

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. www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



4/16/2014

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.



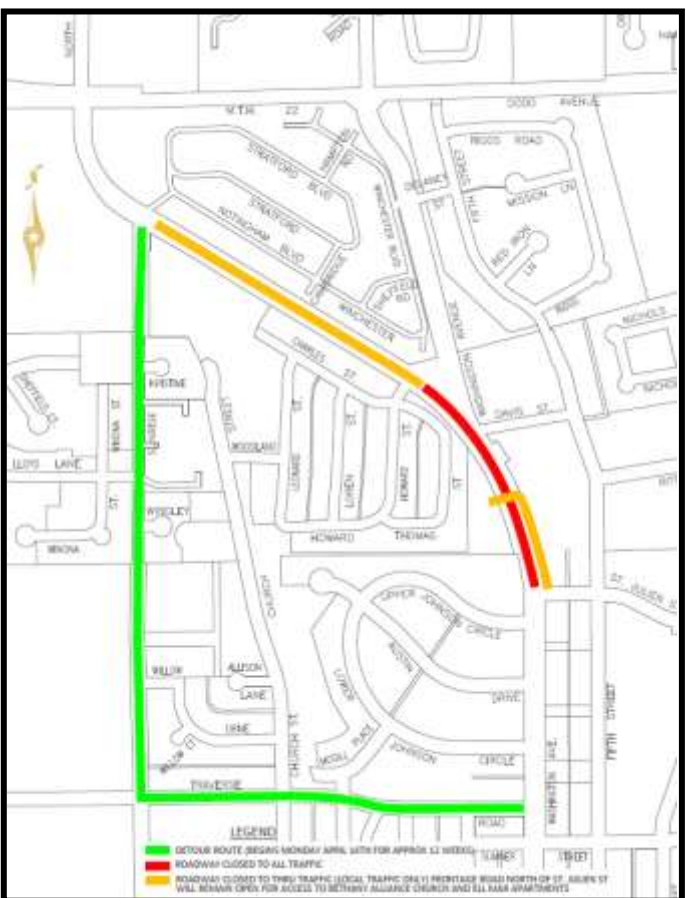
* Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm **"WARNING"** - means a tornado or severe thunderstorm has been reported or is indicated by weather radar. Warning information includes the tornado or storm's location, direction and speed. If the warning is issued for Nicollet County **TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY**.

* 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 (<http://www.saintpetermn.gov/street-projects>) 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.

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of April 14, 2014 included approval of change order #1 for the Broadway Electric Generation Plant Upgrade Project; approval for purchase of a replacement Police squad car; authorization for two purchases (automated pharmacy equipment and urological surgery equipment) for River's Edge Hospital and Clinic; approval of the preliminary and final plats for Welco West Subdivision No. 2; authorization for execution of a one growing season lease with Brett Annexstad to farm the 75.06 acres of agricultural land owned by the City; approval of updated construction standards for public improvements; and acceptance of a proposal from Nielsen Blacktopping, Inc. to demolish the City owned property at 1724 North Fifth Street. Mayor Strand also proclaimed April 25th as “Arbor Day” and May, 2014 as “Arbor Month” in Saint Peter.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, April 28th 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.

COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING HOURS - Beginning Friday, May 2nd, the Community Center weekend hours will change for the spring and summer seasons (May 3rd – September 2nd). During the month of May, the building will close at 6 p.m. on Fridays. On Saturdays the building will open at 8 a.m. and close earlier at 4 p.m. The building will be closed on Sundays. Please note that the Community Center will be closed over the Memorial Day weekend, May 24th-26th.

Official summer hours begin on Saturday, June 7th and run through Labor Day weekend. The building will open at 6 a.m. Monday through Thursday and close at 8 p.m. On Fridays, hours will be 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday hours will be 9 a.m.–4 p.m. and the facility will be closed on Sundays (except for approved reservations).

If you have any questions, or would like to inquire about room rentals, please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department, Suite 200 of the Community Center, by calling 934-0667 or emailing heidis@saintpetermng.gov. Hours are also listed on the City website, www.saintpetermn.gov/communitycenter.

BARBECUE SAFETY TIPS - Barbecuing in any environment presents certain hazards that people should consider so that they can take precautions to reduce the likelihood of starting a fire. Here are a few tips that can help make barbecuing safer.

- If possible, it is best to keep your grill 15 feet from your home. Some gas or electrical type grills can be within 18” of your home and installed on a deck. Before doing so, check and follow the manufacturer's instruction guide for safe distances to combustibles.
- LP cylinders should be stored outside of the house.
- Keep charcoal briquettes and lighting fluid stored away from living areas of your home.
- Charcoal briquettes should be allowed to cool naturally then doused with water before being placed in the trash.
- If you live in an apartment building or a rental home always check with the landlord or management to find out if, and where, you can safely grill.



With a little pre-thought and common sense we can make this summer a safer and tasty one! More information on this and other tips can be found at the State Fire Marshal Division website at (www.fire.state.mn.us)

BEFORE YOU HIRE A CONTRACTOR - Do your homework before work begins on your home by making sure you have a reliable and licensed contractor. Contractors must be licensed by the State of Minnesota and they should be able to provide that license number to anyone who asks. That allows the property owner to investigate the contractor before hiring them.

Before you hire a contractor, the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) suggests homeowners ask for the following information:

- Get the contractor's license number and contact the Residential Building Contractors division at the DLI to verify the builder is currently licensed and to determine if they have a disciplinary history;
- Ask the contractor how long they have been in business and in what locations. Sometimes shady contractors will pick up and move to a different location when their bad reputation starts being known. You'll want to check to make sure they don't have a history of bad business in previous locations.
- Ask the contractor for references and check with those former customers to see if they were satisfied with the work. It's also a good thing to

ask friends and neighbors what they may know about the contractor to see if there are any bad references out there the contractor might not tell you about.

- Ask for a Minnesota business address other than a post office box to ensure they have an actual place of business; and
- Ask for a local phone number where the contractor can be reached during normal business hours. It might also be wise to ask the contractor how long it takes him/her respond to those phone calls.

It's important to note that property owners who hire unlicensed contractors will not have access to the Contractors' Recovery Fund. The Contractor Recovery Fund compensates owners or lessees of residential property in Minnesota who have suffered an actual and direct out-of-pocket loss due to a licensed contractor's fraudulent, deceptive or dishonest practices, conversion of funds or failure of performance. If you have been the victim of an unscrupulous contractor, you can get more information on this fund by calling (651)284-5057.

Before you sign a contract, make sure the contract includes the following information:

- a detailed summary of the work to be done;
- a description of materials to be used;
- the total contract price or how the price will be calculated; and
- specific timelines and provisions that address what will happen if the contractor fails to meet the contractual deadlines.

Property owners with problems or complaints regarding a residential building contractor should contact the DLI Residential Building Contractors unit at (651)284-5065 to discuss the situation with an investigator who may offer suggestions about how to resolve the dispute. Property owners may also call the City's Building Department at (507)934-0662.

TREE RELOCATION – The three trees which are planted in the median on Highway 169 near Union Street will be relocated to Jefferson Fields in the next couple of weeks. This is necessary because of the Highway 169 reconstruction that MnDOT will begin in the near future. Please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670 for more information on this process.



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.

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 less than 8' in length.

Please note that it does take more than one day to pick up, but the City will only go through an area once and yard waste that is not out by 7:00 A.M. Monday, May 5th, 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.

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

TRANSIT ANNIVERSARY WINNERS - Congratulations to the winners of the door prizes given away during

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.

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
Thursday	April 24	1:45 and 6:55 p.m.	Statewide Tornado Drill
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