

CITY OF SAINT PETER HOT SHEET



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



12/04/2013

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of November 25, 2013 included award of the bid for installation of catalyst equipment at the Broadway Generation Plant to Prestige Manufacturing; approval for submission of a variance request related to the Highway 295 Turnback project; authorization to participate in a study of the Mount Simon Aquifer; approval for execution of the 2014-2015 legal services contract with Brandt Law Office; approval for execution of a library services contract with Traverse des Sioux Library system; approval for City assistance for the fish house parade; approval for wage increases for non-union/non-contract employees in 2014; approval of the Police, Communications Technician, Parks, Streets and Utility unions 2014 contracts; approval for a taxi cab license; and a closed session to continue the Council's annual evaluation of the City Administrator.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, December 9th 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. 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) – 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.....

COUNCILMEMBER RECEPTION – The public is invited to attend a reception to honor outgoing Councilmembers Jerry Pfeifer (24 years of service) and Ken Eichmann (8 years of service) as they end their tenure on the City Council and to welcome Councilmembers-elect Stephen Grams and Roger Parras.

The event will be held on Monday, December 9th from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center before the regular Council meeting.



THIN ICE WARNING – You may be tired of hearing this, but no ice is safe ice! That's especially true at this time of year when lakes and ponds start to

freeze over, but as we often see in the news, that doesn't make the ice safe. (A family in Iowa lost two children this week when they ventured out onto a pond that appeared frozen over and they went through the ice just a few feet from shore.)

Hallett's Pond and the Mill Pond may appear to have an ice cover on them, but the ice can be dangerously thin and no one is allowed on the ice whether the pond is posted or not. City crews have already posted signs around the Mill Pond, Hallett's Pond and all the stormwater detention basins that have water, but City staff encourages parents to remind their children that they are not to venture out onto the ice at any time. Please help us keep your family safe and have an ice danger discussion around the dinner table this evening! And please keep your pets from these areas as well!

MEETING CANCELLATIONS– The City Council has taken action to cancel the December 23rd regular City Council meeting and the December 16th and 30th workshop sessions. The last regular meeting of 2014 will be on December 9th and the next time

the Council will meet as a group will be the January 6th workshop session.

January 13th will be the first regular Council meeting of 2014 and Councilmembers-elect Stephen Grams and Roger Parras as well as re-elected Mayor Strand and Councilmember Carlin will all take the oath of office at the meeting.

For information on City Council meetings, please contact the City Administrator's Office at 934-0663.



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS - The Great Candy Cane Hunt at the Community Center is this Saturday, December 7th. Choose the time that works for you: 9-9:15 a.m., 9:30-9:45 a.m., or 10-10:15 a.m.. Meet in the Community Center gym and get ready to hunt for the hundreds of hidden candy canes! This event is open to all ages with an adult.

Please join City staff for the annual Holiday Open House at the Saint Peter Library on Thursday, December 12th from 2-4 p.m. Enjoy entertainment from the St. Peter High School Madrigal Singers. Sweet treats and refreshments will be provided as a way of saying thanks to the patrons of the Library.

SNOW SHOVELING REGULATIONS – Is your snow shovel handy? Sounds like we might see some snowfall in the next couple of weeks and of course that means we will be out shoveling those pesky sidewalks!



City crews really hate having to shovel private property so hopefully everyone can help them out this year and keep all those sidewalks shoveled as required by City regulations.

Within 24 hours of a snowfall, property owners are required to ensure sidewalks are free of snow and ice across the entire width of the walk. That also means a little extra work to continue to ensure that blow back and drifting of snow is also removed.

What's the cost if the City has to come out and shovel for you? Minimum of \$75 per hour with a minimum of one hour charge! City crews tackle properties in violation of the ordinance as soon as they are done with the City owned sidewalks.

So put that shovel to work, hire the neighbor kid, put your own kids to work, or hire one of the local snow removal companies to do the work for you and let's keep those sidewalks clean and safe!

TREE TRIMMING - Why is it important to keep trimming our boulevard trees? The City's Forestry

staff trims trees to raise the tree canopy over sidewalks to a height of 8 feet and over roadways to a height of 14 feet. Not only is it required by City Code regulations, but this allows larger trucks, (garbage, snow plows, etc.), to travel next to the curb without hitting and breaking off lower limbs. This also helps with intersection visibility and street light obstructions.

Over the winter months, City crews will begin tree trimming starting on streets south of Broadway Avenue. Of course this work is weather dependent and may be put on hold if the crew spends lots of time in snowplow trucks!

Anyone with questions on the tree trimming work should contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENTATION – As part of the November 25, 2013 Council meeting, Mayor Strand presented outgoing Councilmembers Jerry Pfeifer and Ken Eichmann with retirement clocks as they prepare to end their terms on the City Council.

Councilmember Pfeifer has been on the Council for 24 years. Councilmember Eichmann will be retiring from the Council after 8 years of service.

Mayor Strand thanked both for their dedication and service to the community.

COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM – Saint Peter residents are encouraged to sign up for the free community notification system through www.nixle.com. This service allows residents to sign up to receive special notices from the City in the event of a snow emergency, water main break, or other information that is important to know. The City has partnered with Nixle to provide this information.



You have the option to set up the service the way you like it. Want to get notices on your cell phone? Want notices sent through e-mail? Want both? Want to limit what time notices are sent to you? It's all possible with the Nixle system. You decide how you want to be contacted. And because you are setting up the service, your information is not stored by the City and you can cancel or change your account with Nixle at any time.

Snow emergency notices are always provided through Nixle (in addition to other options) and Nixle participants usually are the first to know when a snow emergency has been called.

So save yourself from getting an expensive snow emergency ticket and sign up for Nixle today..... www.nixle.com and follow the prompts!

SNOW EMERGENCY RULES – We're already a couple of snowfalls into the snow season and that makes it a prime time to review the City's snow emergency rules.....



1. Snow emergencies will be declared before 5 p.m. and information on the declaration will be provided to local media. When it snows, check local media outlets for more information, or call the City information line at 934-0675, or sign up for community notices at www.nixle.com.
2. When a Snow Emergency is declared, there is NO PARKING on any of the posted SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES for the entire 48-hour period. (Even if the street has been plowed curb-to-curb there is NO PARKING.) "Snow Emergency Routes" means the following: Jefferson Avenue from Minnesota Avenue to the west corporate limits; College Avenue from Minnesota Avenue to Seventh; Grace Street from Fourth Street to Sunrise Drive; Broadway Avenue from Third Street to Gardner Road; Traverse Road from Washington Avenue to Nicollet Avenue; Saint Julien Street from Minnesota Avenue to Washington Avenue; Washington Avenue from Highway 295 to Sunrise Drive; North Washington Avenue from Dodd Avenue to Bunker Lane; Sunrise Drive from Grace Street to Dodd Avenue; North Sunrise Drive from Dodd Avenue to Mason Street; and Nicollet Avenue from Highway 22 to Highway 99.
3. Beginning at 11:59 p.m. on the day a snow emergency is declared, for two days (48 hours), there is NO PARKING on Residential Streets from midnight until 7 a.m. (Even if the street has been plowed curb-to-curb there is NO PARKING.)
4. Beginning at 2 a.m., for two days (48 hours), there is NO PARKING on Downtown Streets from 2 a.m. until 6 a.m.

Vehicles parked in violation of the snow emergency regulations will be ticketed (fined \$25.00-\$150.00) and towed at the owner's expense.

If off-street parking is a problem, please make arrangements now. The list below includes free municipal parking lots which can be used during

snow emergencies. These lots will be plowed only after 24 hours posted notice (watch for signs posted in the lots).

1. Next to the Municipal Building located at 227 South Front Street
2. West of the Qwest Building on South Front and Nassau Streets
3. Directly behind Ace Hardware and Godfather's Pizza in the 200 block of South Minnesota Avenue
4. East of the old Shopko Pharmacy/Soderlund Drug building located at 201 South Third Street
5. Jefferson Park at 1401 Nicollet Avenue.
6. Department of Public Works located at 405 West Saint Julien Street
7. Municipal Parking Lot #5 located in the 400 block of South Minnesota Avenue (intersection of Grace Street and South Minnesota Avenue – southwest corner)
8. Municipal swimming pool parking lot on the 300 block of North Fourth Street.
9. The east row only of the parking lot for the old nursing home on the 200 block of South Washington Avenue.

Many churches and businesses also have private lots, which may be used with permission. The City

will not be issuing any parking permits except for medical emergencies.

SALT/SAND MIX AVAILABLE – Saint Peter residents can receive up to five (5) gallons of a salt/sand mixture for use on sidewalks or driveways at their homes or businesses during the winter. Interested residents should stop at the Public Works office (405 West St. Julien Street) between the hours of 7:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday, or 7:00 am - 11:00 pm on Fridays. Residents must supply their own bucket. (Please do not drive into the fenced area without first stopping at the office for permission.)

Additional quantities are available for purchase. Please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670 for more information on bulk quantity purchases.

RV DUMP STATIONS CLOSED – The City's two RV dump stations located at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and just north of Culligan at the Park Row entrance to the park have been closed for the season. The dump stations will be reopened again in the spring when the weather cooperates.

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	December 9	5:00 p.m.	Human Rights Commission	CANCELLED
Monday	December 9	5:30-6:30 p.m.	Council Reception	
Monday	December 9	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting	
Wednesday	December 11	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority	
Thursday	December 12	5:30 p.m.	Board of Zoning Appeals	
Monday	December 16	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop	
Tuesday	December 24		CITY OFFICES CLOSE AT NOON	
Wednesday-	December 25		CHRISTMAS DAY – City offices closed	
Wednesday	January 1		NEW YEAR'S DAY – City offices closed	



***For meetings which are scheduled to occur between December 23, 2013 and the end of the year, please contact the City Administrator's office or visit the City's website calendar (www.saintpetermn.gov) for meeting dates/times. As boards meet in November, members are expected to provide alternate dates for the meetings which conflict with holiday schedules.*