

# 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)



12/03/2014

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of November 24, 2014 included public hearings and action on approval of a refunding bond for the Ecumen Second Century Project; public hearing and action to approve assessment of unpaid utility charges; public hearing and action to approve assessment of unpaid miscellaneous charges; acceptance of the 2014 housing study update; approval for supplemental agreement with MnDOT regarding use of Municipal State Aid funds for increased costs related to the Old Minnesota Avenue/Union Street project; approval for purchase of a replacement Vactor unit; authorization for use of Hallett's Pond for the February Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge event; approval of the 2015 municipal fee schedule; and approval for the unbudgeted purchase of playground equipment for Ramsey Park to be funded by the City, School District #508 and a grant from the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, December 8th 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).



**MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE)** - *A special request....This is a repeat request that I got from one of my readers at a church event this weekend. It is a rerun*

*of an article that has been published a couple of*

*other times during the holiday season. Each time I read through it I hear something new. I feel something different and I take joy from the fact that at times new perspective is a great thing. So here it is...*

How lucky am I....The other day I was running into Econo Foods for a quick something. It was that very snowy day last week. Anyway, I checked out and went into the breezeway at the exit and started to put on my mittens. I had one little sack and fumbled around with my mitten and a woman who must have been about 65 or 70 was sitting on the bench just inside with a very full grocery cart. We made eye contact as I fumbled my other mitten and my small purchase and I said, "Hi. What a blustery day... You sure have a big load of groceries to get home."

She smiled and said, "It's a bunch of groceries for my son and daughter in law. They have both been laid off and it is a way that I can help them out."

I, at that moment, feeling pretty small for all of my trivial complaints of late responded, "They are sure lucky to have someone like you who can help."

To which this very wise woman said, "I am lucky to have someone to help."

Wow is that a killer statement! "I am lucky to have someone to help." It makes all my problems with snow, kids, parents, cars, pets, work, budget, and bad hair days all seem pretty miniscule. How about you?

As I thought about that 30 second event in my life and what she said, "I am lucky to have someone to help", I have come to a conclusion about what a powerful statement that truly is and what it says.

"I am lucky to have someone to help."

She was not talking about economics, difficulty in our country, or what at times is a cruel holiday season. She wasn't even talking about her son and his family. She was talking about herself and how it made her feel to have someone she loves and who

she could help. She was happy to help for herself, for how it made her feel. Wow!

As for me, that evening when I got home, I decided not to complain about the kids not hanging up their coats. I decided not to complain that no one had taken the dog out. I decided not to tell my 16 year old new driver that he parked in the wrong spot. I decided to smile, give my kids an extra hug and my wife an extra kiss, and know that I too am lucky to have someone to help. I decided to give a little more than last year to the Saint Peter Area Food Shelf because "I am lucky to have someone to help."

I hope you are lucky enough to have someone to help. It makes me wonder.....

**CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP** – City crews will be collecting and chipping Christmas trees curbside on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. Residents are asked to place trees on the curb by 7:00 A.M. Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. Only real trees will be collected (no artificial trees, garland, or wreaths which can be disposed of with regular garbage). Trees need to be at the curb (not in the street) by 7:00 a.m. on January 5<sup>th</sup> for the collection. All decorations must be removed from the trees and the trees must NOT be in plastic bags or they will not be collected. Residents wishing to dispose of Christmas trees prior to or after January 5<sup>th</sup> may take trees to the brush drop-off site located across the street from the Public Works building at the southwest intersection of Gault Street and St. Julien Street.

This service is funded through the Environmental Services charges on City utility bills.

**TREE PRUNING** – City crews will be pruning boulevard trees throughout the winter months. This work will concentrate on the area south of Broadway Avenue. Residents are asked to ensure that all Christmas lights are removed from boulevard trees after the holiday.

**HOLIDAY CLOSURES** - All non-emergency City offices will be closed for the upcoming holidays as follows:

- City offices will:
  - Close at 12:00 noon on December 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Be closed all day December 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Be closed all day January 1<sup>st</sup>
- Community Center and Library:
  - Close at 12:00 noon on December 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Be closed December 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Open regular hours beginning December 27<sup>th</sup>



- Close at 6:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve (December 31<sup>st</sup>.)
- Be closed on New Year's Day
- Open regular hours January 2<sup>nd</sup>

**WARMING HOUSE:** With the help of volunteers from the Hockey Association, City crews are working to prepare Veteran's Park ice rinks for skating. Skaters are asked to stay off the new ice until the rinks are officially open. Once open, the warming house will be staffed by the City and operational hours will be:

Monday–Friday	4–9 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m.–9 p.m.
Sunday	1–9 p.m.
School's out days	1–9 p.m.

**HOT SHEET HIATUS** – The Hot Sheet will not be published from December 16<sup>th</sup> through the end of the year. But we'll be back on January 7<sup>th</sup>!



**WINTER HOLIDAY DWI MOBILIZATION** - Holiday parties and family gatherings can create special memories, but for some, the memories are painful after losing a loved one to a drunk

driver. Saint Peter Police Officers will be conducting extra DWI enforcement starting November 26<sup>th</sup> to keep motorists and memories safe this holiday season. The extra enforcement campaign runs on weekends through December 27<sup>th</sup>.

A person is more likely to die in an alcohol-related crash during the holidays than at any other time of the year. Forty percent of traffic deaths during the holidays involve an impaired driver according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

"We hear it time and time again from offenders—'If I could just go back and get a ride home my friend would be alive today,'" said Officer Link of the Saint Peter Police Department. "We're encouraged by the drop in DWI arrests, but it's clear there is much more work to be done through education and law enforcement. The responsibility falls on all of us. Speak up if you see a friend or family member who has had too much to drink. If you are a server, don't be afraid to cut off a customer. Let's keep the holiday memories special, not tragic."

#### **Tips to Prevent Drunk Driving**

- Plan for a safe ride – designate a sober driver, use a cab/public transportation or stay at the location of the celebration.
- Offer to be a designated driver, or be available to pick up a loved one anytime, anywhere.

- Buckle up – the best defense against a drunk driver.
- Report drunk driving – call 911 when witnessing impaired driving behavior. Be prepared to provide location, license plate number and observed dangerous behavior.

**Definitions**

- Driving While Impaired (DWI) is a violation for driving under the influence of alcohol.
- Alcohol-related: any evidence of alcohol detected in a driver, pedestrian or bicyclist.
- Impaired-related: any driver, pedestrian or bicyclist with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or above.
- Drunk-driving-related: any driver with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or above.

The enhanced DWI enforcement campaign is a component of the state's *Toward Zero Death (TZD)* initiative. 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.



**LEAF COLLECTION COMPLETED** – The City's curbside leaf collection is now completed. Those who missed the curbside collection may take leaves and grass clippings to the yard waste drop-off site located at the southwest corner of North Swift Street and West

St. Julien Street. This area is open 24-7 year round for use by Saint Peter utility customers and is funded by the environmental services charge on City utility bills.

**EDA MEETING CANCELLATION** – The December meeting of the City's Economic Development Authority has been cancelled due to conflicts with the Christmas holiday and an anticipated lack of agenda items. The next regularly scheduled EDA meeting will be January 22<sup>nd</sup>. For additional information on EDA meetings, please contact the Community Development Department at City Hall or by calling 934-0661.

**MINNESOTA SQUARE PARK LIGHTING DISPLAY** – Within the next few hours the annual lighting display in Minnesota Square Park will come to life to enchant us all. Maybe you have driven by the park a hundred times, maybe more, since this tradition started many, many years ago, but have

you ever stopped to think about what goes into this display?

The planning starts weeks, if not months, before the lights are lit. During that time the City's Parks crew carefully plans what will go in the park and what will be added to the previous year's display. Lights are ordered, strings are untangled (although the crew is very careful about packing up at the end of each lighting season), bulbs are changed out and the schedule for work in the park is set.



Then the dedicated members of the City's Parks crew, along with their able bodied assistants from all the other sections of the Public Works Department, spend all day every day for at least two weeks putting the lights in place. You might have seen them in the park and when they are there and working, the park is alive with activity. Bucket trucks are set up, ladders are put in place, and everywhere you look is someone in a safety vest and a hard hat stringing lights. (It's kind of like the elves working in Santa's workshop!)

They do this work in the harshest of conditions...freezing temps, pouring rain, deep snow and on a few rare occasions, ultra-warm sunny days. It's a lot of work for a few hours of brilliance, but it has become part of the tradition of Christmas in Saint Peter and people come from all over just to look at the display.

And it doesn't stop at Minnesota Square! In addition to the beautiful display in the Park, the crew also sets up the displays in the downtown medians and trees. It's truly a festive delight for the eyes!

We hope you enjoy this display this year and every year to come.



**GREAT CANDY CANE HUNT** - Children of all ages are invited to participate in the "Great Candy Cane Hunt" at the Community Center on Saturday, December 6th from 9:00-10:30 a.m. This free event is sponsored by the City Recreation and Leisure Services Department and will feature over 2,000 candy canes which will be hidden at the Community Center. Each family can choose the hunt time that's convenient for them:

- 9-9:15 a.m.
- 9:30-9:45 a.m.
- 10-10:15 a.m.
- 10:30-10:45 a.m.

For more information, please call the Recreation Department at 934-0667.

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

- **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Bachelor's degree in engineering, public administration or related fields from an accredited college or university, OR fifteen (15) years demonstrated experience as a public works manager or director in a similarly sized (over \$10 million budget and over thirty employees) municipal operation; three (3) or more years' experience managing five (5) or more employees in a supervisory capacity; three (3) or more years' experience managing projects and budgets in a supervisory capacity; possession of a valid Class D driver's license and ability to obtain a valid Class D Minnesota driver's license within one (1) month of the date of employment with the City; possession of an American Heart Association Certification as a Basic Rescuer for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency cardiac care or ability to obtain within six (6) months of the date of employment with the City. **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Bachelor's degree in engineering, public administration or related fields from an accredited college or university; six (6) years of progressively responsible experience in municipal public works or utility operations, or at least six years' experience in a supervisory or engineering role in the private sector; knowledge and experience in the construction, maintenance, and operation aspects of electrical distribution

systems, water treatment and distribution systems, wastewater collection and treatment systems, stormwater collection and treatment systems, streets, parks, and forestry; knowledge of approved methods, materials, and equipment used in all the operations supervised; knowledge of applicable regulatory codes; ability to read, interpret, and develop engineering plans and specifications; knowledge of the principles and procedures of municipal public works and/or utility department administration; ability to plan, coordinate, direct, and monitor the activities of a municipal public works department; demonstrated use of office computer systems and demonstrated understanding of SCADA, AMI, and GIS processes; personnel supervisory experience managing more than five (5) employees; demonstrated ability to manage budgets; demonstrated previous experience in use of value engineering process; demonstrated knowledge of OSHA regulations and safety precautions. Starting salary \$79,750 to \$84,225. Applicants are required to complete a City application form available from the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082 or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 p.m. on December 29, 2014. Interviews for this position will take place January 21-22, 2015. Faxed 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).

Wednesday	December 3	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	December 8	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	December 15	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Wednesday	December 17	TBD	Hospital Commission Budget Workshop
Wednesday Friday	December 24- December 26	12:00 noon - weekend	CITY OFFICES CLOSED—CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Tuesday	December 30	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	January 1		CITY OFFICES CLOSED – NEW YEAR'S DAY

