

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. www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



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MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE – Roundawhat...?)

Several weeks back many of you may have seen an image in the St. Peter Herald about a possible roundabout

at the intersection of Old Minnesota Avenue and St. Julien Street.

It was a nice image and it did a good job of explaining the concept. While it is not the only concept being considered for that intersection, it is a leading candidate to be put in place along with review of a stop light system in that area.

Since that edition of the Herald ran, I have run into a few folks who have asked about why a stupid roundabout, that no one likes, would be put there. Let me say that although I am not the biggest roundabout fan, based on what I know and the research I have done, it seems like a pretty good fit in this spot. Like Grandpa used to say, "The right tool for the right job can make all the difference".

Although this is a very big topic, let me mention a few of the things that might make this a good tool for this job. First, one of the problems at this intersection is stacking of traffic going east to west and west to east. ("Stacking" means traffic backup.) Roundabouts eliminate that stacking problem because folks flow through it.

Second, Old Minnesota Avenue and Highway 169 are too close together which poses more problems in the use of stop lights and other alternatives.

Third, roundabouts solve problems over a wider range of traffic levels and this intersection is expected to see an increase in traffic. Installation of a roundabout at the intersection would mean we don't need as many different solutions which saves you money.

One last point....this topic (roundabouts) has been studied by the Insurance Institute for Highway

Safety. They are the same folks who do the car crash safety ratings. Anyway, they calculate that there are 40% fewer crashes and 75% fewer crashes with injuries on roundabouts compared to a conventional intersection arrangement. That is a big impact which saves us all money in the long run.

In the near future the City will run a few more educational pieces about roundabouts on public access Channel 7 (SPPA) and on our Facebook page just to give you a better idea about how all this works.

In the meantime here is a link to some info that I think might be very helpful for you on this topic. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92CCVxW-AgA>

Will you take a few minutes to check it out? It makes me wonder.....

FREEZE YOUR BUNS 4 MILE RUN - Celebrate Winterfest in Saint Peter by joining other cold-loving runners for the "Freeze Your Buns 4-Mile Run" on Saturday, January 26th. The run begins at 10:05 a.m. at the Community Center.



Participants who pre-register by Friday, January 11th pay only \$16 and are guaranteed a long sleeve shirt on race day. Registration will be accepted up to and including race day, however the price after

January 11th will be \$20 (shirts are not guaranteed to be available if registering on race day). The student registration fee is discounted to \$14.

Race check-in and race day registration begins at 9:00 a.m. through 9:45 a.m. at the Community Center gymnasium on Saturday, January 26, 2013.

There will be cash awards for top male and female runners as well as many door prizes.

Run/walk participants will also receive a discount to the “Souper Bowl, sponsored by the Arts Center of Saint Peter” which will take place in the Senior Center at the Community Center from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. on race day. Choose a hand-thrown ceramic bowl, which is yours to keep, and fill it with delicious homemade soup served with bread, a beverage and dessert afterwards.

Please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-0667 or heidis@saintpetermn.gov for questions or additional information.

2012 BUILDING PERMIT

INFO – At the end of each year City staff tallies up information that is helpful for budgeting, staffing, and planning for the following year’s operation.



Information compiled by the Building Department includes the total number of building permits applied for (and the value of that construction) and the number of new single family house permits applied for and the value of that construction.

The number of single family home permits in 2012 and the value of that construction is shown here with historical data for the years 2007-2011.

NEW SINGLE-

FAMILY ONLY	# - VALUE	# - VALUE
2007	411- \$8,580,812	13- \$2,385,450
2008	287 - \$22,914,447	7 -\$1,193,000
2009	325 - \$16,213,018	10-\$1,323,874
2010	500- \$35,290,191	8-\$1,134,939
2011	565- \$8,490,885	6 -\$1,004,000
2012	432 -\$11,844,187	9 -\$2,209,500

For more information on building permits, or to apply for a permit, please contact the City’s Building Department at City Hall at 507-934-0662.

GUN LOCKS AVAILABLE - One of the most tragic, and preventable, accidents in the home is that occurring from a child getting their hands on an unlocked gun. Using a gun lock can help keep your family safe as well as provide necessary safety when a gun is transported.

The Saint Peter Police Department is offering FREE gun locks. These locks, which work on both hand guns and long guns, help prevent the weapon from firing when properly installed.

Whatever your feelings about gun control, if you own a gun or have a gun in your home, please install a gun lock.

For more information about the gun lock program, please contact the Police Department at 931-1550.

CITY OFFICES CLOSED – All non-emergency City offices, including the Library, will be closed on Monday, January 21st for the Martin Luther King, Jr. legal holiday.

All non-emergency City offices will also be closed on Wednesday, February 13th until 1:30 p.m. for an all-staff training session. Offices will reopen at 1:30 p.m. We apologize for any inconvenience this causes.

The Police Department will remain open both days.

LIBRARY PROGRAM - In an effort to better serve the area’s senior population, the Saint Peter Library is continuing a community outreach program called *Page Peddler*. The primary goal of the *Page Peddler* program is to bring library resources to people who may not be able to come to the library on their own. These people may reside in assisted living or other senior housing facilities or be a patient at the local hospital.

The Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation and Nicollet County Bank provided funds for the purchase of book carts and print materials of various genres. Residents may browse and borrow from a



variety of genres including but not limited to mysteries, romances, and westerns which are distributed at eight different venues in town. Patron donations of newer materials also supplement these initial collections.

These mini-collections, with both regular and large print fiction and nonfiction materials, are rotated from one site to another every few months.

Residents can rekindle their interest in reading which could spark conversation with others about books they have read as well as hear what others are reading. Conversations with residents and staff may result in recommendations and suggestions of new authors and materials to be added to each collection.

Staff at each of these sites is in charge of a checkout procedure which is appropriate for their setting and situation. The *Page Peddler* materials are for residents and staff at each facility, but visitors are also encouraged to check out and return them.

If some of the books have not been returned to the book carts or the book shelves at rotation time or if someone is still reading a book, staff at the site notifies Library staff when the materials are ready to be picked up and brought to a new location.

If more resources can be secured, non-print materials such as books on cassette and CD as well as music CDs and DVDs could also become part of each traveling collection. Some media equipment might also be made available as part of this program.

Beginning sometime in January 2013, bookmobile service may be offered on a trial basis to some sites which would bring a variety of new materials to these residents.

If you would like more information about the *Page Peddler* program, please contact the Library at 934-7420.

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE – Sometimes it’s difficult to see things from a different perspective. Take for instance heavy snows. Those of us who have to get up and drive through the fresh snow to get to work on time, are most likely relieved when we hear

the rumble of the snowplows coming down our streets. We know that means we can easily make our way to work (even if it means more shoveling at the end of the driveway!).

But have you ever thought about it from a different perspective? Here’s one that was submitted by a City employee....

“Heather has a friend who has twins that are home schooled. They were standing at the window the other day when a snow plow came by...instead of getting excited like an adult who realizes that they are making the roads safer, the kids got very upset and yelled...’Go away snow plow. Stop taking OUR snow!’ ” ☺

How’s that for a different point of view?

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	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 (Meeting cancelled due to primary election)
Tuesday	January 29		SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION DAY
Wednesday	January 30	12:00 noon	Hospital and Nursing Home Commission
Monday	February 4	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	February 4	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	February 5	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	February 11	5:00 p.m.	Human Rights Commission
Monday	February 11	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting

Tuesday February 12

SPECIAL ELECTION DAY

~~Tuesday February 12 6:00 p.m. Library Board (Meeting must be rescheduled due to special election)~~

Wednesday February 13

CITY OFFICES CLOSED UNTIL 1:30 for staff training

Monday February 18

**LEGAL HOLIDAY – PRESIDENT’S DAY
City Offices Closed**

Tuesday February 19 5:30 p.m. City Council Workshop

Tuesday February 19 7:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Friday February 22 8:00 a.m. Tourism and Visitors Bureau

Monday February 25 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting

Tuesday February 25 5:30 p.m. Heritage Preservation Commission

Wednesday February 27 12:00 noon Hospital Commission

Thursday February 28 12:00 noon Economic Development Authority