

# 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)



09/10/2014

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of September 8, 2014 included approval of the preliminary tax levy payable in 2015; approval of a request by Sweat Equity LLC for subordination of a revolving loan to a third bank mortgage; approval of a request to vacate a drainage easement between two parcels in Orchard Ridge Subdivision; approval for the replatting of an Outlot in Washington Terrace Subdivision to prepare for development of the property; approval for transfer of a cable television franchise from Enventis to Consolidated Communications; approval for City assistance for the Oktoberfest event; and approval for execution of a license to allow Lager's Inc. to use City owned property.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, September 22nd 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).

Tuesday, October 14th to pre-register to vote. This eliminates the need to stand in an extra line on Election Day. College students need to remember that if they have changed dorms, or even changed a room within a dorm, they will be required to re-register. (College students also have the option of voting in their hometowns by absentee ballot....but they cannot vote in Saint Peter **and** their hometowns!)

Voters now have the option to register to vote online and the link to register through the Secretary of State's Office is <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationStep1.aspx>. You can also pre-register in person at the Nicollet County Auditor-Treasurer's Office (501 South Minnesota Avenue). But don't wait until the last minute to pre-register! Deadline to pre-register and have it count for this election is Tuesday, October 14th!

Don't feel like going to the polls on Election Day but still want to vote? Voters in Minnesota now have the option of voting by absentee without having to give a reason. Previously voters had to state they would be away from the precinct, serving as an Election Judge, or had an illness or disability that kept them from going to the polls as their reason for voting by absentee. But recent legislative action has eliminated the need to give a reason for voting absentee and now anyone can do so. State officials believe that up to 30% of voters will choose to cast their ballot by absentee under the new legislation.

Absentee ballots will be available from the Nicollet County Auditor Treasurer's Office no later than September 19th. Voters will need to fill out an absentee ballot application which can be obtained either from the Auditor-Treasurer's office or online at

<https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx>. The application can be



## ELECTION INFORMATION –

Tuesday, November 4, 2014, voters in Minnesota will cast their ballots for Governor, U.S. Senator, State Senators and Representatives, and a number of local races. Turnout is usually high in Saint Peter for

even-year elections and that could mean long lines on Election Day. However, voters can help make the process easier with a few pre-election actions.

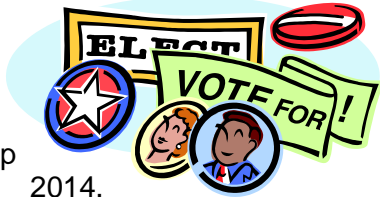
First of all....make sure you are pre-registered. If you have never voted before...or if you have moved since the last election, you have until

submitted at any time and once ballots are available, they will be mailed to the applicant.

Planning on voting at your polling place on November 4th, but don't know where you vote? Check out this link to the Secretary of State's precinct finder for the location of your polling place and information on exactly what will be on your ballot... <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>.

For more information on elections, please contact the City Administrator's office at 934-0663.

**CAMPAIGN SIGNS** – State law allows temporary campaign signs to be up through November 14, 2014. However, there are several regulations that must be followed for these signs.



- Signs are not allowed anywhere on public property. This includes City, County and State owned rights-of-way and City parks. The rules of thumb we follow to determine what is City owned boulevard (or right-of-way) are as follows:
  - If a public sidewalk exists, signs may be placed behind the sidewalk; or
  - If no sidewalk exists, it is safe to assume that a sign placed twenty feet (20') behind the curb line will be on private property.
- Signs can only be put on private property with permission of the private property owner. When asking private property owners to place signs, candidates are encouraged to review the rules with the property owner. Oftentimes signs are initially placed correctly, only to have helpful home owners move the signs closer to the curb line in violation of the regulations or to move the sign when mowing and not return it to the legal location.
- Signs must not obstruct sightlines for drivers.
- Signs cannot be attached to City light poles, street signs, traffic control devices like stop signs, trees, shrubs, rocks, fences or other City owned structures.

If you have campaign materials on your vehicle (bumper stickers) or person (buttons), please remember that when absentee voting begins in a couple of weeks the Nicollet County Government Center property will become a polling place and as such, no campaign materials are allowed anywhere on the property, including the parking lot. That rule also applies to the National Guard Armory and the Community Center on Election Day when voting is taking place. Voters will need to remove any visible campaign materials from their person before

entering the polling place and anyone with a bumper sticker or other materials visible on their vehicle will not be allowed to park in the parking lot of the polling place.

For more information on campaign signs or election regulations, please contact the City Administrator's Office (934-0663) or the Nicollet County Auditor-Treasurer's Office (934-7806).

**WASHINGTON AVENUE LINK** - The new Washington Avenue Link between St. Julien Street and Dodd Avenue (TH 22) is open. The road provides access to the Lampert Subdivision by using Howard Street. Access to Summit Park and Daun Addition is now available from Washington Avenue by using Delaney Street. The old North Fifth Street access to Dodd Avenue has been closed to complete additional work in the intersection. Once completed the North Fifth Street access to Dodd Avenue will be permanently closed by installing new curb and sidewalk across the intersection.

Until the new Summit Park access to Sunrise Drive is open, Summit Park residents can use the existing Oxford Lane access to reach Dodd Avenue or Delaney Street to access Washington Avenue. The new Sunrise Drive access to Summit Park is expected to be open near the end of September. Sunrise Drive is also expected to be open around the same time provided weather is suitable for construction. Once the new Sunrise Drive access to Summit Park is complete, the old Oxford Lane access to Dodd Avenue will be permanently closed by the construction of curb and sidewalk across the intersection.

**ANNUAL BOOMER & BEYOND EXPO** - Get connected at the annual Saint Peter Area BOOMERS & BEYOND EXPO on Thursday, September 18th from 2–5 p.m. at the Saint Peter Community Center. From 2-4 p.m. the Expo will feature a wide variety of service providers, products, health and wellness information and screenings, refreshments, and door prizes. You also can get your annual flu vaccine. Cost is \$30-\$35 if the shot is not covered by your insurance provider or Medicare.

At 4 p.m., Al Batt, featured humorist, storyteller, and bird watcher will be speaking in the Senior Center. Al's talks are thoughtful, clean and humorous and allow those in the audience to laugh and learn.

The Boomer & Beyond Expo is sponsored by area senior providers including the Saint Peter Senior Center and the Saint Peter Tourism and Visitor's Bureau.

**PROVIDING ANIMALS WITH SHELTER WALK** – Time to start hitting up your family, friends, co-workers,

neighbors and even complete strangers for donations for this year's P.A.W.S. Walk fundraiser. This is the 14th year for this fun Trick or Treat Walk and this year it will be held on Saturday, October 11th beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Mill Pond area of Riverside Park.

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 should be collected before walk day. Walkers raising \$20 or 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 on the 200 block of South Front Street 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!

**BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY** – With all the detours and construction going on in Saint Peter, it is especially important for parents to work with their children to ensure their safety as they make their way back to the classroom. It's also a good time for a safety refresher for drivers and pedestrians alike.

This information is a compilation of materials put out by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association.

If your child is going to ride the bus to school you probably already know that buses are safer than cars. However, that doesn't mean the bus won't pose a danger for your child. To help prevent injuries involving school buses, here are some tips to pass on to your children:

- Have a safe place to wait for your bus, away from traffic and the street.



- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk ten giant steps away. Remember that the bus driver can see you best when you are back away from the bus.
- Use the handrail to enter and exit the bus. Backpacks are heavy and can throw a child off balance when climbing steps. Using the handrail provides an extra measure of safety.
- Be aware of street traffic around you. Drivers must follow certain rules concerning school buses, however, not everyone does and it's better to wait until you see cars come to a complete stop before you try and cross the street.
- Only cross the street at corners in the crosswalk.

Not all children will be bused to school and if your child lives close enough to walk or bike to school, here's some tips to help limit their danger:

- Instruct your child to follow traffic signals and instructions from the crossing guard and never cross the street against the light.
- Know your child's route to and from school and the time it takes. Ask them to not deviate from the established path or timeline. If your child rides a bike to school or home, practice the route before the start of school and know where any crossing guards or help might be.
- Instruct your child to walk their bike through intersections.
- Instruct the child to walk with a buddy.
- Outfit your child with reflective material to make them more visible to traffic. Putting this material on their backpacks is also helpful.
- Teach your children to lock up their bikes when they get to their destination, including when they get home. Bikes are often stolen from yards and unlocked garages.
- Get your child in the habit of always wearing a helmet when they get on their bike. Make yourself an example by wearing your helmet too.
- Ride with your child! Parents can always use the extra exercise, and a bicycle ride creates an opportunity for parent-child involvement and good quality conversation time.



- Have a safety contingency plan...just in case! Does your child know a certain neighbor whose home can be considered a "safe house" in the event of a bike or safety issue? Could your youngster carry a walkie-talkie or, if an older

child, a cell phone (even if it's only for emergencies)? Parents should provide their kids with "what if" scenarios they can think through...just in case the unthinkable happens. When it comes to your child's well-being, there is no such thing as being over-prepared.

As the driver of a vehicle, whether you are taking a child to school or not, it's important to be even more alert and aware because once school begins there will be significantly more traffic in and around school zones. Here are some tips to help everyone be safer:

- Wear your seat belt! Seat belts are the best form of protection in the event of a crash. And everyone needs to be buckled up properly. That means older kids in seat belts, younger kids in booster seats and little kids in child safety seats. And you, the driver? Set an example for your children and remember to buckle up yourself.
- Remember that in Minnesota it's illegal to pass a school bus with flashing red lights. And don't think you can get away with violating this rule just because there aren't any Police Officers around! Bus drivers can and will pass on the license number of a driver violating this rule to the Police!
- Reduce your speed in a school zone. Legal speed limits in these areas will be posted, but you can make it even safer by slowing down even further.
- Be alert for children who might dart out between parked cars. Remember they are smaller than most vehicles and you might not see them until it is too late. And parents, teach your child to always cross at the crosswalk so that this situation doesn't happen.



That's a lot of things to think about, but parents and children also need to be aware of personal safety. Here are a few more tips to keep your child safe:

- Never label or print your child's name on the outside of backpacks, lunches or clothing. Doing so will make it possible for criminals to learn your child's name and trick them.
- Establish a "SECRET CODE WORD" with your child. Explain to your kids never to go with anyone that does not know the "code word" regardless of the circumstances.

- Explain to your children to:
  - Never talk to strangers.
  - Never get in a car with strangers.
  - Never let a stranger into their home.
  - Never let a stranger touch them.
- Never allow your child to play in a dimly lit or unsupervised place.
- Remind your child to play and walk in a group. There is safety in numbers.
- Take a current photo of your child. Should the child go missing, having a current

**CHILD SAFETY TIP**  
 Before departing with children/ grandchildren/kids to any event, take a second, pull out your cell phone and take individual pictures of each child. That way, if the unthinkable happens and a child gets lost, you have a picture of how they are dressed and what they looked like that day.

The photo can then be immediately sent to police to aid in locating the child. Seconds can be precious in this scenario, so take a second, make it a habit and take a picture!

photo will help the Police.

This is just a sampling of ideas that you can use to keep your children safe as they go back to school. Talking to your children before school starts, and giving them gentle reminders throughout the year, is a good start to ensuring everyone has a safe and enjoyable school year!

**PARKING REGULATIONS** - The new school year means that students have returned and the rental units are filled for the school year. One of the most common questions posed to the Community Development Department has to do with off-street parking within residentially zoned districts.

The Zoning Code regulates parking in Saint Peter. Section 24-529 requires that all drives accessing a public roadway be surfaced with asphalt, concrete or similar hard, durable material such as pervious paving blocks.

Secondly, that section of Code states that, "Within residential districts, no required off-street parking shall be located within any required front yard except as may be provided within the private driveway serving a residential structure".

The Community Development Department will monitor the parking situation and will notify residents of noted violations over the next few weeks. For questions on these regulations, please contact the Community Development Department at 934-0661.

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

- **Part-time Public Access Production Assistant** in the Recreation and Leisure Services Department. Position will assist with 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 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 Friday, September 26, 2014. Faxed, emailed, and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EEO

- **Part-Time Payroll Clerk** - in the Finance Department. 20 hours per week. **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** High School Diploma or

equivalent; One year payroll experience or Associates degree in Accounting; Demonstrated experience working with the public; Demonstrated experience working with benefits provided to employees; Knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel software. **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Previous municipal accounting experience; Knowledge of fund accounting principles, practices, and terminology; two or more years' experience working with employee benefits. Starting wage \$12.00 per hour. Applicants are required to complete 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 Friday, September 19, 2014. Faxed, emailed, and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EEO

**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	September 15	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session
Monday	September 15	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday	September 22	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Wednesday	September 24	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	September 25	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	September 26	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	September 29	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session
Tuesday	September 30	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Monday	October 6	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	October 6	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	October 7	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Saturday	October 11		PAWS Walk Fundraiser
Monday	October 13	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	October 14		Deadline for Voter Pre-registration
Tuesday	October 14	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
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