

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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SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 13-17, 2015. Each day of the week focuses on different weather-related hazards as follows:

Monday – alerts and warnings

Tuesday – severe weather, lightning and hail

Wednesday – flooding

Thursday – tornadoes (with statewide tornado drills)

Friday – extreme heat

More information on these topics is available on the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website at

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-awareness-week-program.aspx>.

Two statewide tornado drills will occur on Thursday, April 16th (1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m.) and the Police Department will be testing emergency sirens at each of those times. During the test, outdoor warning sirens and NOAA weather radios will both sound in a simulated tornado warning. The first drill is intended for institutions and businesses. The evening drill is intended for second shift workers and families.

As we enter into the severe weather time of the year, it is important to remember the terms that are used when advisories are issued:

* Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm **"WATCH"** - means that conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes or severe thunderstorms. When a watch is issued for Nicollet County, pay close attention to the weather and make sure that everyone in your family knows the correct action to take if the weather gets worse.

* Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm **"WARNING"** - means a tornado or severe thunderstorm has been reported or is indicated by weather radar. Warning information includes the tornado or storm's location, direction and speed. If the warning is issued for Nicollet County **TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY.**

* Warning sirens are tested year round on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. to assure that the sirens will work in the event of an actual emergency. If you hear the steady tone of a siren at any other time, it means that severe weather has been sighted in our area and you should take shelter immediately.



* There is no all clear siren, so take a battery powered radio with you to the shelter so you can monitor when it is safe to emerge.

* When the sirens sound, please don't call the City or the Police Department to ask why the sirens are going off. Emergency personnel will be busy tracking the storm and dealing with emergency calls while other City employees will be directed to emergency shelters. Take shelter immediately and save your questions for later!

* If the sirens sound, don't stand outside looking for the storm. Don't climb on your roof to get a better viewpoint and don't drive around trying to track the storms. Some storms move so quickly and are so unpredictable you might not have time to get to your shelter before the storm strikes or changes direction. Leave the storm spotting and tracking to the professionals.

* Identify your storm shelter now....before you need it. When people change residences, identifying a storm shelter is not something that usually is discussed before moving in, but it's important to think about exactly where you will go in the event of a storm warning and discuss it with your family. If you live in a mobile home community, make sure the storm shelter is accessible, clear of debris and stored materials and unlocked so that you can get in it in the event of an actual emergency.

* If you are traveling in bad weather take note of the county you are in so you can take action in a severe storm warning. If you don't know you are in Fillmore or Brown or Jackson County and a warning is issued over the radio for that county, you won't know to take shelter!

If you would like more information about severe storms preparedness please call the Saint Peter Police Department (931-1550) or Denise Wright at Nicollet County Emergency Management (934-7874). Additional information is also available through the State of Minnesota Division of Homeland Security website at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-awareness-week-program.aspx>. The severe weather information contained in today's Hot Sheet includes information from the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security website.



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) - *As the wind blew....* I know that a few weeks back was the anniversary of the 1998 tornado. For those of you

that might be new to our great community, the date was March 29th and the time was about 5:28 or 5:29 or 5:30 pm, depending on what side of town you lived in. I still get calls after events like the tornado occur in other communities asking, "How did Saint Peter do it? How did you bounce back so well? What is the trick to that?"

There are lots of things that go into the answer to each of those questions, but one constant is the strength and quality of PEOPLE and COMMUNITY. We had those qualities before the tornado and we have that now. Maybe what we have is different than other town or city and while I am not sure of anyone or anywhere else, I am sure of us.

It's kind of nice that there is no celebration, no big whooptie do about the tornado after all this time. While it is important in our history and certainly one of the most significant events in our town, a tornado is not what defines us. Our strength and quality of

people and community is what did and still does. I never wonder about that.....

SPEAK UP, PUT THE PHONE DOWN - A young mother of two, killed while on a bike ride with her kids. A teenager who was starting the first day of her senior year in high school, crashes and dies while sending a text. These are examples of how distracted driving has changed Minnesota lives in recent years. Starting April 13th, the Saint Peter Police Department will conduct extra enforcement on Minnesota roads in an effort to reduce distracted driving.

As part of the campaign, the Police Department is encouraging anyone riding with a distracted driver

**ONE TEXT OR CALL COULD
WRECK
IT ALL**

to speak up and tell them to put the phone down. The result of distracted driving can be devastating as it contributes to one in four crashes, 64 deaths and 234 serious injuries each year in Minnesota.

"We all must do our part to change the behaviors of drivers wanting to text and drive," said Saint Peter Officer Jon Hughes. "Speak up, tell your friends and loved ones to put the phone down before it's too late."

In 2014 in Minnesota distracted driving caused 47 deaths, 7,369 injuries, and 16,900 crashes. But it's not just a Minnesota problem. Nationwide statistics show:

- Drivers in their 20's make up 27% of the distracted drivers in fatal crashes. - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
- During daylight hours, approximately 666,000 drivers are using cell phones or electronic devices while driving. - National Occupant Protection Use Survey
- Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. - Virginia Tech Transportation Institute
- 25% of teens respond to a text message once or more every time they drive. - University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute
- Reaching for a phone, dialing or texting increases the risk of getting into a crash by three times. - Virginia Tech Transportation Institute

In Minnesota, it is illegal for drivers to read, compose or send texts and emails, and access the web while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic.

That includes sitting at a stoplight or stop sign.

It is also illegal for drivers with a permit or

provisional driver's license to use a cell phone while driving, except for emergencies to call 911.

If you injure or kill someone because of texting and driving, you can face a felony charge of criminal vehicular operation or homicide.

The Saint Peter Police Department underscores that driver distractions is not specific to a cell phone. It can also include reaching for items, fiddling with radio/music/vehicle controls, eating/drinking, dealing with rowdy passengers, grooming and more.

"At 55 miles per hour, texting and driving is like traveling the length of a football field without looking up," said Officer Hughes. "Make the right choice before you get behind the wheel and put the phone down."

Drivers are encouraged to make the right choices:

- Cell phones — Put the phone down, turn it off or place it out of reach.
- Music and other controls — Pre-program radio stations and arrange music in an easy-to-access spot. Adjust mirrors and ventilation before traveling.
- Navigation — Map out the destination and enter the GPS route in advance.
- Eating and drinking — Avoid messy foods and secure drinks.
- Children — Teach children the importance of good behavior in a vehicle and model proper driving behavior.
- Passengers — Speak up to stop drivers from distracted driving behavior and offer to help with anything that takes the driver's attention off the road.



Distracted driving education is a component of Minnesota's core traffic safety initiative, Toward Zero Deaths (TZD). A primary vision of the TZD program is to create a safe driving culture in Minnesota in which motorists support a goal of zero road fatalities by practicing and promoting safe and smart driving behavior. TZD focuses on the application of four strategic areas to reduce crashes — education, enforcement, engineering and emergency trauma response.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK APRIL 12-18, 2015 - First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support.

There are many reasons to celebrate the Saint Peter Public Library. Did you know that the library subscribes to over 125 magazines and newspapers with many of them also available on-line through a library program called Zinio? On-line access is also available 24/7 to eBooks with your library card. Families can attend story time or bring story time home in a bag that contains books, activity ideas, hands-on manipulatives and more all centered on a theme. Have you checked out the great selection of audio books and movies? For legal questions and issues ask about the Electronic Law Library. Or feel free to pick up a book or donate one to the ongoing used book sale to help support library programming. Use one of our many public internet computers.

And if you don't find the book you want, just ask one of the staff members for assistance.

So, why not visit the library this week and celebrate this great community resource. The Saint Peter Public Library is located at 601 South Washington Avenue. Hours are 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Fridays and from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm on Saturdays. For more information on the Library, visit the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov or call the Library at 934-7420.

OPEN GYM - The monthly calendar for scheduled open gym at the Community Center is available online at www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation or copies may be picked up at up at the Recreation and Leisure Services Department. The Recreation Hotline, 934-0070, also lists open gym hours.



RAIN BARREL REBATES – The City is pleased to once again offer a rain barrel rebate program. 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....beginning May 15th through July 15th, City utility customers may purchase a 45-48 gallon rain barrel or rain barrel diverter and parts kit from one of four local vendors.....Arrow Ace Hardware, Mary's Flowers, St. Peter Greenhouse and Floral, 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.



HYDRANT FLUSHING - The Public Works Department will be flushing hydrants beginning April 13th through approximately April 24th. Flushing will

take place between 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. to minimize inconvenience to residents. Flushing could make water cloudy or discolored for a short time, so please check your water clarity before doing laundry.

There are numerous benefits from hydrant flushing including:

- Improved water quality. Hydrants are flushed at least twice yearly to remove residue from the main pipe system which helps keep City water clear.
- Fire safety and fire rating – The Water crew tests the flow at hydrants to ensure it is adequate to pump to the City's fire tanker truck. Hydrant flow is also important in helping control fire insurance costs.
- Economic development – Accurate flow information is made available to prospective businesses and industries that may consider locating in Saint Peter.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

SCAM PREVENTION REMINDER - During spring and summer, many individuals are swindled and defrauded by transient/traveling criminal groups performing what are sometimes known as "bunco" or "gypsy" scams. In most cases, the perpetrator approaches a homeowner and offers to provide low-cost home improvements.

One of the most common types of scams involves asphalt paving. The perpetrator tells the homeowner they have asphalt left over from another job in their neighborhood and offers to resurface their driveway or sidewalk at a reduced cost. When the homeowner agrees, the con artists proceed to either apply a thin layer of asphalt that breaks away in a few days, or use a substance other than asphalt. The perpetrators then collect their money and leave before the homeowner is aware of the substandard work.

This scam can also involve the perpetrator partially completing a job, requesting payment and then never returning to finish the work.

Some traveling criminals have also been known to perform exterior home improvements without the permission of the homeowner. This has occurred in cases where the perpetrator made contact with the homeowner, but the homeowner simply took the perpetrator's business card without requesting their services. The following day the perpetrator performs part of the work, and demands payment for the entire job.

These types of crimes are known to increase during the spring and summer months. In these types of cases the elderly are often an easy target. Victims often feel foolish about being taken advantage of and these crimes often go unreported.

Another scam that is often seen in Saint Peter is the door to door magazine selling scam. Young people will show up at the door saying that he/she is "collecting points" by people donating book or magazine subscriptions to achieve a college scholarship. This is typical of scamming agencies and the magazines never appear.



If someone appears at your door to sell you anything, ask the solicitor for their contact information and City of Saint Peter permit to conduct door to door sales. (All those doing sales in residential areas, without a permanent fixed office in Saint Peter, are required to have a permit from the City.) If the solicitor won't provide contact info, or doesn't have a City permit, or is hesitant to leave, this is a good sign they are not a legitimate company. Close the door and call the Saint Peter Police immediately at 931-1550. Be ready to provide as much information as you can about the solicitor including description, clothing, vehicle license, make and model, and direction they were going.

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

- **ASSISTANT LEAD LIBRARIAN** - in the Recreation and Leisure Services Department. Minimum qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent; Ability to operate a PC and use internet and related programs; Ability to use on-line cataloging system; and experience working with the public. **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

Bachelor's degree in Education, Media or Library Sciences or equivalent; three or more years of public library experience in patron service related or youth related position; advanced education in library operations, media resources or related field; and demonstrated ability to provide children's programming and services. Beginning wage \$15.59 per 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 8:00 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 Friday, April 17, 2015. Faxed, emailed, and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EEO

- **RECEPTIONIST/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK** - in the Building Department. Minimum qualifications: High School Diploma or equivalent; Knowledge of office procedures and practices; Knowledge of use of office machines exemplified by personal computer; Experience with MS Word or Excel; One year experience in any position that provides direct contact with and service to customers. Desired qualifications: Two plus years of experience working in an office setting with similar duties; Advanced training in office skills exemplified by a certificate or AAS degree in office procedures or Administrative Assistant through an accredited post-secondary educational institution; Advanced use and knowledge of MS Word and Excel software exemplified by certification through an accredited post-secondary educational institution; Experience with a municipal accounting system; Knowledge of Use tax laws; Two or more years' experience working directly with municipal accounting, principles, practices and terminology; and Post-secondary education in Accounting or related field. \$12.00-\$13.35 per hour plus benefits including insurance and retirement. 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 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be returned no later than 5:00 pm, April 23, 2015. **INTERVIEWS FOR THIS POSITION WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 28TH-29TH.** Faxed, emailed and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EOE

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
Monday	May 4	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	May 4	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session
Thursday	May 7	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	May 11	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	May 12	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Friday	May 15		POLICE OFFICER MEMORIAL DAY
Monday	May 18	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Friday	May 22	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitor's Bureau
Monday	May 25		MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY – CITY OFFICES CLOSED
Tuesday	May 26	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	May 26	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	May 27	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	May 28	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority