

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



May your holiday season be filled with joy and laughter. Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas from the Saint Peter City Council and City staff.



12/19/2012



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE – A special request....

This is a repeat request that I got from a reader a few weeks back. It is a re-run of an article that has been published a couple of other times during the holiday season. Each time I read through it though I hear something new and feel something different. I take joy from the fact that at times having a 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 and as I fumbled with my other mitten and my small purchase, 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 whom she loves that 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.....

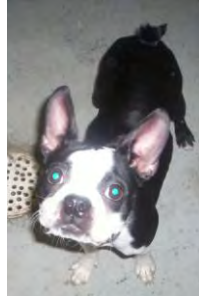
HOT SHEET VACATION – The *Hot Sheet* will not be published the week of December 26th, but will return again on January 2nd.



HELP US PLEASE?! – This is a very special time of year for families and for many of us, our family also includes some special furry,

four legged members. And we need your help to reunite a couple of wonderful dogs with their families.

This week, a French Bulldog and a Bassett Hound were both impounded by the Police Department. Based on the condition of the dogs (really good) and their friendly temperament, they most likely have a family somewhere who wants them to come home. If you know the owners or if you are the owner of either of these two dogs, please contact Community Service Officer Meyer at the Police Department (931-1550) so we can reunite pooches and owners.



HOLIDAY CLOSURES/HOURS –

The Christmas and New Year’s holidays will impact City offices and programs. Here’s a list of closures and changes to hours that might impact City residents:

- The Community Center and Library will be closed on December 24th and December 25th.
- The Library will be open until 5:00 p.m. on December 31st.
- The Community Center will be open until 6:00 p.m. on December 31st.
- Transit hours for the holidays will be as follows:
 - December 24th – 7 am – 4:30 pm
 - December 25th – No service
 - December 31st – 7 am – 8 pm*
 - January 1st – No service

*The Sober Bus will run on New Year’s Eve from 8:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. This service is sponsored by Blaschko’s Embassy Bar, The Flame Bar, and The Red Men Club. Just call 934-6070 beginning at 8:00 p.m. on New Year’s Eve and you’ll get a FREE ride home.

CHRISTMAS TREE CURBSIDE COLLECTION - The

City will be collecting and chipping Christmas trees Monday, January 7th and Tuesday, January 8th. Residents are asked to place trees on the curb by 7:00 A.M. Monday, January 7th. (Please keep the trees on the curb and not in the roadway!)



Please remove all decorations from the trees and do not put the tree in plastic bags as trees in bags will not be collected. Only real trees will be collected (no artificial trees, garland, or wreaths which can be disposed of with regular garbage).

Residents wishing to dispose of Christmas trees prior to or after January 7th may take the trees to the brush drop-off site located across the street from the Department of Public Works facility at the southwest corner of the Gault and St. Julien Streets intersection (next to the National Guard Armory).

This service is funded by the environmental services fee on City utility bills.

ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT – We’ve had our first

taste of a winter storm and are getting warmed up for the bigger snows yet to come. Now that your shovel is broken in, why not consider “adopting” your neighborhood fire hydrant?

As the snow begins to deepen, you can help out the Fire Department by keeping the area around the hydrant shoveled out as shown in the picture. In the event of a fire, this will save valuable time for the Firefighters who respond to save your house or the life of someone in your family.



So, remember.....each time it snows, take a few extra minutes and shovel out the corner fire hydrant. The Saint Peter Volunteer Fire Department thanks you for your help!

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the

City Council at the regular meeting of December 10, 2012 included approval of a second change order for the Highway 295 Project and final acceptance of the project; adoption of the 2012 tax levy payable in 2013; approval of the general fund and special revenue fund budgets for 2013; approval of rate modifications and the 2013 budget for the environmental services fund; authorization for modification to the loan terms for the revolving

loan provided to REST, LLC; approval for modification to loan terms for the revolving loans provided to Chippewa Packaging; approval for modification of the probationary period for part-time employees; scheduling of a public hearing for closure of a portion of Summit Park related to the Washington Avenue Link Project; approval for execution of a contract with the City of Nicollet for the City of Saint Peter to provide building inspection services in Nicollet; adoption of a 2% wage increase for non-union/non-contract employees; authorization to exchange Municipal State Aid funds for federal funds for the Washington Avenue Link Project; approval of a "finding of no significant impact" for the Washington Avenue Link Project; approval of a use of public property permit for Diamonds In The Rust; closed session to discuss union contract negotiations; and approval of 2013 contracts for the Utilities, Parks, Streets, Police Officers and Communication Technicians unions.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, January 14th 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 agenda and Council packet are also available on the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov/city.

SIDEWALK CLEARANCE REGULATIONS – Snow season is finally here and by now most of us have broken in our snow shovels for the year. As the winter progresses, property owners can avoid a bill from the City by keeping sidewalks clear of snow, ice and blowing snow.



City regulations require sidewalks to be cleared the entire width within twenty-four (24) hours of a snowfall. This regulation is in place, in part, to ensure that the public walkways are available to and safe for pedestrians. The regulation also requires property owners at corner lots to keep the handicap access clear of snow and ice.

Sidewalks that are not cleaned will be cleared by the City and the property owners will be charged for the service. The fee? A minimum of \$65 and an additional \$65 per hour after that.

A salt/sand mixture is available from the Public Works Department for Saint Peter property owners. Up to five gallons is available at no charge, but you will have to bring your own bucket. To get some of the mixture, please go to the front office of the Public Works Department (405 West St. Julien Street) between the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. A larger amount of the material is

available for a fee. Contact the Public Works Department (934-0670) for more information.

And a reminder....if you will be out of town for any length of time over the winter, please make sure to arrange for someone to shovel your walk so you don't end up with a surprise bill from the City.

Thanks for your cooperation!

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE RATE CHANGES.

Environmental service rates fund the protection of the environment by providing for the operations of refuse and recycling collection throughout the community; operation of a yard waste drop off site; operation of a compost site; curb-side yard waste and leaf pick up; Christmas tree pick up; maintenance of the City's urban forest; maintenance of the downtown medians and urns; and garbage pickup downtown and in City parks.

Based on Staff and Council discussions over the past two years, changes are being made that will include charging those utility customers that are not currently charged for services they have access to, use, or benefit from. Multi-family units and businesses that do not currently pay for the services will now help pay for all of the services listed above. Businesses and residents all benefit from the services provided.

Businesses and rental housing owners will see new charges on utility bills of \$8.63 per month for single businesses and \$2.16 per unit for rentals with five or fewer units. Landlords with more than five rental units will see an added charge of \$21.58 on their bills and industrial and institutional customers will now be charged \$25.89 monthly. These changes will start February 1, 2013.

Customers who already pay for these services will see new line items on the bill, but the overall charge for services will not increase.

Please contact the Finance Department (934-0664) for more information on these changes, or if you have questions about what category your property is included in.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CHARITY SCAMS –

Before you make an end of the year donation to a charity, make sure you protect yourself from a possible scam. Police Chief Peters offers the following suggestions to residents:

- Request written information. Ask for the name of the organization, its' mission, plans for achieving its' objectives, and how much of every dollar collected is used for charitable purposes.
- Call the beneficiary/organization. Find out whether they are aware of the solicitation and have authorized the use of their name.

- Find out how your donation will be distributed. How much will go to the program you want to support and how much will cover the charity's administrative costs.
 - If this is a professional fund-raiser, ask them how much money they keep.
 - Refuse high-pressure appeals. Legitimate fund-raisers won't push you to give on the spot.
 - Consider the cost. When buying merchandise or tickets for special events, or when receiving free goods in exchange for giving, remember that these items cost money and are generally paid for out of the contributions.
 - Avoid cash gifts because they can be lost or stolen. For security and tax record purposes, it is best to pay by check. Make your check payable to the beneficiary, NOT the solicitor.
- To check on a charity in Minnesota, call the Minnesota Charities Review Council at 1-800-733-4483 or the Minnesota Attorney General's Office Charity Division at 1-800-657-3787.

CALENDAR

Monday- Tuesday	December 24 - December 25		CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY—CITY OFFICES CLOSED
Thursday	December 27	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	December 28	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Tuesday	January 1		NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Monday	January 7	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	January 7	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	January 8	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Tuesday	January 8	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	January 14	5:00 p.m.	Human Rights Commission
Monday	January 14	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	January 21		MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. LEGAL HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Tuesday	January 22	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	January 22	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	January 24	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	January 25	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	January 28	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	January 29	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	January 30	12:00 noon	Hospital and Nursing Home Commission