

# 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](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov). [www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter](http://www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter)



5/14/2014

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of May 12, 2014 included award of the bids for the Nicollet Avenue Electric Materials project; adoption of the 2014 electric fund budget and an electric rate increase for large commercial and industrial customers; approval of the 2014 budgets for the Water and Wastewater funds; authorization to execute a contract for an update to the City's housing study; approval for an "administrative lot split" and sale of five feet (5') of City owned property to Hendrickson Organ Company which will allow reconstruction of their facility; approval for requests for City assistance for the Ambassador's Bluesfest and American Cancer Society Relay for Life events; and correction of a previous action related to construction standard details.

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the next regular meeting of the City Council will be Tuesday, May 27th 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](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city).

**POLICE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY** – Mayor Strand has proclaimed May 15<sup>th</sup> as "POLICE OFFICER MEMORIAL DAY" in the City of Saint Peter in recognition of the service our Officers provide to the community and their commitment to protecting those they serve. Police



Week has also been proclaimed by Mayor Strand as the week surrounding this special day.

The holiday was created in 1961 when Congress asked the President to designate May 15<sup>th</sup> to honor peace officers. President Kennedy signed the legislation into law on October 1, 1962. In 1994, President Clinton added to the tradition when he ordered United States flags to be flown at half-mast in recognition of those law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice. The City of Saint Peter will lower flags to half-mast on May 15<sup>th</sup> to recognize our Officer's and all those who give so much to protect us.

Saint Peter residents are encouraged to recognize and thank our local Police Officers for their commitment to keeping us all safe as we honor their sacrifices on Police Officer Memorial Day.

**WORKSHOP CANCELLATION** – Due to lack of a quorum, the regularly scheduled City Council workshop session on May 19th has been cancelled and will not be rescheduled.

**STORM SIRENS** – Last week's severe weather had some people questioning why the outdoor emergency sirens were not sounded on Thursday.

In the last few years, the National Weather Service (NWS) has modified how they declare severe weather warnings. Previously the warnings were issued county-wide. That meant that a severe storm could be just touching the western tip of Nicollet County and the warning would be issued for the entire county sending thousands of people who were not in the path of



the storm to their emergency shelters for no reason.

So, the NWS changed how they issue warnings and now create “boxes” that are shaped like polygons (irregular shapes) to more accurately reflect the path of the storm. As with the storm on Thursday evening, the warning was issued for only a portion of Nicollet County to the west of Saint Peter and, therefore, no sirens were activated.

We’re not sure why the change was made, but perhaps it’s because as we found out before, during and after the 1998 tornado, a lot of people ignore the emergency sirens. Whether that is because the sirens were sounded so frequently with no actual severe weather or not, is anyone’s guess. But narrowing down the focus of the warnings may help people realize that when the sirens go off, it’s time to head to the basement.

Here’s a little refresher on the storm siren system:

- Sirens are sounded once. The siren sounds for about three minutes. If the siren sounds again, the severe weather threat continues and people should stay in their shelters.
  - To find out when it is safe to leave the shelter, take a battery powered radio to the shelter with you.
- There is no “all clear” siren. If the siren sounds more than once, it means the danger is still in the area.
- Outdoor emergency sirens are meant for just the outdoors. They are not designed or placed to be heard indoors. The public is encouraged to use a NOAA weather radio for emergency notices while inside buildings or to sign up for any of the numerous electronic apps that provide those services.
- Area counties may have different policies regarding sounding the outdoor sirens. Some may trigger the siren when hail or strong winds that may create property damage are imminent. Saint Peter only sounds the sirens when a tornado warning has been issued for our direct area.

City staff takes our responsibility to protect the public very seriously and we will continue to do our best to warn the public when the threat of severe weather is in the Saint Peter area.



**PETS OF THE WEEK** – The “Pets of the Week” this week include... Sven (tabby male), Anna (tortie female), Elsa (tortie female), Olaf (tabby male), and Kristoff (tabby



male). Their adoption fee is \$135 each. Also in the pound are five adult cats in dire need of loving homes. Meet Ayla who is the mother of our beautiful kittens. Next we have Midnight, a beautiful all black male cat found in Kasota. Beauty



is our female black cat that was found on North 5th Street. And don't forget about George and Garfield, both adult male



cats that were featured last week but are still in need of a new family.



They are all very loving, so much so that it is hard to photograph them because they are too busy trying to cuddle! The adoption fee for the adult cats has been dramatically reduced



because the pound is full. The fee is \$25 each.

If your family can provide a forever home to any of these great pets, or if you can help any of the animals in the pound find a forever home, please contact Community Service Officer Janet Thompson at the Police Department at 931-1550, or Alaina at Kind Veterinary Clinic at 931-4700. All animals are spayed/neutered and up-to-date on vaccinations before being adopted out.



**ENERGY UPDATE** - For an easy way to save money on your water heating bill, check your electric water heater thermostat. Many manufacturers set thermostats to 140°F, although most households only need a setting of 120°F. It’s an easy thing to change and could save you some money!

**CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) DETECTORS** - State law requires a carbon monoxide detector near every bedroom of your home. Each year, more than 200 Americans die and several thousand individuals are treated in emergency rooms for CO poisoning. The risk of CO poisoning



increases during the winter, as more people run furnaces and space heaters and use fireplaces, but they are still needed all year long.

Minnesota law requires CO detectors within 10 feet of every sleeping room in all existing single-family homes. If you haven't installed a detector yet, please don't wait. Lives may depend on it. For more info on the regulations relating to carbon monoxide detector installation, please visit [www.dps.state.mn.us/fmarshall/PublicEducation](http://www.dps.state.mn.us/fmarshall/PublicEducation) or call the State Fire Marshal's office at 651-201-7200.



**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!** – If you are doing any kind of digging on your property it's really important to find out where underground utility lines are on the property **BEFORE YOU DIG!** In fact, it's the law in Minnesota that you contact Gopher State One Call 48 hours before you begin your project. Gopher State will ask lots of questions such as the location of your property and the area you would like to dig in and then they will notify all utility operators in our area of your locate request. The utility operators will come out to your property and mark the area to let you know where utility lines are that might impact your project. (If you are contracting for the work to be completed, the contractor is responsible for calling Gopher State.) Call 811 or 800-252-1166 before you dig for this free service! (\*\*Please note....underground irrigation systems are not located as part of this service!)

**WHAT CAN BIRDS DO FOR YOU?** – According to the Garden Club of America, here is just a sampling of what having birds in your neighborhood can do for you:



- A Baltimore Oriole can consume 17 hairy caterpillars in a minute.
- A house wren feeds 500 insects to its young every summer afternoon.
- A pair of flickers considers 5,000 ants a mere snack.
- A swallow can devour 1,000 insects every 12 hours.
- A brown thrasher has been known to eat 6,180 insects in one day.
- A pair of scarlet tanagers have been seen eating 630 newly hatched caterpillars of the gypsy moth in 18 minutes.

To attract a healthy bird population you need a couple of things....cover for the birds and a source

of water year round. The National Arbor Day Foundation publishes a Tree City USA bulletin with all kinds of helpful information including what you can do to make your yard more bird and wildlife friendly. The bulletin on this topic (#13) is available online at [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)



**LAWN MOWING REMINDERS** – How many times have you mowed your lawn already this spring? Once, twice, more?

As residents get into the weekly mowing routine, please remember the following.

First of all....the need to keep up with mowing. The City has already begun to receive complaints from neighbors about unsightly lawns all over the community. Weeds and grass longer than six inches in height are prohibited by the City Code and if property owners don't take care of their yards, the property owner may receive a notice to comply or, in some cases, a citation. If the property owner still doesn't comply, the City will mow the property and provide the property owner with a very expensive bill.

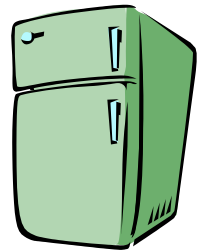
Secondly.....it is illegal to mow lawn clippings into the street. If someone inadvertently (or on purpose) spreads lawn clippings into the street, it is up to the property owner to make sure the clippings are swept up and properly disposed of.

Finally, residents are encouraged to leave the lawn clippings on their lawns or, if you absolutely can't bring yourself to do so, bag the clippings and dispose of the materials at the yard waste compost site at the corner of North Swift/St. Julien Street. Clippings that wind up in the street eventually find their way into the storm sewer system and travel, untreated, to the Minnesota River. This increases the phosphorus level in the river and endangers wildlife and plant life. For more information about this topic, please visit [www.cleanwatermn.org](http://www.cleanwatermn.org).

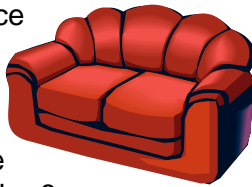
#### **APPLIANCE/ELECTRONICS**

**RECYCLING** – There is still time to sign up for one of the following cleanup activities.....

- **Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, Curbside appliance pick-up...** \$15.00 each. Stop in the Finance Department at City Hall, 227 South Front Street to register and pay for your appliance by Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. You must register and pay in advance for this collection. Appliances must be curbside by 8 am on the collection date or you forfeit your fee.



- **Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, Curbside furniture pick up-** Stop in at the Finance Department at 227 South Front Street to register and pay by Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> for this collection. Prices are listed below. Must be curbside by 8 am on the collection date or you forfeit your fee.



- **Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 9 am-2 pm - Household Electronics recycling** will take place at the old Library lot at the corner of South Front Street/Nassau Street. Residents can drop off household electronics for \$0.25/pound (cash/check) which is payable at the site. Items accepted at no charge include laptops, keyboards, circuit boards, and



cell phones.

**“ICE” YOUR CELL PHONE (In Case of Emergency) –** There’s a nifty idea that’s been going around for many years, yet some people don’t know it could save your life! Just program your cell phone’s contact list with the code word **“ICE” (In Case of Emergency)**. Being able to contact someone close to you in the event you are injured or otherwise incapacitated might be really important. It also helps emergency responders identify you. Here’s how to do it....

- Open your cell phone contact list to create a new entry.
- Enter the word **ICE** with the name and number of the person you would like contacted in an emergency.
- To list multiple contacts, name the entries **ICE 1, ICE 2, ICE 3**, or like this....
  - **ICE 1-Husband-Tom**
  - **ICE 2-Mother-Mary**
  - **ICE 3-Son-Joe**

If you are in an accident or suffered a medical condition and you can’t answer questions about your medical history, having **ICE** in your cell phone will allow emergency responders to contact those closest to you and learn more about any significant medical information they need to know. It also will allow emergency personnel to identify you if no other information is available and to notify your loved ones about your situation. It’s great to see the technology put to a really beneficial use!

**YOUTH CENTER CLOSING FOR SUMMER –** The Third Floor Youth Center will close for the summer beginning May 23rd. The center will re-open in the fall after school starts. The opening date will be

posted on the Recreation and Leisure Services website at [www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation) and flyers will be sent home with students. For more information about the Youth Center, please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-0667.

**COMMUNITY CENTER GYM CLOSURE –** With thousands of people using the Community Center gym throughout the year, annual maintenance of the floor surface is needed to keep it in optimum shape. This year’s annual floor maintenance will take place from Monday, May 19th through Friday, May 30th and the gym will be closed to the public during this time. The walking/running track will also be closed so no dust, paper, etc. will drift onto the gym floor once the sealer is applied. For questions about this work, please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-0667.



**MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURES –** All non-emergency City offices will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2014 in recognition of Memorial Day. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, May 27th. The City Council meeting that is regularly scheduled for May 26th will take place on Tuesday, May 27th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors’ Room of the Community Center.

**GARAGE SALE SIGN REMINDER -** It’s that time of year again....garage sale season! The season comes with the usual collection of complaints and questions regarding garage sale signs. So here are the important facts to remember:

- No signs may be attached in any manner to a sign post, regulatory sign, street light, tree or any other City or State owned post or facility in the right-of-way.
- Signs must not impede the sightlines of drivers.
- The person who puts the sign up is responsible for taking the sign down immediately following a garage sale and for removing signs which become tattered or loose.
- Any signs which violate these guidelines will be taken down by City employees and disposed of without notice.



And as you are scouting out locations of garage sales, please remember to pull over to the curb before writing down addresses for sales. Don’t stop at a yellow painted curb, don’t stop in the middle of traffic lanes, and be aware of and prevent traffic safety issues. Johnson Park, located at the intersection of Broadway Avenue and Washington

Avenue, is a particularly dangerous area for vehicles and pedestrians alike when drivers stop or slow down for a look at the garage sale signs. Thanks for your cooperation!

**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 the city of 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.
- 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.

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's website (<http://www.saintpetermn.gov/recreational-fire-standards>) should you need it at a later date. And remember.....in the event of a fire emergency, please dial 911.

#### **MAKE THE RIGHT CALL! -**

All calls to the Police Department are important, but not every call is life threatening. Call 9-1-1 for emergency situations. Emergencies are defined as:

- Any crime in progress (damage to property, burglary, robbery, etc.)
- Any situation where people or property are at risk (fire, children on ice, etc.)



- Any medical emergency (heart attack, accidental poisoning, etc.)

When dialing 9-1-1...

- Stay on the line, stay calm and explain the emergency, as well as the full address where the emergency is occurring. The address and telephone number from which you are calling is automatically displayed to the operator.
- Through appropriate questioning, the 9-1-1 operator will determine what you are reporting and then transfer you to the appropriate emergency service.
- Let the operator control the conversation and stay on the line until you are told to hang up.
- If you are unsure if something that is happening is actually an emergency, dial 9-1-1 and report what is happening to the operator. If they decide it is not an emergency, they will simply ask you to hang up and call the Saint Peter Police at 507-931-1550.

People reporting incidents that are NOT real emergencies often tie up the 9-1-1 emergency line. This can prevent people with real emergencies from reaching the help they require. Here are some tips on how you can minimize your family's chances of inadvertently dialing 9-1-1, and how to handle it if they do:

- If you accidentally dial 9-1-1, **do not hang up**. If you hang up, a ring-back will occur and this wastes valuable time. Stay on the line to advise the operator that you have dialed by accident, and answer any questions they may have.
- Teach your children that the telephone is not a toy and the importance of keeping the 9-1-1 line available for real emergencies.
- Do not preprogram 9-1-1 into your home, business or cellular telephone memory. Cell phones on belts or in purses generate many false calls every day without the owner's knowledge. If your cellular phone has a keypad lock option, this is an excellent way to ensure you won't accidentally dial 9-1-1 and other telephone numbers without your knowledge.
- Do not allow children to have access to deactivated cell phones because although deactivated, these phones can still dial 9-1-1 and can be used to generate false or prank calls.

If you are reporting something to the Saint Peter Police Department that does NOT meet the definition of an emergency (listed above), then dial the Saint Peter Police Department telephone number at **(507) 931-1550**. This can include circumstances that you feel are suspicious or crimes that have occurred and the offender has left

and is not returning. You may be directed to visit the Saint Peter Police Department.

If you are reporting a property crime and it does NOT meet the definition of an emergency (listed above), then dial the Saint Peter Police Department telephone number, **(507) 931-1550**. This can include circumstances that you feel are suspicious or property crimes that have occurred and the offender has left.




If you see something that you feel is suspicious—(remember the recent incident in Waseca where many lives may have been saved because one property owner called the Police to report something that didn't look right to her!) please take action and dial the Saint Peter Police Department at **(507) 931-1550**, to report the suspicious circumstances. Without endangering yourself, obtain as much of the following information as possible and pass it on the police dispatcher.

SUSPECT	VEHICLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sex</li> <li>• Race</li> <li>• Age</li> <li>• Height/Weight</li> <li>• Build</li> <li>• Complexion</li> <li>• Color of Hair/Eyes</li> <li>• Description of Clothing</li> <li>• Marks, tattoos, scars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• License Plate Number</li> <li>• Make</li> <li>• Model</li> <li>• Color</li> <li>• The direction the vehicle was going when it was last seen.</li> </ul>

Officers would much rather go out on a call that turns out to be nothing, than to have to respond to something serious that could have been prevented with just one call.

### 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).

Monday	May 12	5:00 p.m.		Human Rights Commission
Monday	May 12	7:00 p.m.		City Council Meeting
Tuesday	May 13	5:30 p.m.		Library Board
Thursday	May 15			POLICE OFFICER'S MEMORIAL DAY
<del>Monday</del>	<del>May 19</del>	<del>5:30 p.m.</del>		<del>City Council Workshop</del> CANCELLED!
Monday	May 19	7:00 p.m.		Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	May 22	12:00 noon		Economic Development Authority
Friday	May 23	8:00 a.m.		Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	May 26			MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Tuesday	May 27	5:30 p.m.		Heritage Preservation Commission
Tuesday	May 27	7:00 p.m.		City Council Meeting
Wednesday	May 28	12:00 noon		Hospital Commission
Monday	June 2	3:30 p.m.		Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	June 2	5:30 p.m.		City Council Workshop
Tuesday	June 3	5:30 p.m.		Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	June 9	5:00 p.m.		Human Rights Commission (may be cancelled)

Monday	June 9	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	June 10	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	June 16	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	June 16	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday	June 23	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	June 24	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	June 25	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	June 26	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	June 27	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	June 30	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop