

# 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)



12/10/2014

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of December 8, 2014 included approval of the 2014 tax levy; approval of the 2015 general fund, special revenue funds, debt service fund, agency funds, and electric fund budgets; approval of 2015 wages for non-union/non-contract employees; approval of the 2015 union contracts for Police Officers, Communications Technicians, Parks, Streets, and Utilities Unions; approval for execution of a renewal library services contract with Nicollet County; action to direct staff to continue joint planning efforts with School District #508 for a joint park/campus plan; approval for out of state travel by Councilmembers Parras and Carlin to the APPA legislative rally in Washington, DC in March, 2015; approval for purchase of a replacement paver and trailer funded by the 2015 equipment certificate; and approval for purchase of chemicals for the water plant.

The Council also took action to cancel the second regular Council meeting in December (the 22<sup>nd</sup>) and to cancel the December 29<sup>th</sup> workshop session.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, January 12th 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)** - *Milestones.....*

A friend and partner in our community is leaving us. Longtime City of Saint Peter Public Works Director Lewis

Giesking is retiring at the end of this year after 28

years of service. Lew 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; and so many more.

In 2010, Lew was 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. Lew also served as the City's representative to the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) where served on the Board and in a number of leadership roles including Treasurer, Vice President and President.

Lew is not just the Director of Public Works. He loves Saint Peter and it shows in so many of our projects, parks and programs. He has been a tremendous asset to the City and to our friends and neighbors here in our community. His work will be a benefit for us for many, many years to come and he leaves a wonderful legacy of high standards and commitment to the future of our community.

On a more personal note, I will miss Lew tremendously. No one knew how to squeeze two nickels together to make 13 cents better than him. His vision for our future was inspiring and his love for his, for our, community is a force of nature. While he is retiring from here, I am sure his talents will go to benefit many groups and organizations that are close to his heart.

All that said I am so happy for him and his wife and the new adventures they will have. So for now I will be part of the celebration of his work and what he has done for our community knowing that we

are better for his service. I wish him all the best in his future works and God's speed.

**HOT SHEET HIATUS** – This is the last edition of the *Hot Sheet* for 2014, but we'll be back on January 7<sup>th</sup>!

**LEAF COLLECTION RECAP** - This year the City's fall leaf pickup began on October 27<sup>th</sup> on the streets south of Broadway Avenue where a total of 27 loads, or approximately 378 cubic yards, of leaves was collected.

Staff began collection on the north side of Broadway Avenue on November 12<sup>th</sup> only to be hampered by a snowstorm which made leaves difficult to pick up.

Staff contacted the City of North Mankato and asked for the use of their one man truck and leaf vacuum for assistance. Having the use of two trucks and vacuums helped the City to complete leaf pick up by the week of November 24<sup>th</sup>. 14 loads were collected with the City's truck and an additional 19 loads were picked up with the North Mankato truck and vacuum for a total of 33 loads (or 462 cubic yards) of leaves.

These materials may have ended up in the City's storm sewer system and, ultimately, in the Minnesota River leading to increased levels of phosphorus in the water. Phosphorus is detrimental to the environment and the fish and animals that live in the river, so removal of these materials before it reaches the river is important.

Curbside leaf collection is funded by the Environmental Services charges on City utility bills. Questions on the leaf collection? Please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.



**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.



**CHRISTMAS LIGHT RECYCLING** – Do you have old strings of Christmas lights that no longer work? Looking to get rid of them? The Recycling Association of Minnesota has a solution for you.

Gather up those bundles of old and broken lights and head down to the entry way at City Hall (227 South Front Street). There you will find a green tub just waiting for your donation.

Accepted will be electric cords, holiday lights, appliance cords, and telephone cords. (Note....they will NOT accept cord adaptors or battery packs.)

Lights will be accepted until January 15<sup>th</sup> and there is no charge for this service.



**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> and 26<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 5:00 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:** *Last week's edition of the Hot Sheet included the information below. The recent warm temps have negated all the work crews have done to flood the rink to this point and staff has been forced to suspend flooding efforts for now. However, the information is being included again so that if the temps get colder while the Hot Sheet is on hiatus, skaters will still have access to the warming house info. Here's the original article....*

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.



**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 26th to keep motorists and memories safe this holiday season. The extra enforcement campaign runs on weekends through December 27th.

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.

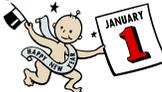
**HELP WANTED** - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the following position:

- **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).

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		 CITY OFFICES CLOSED—CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY (Closed beginning at noon on the 24 <sup>th</sup> )
Tuesday	December 30	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	January 1		 CITY OFFICES CLOSED – NEW YEAR'S DAY
Monday	January 5	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	January 5	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Wednesday	January 7	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	January 12	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	January 13	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	January 19		 LEGAL HOLIDAY – Martin Luther King Day City Offices Closed
Tuesday	January 20	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	January 20	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	January 22	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	January 23	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	January 26	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting

Tuesday	January 27	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
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Wednesday	January 28	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
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