

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



07/17/2013

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of July 8, 2013 included approval for release of the terms of a development agreement for Chapel View LLC; authorization for the unbudgeted purchase of a wireless equipment repair lift; scheduling a public hearing for August 12th on the Minnesota Department of Transportation Highway 169 project; adoption of modified wastewater rates and the 2013 wastewater fund budget; approval for creation of a deviated route system for the City's transit system; and approval of a six month peddler license.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, July 22nd 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 City Council packet is also available each week on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city-council-minutes-agendas-packets>.

CITY COUNCIL FILING PERIOD – Candidates interested in filing for City Council positions may do so beginning Tuesday, July 30th through Tuesday, August 13th in the City Administrator's Office at City Hall. The City Administrator's Office is open for candidate filing from 8 am – 12:00 noon and 1-5 pm Monday-Friday. Cost to file is \$2.

Positions that will be up for election include Mayor (2 year term), Councilmembers Ward I (4 year term/2 seats open) and Councilmember Ward II (4 year term/1 seat open).

To qualify for election, a candidate for City Council must be eligible to vote in Minnesota; have not filed for the same or any other office at the upcoming general election; be 21 years of age or more on assuming office; and have maintained residence in the district to be represented for at least 30 days

before the general election. The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2013.

Persons with questions regarding the election or filing for office are encouraged to call the City Administrator's office at 934-0663.

JOINT CITY COUNCIL/SCHOOL BOARD MEETING – The City Council will conduct a joint meeting with the School Board on Tuesday, July 16th beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.

The two groups last met in a joint meeting in the late 1990's and this time the discussion will focus on the City's comprehensive plan, future development of School District and City facilities, community demographics and park plans.

The meeting is open to the public.

MNDOT FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT – The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is preparing plans for a flood mitigation project along Highway 169 in Saint Peter from Union Street north to the intersection with Old Minnesota Avenue. The project will raise the southbound lanes of Highway 169 to avoid disruptions to traffic during periods of flood waters.

In conjunction with the MnDOT project, the City will be doing a public improvement project at various intersections along the MnDOT project path.

A public information event on the project will be held on Monday, August 12th between 5:00-6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

More information on this MnDOT project is available on the MnDOT website at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d7/projects/floodmitigation/>

SURPLUS PROPERTY – The City is offering some shelving units for public sale through the State of

Minnesota online auction website at www.minnbig.org. Bidders must register with the site prior to making a bid.

REDUCING ENERGY COSTS - Summer heat is finally upon us. And with the new utility bill graphs, many Saint Peter utility customers are questioning how they can reduce their energy consumption and lower their bills. Here are some ways you can save energy costs and keep your utility bills lower:

- Be a speedy chef ...Nothing is more energy efficient for cooking than your microwave. It uses two-thirds less energy than your stove.
- Push a button to wash your dishes. Surprise! Your dishwasher uses less water than washing dishes by hand. Then let dishes air-dry to save even more!
- Fill up the fridge. Having lots of food in your fridge keeps it from warming up too fast when the door is open, so your fridge doesn't have to work as hard to stay cool.



- Turn up your thermostat. Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home and 85 degrees or off when you are away. Using ceiling or room fans allows you to set the thermostat higher because the air movement will cool the room.
- Do your laundry efficiently by using the warm or cold water setting for washing your clothes. Always use cold water to rinse clothes.
- Line dry clothes whenever you can.
- When you need to use the dryer, run full loads, use the moisture-sensing setting, and clean the lint trap after each use. You'll save even more energy by running dryer loads back to back rather than having extended periods of time between loads.
- Conserve energy by running your dishwasher only when it is fully loaded, and turn off the dry cycle and air dry dishes instead.
- Eliminate wasted energy. Turn off appliances, lights and equipment when not in use.
- Unplug electronic devices and chargers when they aren't in use. Many of the electronic devices in your home stay on, even when they're "off." Chargers for cell phones, digital cameras, power tools and other gadgets draw energy even when they're not in use. Appliances like televisions, computer monitors and DVD players can also draw power whenever they're plugged into an outlet. All together, "phantom energy" use account for about five percent (5%) of an individual home's electricity use. You can take some simple steps to reduce the financial and environmental impact from these vampire appliances by unplugging the devices

which is the simplest way to solve the problem. Plugging a couple of your devices into a surge protector that can be clicked on and off can make things easier.

- Unplug or recycle that spare refrigerator in the garage if you don't really need it. This will save you up to \$150 per year!

And for some inexpensive energy solutions, how about trying these ideas?

- Replace air conditioner filters. Dirty filters restrict airflow and can cause the system to run longer, resulting in increased energy use. Replace filters monthly for maximum benefit.
- Plug your home's leaks. Weather-strip, seal, and caulk leaky doors and windows and install foam gaskets behind outlet covers.
- Choose ENERGY STAR® products. Buy ENERGY STAR® certified table lamps and light fixtures, and replace your incandescent light bulbs that are used more than two hours per day with ENERGY STAR® compact fluorescent bulbs. For example, install compact fluorescent bulbs in your porch light if you leave it on overnight.
- Install an ENERGY STAR® programmable thermostat.
- Install a whole house fan. A whole house fan is permanently installed in your attic and draws cool air into your home through the windows while forcing hot air out through your attic vents. Use after sundown when the outside temperature drops below 80 degrees, and in the early morning to cool your house and help reduce your air conditioning use.
- Install window shading. Install patio covers, awnings, and solar window screens to shade your home from the sun. For additional future savings, use strategically planted trees, shrubs and vines to shade your home.
- Solar control window films applied to existing glass in windows and doors is an effective method to reduce peak demand during hot months and conserve energy anytime air conditioning might be required. In addition to the energy management benefits, the use of these films can also reduce exposure to ultraviolet radiation and reduce glare.
- Invest in a new air-conditioning unit. If your air conditioner is on the way out, buy an ENERGY STAR® air conditioner and make sure to apply for a rebate from the Finance Department!
- Seal your ducts. Leaking ductwork accounts for 25% of cooling costs in an average home, so have your ducts tested and have any leaks or restrictions repaired by a qualified



contractor. Note: duct cleaning is not the same as duct sealing.

- Replace your refrigerator with an ENERGY STAR® model. Refrigerators with a top or bottom freezer design can save you an additional 2-3% on your bill compared to a side-by-side design.
- Increase attic insulation. If your existing insulation level is R-19 or less, consider insulating your attic to at least R-30.
- Install ENERGY STAR® windows. If your windows are due for replacement, ENERGY STAR® windows can make your house more comfortable year-round.

Also please note that you may be eligible for rebates, tax breaks, federal stimulus funds or other financial incentives to help you afford some of these improvements. Tax credits are available at 30% of the cost, with no upper limit through 2016 (for existing homes and new construction) for geothermal heat pumps, solar panels, solar water heaters, small wind energy systems and fuel cells. Talk to your tax professional for additional information.

WARM WEATHER SAFETY TIPS FOR YOUR PET – Just as humans can suffer and be at risk during extreme heat and humidity, our companion animals can also suffer. Here are some tips to keep your cats and dogs safe during the extreme summer temps.

CAT INFORMATION.....

- Provide cool, fresh air ventilation. Use a sturdy fan, ceiling fan, open screened window(s), or an air conditioner - especially in severely hot temperatures. While cats are not particularly fond of cold air, an air conditioned room is essential during scorching weather to keep your pet cool and safe.
- Make sure window screens are secure and tear-free. Cats love to lounge in the window sills of open windows so it is crucial to have sturdy window screens that are free of holes and tears.



- Provide fresh, clean, cool water throughout the day. Cats can become dehydrated and need twenty-four hour access to water.

• Slip ice cubes in drinking water. This will help keep the water cool and drinkable and may even provide a bit of entertainment for your cat!

- Provide multiple bowls of drinking water throughout the house. Having multiple water bowls around the house will entice your cat to drink more, ensuring enough fluids during hot weather.
- Use stationery water bowls. These are the spill-free bowls that will ensure the water doesn't accidentally end up on the floor.

- Don't let wet food sit out too long. Dry food can be left out all day, but if you feed wet food, it's good to remove it after feeding time and replace it with fresh food during the next meal so it doesn't spoil.

- Never leave your cat alone while you go away for a few days! You might be asking, "Who would do that?", but we probably would be surprised at the number of pet owners who do this. If you will be away from home for a day or more, make sure that you have a responsible person in charge of your pet's care.

- Don't let your cat outdoors during a heat wave! Even though cats enjoy warm weather, letting your cat outside during a heat wave could be a fatal mistake. Keep kitty indoors until the heat wave passes.

- Never leave your cat in a hot car! As with dogs, this is just plain common sense; but...pets die every year from heatstroke because of this neglectful act.

- Provide a shady spot in your home. Cats seem to love sunny rooms; but, in a heat wave, they will need a place to



comfortably retreat to when the heat becomes dangerous. If their normal sun soaked area becomes unreasonably hot, close this area off and don't let the cat in the room until it cools down.

DOG INFORMATION.....

- Keep fresh cool water available - One of the most important things to remember for dogs in hot weather is to make sure their water bowl is always full. If the water bowl is outside, choose a light colored plastic or ceramic bowl rather than a metal one that can easily heat up in the sun. If possible, keep the water bowl in a shady area of the yard so that the water stays as cool as possible, and check it frequently to ensure your pup isn't being scalded by a supposed refreshment.

- Take a dip - Swimming can be a great way to help dogs cool off in hot weather. If you don't have access to a safe lake or river for your pooch to have a swim, kiddie pools in the backyard work great. Check the water occasionally to make sure it hasn't heated up. Keep your pets away from chlorine swimming pools, as the



chemicals may be harmful if swallowed and because many pet tragedies occur because a pool is too deep or difficult for a pet to get out of.

- Keep your pets inside - Dogs love the yard, but if you're going to be gone for long days this summer, it may be safer to keep your dog in the house where they can lounge safely in the air conditioning. If you must leave your dog in hot weather in the yard, be sure there is plenty of shade. Dogs are susceptible to heat exhaustion and sunburn, so shade can be a life-saver.

- Don't leave your pet in a car – Again this is just plain common sense. Cracking the window is not enough to save your pet's life on this one!

- Take walks in the early morning and evening - Schedule your daily walks for times when the sun isn't in full force. Avoid hot asphalt, as this can be devastating to bare paws. Instead find a place where the dog can walk on grass like the Saint Peter dog park on Highway 99 at the Rabbit Road intersection.

- Visit the groomer - Dogs in hot weather are much happier when they don't have to drag all that fur around. Give your pooch a shorter haircut. It's best for the fur not to be shaved below 1/4 inch, though, since then the naked pup is more susceptible to sunburn.



- Summer treats - While you're enjoying ice cream and watermelon pay attention to what you're feeding the dog, and make sure any barbeque guests know the rules. Supervise the dog if you're offering him tasty bones. One great summer treat for dogs is ice cubes. Most dogs love them, and ice cubes will keep them busy and hydrate them at the same time. That's a treat for you too!

This information was compiled from several different sources on the web.

TRANSIT SYSTEM CHANGES – The City's transit system will be changing on August 1st. The current dial-a-ride system will continue, but a deviated route system will also be implemented.

The route system will consist of two "loops"...one on the north end of the community and one focusing on the south end. Bus stops are being created at various high bus traffic points along each of these routes and riders will be able to get on or off the bus at these stops. The stops



were determined after an analysis of pick-up and drop-off locations in 2012 and the stops are those locations which had the most passenger use. As the route system is utilized for longer periods, the stops may change, have new ones added, or some of them may be removed depending on rider preferences.

In addition to the implementation of the route system, the fares will change. Those who continue to use the dial-a-ride system (where you call the bus and the driver picks you up right at your door), will pay higher fares. The cost will double for the dial-a-ride system. Fares for the route system riders will remain at the current rates.

Informational materials for this transit system change are in the process of being developed and will soon be available for transit system riders. City staff will also distribute the information to businesses and other organizations in Saint Peter that have a high number of customers or participants that utilize the transit system.

The City's Facebook page and website will also be updated with the new information (including the new fare schedule and route maps) as soon as it is completed.

The proposed changes are being made to ensure a steady flow of revenue for the Transit system that will provide funding for the City's share of capital costs (buses).

HELP WANTED - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the following position:

- **PART-TIME HOUSEKEEPER** in the Recreation and Leisure Services Department. **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** High school diploma or equivalent; knowledge of cleaning methods and procedures; knowledge of the materials, supplies and equipment utilized in cleaning activities; experience working with the public. **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** One or more years of housekeeping experience; knowledge of OSHA safety regulations; and experience operating restroom cleaning machines. The beginning wage is \$9.37 per hour. Applicants are required to complete a City application form which is available in the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon and 1-5 p.m. or by calling (507) 934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 p.m. July 24, 2013. Faxed, emailed, and/or late applications will not be accepted. 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.

Monday	July 22	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Thursday	July 25	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	July 26	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	July 29	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday- Tuesday	July 30- August 13		CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FILING PERIOD
Tuesday	July 30	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	July 31	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Monday	August 5	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	August 5	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	August 6	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	August 12	5:00 p.m.	Human Rights Commission
Monday	August 12	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	August 19	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Thursday	August 22	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	August 23	8:00 p.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	August 26	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	August 27	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	August 28	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission