

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



08/05/15



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – I have been on a HOTSHEET hiatus for a few weeks now. Maybe more than a month. There have been so many things going on that it's not that I

have not been wondering, rather it is really that I have not made time to get my wonderings down on paper (really not paper but on my computer).

I have only had one person, my across the street neighbor Mark, ask me, "Not wondering Todd?" He is the only one. Hmmmm? What does that say about the value of what I write about to you, the reader? What if anything does it say about the value of this publication? Maybe you have been wondering if I have been wondering but you just haven't bumped into me to ask? Maybe this is just part of such a large amount of noise you hear or see or read every day that although it has some value, its' value is marginal and not enough to comment on. Hmmmm? There are many possible scenarios.

Maybe if this were on Facebook it would have more impact or opportunity to be better used by you. After all, we do this for you, to give insight on what is going on. If you get value from this let us know. If we need to change the format or the way we do it let us know that too. If I need to change what I write about to better meet your needs let me know that too. Here is a link to let us know. barbaral@saintpetermn.gov Should we continue? It makes me wonder....

SEAL COATING UPDATE - The City's annual seal coating project has now moved into the phase where the Streets crew is picking up the excess rock. If you don't know what seal coating is, that's the process where a coating of oil is placed on the

street and then topped by seal coat "rock". That rock sits on the roadway for a period of time so that it adheres to the oil, creating a barrier so that water does not permeate the road surface. Keeping water from getting underneath the roadway helps extend the life of the surface and saves everyone money.

As the work to remove the excess rock continues, "no parking" restrictions are in place so that the crew can work efficiently and remove all the rock in the street without having to maneuver around vehicles parked in violation of the temporary "no parking" restrictions. Once the excess rock has been removed, the "no parking" restrictions are lifted.

Although the project can be an inconvenience for those living along a seal coat route, staff thanks everyone for their patience during the process.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FILING – The filing period for seats on the City Council continues until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2015. The Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 to elect a Mayor, one Councilmember from Ward I (North Ward) and two City Councilmembers from Ward II (South Ward). The following individuals have filed as of 8:00 a.m. August 5th:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
Timothy Strand	Mayor
Chuck Zieman	Mayor
Jeff Brand	Council Ward I
John Kvamme	Council Ward II
David McGuire	Council Ward II

Any person wishing to file for City offices may do so at the City Administrator's office in the Municipal Building, 227 South Front Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. The filing fee is \$5.00. Persons with questions

regarding the election or filing for office are encouraged to call the City Administrator's office at 934-0663.

ENERGY SAVING TIPS - Everyone knows that as the temps rise our air conditioning costs go up. You can help limit the expense of air conditioning by following a few tips:

- Keep blinds and drapes closed on southern and westerly facing windows during the daylight hours.
- Be a speedy chef ...Nothing is more energy efficient for cooking than your microwave. It uses two-thirds less energy than your stove. Use your microwave or outdoor grill to cook during hot weather. Heating up the oven just makes your air conditioner work harder.
- Push a button to wash your dishes. Surprise! Your dishwasher uses less water than washing dishes by hand. Make sure you only run the dishwasher when it is full to save even more energy. Then let dishes air-dry to save even more!
- Fill up the fridge. Having lots of food in your fridge keeps it from warming up too fast when the door is open, so your fridge doesn't have to work as hard to stay cool.

Cutting back unnecessary energy use is an easy way to reduce energy consumption while saving money. Here are some additional suggestions you can do at home, at absolutely no cost to you.

- Turn up your thermostat. Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home and 85 degrees or off when you are away. You will save 1-3% for each degree the thermostat is set above 72 degrees. Using ceiling or room fans allows you to set the thermostat higher because the air movement will cool the room.
- Do your laundry efficiently by using the warm or cold water setting for washing your clothes. Always use cold water to rinse clothes.
- Line dry clothes whenever you can.
- When you need to use the dryer, run full loads, use the moisture-sensing setting, and clean the lint trap after each use.
- Eliminate wasted energy. Turn off appliances, lights and equipment when not in use.
- Unplug electronic devices and chargers when they aren't in use. Most new electronics use electricity even when switched "off." Turn computers and printers off at the power strip.



- Unplug or recycle that spare refrigerator in the garage if you don't really need it. This will save you up to \$150 per year!

And for some inexpensive energy solutions, how about trying these ideas?

- Make a quick trip to the local hardware store to purchase inexpensive energy-saving tools and equipment.
- Replace air conditioner filters. Dirty filters restrict airflow and can cause the system to run longer, increasing energy use. Replace filters monthly for maximum benefit.
- Plug your home's leaks. Weather-strip, seal, and caulk leaky doors and windows and install foam gaskets behind outlet covers.
- Choose ENERGY STAR® products. Buy ENERGY STAR® certified table lamps and light fixtures, and replace your incandescent light bulbs that are used more than two hours per day with ENERGY STAR® compact fluorescent bulbs. For example, install compact fluorescent bulbs in your porch light if you leave it on overnight. For each bulb you'll save 0.2% for each hour the bulb operates on a typical day which means replacing an incandescent bulb that burns 10 hours per day will save 2%.
- Install an ENERGY STAR® programmable thermostat and make sure to program it!



HOME WATER LEAK IDENTIFICATION - If you feel that your water usage is continually high try the following:

- **Check your toilets for leaks** – Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl within a few minutes, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately. Most replacement parts are inexpensive and easy to install.
- **Check your faucets and pipes for leaks** – A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons.
- **Check your softener for cycling** – Since the City is producing a much softer water, many residents have reduced use of their softeners. Some have discontinued use of a water softener all together. If you are still using a water softener, make sure the equipment is not



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“cycling” more often than needed to keep your water softness at the desired level. Check with your softener vendor to make sure your equipment is working at optimum levels.

Implementing these water conservation approaches saves precious groundwater and lowers personal water consumption which ultimately saves money.

HELP WANTED – The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- **PART-TIME BUILDING SUPERVISOR** at the Saint Peter Community Center. Minimum qualifications include: High school diploma or equivalent. CPR and First Aid training or ability to be certified within six months of employment. Experience working with the public. Desirable qualifications include: Experience in building maintenance functions. Current CPR and First Aid Certification. \$9.50 per hour. Applicants must complete a City of Saint Peter available from the City Administrator’s Office at 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082-2538 or by calling (507) 934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator’s Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday August 20, 2015. Faxed, emailed or late applications will not be accepted. Interviews will be conducted the week of August 24, 2015. AA/EOE
- **INFRASTRUCTURE TECHNICIAN-** in the Stormwater Utility of the Department of Public Works. Essential job functions include inspecting construction projects, right-of-ways, stormwater inspections, meeting MnDOT requirements for projects, working with water, wastewater and stormwater systems, performing various testing, performing maintenance of water, wastewater and stormwater utility systems. Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma and experience in Erosion/Sediment Control and ability to obtain certification within six months of the date of employment with the city; ability to read blue prints, possession of a valid State of Minnesota Class A Driver’s License with Air Brake Endorsement and Tanker Endorsement or to obtain within one month of employment with the City; possession of an American Heart Association Certification as a Basic Rescuer or obtain within six months. Desirable qualifications: Advanced education in water, wastewater or stormwater operations; demonstrated knowledge of construction principles and practices; certification as an inspector in various MnDOT inspection areas

including Aggregate Production, Grading and Base, Bituminous Street 1 and 2, Concrete Field; certificates in water, wastewater, and stormwater systems; demonstrated knowledge of chemical use, testing, hydraulics and of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems; demonstrated ability to operate a variety of specialized utility equipment and heavy equipment. **NOTICE:** The successful candidate must complete and pass a pre-employment physical and drug test and is subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing required by federal regulations. Pay \$18.06 to \$27.96 per hour, depending on education, certification, and experience. Applicants are required to complete a City of Saint Peter application form available in the City Administrator’s Office, 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082-2538 or by calling (507) 934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the Finance Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 13, 2015. Faxed, e-mailed, or late applications will not be accepted. Interviews will be conducted Wednesday, August 26, 2015.

- **WASTEWATER OPERATOR** - in the Department of Public Works. Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma or equivalent; possession of a State of Minnesota Class D Wastewater Treatment Facility Operator Certificate or ability to obtain within one year of the date of employment with the City; possession of a State of Minnesota Type IV Biosolids Operator or ability to obtain within one year of the date of employment with the City; possession of a valid driver’s license - State of Minnesota Class A driver’s license with Air Brake Endorsement and Tanker Endorsement or ability to obtain within six months of the date of employment with the City; possession of an American Heart Association Certification as a Basic Rescuer or ability to obtain within six months. Desirable qualifications: Satisfactory completion of a technical school program related to wastewater systems operations; up to six years of responsible experience as a wastewater system operator with at least two year’s experience in the operation of a Class A, B, or C system or facility, or similar industrial facility; knowledge of the principles, practices, chemicals, and equipment used in wastewater treatment, biosolids treatment and disposal, and pumping operations; ability to perform a wide variety of

tests on raw and treated wastewater, raw and treated bio-solids; knowledge of the principles of plumbing and hydraulics; knowledge of and ability to operate Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) system; knowledge of the functions and service requirements of mechanical equipment and machinery; knowledge of OSHA regulations and safety precautions of the trade; demonstrated ability to operate a variety of wastewater plant pumping, treatment, and control equipment, biosolids treatment and disposal equipment; demonstrated ability to diagnose problems under emergency conditions and take corrective action; knowledge and experience in the operation of equipment including but not limited to backhoes, dump trucks, jet rodder machine, tanker trucks, main line TV cameras,

and line locators. NOTICE: The successful candidate must complete and pass a pre-employment physical and drug test and is subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing required by federal regulations. Pay range \$18.06 - \$27.96 per hour. Applicants are required to complete a City of Saint Peter application form available in the City Administrator's office, 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082-2538 or by calling (507) 934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the Finance Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 13, 2015. Faxed applications will not be accepted. Interviews will be conducted August 27, 2015.

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.

Thursday	August 6	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	August 10	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	August 11	5:00 p.m.	Deadline to File For City Council Positions
Tuesday	August 11	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	August 17	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	August 17	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday	August 24	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	August 25	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	August 26	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	August 27	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	August 28	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	August 31	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Thursday	September 3	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	September 7		LABOR DAY HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Tuesday	September 8	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Tuesday	September 8	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session
Tuesday	September 8	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	September 14	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting

Monday	September 21	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	September 21	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	September 24	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	September 25	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	September 28	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 29	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Thursday	October 1	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission