

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. www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



06/18/2014

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council at the meeting of June 9th included adoption of resolutions of support for housing projects involving Maplewood Apartments and the Solace project; approval of a revolving loan request for Kaduce/St. Peter Laundry; approval of equipment purchase requests for River's Edge Hospital and Clinic; approval of a change order for Phase 2 of the Washington Avenue Link Project; award of the bid for the 2014 crack sealing project; award of the bid for the 2014 seal coating project; authorization to retain Bolton and Menk, Inc. to provide assistance for the City's MSA4 Project; and approval of a request for City assistance for the Livestock community event.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, June 23rd 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.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE – Housing Study.... We are working on a revamp of our housing study. For some folks this means something next to nothing, but for folks

like bankers, realtors, City Councilmembers and staff, builders, contractors, landlords and others, it is important stuff!

Our previous housing study is on our website and gives tons of data that both the private and public sector can use to help make well informed, data driven choices about what to do relative to housing. What you see below is what was written to the Council as they made the decision about whether

to spend the money to do such an update. (By the way, the money for the update is about \$5k.)

"In 1999, the City of Saint Peter contracted with Community Partners Research for the production of a comprehensive study of the Saint Peter housing market. The 1999 study was updated by CPR in 2002, 2005 and once again in 2012. At this time, it is suggested that the City enter into a contract with CPR for the development of an update to the 2012 analysis of the Saint Peter housing market.

Previous housing studies have proven to be instrumental in helping the Council make informed housing policy decisions. The proposed study would be expected to guide the City Council as they determine the acceptable municipal role in residential development. Past City Councils have used the results in determining the need for additional single family home ownership opportunities which were then addressed through the development and sale of lots within Nicollet Meadows and then Washington Terrace.

The update would focus on household incomes, employment data, home sales and residential lots available for construction. The intent of the update is to determine the impact of the significant regional job growth on the demand for various types of housing."

Check out our current study at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2012SaintPeterHousingStudy.pdf>

This is one of those things that we share with everyone and which helps us make decisions about our future. Will you take a few moments to check it out? It makes me wonder.....

SPEED ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS - The posted speed is the speed limit – and the Saint Peter Police Department is emphasizing the need to drive at safe speeds through accelerated speed patrols June 16-20th. The enforcement and education

effort is coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety.

Unsafe and illegal speed is the most commonly reported contributing factor in fatal crashes. During 2011–2013, speed was a contributing factor in three fatalities in Nicollet County and 235 traffic deaths statewide.

In Nicollet County, an average speeding citation for 10 mph over the limit is \$145. Motorists stopped at 20 mph over the speed limit face double the fine and those ticketed traveling more than 100 mph can lose their license for six months.

“As drivers, we can’t put our schedules ahead of other motorists’ safety,” says Officer Jay Link. “Running late or being in a hurry are not excuses to speed and put other drivers at risk.”

The Saint Peter Police Department cites these dangers of speeding:

- Greater potential for loss of vehicle control
- Increased stopping distance - it takes more than the length of a football field to stop when traveling 60 mph
- Less time available for driver response for crash avoidance
- Increased crash severity leading to more numerous and severe injuries

The Saint Peter Police Department reports that a motorist traveling at 65 miles per hour compared to 55 mph will save only 1 minute and 41 seconds on a 10 mile trip.

Aggressive driving traits — such as tailgating, unsafe passing, running lights and weaving in and out of traffic — are another safety concern of local law enforcement. Officer Jay Link says motorists confronted by aggressive drivers should: Get out of their way, stay calm, do not challenge them and avoid eye contact. Motorists may also report aggressive driving and should be prepared to provide vehicle description, license number and location.

Officer Jay Link says motorists should keep a three-second following distance to allow for safe stopping and reaction to other vehicles. It takes more than the length of a football field to stop when traveling at 60 miles per hour.

Another safety concern in July is the record-high number of motorcyclists on the road. Officer Jay Link says a major factor in rider deaths are unsafe speeds — more than half of all motorcycle crashes are single-vehicle events in which the rider loses control of the bike and runs off the road or crashes. He stresses for motorists to look twice for riders — especially at intersections — because motorcycles are smaller, their speeds and distance can be harder to gauge.

Extra speed enforcement and education efforts are a part of the Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety *Toward Zero Deaths* traffic safety 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.

FIREFIGHTER RECOGNITION – Three retiring Firefighters were recognized by the City Council as part of the June 9th Council meeting. Firefighters Bruce Wenner and Michael McCarthy (absent from the event), were recognized for 22 years of service and Firefighter Jerry Yushta was recognized for 30 years of service to the community. Mayor Strand presented each of the Firefighters with a “Certificate of Appreciation” for their service to Saint Peter and wished them well in their retirement.



Fire Chief Quade and Assistant Chief Neary presented “Retired Firefighter” plaques to Wenner and Yushta and recognized their families for the support they provided the Firefighters during their careers.

Chief Quade also introduced three of the six new Firefighters (Curtis Thompson, Brianna Thomas, and Charles Rustman) to the Council.

HIGH UTILITY BILLS? – If your utility bill is creeping up as the summer warms and your grass needs a little sprinkling, here’s a way that might help you cut your bill. One of the biggest expenses on City utility bills is the wastewater fee which is directly tied to the number of gallons of water used by the customer.



This expense is even greater for customers who have not had an irrigation meter installed on their homes. Irrigation meters are separate utility meters that monitor the usage of water that does **not** go down the City’s wastewater system....outside uses like watering the lawn, washing the car, watering the garden. With an irrigation meter, the only charges the homeowner pays for this outside water use is the water cost. That can result in significant savings to the homeowner if you use a lot of

outside water. Another plus is that during the winter months when outside water isn't used, customers don't pay a base charge for the irrigation meter!

So, how do you get an irrigation meter? The first step is to apply for one at the Building Department at City Hall. The cost is \$25. Then you'll need a plumber to install the meter. The cost for that depends on your plumber and what work is needed in your home to install the meter. (The homeowner is responsible for the plumbing costs.) From that point on, any water used from outside faucets will not be charged wastewater fees. If you would like more information on how irrigation meters work, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.



CITY WEBSITE - Have you checked out the City of Saint Peter website at www.saintpetermn.gov? City staff continually work on revising the website and adding more information for the public.

One of the newest additions to the site is expanded information on the different sections of the Public Works Department. There is also information on elections (where to vote, how to register, updated changes to election laws, etc...); reserving parks, and the entire zoning code and zoning map. If you get a chance, why not check it out? And if you have any ideas for other information the City should include, please send us an e-mail at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov.

BICYCLE SAFETY - Summer's here and that means an increased number of bicycles on the roads and sidewalks. This year, the price of gas has also pushed more people towards their bikes and for many of us who haven't been on a bike in a while, a few safety tips might be helpful. These tips are provided by McGruff.org.....

Riding a bike can be fun, if you know how to stay safe. But if you don't follow the rules, it can be dangerous. To be safe on your bike, follow these tips:

- Always wear a helmet and fasten it. Helmets protect your head, and in many states it's illegal not to wear one!

- Wear bright clothing so drivers and other bikers can see you.
- If you want to ride after dark, ask an adult and remember to put reflectors on your clothes, helmet, and bike. Adults should wear the reflectors also!
- Obey the rules of the road. Bikers must stop at all stop signs and traffic lights and use turning signals, just like cars.
- Ride on the right hand side of the road, in the same direction as traffic.
- Look both ways. Most crashes happen at intersections or driveways so be on the lookout for people who may not see you.
- Ride on bike trails, roads with little traffic or in parks. If you do come to a busy road, walk your bike across intersections at a crosswalk.
- Keep your bike tuned up. You don't want to get a flat tire far away from your house!
- Protect your bike. Lock it up or keep it in a safe place when you're not using it. Don't leave your bike out in your yard because someone just might come along and ride away with it. Also, don't leave your bike in an unlocked garage.
- Ride with friends. It's more fun and you have someone to help you if you need it.



And don't forget to register your bike at the Police Department. The cost is only \$1.00 and it may help get your bike back if lost or stolen. The information from the bike is entered into a nationwide database and if your bike is stolen and recovered somewhere else, the Saint Peter Police Department will be contacted for information on the owner. What a deal for only \$1!

RECREATION FIELD USE: If you are a coach or organizer of an event and you plan to use the City owned recreational fields, please remember that you must schedule such use with the Recreation and Leisure Services Department PRIOR to the event. This includes practices AND games. Should you have any questions, please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-0667.

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 June 21 7:00 p.m. Parks Board CANCELLED!~~

Monday	June 23	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	June 24	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	June 25	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	June 26	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	June 27	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	June 30	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	July 1	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Friday	July 4		LEGAL HOLIDAY – FOURTH OF JULY City offices closed
Monday	July 7	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	July 7	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	July 8	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	July 14	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	July 21	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	July 21	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	July 22	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	July 23	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitor's Bureau
Monday	July 28	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	July 29	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	July 30	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission