

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

The City of Saint Peter is an equal opportunity provider.



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 at the regular meeting of March 23, 2015 included final acceptance of the Broadway Generation Plant Equipment project; approval of the concept design of the Veteran's Memorial in Minnesota Square Park; adoption of several resolutions and ordinances related to stormwater regulations; approval of modifications to the job descriptions for Water Resources Superintendent and Assistant Lead Librarian; authorization for purchase of replacement pool controllers funded by the 2015 Equipment Certificate; approval for extension of the rain barrel rebate program in 2015; approval of the sale of the 430 Ritt Street property to Marv Kottke; approval for changes in the membership composition for the Human Rights Commission and the Hospital Commission.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, April 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 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) - *Different perspectives make for cable TV news networks and basketball....You might ask how he gets these to connect, so hang in there*

with me for a few lines.

It is clear that whether it is talk radio or the MSN/Fox News battles, different perspectives on the same issue make the world go round, drive TV ratings and generally provide for a colorful dialog

about almost anything we could imagine. This is true for basketball as well.

I have a son who played on the Saint's B Squad basketball and there was recently a lot of discussion (both positive and negative but mostly negative) about games for the A, B and C teams that were scheduled in Pipestone. Yes, Pipestone. That trip is about 2.5 hours one way and to top it off, it was on a holiday.

So while reading all the parent emails that said things like, "You mean there is no team closer?".....or..."Let's forfeit. We are already seeded.".....or..... "This is dumb. My kid isn't going".... I realized that this was the parents emailing and I wondered how to get a kid or player perspective so I asked mine.

He told me something like this, "You know Dad, even though I really don't get to play much, and there is no guarantee that I will play there, I am part of the team and I go where the team goes. It doesn't mean I like it or that I don't like it. It only means that I am part of the team and I go where the team goes. What kind of teammate would I be if it got uncomfortable and I quit?"

Hmmm...that seems like a pretty wise perspective from a 16 year old. He is thinking about the team and not himself. As a Dad I think that is what I would want to hear. We all are part of teams that don't always agree on everything.

Part of the struggle we often face is that we fail to have a civil discussion up front about the issues we face. We angle, we push, and we pull to get our way and at times we don't participate because it is not in our best interest to participate up front. Then, when the decision is made, we grumble and are mad because we don't like the outcome whether that outcome is unintentional or not.

I am not foolish enough to chime in on something as critical as high school basketball, and I guess I don't like it either, but it is not about me. It is

about my son and his learning how to be an adult. Sometimes I don't like the outcome or what I have to do to be a part of the team, but if I am part of the team I go where the team goes. At some point my case has been stated, my position clarified and I go and make the best of it.

If we look for 100% agreement on everything we will likely not find it. That is true for the City as well. So I can be on the team or not. It makes me wonder what my son will learn. I think he may know more than I gave him credit for.

Where else is he smarter than me? It makes me wonder.....

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

- Are you in the process of cleaning out your garage and getting ready for spring? If so, please remember when certain household chemicals are not used up, they can become household hazardous waste (HHW). Household hazardous waste (HHW) is that portion of a household product which is no longer usable, leftover, or not wanted and has to be discarded or disposed.

Many household products contain the same chemicals as strictly regulated industrial wastes and pose similar environmental and health problems. Although the quantities of chemicals disposed of by individual households may be small, the number of households in Minnesota is many, and the amount of waste adds up.

Some of the products used in the home, garage, workshop, yard and garden can be considered hazardous. These products can contain components which have corrosive/caustic, explosive/reactive, flammable, irritant, toxic or radioactive properties. These products include: paint and decorating supplies; solvents and cleaning products; herbicides and pesticides, lawn care products, and automotive products.

The best way to learn what is hazardous is to read the product label. The labels contain signal words, which tell how hazardous the

product is. (Signal words represent the hazard of a product, not its proper disposal.) Signal words and what they mean include:

- Caution:** mildly/moderately hazardous
- Warning:** moderately hazardous
- Danger:** extremely hazardous
- Poison:** highly toxic

No signal word: The product is probably not hazardous; however, if produced before 1987, it may be too old to have a signal word even if it is hazardous.

For everyday tasks try household products that are less harmful. Remember to follow the same rules about storing these products and never mix these products together.

- Glass Cleaner: Mix 1 tablespoon of vinegar or lemon juice in 1 quart of water.
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner: Use a toilet brush and baking soda or vinegar. Note: these clean but do not disinfect.
- Furniture Polish: Mix 1 teaspoon of lemon juice in 1 pint of vegetable oil.
- Rug Deodorizer: Sprinkle liberally with baking soda and vacuum after 15 minutes.



- Plant Spray: Wipe leaves with mild soap and water and rinse.
- Mothballs: Use cedar chips, lavender flowers, rosemary, mint, or white peppercorns.

Did you know the average home can have as much as 100 pounds of environmentally harmful products in the basement, garage and other storage areas? Make sure yours is safe and properly dispose of materials you no longer need or use

For more information on household hazardous waste disposal please contact Tri-Country Solid Waste at (507)934-7078 or visit the website www.geocities.com/tricountyswo/

2015 Rain Barrel Rebate!
May 15th through July 15th

Fiberglass Rain Barrel
48 Gallons
\$20.00 before rebate
\$25.00 Rain Barrel purchase qualifies for a rebate of \$25.00

Earth Hauler Rain Barrel
47 Gallons
\$10.00 before rebate

Conversion Kits Now Available!
DIY Rain Barrel Diverter and Fern Kit
\$22.00 before rebate
Qualifies for a rebate of \$10.00
Kit includes all the parts needed to create a rain barrel.
Rebate is 2015 (includes)

Available for Purchase At
Arrow Ace Hardware
Mary's Flowers
Traverse des Sioux Garden Center

Rain Barrel Benefits
Alternative to great for gardens, houseplants, auto-care, window washing, and more often household chores; they provide a source of water during droughts; they save too money by lowering your water bill and they reduce stress on the municipal storm drain and sewer systems.

Rain Barrel Rebate
Rebate forms will be filled out at time of purchase. Unkary personnel will pick up rebates and submit to the City Treasurer for reimbursement on your utility bill. Limit one per household. Rebate available to the first 50 qualified rain barrel purchases.

If your neighborhood has an association, please check current bylaws or determine eligibility.

Rebates are processed on the basis of a utility rebate credit.

Program is sponsored by the City of Saint Peter Stormwater Utility

Saint Peter
Minnesota

RAIN BARREL REBATES – The City Council has extended the rain barrel rebate program for 2015. City utility customers who purchase a rain barrel worth at least \$80 from one of the four authorized Saint Peter retailers will receive a \$25 rebate on their utility bill. The authorized retailers include Arrow Ace Hardware, Mary's Flowers, St. Peter Greenhouse and Traverse des Sioux Garden Center. Those who wish to purchase a rain barrel kit can receive a \$10 rebate.

Rebates are limited to two per utility address. Barrels (or kits) must be purchased during the period May 15th-July 15th to qualify for a rebate. The program ends July 15th or whenever the maximum authorized funding level is expended.

TREE CITY USA – Once again the City of Saint Peter has been designated a TREE CITY USA. This is the 6th year in a row the City has received this designation which is based on the following criteria:

- Having a tree board with a chairperson or a Parks Board;
- Having a community tree ordinance;
- Having a community forestry program with an annual budget of \$2.00 per capita and including tree management statistics with an annual work plan; and
- Having an Arbor Day observance with proclamation.

For questions about this designation, or for more information on the work of the City's Forestry Section, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

REFUSE REMINDER – If you can't close the lid of your refuse (garbage) curbie, it might not be collected. The City's refuse hauling contract only provides for collection of refuse from curbies that can fully close. Those who have excess refuse are required to purchase a special trash bag which



covers the extra cost of collection for overflow materials.

Bags are available for purchase at City Hall, where you can buy as few as one bag, or at Arrow Ace Hardware where you will have to buy bags in a package of 10. Cost per bag is:

- 15 gallon bags - \$1.09 (includes tax) per bag
- 30 gallon bags - \$1.65 (includes tax) per bag

Residents who consistently overflow their carts might want to consider switching to a larger size curbie, or signing up for an additional cart. The Finance Department can provide information on costs for both options. (Larger or additional recycling curbies are available at no additional cost!)



In addition, residents are reminded that curbies need to be placed ON the boulevard and NOT in the roadway. Placing the carts in the roadway creates a hazard for vehicles and pedestrians alike so please make sure that the cart is placed ON the boulevard and NOT in the street.

For more information, please contact the Finance Department at 934-0664.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - Domestic violence is more than just a "family problem", it is a CRIME. The Saint Peter Police Department knows that domestic violence is a major problem here and throughout the country. Each year, more than a million women are the victims of domestic violence, and one million children are physically abused.

In Minnesota, it is a crime for any person to threaten, beat, sexually assault or otherwise harm another person, even if they are married. Battering is not exclusively a crime against women, but they are the majority affected.

One of every two families in the U.S. is involved in domestic violence at some point. Domestic violence is a repetitive pattern in people's lives. Victims or witnesses of domestic violence in childhood are most likely to repeat such acts as adults.

If you are the victim of domestic violence, now is the time to start thinking about protecting yourself. Calling the police, telling a friend, or contacting a shelter is the first step. Please don't wait until it is too late. Many studies show that an uninterrupted cycle of violence only worsens over time. Hotlines and shelters are there to be used and counseling is available. It's as close as a phone call and it's free.

BUILDING PERMIT? - As of January 14, 2015 the State of Minnesota has adopted the 2015 Minnesota State Building Code. Within this Code there are some minor changes to what is exempt from needing a building permit. Those changes include:

- Storage sheds – the rule used to be that if the shed was bigger than 120 square feet a permit was needed. Now sheds can be up to 200 square feet before a permit is needed.
- Fences – Permits used to be needed if the fence was over six feet tall. That has been changed so that permits are needed only if the fence is more than seven feet tall.

The following exemptions from permit requirements of the Code apply to existing single family dwellings. These exemptions do not authorize work to be done in any manner in violation of the Code or any other laws or ordinances of the City of Saint Peter (Minnesota

Rules 1300.0120). This list is not meant to supersede the Minnesota State Building Code. If a construction project is not exempt per Minnesota Rules, Chapter 1300.0120, then a building permit is required.

- Building permits are **not** required for the following projects. (Unless otherwise exempted plumbing, electrical and mechanical permits are required.)
 - (1) One-story detached accessory structures, used as tool and storage sheds, playhouses, and similar uses, provided the floor area does not exceed **200** square feet.
 - (2) Fences less than **seven feet** high. Zoning restrictions apply so please contact the City's Community Development Department (931-0661) before installation of fences.
 - (3) Retaining walls that are not over four feet in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall (unless supporting a foundation).
 - (4) Sidewalks and driveways that are not part of an accessible route.
 - (5) Platforms not more than 30 inches above adjacent grade and not attached to a structure with frost footings and which is not part of an accessible route or used as a landing. **Please note a Storm water Utility permit is required if you are planning to disturb more than 120 square feet of area.**
 - (7) Painting, wallpapering, paneling over existing sheetrock walls. Repairing minor holes, cracks and nail popping in sheetrock and plaster.
 - (8) Tiling, carpeting and other floor covering and preparation. Cabinets, countertops and similar finish work.
 - (9) Interior door replacement. **A permit is required for exterior doors, windows and replacing the door between a house and an attached garage. If door openings are enlarged, a permit is required.**
 - (10) All automatic garage door opening systems must include an attached edge sensor, safety beam, or similar device that when activated causes a closing door to open and prevents an open door from closing. This device is to be designed and built so that a failure of the device prevents the door from closing. (Minnesota Statutes, Sections 325F.82 and 325F.83) **Overhead garage door**

installation or replacement requires a permit. If opening is enlarged and a new overhead door is installed a permit is required.

- (11) Gutter replacement.
 - (12) Dropped ceilings and ceiling tile.
- Gas permits are **not** required for portable heating, cooking, clothes drying appliances or minor repairs.
 - Mechanical permits are **not** required for portable ventilation appliances and equipment, portable cooling units, or minor repairs.
 - Plumbing permits are **not** required for the clearing of stoppages, provided the work does not involve or require the replacement or rearrangement of valves, pipes or fixtures.
 - Emergency repairs. If equipment replacements and repairs must be performed in an emergency situation, the permit application shall be submitted to the building official within the next business day.
 - Permits are not required for ordinary repairs to structures. Ordinary repairs **do not** include the following which do require a permit:
 - (1) Cutting away of any wall, partition, or portion of a wall or partition.
 - (2) Addition to, alteration of, replacement, or relocation of electric wiring, or mechanical or other work affecting public health or general safety.
 - (3) Add or removal of any wall, beam or load bearing support.

For questions on electrical issues, please contact State Electrical Inspection Chris Gappa at 507-317-7289.

For questions about projects on this list, or any building related matters, please call the Building Department at 507-934-0662.

SMOKE DETECTORS - How long does a smoke detector last? Good question. As with any other electronic devices, smoke detectors don't last forever and they need to be replaced on a regular basis to ensure working operation. When a detector is purchased, the packaging will provide information on the life expectancy of the detector. If you don't have that packaging, most companies will provide similar information on the back of the unit. But as a rule of thumb, fire and smoke detectors last from five to seven years before they need to be replaced. It is a good idea to check all your detectors at least once a month and to change the batteries every six months to ensure your family is safe.



HELP WANTED – The City is now accepting applications for the following positions:

- **PART-TIME BUILDING SUPERVISOR** - The City of Saint Peter is accepting applications for the position of part-time BUILDING SUPERVISOR in the Recreation and Leisure Services Department. The Building Supervisor supervises the Community Center and performs light custodial duties. Minimum qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent; formal CPR and First Aid training or ability to be certified within six months of employment; experience

working with the public. Desired qualifications: Experience in building maintenance functions; formal CPR and First Aid certification. This position requires night and weekend work. Beginning wage \$9.50/hour. Applicants are required to complete a City application form available in the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street between the hours of 8 a.m. - 12 noon and 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be returned no later than 5 pm, March 27, 2015. Faxed, emailed 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.

Wednesday	March 25	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission Meeting
Thursday	March 26	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	March 27	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	March 30	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Tuesday	March 31	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Thursday	April 2	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	April 6	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	April 6	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	April 7	until 1:30 p.m.	City Offices Closed – Staff Training
Tuesday	April 7	6:00 p.m.	Board of Appeals and Equalization
Monday	April 13	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	April 14	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	April 20	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	April 20	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	April 23	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	April 24	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	April 27	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	April 28	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	April 29	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission