

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 or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



Happy Halloween!



10/30/2013

HOSPITAL CEO RECEPTION – The public is invited to join the Hospital Commission and staff of River's Edge Hospital and Clinic for a reception honoring retiring CEO Colleen Spike and welcoming incoming CEO George Rohrich.

The reception will take place on October 31, 2013 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Coffee and cake will be served at this open house event in the Helen White conference room at River's Edge Hospital and Clinic at 1900 North Sunrise Drive.

Please join us as we thank Colleen for her many years of service and welcome George to his new position!

ELECTION REMINDER – The City will conduct a general election on Tuesday, November 5th, to elect City Councilmembers and School Board members. Polls are open beginning at 7:00 a.m. and voting will continue until 8:00 p.m. For information on polling places in Saint Peter, please visit the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov/elections or the Secretary of State's precinct finder website at <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>.

VOTE
✓

Absentee ballots will be available from the Nicollet County Auditor/Treasurer's office until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 4th. The Auditor's office will also be open on Saturday, November 2nd from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. for absentee voting.

Voters with questions about the general election should contact Barbara in the City Administrator's Office at 934-0663.

CITY BOND RATING IMPROVEMENT – The City's bond rating has been upgraded by rating agency Standard & Poor's. The rating was obtained as part of the preparation work for the issuance of a Municipal State Aid bond (see story below on City Council actions) and staff is pleased to report the rating was upgraded to an "AA-(SPUR)/Stable" rating.

According to the Standard and Poor's report, the rating is a reflection of their assessment of the St. Peter area having an adequate economy which benefits from the Mankato-North Mankato metropolitan statistical area and the stabilizing institutions of Gustavus and the Regional Treatment Center; a very strong budgetary flexibility with general fund reserves projected to remain higher than 30% of expenditures; strong budgetary performance, including projections of close-to-break-even operations in fiscal years 2013 and 2014; very strong liquidity providing very strong cash levels to cover both debt service and expenditures; strong management with good financial management practices; and very weak debt and contingent liability position, mostly as a result of the City's high net direct debt.

This is good news for the most recent bond sale as the net interest rate on the bonds was substantially below projections, in part due to the upgraded bond rating for the City.

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of October 28, 2013 included a public hearing and subsequent action to modify the City Code to allow "birthing centers" as

conditional uses in some areas of the community; approval for the sale of \$4,720,000 in general obligation municipal state aid bonds; approval for a contract with Gustavus for transportation for Gustavus students on weekend evenings during the school year; changes to the City's public hearing process and regulations; approval of the concept for construction of a round-a-bout at the intersection of Old Minnesota Avenue and St. Julien Street in 2014; purchase of a replacement excavating system for Public Works; and modification to the City's municipal state aid plan to remove two blocks of roadway and add two different blocks. The Council also met in closed session to discuss Utility, Park, and Streets union contract negotiations and negotiations for purchase of property associated with the Washington Avenue Link Improvement Project.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Tuesday, November 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center. (**The meeting is being held on Tuesday due to the Veteran's Day holiday on the normal meeting date.) For more information on City Council meetings, please contact the City Administrator's office at 934-0663. A copy of the Council packet is also available on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city-council-minutes-agendas-packets>.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – Here is an update about the Pirate Crossing (Hwy 99 Bridge) at Rock Bend. Now I have been told

by a person in the know that on the Minnesota River, near the 99 Bridge (on the way to Whiskey River) is the rock out cropping that is the "Rock Bend".

As you stand on the bridge you can see the historic rocks and imagine the boat Captain saying "ARRRR...mates...Rock Bend ahead, prepare to land and drop this load off you swabbies." Well I know I added the "ARRRR" for a little affect and they probably did not sound like pirates but it is fun to think about. At some point Rock Bend had its' name changed to Saint Peter. (Bob Sandeen of the Nicollet County Historical Society can probably tell you all about that.)

Anyway, a few years back we were having lots of discussion with MnDOT about this "fracture critical" bridge and at that time a couple of actions were taken to prepare for what would be necessary if the bridge had to move. Long story short, historic bridge, fracture critical, cannot really change the

aesthetics, may need to replace, cannot tear it down, might be able to move it downstream for a bike trail crossing, big money, concern about losing this crossing, ugh!

MnDOT has done a lot of thinking about this and a bunch of research and it now appears that they and a consulting engineer are working on a new plan to enhance the strength of the bridge without significantly affecting the historic look of it. The current plan is to fix up the bridge while working to maintain the bridge's looks and they plan to be out for bids on bridge work sometime around the New Year with work to occur in the 2014 construction season. As I get more info, I will write about it here.

Do you ever cross that bridge? Is the crossing important to you or would it be okay to only have the Highway 22 Bridge? Does the idea of spending less and keeping the aesthetics of the Highway 99 bridge appeal to you? I think it appeals to MnDOT and us to and I appreciate MnDOT's continued work on this.

Will you be able to walk across the bridge and imagine the pirate landing by Rock Bend? It makes me wonder....

PETS OF THE WEEK – Cat, kittens, and more felines! The pound is once again overflowing with cats and kittens (two litters are currently in the pound) and the adoption fee has been reduced to only \$50 to try and find all of these pets' new forever homes. The fee



includes



spay/neuter surgery and the first round of vaccinations.

If you can help any of the animals in the pound find a forever home, please contact Community Service Officer Janet Thompson at the Police Department (931-1550), or Alaina at Kind Veterinary Clinic at 931-4700. All animals are spayed/neutered and up-to-date on vaccinations before being adopted out.



VEHICLE SALE – The City is auctioning off two seized vehicles through the State of Minnesota online auction site



(www.minnbid.org). The first vehicle is a 1994 Dodge Colt in fair condition.



Next up is a 1997 Ford 150 4x4 truck in fair condition. For questions, or to make an appointment to view these vehicles, please contact CSO Thompson at the Police

Department at 931-1550 or at janett@saintpetermn.gov.

PARK RESTROOM CLOSURES – The City’s parks and the restroom facilities in the parks have officially closed for the season. As provided for in the City Code, all parks must be closed by November 1st. Because of the vandalism that sometimes happens on Halloween, the Parks crew closes the facilities before Halloween to save costly repairs and allow the winterization of the facilities.



BLOOD DRIVE - RIVER’S Edge Hospital and Clinic is hosting a blood drive on Friday, November 1st, from 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Appointments are recommended. To schedule an appointment to donate, please contact Shannon at 934-7601 or go online to www.redcrossblood.org.

HIGHWAY 169 WARRANTY WORK - THE contractor for the Highway 169 project (the one done in 2009) is back in town and will be doing some warranty work on the project. This work is being coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (not the City) as they were the original contract holders for the Highway project.

The contract (Schaffer) has set up their equipment in the old Library lot across the street from City Hall.

During the warranty work, drivers might encounter some short term roadway closures and/or detours in the downtown area as Schaffer makes repairs to sidewalks and other parts of the project. Everyone is encouraged to be patient with this work and to use extra caution in and around areas where work is being performed.

BIKE TRAIL DEVELOPMENT - THE City Council recently approved a plan to construct multi-use (bike/hike/snowshoe) trails in Traverse des Sioux Park. The



trails will be one-direction to prevent mishaps and will be approximately 11-15 miles long and about two feet wide. The trails will be constructed with minimal impact to the park and no trees will be removed during the construction. Area residents who wish to be involved in the construction efforts are asked to contact TraverseTrails@gustavus.edu or to give the volunteers a call at 933-0881.

BUILDING ACTIVITY - Dean Busse, the City’s Building Official, was recently asked the question “Is there any building going on in the Saint Peter?”

The answer is a resounding “Yes!”

As of October 21st, the Building Department has issued five permits for new commercial construction. This number includes the two twenty-unit apartments being built on Park Row. Permits have also been issued for fourteen new single family homes, three duplexes, and two four-plexes and the Building Department is now reviewing plans for three more four-plexes and two more duplexes.

When contrasted with 2012 when permits were issued for nine single family homes, three four-plexes and four new commercial buildings, 2013 is a great year for building in Saint Peter.

LIBRARY REMINDER - AT the Public Library Saint Peter residents will find more than books! There are ten public internet computers, a wide



variety of movies for children and adults, over 140 magazines and newspapers, an electronic law library, meeting/study rooms, a special Minnesota Collection, and themed Storytime Bags. For families with young children, Storytime Bags are a great resource. Included in each large plastic bag tote are books, puzzles or puppets, activity ideas, hands on manipulatives, and song and poem sheets all centered on a common theme (e.g. trains, birthdays, cats, math, transportation, etc.)?

Staff can also help access eBooks and set up personal accounts with Zinio Digital Magazines.

Wireless internet service is available throughout the Library and it’s a great place to spend time. For more information on what the Library has to offer, please check out the City’s website at www.saintpetermn.gov.

HELP WANTED – The City of Saint Peter is accepting applications for the following positions:



- **PART-TIME UTILITY METER READER -**

The City of Saint Peter is accepting applications for the position of UTILITY METER READER in the Finance Department. Minimum qualifications: high school diploma or equivalent; experience working with the public; and valid Class D driver's license. Desired qualifications: record keeping experience and previous meter reading experience. Position works over the first two weeks of each month. Meter Readers must work in all weather conditions. \$12.41 per hour. Applicants are required to complete a City application form available in the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be returned no later than 5:00 pm, November 15, 2013. Faxed, emailed and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EOE



- **VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER -** The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the position of VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER in the Fire Department. Minimum qualifications: High school diploma/GED; at least 18 years of age; reside within a six (6) minute response time from the Fire Station; possess a valid driver's license; and ability to read and write the English language. Successful candidates must also pass pre-employment physical, drug and alcohol tests. An open meeting for interested candidates and their significant others will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2013 from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Fire Station (227 West Mulberry Street). Successful candidates will begin service January 1, 2014 and will be required to successfully complete required Firefighter schooling within one year. Applicants are required to complete a City application form which is available in the City Administrator's office at 227 South



Front Street or by calling (507)934-0663. Complete position descriptions for Firefighters are also available in the City Administrator's office. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 p.m. on November 15, 2013. Faxed, emailed and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EEO

- **FIRE CHIEF -** The City of Saint Peter is now accepting applications for the position of FIRE CHIEF in the Fire Department. Minimum qualifications: any combination of education and experience equivalent to a high school degree and additional training received through regional and state fire schools and five years of experience with fire prevention and protection; current training from regional and state fire schools is preferred; and possession of a valid State of Minnesota Class B driver's license within six months of appointment. Desired qualifications: knowledge of modern firefighting methods and techniques; knowledge of the operations of a municipal fire department; ability to supervise volunteer firefighters; knowledge of budgetary principles; knowledge of OSHA regulations and safety precautions of firefighting; and aptitude for Fire Chief work. Applicants are required to complete City application form available in the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 p.m. on November 15, 2013. Faxed and/or late applications will not be accepted. More information on this position is available on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/employment>. AA/EEO

- **FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFETY OFFICER –** The City of Saint Peter is now accepting applications for the position of Fire Department Safety Officer. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS include: High School diploma or equivalent; Possession of valid Minnesota Class D driver's license or equivalent; Possession of Minnesota Firefighter 1001 certification or equivalent; Experience working with the public; Successful completion of training through specialized fire service related schools including four National Fire Academy (NFA)

accredited or Minnesota State College and University (MNSCU) Officer Leadership equivalent courses and Incident Safety officer or equivalent courses; Current St. Peter Fire Department member in good standing with seven (7) years of firefighting experience. Applicants must complete City application form available from City Administrator's office at 227 South Front

Street or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 p.m. on November 15, 2013. Faxed and/or late applications will not be accepted. More information on this position is available on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/employment>. 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.

Wednesday	October 30	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Monday	November 4	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	November 4	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session
Tuesday	November 5		ELECTION DAY 
Monday	November 11		VETERAN'S DAY – Legal Holiday City offices closed 
Monday	November 11	5:00 p.m.	Human Rights Commission – CANCELLED!
Tuesday	November 12	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	November 12	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Tuesday	November 12	6:00 p.m.	Library Board Meeting
Monday	November 18	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	November 18	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Friday	November 22	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau Meeting
Monday	November 25	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	November 26	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	November 27	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday- Friday	November 28- November 29		 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – City offices closed