

# 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](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov) or visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter](http://www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter)



12/11/2013

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of December 9, 2013 included a public hearing and subsequent action to approve vacation of a portion of the street right-of-way on North Third Street near the Shopko building; adoption of the 2013 tax levy payable in 2014; approval of the 2014 general fund, environmental services fund, and stormwater fund budgets; approval of an extension to the City Administrator's contract; authorization for staff to receive bids for a five year refuse hauling contract; authorization to decertify Tax Increment Financing District No. 1-6; and approval of the 2014 municipal fee schedule.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, January 13th 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)** – *Light me up...* I am talking about the revamped Christmas lighting in the downtown. If you have had a chance to look, you may have

noticed a few experimental changes this year.

First, we are wrapping the tree trunks this year. A couple years' experience with the lights on the tree branches has pointed to lots of failures, many due to whipping of the small branches which breaks the bulbs and the very thin wires. Also, they seemed to be washed out with the lights from the light poles.

Changes to median lighting included rewiring and new lights. We did this because moisture failures

and other problems plagued the display the past few seasons. We hope this helps them be more dependable along with a few repairs made to the underground circuits.

The previously white star figures on the poles are a new blue color. This was done to help them stand out. Previously they seemed to get washed away in the white lights from the street lighting. All this work is done with some financial assistance from the Tourism Board. The Sentence to Serve (STS) crew help with some of the labor and your environmental services fee pays for our work and the majority of the lighting upgrades. Our goal, in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce, is to bring a festive atmosphere to the downtown that can be felt by all those who drive through and, most importantly, those that stop to use our stores and shops.

Drop me a line using the contact information above and let me know what you think of the experimental changes. Does it add to your enjoyment of the holiday? Did you notice the changes?? Will you share your thoughts??? It makes me wonder.....

**HOLIDAY HOURS** – All non-emergency City offices will close at noon on December 24<sup>th</sup> and all day on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Offices will also be closed on Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>.



The Community Center will be open on Christmas eve day from 6:00 a.m. - 12 noon. The building will be closed on Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and on New Year's Eve, (Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>), the building will close at 5:00 p.m. The Community Center will also be closed on New Year's Day.

The Library will be open Christmas Eve from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, but will be closed on Christmas Day. The Library will be open on New

Year's Eve from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, and like other City departments, will be closed New Year's Day.

**HOT SHEET SCHEDULE** – December 18<sup>th</sup> will be the last Hot Sheet published in 2013 and the next publication date will be January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**RENTAL INSPECTIONS** – It's that time of year....the time to think about renewing rental licenses. During even years (2014) last names beginning with A-L need rental applications completed, fees paid, and properties inspected. The rental application must be received by December 31st of this year and the rental inspection must be completed by March 31, 2014. Rental applications are available on the City's website at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov), and can then be printed out and returned to the Building Department at City Hall along with the required fee. Questions about rental licensing? Please call the Building Department at (507)934-0662.

**NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE TREES** – Have you seen the ribbons around some of the trees on North Washington Avenue? They are marked for the chainsaw as they will be removed this winter for the new Washington Avenue Link Improvement Project which will be constructed in the spring of 2014.

These particular trees are old Silver Maples. As they get older, these types of trees tend to have root systems that heave and disrupt sidewalks and driveways that are constructed above them.

But don't worry....all the trees that are removed will be replaced with a new species near the end of the construction!

Questions on the project or the tree replacement? Please call the Public Works Department at 934-0670.



**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 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!

**\*\*\*Special Note....Ice fishing is not allowed on the Mill Pond at any time!**

**MEETING CANCELLATIONS**– The City Council has taken action to cancel the December 23<sup>rd</sup> regular City Council meeting and the December 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> workshop sessions. The last regular meeting of 2014 was December 9<sup>th</sup> and the next time the Council will meet as a group will be the January 6<sup>th</sup> workshop session.

January 13<sup>th</sup> will be the first regular Council meeting of 2014 and Councilmembers-elect Stephen Grams and Roger will 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 HAPPENING** - 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 also 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 continued 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.

Also, if you happen to live on a corner with sidewalks, you are required to ensure that the handicap crossing area is kept clear in both directions.

What's the cost if the City has to come out and shovel for you? \$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** – (Not the Christmas tree kind of 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.

**COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM** – Saint Peter residents are encouraged to sign up for the free community



notification system through [www.nixle.com](http://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](http://www.nixle.com) and follow the prompts!

(\*\*Just a reminder....you can also call the City information line at 934-0675 to find out if a snow emergency has been called. Snow emergencies are always called by 5:00 p.m. and take effect at midnight.)

**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](http://www.saintpetermn.gov).

Monday December 16 5:30 p.m. City Council Workshop CANCELLED

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



Monday January 6 3:30 p.m. Housing and Redevelopment Authority

Monday January 6 5:30 p.m. City Council Workshop

Tuesday January 7 5:30 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission

Monday January 13 5:00 p.m. Human Rights Commission

Monday January 13 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting

Tuesday January 14 6:00 p.m. Library Board Meeting

Monday January 20 5:30 p.m. City Council Workshop

Thursday January 23 12:00 noon Economic Development Authority

Friday	January 24	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	January 27	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	January 28	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	January 29	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission

*\*\*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](http://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.*