

# 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)



4/09/2014

## SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 21-25, 2014. Each day of the week focuses on different weather-related hazards as follows:

- Monday – alerts and warnings
- Tuesday – severe weather, lightning and hail
- Wednesday – flooding
- Thursday – tornadoes (with statewide tornado drills)
- Friday – extreme heat

More information on these topics is available on the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-awareness-week-program.aspx>.

Two statewide tornado drills will occur on Thursday, April 24th (1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m.) and the Police Department will be testing emergency sirens at each of those times. During the test, outdoor warning sirens and NOAA weather radios will both sound in a simulated tornado warning. The first drill is intended for institutions and businesses. The evening drill is intended for second shift workers and families.

As we enter into the severe weather time of the year, it is important to remember the terms that are used when advisories are issued:



\* Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm **"WATCH"** - means that conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes or severe thunderstorms. When a watch is issued for Nicollet County, pay close attention to the weather and make sure that everyone in your family knows the correct action to take if the weather gets worse.



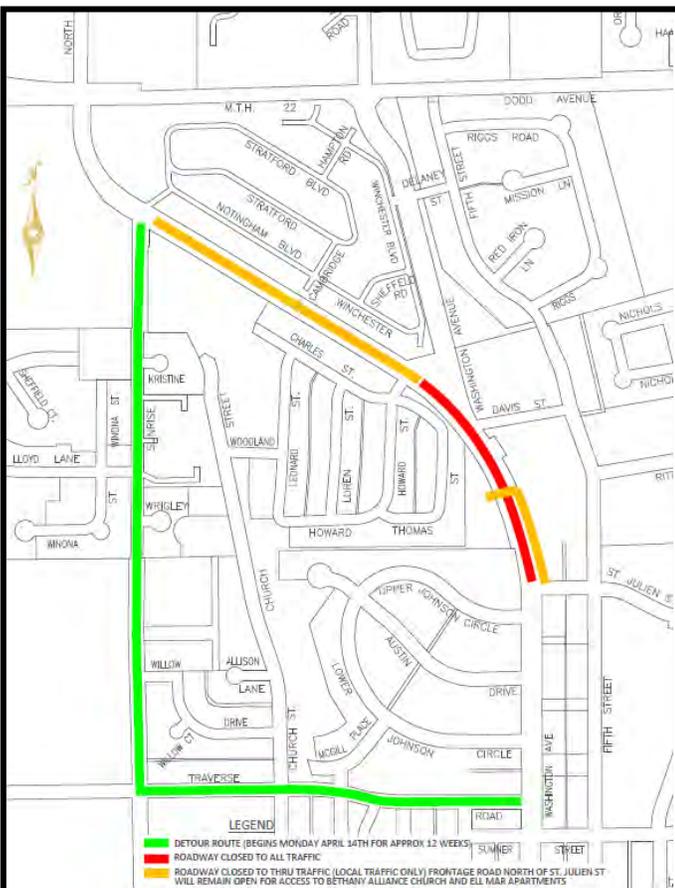
\* Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm **"WARNING"** - means a tornado or severe thunderstorm has been reported or is indicated by weather radar. Warning information includes the tornado or storm's location, direction and speed. If the warning is issued for Nicollet County **TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY**.

\* Warning sirens are tested year round on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. to assure that the sirens will work in the event of an actual emergency. If you hear the steady tone of a siren at any other time, it means that severe weather has been sighted in our area and you should take shelter immediately.

- \* There is no all clear siren, so take a battery powered radio with you to the shelter so you can monitor when it is safe to emerge.
- \* When the sirens sound, please don't call the City or the Police Department to ask why the sirens are going off. Emergency personnel will be busy tracking the storm and dealing with emergency calls and other City employees will be directed to emergency shelters. Take shelter immediately and save your questions for later!
- \* If the sirens sound, don't stand outside looking for the storm. Don't climb on your roof to get a better viewpoint and don't drive around trying to track the storms. Some storms move so quickly and are so unpredictable you might not have time to get to your shelter before the storm strikes or changes direction. Leave the storm spotting and tracking to the professionals.
- \* Identify your storm shelter now....before you need it. When people change residences, identifying a storm shelter is not something that usually is discussed before moving in, but it's important to think about exactly where you will go in the event of a storm warning and discuss it with your family. If you live in a mobile home community, make sure the storm shelter is accessible, clear of debris and stored materials and unlocked so that you can get in it in the event of an actual emergency.
- \* If you are traveling in bad weather take note of the county you are in so you can take action in a severe storm warning. If you don't know you are in Fillmore or Brown or Jackson County and a warning is issued over the radio for that county, you won't know to take shelter!



If you would like more information about severe storms preparedness please call the Saint Peter Police Department (931-1550) or Denise Wright at Nicollet County Emergency Management (934-7874). Additional information is also available through the State of Minnesota Division of Homeland Security website at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-awareness-week-program.aspx>. The severe weather information contained in today's Hot Sheet includes information from the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security website.



**WASHINGTON AVENUE LINK PROJECT DETOUR -** The long awaited Washington Avenue Link Project, which will connect North Washington Avenue from approximately the intersection with Davis Street to Dodd Avenue on the east side of Summit Park, will get underway on Monday, April 14th.

Roadway detours related to the project will begin that day also. The map shown on the left depicts the detours which will be in place for approximately 12 weeks. Drivers are encouraged to use extreme caution in and around the construction and detour area and to slow speeds accordingly. Homeowners living along the detour route are also asked to use extra caution when backing out of driveways due to the increased traffic.

Those who normally access their subdivision along the red line in the map may need to begin using the alternate subdivision entrance at some point during the project. City staff will keep the City's website ([www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov)) and Facebook

(<https://www.facebook.com/CityofSaintPeter>) page updated on a weekly basis to provide more information and if you live along the closed roadway or the detour route, you might want to bookmark those sites now.

For those with questions about the project, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

**BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION** – The City Council will meet as the Saint Peter Board of Appeal and Equalization on Tuesday, April 15th beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Nicollet County Government Center.

Property owners who believe the value or classification which has been assigned to their property by Nicollet County is incorrect are asked to first contact the Nicollet County Assessor's office at 507-934-0240. After conferring with the Assessor, those who are still not satisfied may make an appointment through the Assessor's office to appear before the Board. The board will then review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall make corrections as needed. Appearance before the local board is required by law before an appeal can be taken to the County board of appeal and equalization.

For questions about this process, please contact the Nicollet County Assessor's Office at 934-0240.



**HYDRANT FLUSHING** - The Public Works Department will be flushing hydrants beginning April 14th through approximately April 25th. Flushing will

take place between 8:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. to minimize inconvenience to residents. Flushing could make water cloudy or discolored for a short time, so please check your 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 – Accurate 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.

**STREET SWEEPING** - Street crews will once again be street sweeping. The crews had actually begun this process already, but last week's icy morning at the beginning of the week necessitated some more sand applications on roadways and the heavy snow Thursday night turned the crew's attention back to snow removal.

During the street sweeping process it is helpful if residents can move vehicles off the streets so the sweeping can be done all the way to the curb. This allows removal of excess sand and any debris from the winter that might otherwise wash into the City's storm sewer system.

Work will begin on streets north of Broadway Avenue and then switch to streets south of Broadway. (This process will be reversed in 2015.) Street sweeping will continue until all streets are swept twice.

Please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670 for more information on this process.

**PARK USERS NOTICE** – 70's and sunshine might have you anxious to start using the City's parks, but a word of caution.....City parks are not officially open until May 1st and that means the restroom facilities will not open until that date. This protects the facilities from broken pipes should the weather turn cold again.

**SPRING YARD WASTE COLLECTION** - The City of Saint Peter will be collecting brush, garden waste, and grass clippings at curbside the week of May 5th. **Please note – leaves will not be picked up but can be taken to the yard waste drop-off site.**

Brush and garden waste must be separated and placed parallel and adjacent to the curb (**do not put it on the street or in bags**) by **7:00 A.M. Monday, May 5th**. Brush and tree trimmings should be cut to lengths no longer than eight feet. Please note: it does take more than one day to pick up, but we will only go through an area once; therefore, if your yard waste is not out by **7:00 A.M. Monday, May 5th**, it will not be picked up, but can be taken to the brush drop-off site. There will be no alley pick up.

Please help us serve you better by not placing brush and grass clippings by trees, posts, etc. and please do not park in front of the yard waste until pick-up is complete. Also, please do not put animal waste (dog, cat, rabbit, etc.) in soft yard waste piles as it will **NOT** be picked up.

The brush and soft yard waste drop-off sites located across the street from the Department of Public Works facility, 405 West St. Julien Street, at the southwest intersection of St. Julien and Swift Streets, are open year around for your convenience

in dropping off brush and soft yard waste. A separate bunker is now provided for dropping off fill (rocks, dirt, etc.).

**FREE** woodchips and sifted compost material, when available, will be at the site for citizens to pick up. The material is free to all, but you will have to bring your own shovels, bags or containers. Please refrain from placing foreign material in this area.

These services are provided and funded by the Environmental Service fee on City utility bills.

Please call the Department of Public Works at 934-0670 if you have any questions.

**TRANSIT ANNIVERSARY WINNERS** - Congratulations to the winners of the door prizes given away during the 25th anniversary celebration for the City's transit system:

Mary Coffey	Transit tickets/ Travel Mug
Gaige Burgess	Transit tickets/ Travel Mug
Joel Martinson	Insulated Travel Mug
Carol Lietz	Coffee Mug
Janet Decker	Coffee Mug



**ROUNDBABOUT INSTRUCTIONS** – Roundabouts, those traffic engineering marvels (or nightmares depending on your point of view), are popping up all over southern Minnesota. Mankato is also planning for the imminent development of a multi-lane roundabout. If the

thought of driving through a roundabout causes you to drive blocks or even miles out of your way, you might take some comfort from watching a You Tube video developed by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. It provides information in a very easy to understand fashion that will help you navigate a multi-lane roundabout.....<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsFAs9gEYNQ>.

As mentioned in the video, the tricks are to slow down (no more than 20 mph), yield to traffic already in the roundabout, and look at the pavement markings and signs to provide direction.

Another way to make drivers feel more comfortable with roundabouts it to visit one and watch how the traffic easily navigates through. Like most things in life, it can be scary to attempt something new, but once you get the hang of it, it will be as easy as riding a bike!



**E-CIGARETTES** – Electronic cigarettes, which are battery powered devices used to provide a vapor mixture containing nicotine and/or flavorings, have become big news lately due in part to possible action by the Minnesota Legislature to restrict sales and use of the items.

The City Council has recently taken action related to e-cigarettes and that action will impact the residents of and visitors to Saint Peter.

The first action by the Council was to include the definition of e-cigarettes with other tobacco products. That action triggered a requirement for those who sell e-cigarette products to be licensed by the City and for those products to be kept behind the counter at stores just like other tobacco products. The Council action does not prevent smoking the e-cigarettes in private businesses as that decision is currently left up to the owners of those private businesses. This change takes effect on Thursday, April 3, 2014.

The second Council action extends the ban on smoking in City buildings and within 10' of the doors of those buildings to include e-cigarettes. Smoking has been banned in City buildings for more than ten years and now e-cigarettes are also banned. This ban includes the outdoor swimming pool. This action took effect upon passage by the City Council which occurred on March 24, 2014.

**SCAM PREVENTION REMINDER** - During spring and summer, many individuals are swindled and defrauded by transient/traveling criminal groups performing what are sometimes known as “bunco” or “gypsy” scams. In most cases, the perpetrator approaches a homeowner and offers to provide low-cost home improvements.

One of the most common types of scams involves asphalt paving. The perpetrator tells the homeowner they have asphalt left over from another job in their neighborhood and offers to resurface their driveway or sidewalk at a reduced cost. When the homeowner agrees, the con artists proceed to either apply a thin layer of asphalt that breaks away in a few days, or use a substance other than asphalt. The perpetrators then collect their money and leave before the homeowner is aware of the substandard work.

This scam can also involve the perpetrator partially completing a job, requesting payment and then never returning to finish the work.

Some traveling criminals have also been known to perform exterior home improvements without the permission of the homeowner. This has occurred in cases where the perpetrator made contact with the homeowner, but the homeowner simply took

the perpetrator's business card without requesting their services. The following day the perpetrator performs part of the work, and demands payment for the entire job.

These types of crimes are known to increase during the spring and summer months. In these types of cases the elderly are often an easy target. Victims often feel foolish about being taken advantage of and these crimes often go unreported.

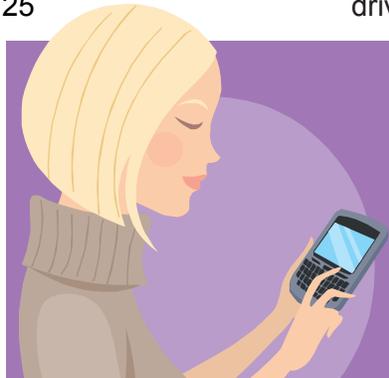
A scam that is often seen in Saint Peter is the door to door magazine selling scam. Young people will show up at the door saying that he/she is "collecting points" by people donating book or magazine subscriptions to achieve a college scholarship. This is typical of scamming agencies and the magazines never appear.

If someone appears at your door to sell you anything, ask the solicitor for their contact information **and** City of Saint Peter permit to conduct door to door sales. (All those doing sales in residential areas, who don't have a permanent fixed office in Saint Peter, are required to have a permit from the City.) If the solicitor won't provide contact info, or doesn't have a City permit, or is hesitant to leave, this is a good sign they are not a legitimate company. Close the door and call the Saint Peter Police immediately at 931-1550. Be ready to provide as much information as you can about the solicitor including description, clothing, vehicle license, make and model, and direction they were going.

**DON'T THUMB IT UP BEHIND THE WHEEL** - The Saint Peter Police Department will conduct extra enforcement on April 18th in an effort to reduce distracted driving. Officers are highlighting the issue during the prom and graduation seasons — in the last three years distracted teen drivers were involved in crashes that resulted in 25 deaths and 4,505 injuries.

According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) Office of Traffic Safety, driver distraction is a leading crash factor in Minnesota, accounting for around 20% of all crashes annually and resulting in at least 70 deaths and 350 injuries,

In Minnesota, it is illegal for drivers to read, compose or send texts/emails, and access the Web on a wireless device while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic, such as at a stoplight or stuck in traffic. It is also illegal for drivers under age 18 to use a cell phone at any time.



"Your focus behind the wheel is far more important than the text message you are sending or reading behind the wheel," says Officer Jay Link. "Drivers need to make a serious effort to recognize and limit dangerous and unnecessary distractions, and passengers need speak up to stop and prevent drivers from texting."

Distractions cause drivers to react more slowly to traffic conditions or events, such as a vehicle stopping or pulling out in traffic. A University of Utah study reports that using a cell phone while driving, whether hands-free or hand-held, delays a driver's reactions as much as having an alcohol-concentration level of 0.08 percent. And when texting, drivers take their eyes off the road for up to 4.6 out of every 6 seconds — equivalent to traveling the length of a football field at 55 mph hours without looking up.

The Saint Peter Police Department underscores driver distractions include reaching for items, fiddling with radio/music/vehicle controls, eating/drinking, dealing with rowdy passengers, grooming and more.

Here some tips to help minimize distractions:

- Hang up and drive:
  - Turn off your cell phone, or place it out of reach in the back seat. If you don't hear it ring or can't get to it, you won't be tempted to use it.
  - If on a phone conversation with someone and either one of you are driving, ask them to call you back to keep both of you safe.
  - Texting, emailing and web use while driving is illegal in Minnesota - including when stopped in traffic. Better to now use the phone at all when driving or risk being pulled over and receiving a citation.
  - Drivers under age 18 are prohibited from any cell phone use. Make sure any young drivers in the family are aware of the law and abide by it.
- Passengers:
  - Speak up to stop drivers from engaging in distracted behaviors. Remember, they are risking your life when they become distracted drivers.
  - Assist the driver with phone, directions and radio/music controls so they can concentrate on the road.
- More tips:
  - Map out and study directions before your trip so you don't have to move your eyes from the road to a map or written directions.

- o Teach children the importance of good behavior in a vehicle. How many times have you been distracted because the children were misbehaving and you turned to break it up?

Distracted driving education is a component of Minnesota's core traffic safety initiative, [Toward Zero Deaths \(TZD\)](#). 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.

Let's all be safer drivers and make sure we get to our destinations!



**CAT LICENSES DUE** - The City of Saint Peter requires all cats within the City limits to be licensed.

Cat licenses are due on or before April 30, 2014. Cost is \$5 (spayed/neutered) or \$25

for unaltered pets. The license is valid for 2 years (4/30/14 – 4/30/15).

When purchasing the license, owners must furnish an updated rabies vaccination certificate signed by a licensed Veterinarian.

Cat licenses are available from the Community Development Department at City Hall (227 South Front Street). The office is open weekdays from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Residents can also purchase a renewal license through the mail by submitting the rabies certificate and the appropriate fee to the Community Development office. (Sorry, but initial licenses are not able to be purchased through the mail. Owners must come in person to complete the initial license application.) If you have questions about pet licensing, please call 934-0661.

(And remember.....if you own a dog they are also required to be licensed!)

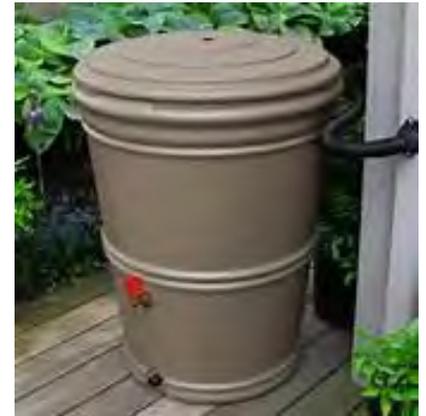
**RAIN BARREL REBATES** – The City is pleased to once again offer a rain barrel rebate program. Rain water is great for gardens, houseplants, car washing, window washing, and other household chores. It also provides a good source of water

during droughts and saves utility customers money by lowering the monthly water bill. Use of rainwater for these tasks also reduces stress on the City's storm drain and sewer systems.

Here's how the rebate program works.....beginning May 15th through July 15th, City utility customers may purchase a 45-48 gallon rail barrel or rain barrel diverter and parts kit from one of four local vendors.....Arrow Ace Hardware, Mary's Flowers, St. Peter Greenhouse and Floral, or Traverse des Sioux Garden Center. At the time of purchase, a rebate form will be filled out at the store and the form will be provided to the City for processing. Purchase of one of the qualifying barrels entitles the utility customer to either a \$25 rebate on their utility bill or a \$10 rebate on the utility bill for purchase of a rain barrel diverter and parts kit.

And a couple of things to note.....some property owners might have to hire someone to attach the rain barrel to their downspout. The vendors should

be able to put you in touch with someone who provides this service. (City employees are not allowed to recommend someone to perform this service.) Also, property owners who are part of a



homeowners association will want to check to make sure the association bylaws allow rain barrels.

Rebates will be available to the first 50 qualified purchasers and there is a limit of two rebates per household.

## 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

April 14

5:00 p.m.

Human Rights Commission

Monday	April 14	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	April 15	6:00 p.m.	Board of Appeals and Equalization
Monday	April 21	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	April 21	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	April 24	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 24</b>	<b>1:45 and 6:55 p.m.</b>	<b>Statewide Tornado Drill</b>
Friday	April 25	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	April 28	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	April 29	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	April 30	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Monday	May 5	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	May 5	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	May 6	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
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
Monday	May 19	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
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