

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



10/08/2014

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of September 22, 2014 included approval of a change order for the Broadway electric generation plant equipment upgrade project; execution of an agreement with MnDOT to reimburse the City for road life lost during the Highway 169 detour on Broadway Avenue; approval for the Hospital to seek bids on a five year equipment certificate; approval for the Hospital to purchase equipment and software that will allow automatic transfer of patient monitoring information and staff transcription and dictation information into the electronic records system; approval for execution of a purchase and development agreement for purchase of Outlot C in Washington Terrace Subdivision by Jay and Holly Tapper; authorization for a Community Center lease extension with Kids' Corner Child Care; authorization for extension of the safety contract with the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association; approval for repair of a sewer under Highway 169; approval of new business licenses; and approval for modification of the position description for the Accounting Clerk position in the Public Works Department.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, October 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](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city).



**TIRE, APPLIANCE AND ELECTRONICS COLLECTION-** Has your garage become a depository for unwanted, broken, junk? The Tri-County Solid

Waste Office is offering an opportunity for residents

of Nicollet, Sibley and Le Sueur Counties to dispose of tires, appliances and electronics. (Proof of residence may be required.)

The collection will be held on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Nicollet County Fairgrounds (400 West Union Street).



Disposal cost for appliances is \$8.00 each and the contractor retains the right to reject any and all appliances

that do not conform to their state permit requirements.

Costs are:

- Car/truck tires - \$1.00 each;
- Semi-Small implement tires - \$5.00 each;
- Large implement tires – \$10.00 each.
- Electronics and TV's 19' and larger - \$10.00;
- Items smaller than a 19" TV - \$5.00;
- Computer hard drives - \$4.00

Electronics that will be accepted include TVs, computer equipment, stereo, VCR/CD/DVD players, copiers, cell phones, boom box, fax machines, etc.... For more information on this collection, please contact the Tri-County Solid Waste at 507-381-9196 or [www.co.sibley.mn.us](http://www.co.sibley.mn.us) – Tri-County Department.



**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR RETIREMENT** – Long time City of Saint Peter Public Works Director Lewis Giesking has announced his retirement effective December 31, 2014. Giesking has led the City's Public Works Department since May of 1986 and has been instrumental in many projects including rebuilding the City's infrastructure following the 1998 tornado; undergrounding of the City's electrical system; construction of a direct bore interceptor sewer

under the Minnesota River; flood recovery; park development; development of new water and wastewater treatment facilities; dozens of major road projects including the Highway 169 downtown median project and the Washington Avenue crosstown collector street; and so many more. In 2010, Giesking was deservedly named Public Works Director of the Year by the American Public Works Association in recognition of his service to the citizens of Saint Peter and his efforts to promote public works service. Giesking has also served as the City's representative to the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) serving on the Board and in a number of leadership roles including Treasurer, Vice President and President.

"Lew is not just Director of Public Works. He loves Saint Peter and it shows in so many of our projects, parks and programs. Lew has been such a tremendous asset to the City and to our friends and neighbors here in our community. His work will be a benefit to us for many, many years to come. He leaves a wonderful legacy of high standards and commitment to the future of our community and we wish him all the best in his retirement.", stated City Administrator Todd Prafke.

The City Council is expected to initiate a recruitment process to fill Giesking's position before the end of the year.



**COLD WEATHER RULE NOTICE** - The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule provides that from October 15th through April 15th, the City of Saint Peter, the utility provider for Saint Peter residents, cannot disconnect a residential utility customer for nonpayment if **all** of the following four requirements are met:

- 1) The account is current for the billing period immediately prior to October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) The electric disconnection would affect the customer's primary heat source.
- 3) The customer's household income is less than 185% of the federal poverty level, as documented by the customer to the City.
- 4) The customer has filed a "declaration of inability to pay" form with the City.

For the cold weather period October 15<sup>th</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup> of each year the City of Saint Peter will install a limiting meter rather than disconnect service for a customer whose account has become delinquent.

The limiting meter will only allow customers to run their furnace, refrigerator and one or two lights. Customer's whose service is limited must pay all past due amounts plus a reconnection charge of \$70.00 plus tax prior to reconnection. The charge

for reconnection after 3:30 pm or when the Finance Department is otherwise closed is \$300 plus tax.

What should a customer do if they can't pay their utility bill? A customer with a delinquent account may request a payment arrangement. The payment arrangement will require the customer to pay the current bill each month and make payments on the unpaid portion on a payment schedule limited to six (6) months. If payment is not made on the date agreed to by the customer and the current utility bill is not paid by the fifteenth of each month, service will be immediately disconnected. During the cold weather period, a limiting meter will be installed.

Customers needing help paying utility bills may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. For complete qualifications and application information, please contact the Nicollet County Social Services office (934-8559) or the Minnesota Valley Action Council (934-5224). The Salvation Army Heat Share program may also be able to help and can be reached at 326-5017.



**CREDIT CARD PAYMENT FOR UTILITIES**

- The City has made life easier for some utility customers. Customers may now pay City utility bills by phone or online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The City offers an automated bill payment service, which allows customers to pay with a credit card, debit card, or electronic check. To make an online payment go to: <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/pay-utility-bills>. Or, to make a payment by phone, please call 1-855-288-5244. A convenience fee of \$4.95 will apply for this service.

If you have any questions, please contact the Finance Department at 934-0664. (Please note....credit cards are not accepted in the Finance Department and are only available to use when paying bills online or by phone.)

**APPLIANCE COSTS** – Do you want to know how much it costs to run an appliance in your home? The City now has a Kill-A-Watt Meter device customers can check out to measure how much electricity a certain appliance is consuming and what it costs to run.



The device can be checked out from the Finance Department for a period of two weeks. They are easy to program and can be used on a number of appliances.

Customers interested in using a Kill-A-Watt meter should contact the Finance Department at 934-0664.

**PROVIDING ANIMALS WITH SHELTER WALK** – This weekend is the 14th annual Trick or Treat Walk for the animals. Registration begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Mill Pond area of Riverside Park on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.

The walk involves stopping at stations along the designated route and collecting donated items from generous sponsors. Pets and people alike are encouraged to dress for Trick or Treating and take part in the costume contest.



Pets must be leashed and pledges collected before walk day. Walkers raising more will receive a trick or treat bag to participate in the treat stops and those raising \$35 or more will also receive a free P.A.W.S. t-shirt.

All proceeds generated from this fundraiser are used to provide medical care and shelter for abandoned or surrendered animals while they wait for adoption by their forever families.

For more information on this event, or to pick up a pledge sheet, please visit City Hall or the Police Department or go to the City's website at this link....

<http://www.saintpetermn.gov/sites/default/files/images/police%26fire/PAWsWalk2014Brochure.pdf>.

And if you don't have a pet to walk, or can't participate on walk day, donations are always welcome!

**EBOLA CONCERNS** - Some water utilities have begun receiving inquiries regarding Ebola and whether or not the disease can be spread through the water supply. Here's some information that can help diminish those concerns.

The Ebola virus causes an acute illness that is often fatal with a death rate of up to 90%. Ebola virus disease first appeared in 1976 in two simultaneous outbreaks, one in a remote area of Sudan and the other in a village near the Ebola River in the Democratic Republic of Congo, from which the disease takes its name. The current outbreak in West Africa (the first cases reported in March 2014) is the largest and most complex Ebola outbreak since the Ebola virus was first discovered. The current outbreak has spread through both urban and rural areas.

Ebola is not a foodborne, waterborne, or airborne illness. The virus is transmitted to humans from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission. Ebola is transmitted through direct contact with infected bodily fluids (e.g., blood, vomit, feces). The Ebola virus can only replicate within host cells, therefore, it cannot survive long in water because it does not have its host — either a human or an animal.

Because of Ebola's fragility when separated from its host, bodily fluids flushed by an infected person would not contaminate the water supply. Researchers believe that Ebola survives in water for only a matter of minutes. This is because water does not provide the same environment as our bodily fluids, which have higher salt concentrations. Once in water, the virus will take in water in an attempt to equalize the osmotic pressure, causing the cells to swell and burst, thus killing the virus.

This information is compiled by the WaterISAC organization from various sources including the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control; CNN; and National Public Radio. The Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC) was authorized by Congress in 2002 and was created and is managed by the water sector. Its mission is to keep drinking water and wastewater utility managers informed about potential risks to the nation's water infrastructure from contamination, terrorism and cyber threats. The mission has been expanded to help utilities respond to and recover from all hazards.

**HYDRANT FLUSHING** - The Public Works Department will be flushing hydrants beginning October 13th through approximately October 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 residents are advised to check 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 – 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.


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

- **PUBLIC ACCESS PRODUCTION ASSISTANT** - Looking to make a little bit of extra money? Want to be among the first to know what happens at City Council and School Board meetings? Then we have the job for you! The City is currently accepting applications for this position that assists with the two-camera taping operation of City Council and School Board meetings on Monday evenings. 5-10 hours per month. **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Must be 16 years of age and have experience using video recording equipment and/or computer editing equipment. **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS;** knowledge of and experience using the following equipment: TV monitors, portable VCR with power supply, audio/video digital mixer, audio mixer, camcorder and tripod, remote control camera, personal computer, auto programmer, VHS VCR's and a VHS editing system. Starting wage \$8.17 per hour. Applicants are required to complete a City application form available in the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 p.m. on October



- 23, 2014. Faxed, emailed, and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EOE
- **ACCOUNTING CLERK** – in the Public Works Department. Minimum qualifications include: high school diploma or equivalent; demonstrated skills in personal computer programs; one-year experience with bookkeeping or inventory control procedures. Desired qualifications include: demonstrated knowledge of requisition and inventory control procedures; knowledge of equipment parts and tools; knowledge of methods, materials, and equipment utilized by the department; demonstrated knowledge of computer programs used for fixed asset and inventory control; demonstrated knowledge of OSHA regulations and safety precautions; AAS or BS/BA degree in accounting; work experience of greater than one year in inventory control; work experience of greater than one year in bookkeeping; demonstrated skills in use of computer software including Microsoft Word, Excel, and Access. Wage is \$18.47 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 City Administrator's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 22, 2014. Faxed, e-mailed, or late applications will not be accepted. Interviews will be conducted on Thursday, October 30, 2014. 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](http://www.saintpetermn.gov).

Saturday	October 11		PAWS Walk Fundraiser
Monday	October 13	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	October 14		Deadline for Voter Pre-registration
Saturday	October 18	9 am – 2:00 pm	Tire, Appliance and Electronics Collection
Monday	October 20	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	October 20	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	October 23	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	October 24	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau

Monday	October 27	7:00 p.m.		City Council Meeting
Tuesday	October 28	5:30 p.m.		Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	October 29	12:00 noon		Hospital Commission
Monday	November 3	3:30 p.m.		Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	November 3	5:30 p.m.		City Council Workshop
Tuesday	November 4			ELECTION DAY!
Wednesday	November 5	5:30 p.m.		Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	November 10	7:00 p.m.		City Council Meeting
Tuesday	November 11			VETERAN'S DAY HOLIDAY – City Offices Closed
Monday	November 17	5:30 p.m.		City Council Workshop
Friday	November 21	8:00 a.m.		Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	November 24	7:00 p.m.		City Council Meeting
Tuesday	November 25	5:30 p.m.		Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	November 26	12:00 noon		Hospital Commission
Thursday- Friday	November 27- November 28			THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – City offices closed