush the eye out with water or attempt to put any ointment on it. Instead, cut out the bottom of a paper cup, place it around the eye, and immediately seek medical attention - your eyesight may depend on it.

If it's a burn, remove clothing from the burned area and run cool, not cold, water over the burn (do not use ice). Call your doctor immediately.

Even if you have legal fireworks, **NO FIREWORKS ARE ALLOWED ON PUBLIC PROPERTY** including parks, streets, alleys, government property or school property and to purchase fireworks, a person has to be at least 18 years of age. The penalty is pretty stiff for violations of fireworks regulations and could lead to imprisonment for anywhere from 90-365 days and/or payment of a fine of \$700-\$3,000, (depending on the amount of fireworks involved). For more information on the laws regarding fireworks and "what's legal, what's not", please visit the State Fire Marshal website at www.fire.state.mn.us/fireworksinfo.html or call the Police Department at 931-1550. You can also check out this safety video from the State Fire Marshal...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmT8Q-h5kvc&list=UUtlLz5GmDkDHIaAaVIPLYRnQ&feature=share>

Fireworks are meant to be enjoyed, but you'll enjoy them much more knowing your family is safe. Take extra precautions this Fourth of July and your holiday will be a blast!

EXAMPLES OF FIREWORKS THAT ARE NOW LEGAL TO SELL, POSSESS AND USE BY THE PUBLIC ON OR AFTER APRIL 30, 2002 AS PERMITTED BY MINNESOTA STATUTE 624.20 (C):	EXAMPLES OF FIREWORKS THAT CONTINUE TO BE ILLEGAL TO SELL POSSESS AND USE, EXCEPT AS PERMITTED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTE 624.20
<p>Wire or wood sparklers of not more than 100 grams of mixture per item</p> <p>Other sparking items which are nonexplosive and nonaerial and contain 75 grams or less of chemical mixture per tube or a total of 500 grams or less for multiple tubes and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Cylindrical fountain</u> Upon ignition, a shower of colored sparks or smoke and sometimes a whistling effect is produced. • <u>Cone Fountain</u> The effect is the same as that of a cylindrical fountain. When more than 1 cone is mounted on a common base, total pyrotechnic composition may not exceed 500 grams • <u>Illuminating Torch</u> • <u>Wheel</u> - Pyrotechnic device intended to be attached to a post or tree by means of a nail or string. Upon ignition, the wheel revolves, producing a shower of color and sparks and, sometimes, a whistling effect • <u>Ground Spinner</u> - Small device venting out an orifice usually on the side of the tube. Similar in operation to a wheel but intended to be placed flat on the ground and ignited. The rapidly spinning device produces a shower of sparks and color. • <u>Flitter Sparkler</u> - Narrow paper tube attached to a stick or wire that produces color and sparks upon ignition. The paper at one end of the tube is ignited to make the device function. • <u>Flash/Stroke</u> - Emit a bright light <p>Novelty items such as snakes and glow worms, smoke devices, or trick noisemakers which include paper streamers, party poppers, string poppers, snappers, and drop pops, each consisting of not more than twenty-five hundredths grains of explosive mixture.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Any fireworks that are explosive</u> • <u>Any fireworks that are aerial</u> • Firecrackers (any size) • Ladyfingers • Sky rockets • Bottle rockets • Missile type rockets • Helicopters, aerial spinners, planes, UFOs • Roman Candles • Mines or shells (heavy cardboard or paper tube(s) attached to a base – upon ignition stars, balls or reports are propelled into the air) • Chasers • Parachutes • 1.3G Display (special or class B) Fireworks • Aerial shells • Theatrical pyrotechnics (see Minn. Stat. 624.20 to 624.25) <p>Basically, any fireworks listed above are still not legal for public sale, possession or use, except with a permit and by a certified operator according to Minnesota Statute 624.20. (i.e. these fireworks are still not legal unless a permit has been issued by the local jurisdiction and they are used by a state certified operator)</p>

MOSQUITO SPRAYING - City staff will be spraying for mosquitoes at Minnesota Square Park between 5:00-5:30 am on July 4th in preparation for Fourth of July activities. The spray is a contact type pesticide used to control adult mosquitoes and is safe for use around recreational and residential areas such as athletic fields, parks, and campsites.



Questions about mosquito spraying? Please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

NO SWIMMING ALLOWED – As the dog days of summer creep closer, it's really tempting to find a body of water to dive into. However, residents are reminded that City Code regulations prohibit swimming in any body of water that is not a lawfully constructed swimming or diving pool.

That means that it is illegal to swim in Hallett's Pond or the Mill Pond, so as tempting as it may be

to hop into either of the Ponds, please check out the City's outdoor pool instead.

And if you use the area around Hallett's Pond for recreational activities, please pick up after yourself. Refuse containers are in place and the neighboring property owners would appreciate it if everyone properly disposed of their litter so it doesn't blow onto neighboring properties.

Questions about activities that are allowed in Hallett's Pond or the Mill Pond area of Riverside Park? Please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

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!



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.

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

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	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