

# CITY OF SAINT PETER HOT SHEET



All the City news you need to know and a little bit more!  
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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)



06/12/2013

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of June 10, 2013 included approval for River's Edge Hospital and Clinic to purchase an electronics record system as required by Federal law; final acceptance of the downtown sidewalk project which began in 2012; approval for City assistance for the Chamber of Commerce's Fourth of July event; approval for unbudgeted repairs on the exterior of the Library; award of the bid for the 2013 Seal Coat Project to Caldwell Asphalt and acceptance of a proposal by Hansen Sanitation for demolition of the structure at 1728 North Fifth Street.



The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, June 24th 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)** – *In honor of a new pool season I want to re-run one of my favorite pool articles. The young boy in the article is a real*

*person.. this is not fictional because you can't make this stuff up. I saw him standing in line at the pool the first week the pool was open this season. He was a bit taller, but I could tell just by looking at him, he was still interested in a cup or two of cheese... read on to know how this all started.....*

*Learning and culinary delights at the pool.....* By the way, if you have not heard, the \$35 family pass is the best deal in town for family entertainment for

the whole summer. So anyway... I was at the pool with my wife and kids this last weekend. As with any pool there are those kids that are always at the pool. They live at the pool and they have a keen sense of what is going on at the pool. They know all the ins and outs of the pool, the staff, and the routine. Sometimes they are referred to as "Pool Rats". Because my wife works at the school, she knows many of the kids and they know her. We didn't know when the break was so she asked one of these kids when the break occurred. He opened his mouth and rattled off the break times in rapid fire succession that clearly demonstrated his knowledge of the subject for us novice pool goers.

"Monday through Thursday the break times are blah blah blah but on Friday, Saturday and Sunday it is different and since this is a Saturday the break is at 3."

He added with a giant smile, "I can't wait for the break today."

Which was just begging the question, which we asked, "Why can't you wait for the break?"

To which he said... now get this... "I can't wait for the break to get my two cups of cheese!"

Two cups of cheese you say? Two cups of cheese? What does that have to do with the pool? Does he have a snack from home with strict instructions from Mom about when he can have the cheese from the zip lock baggie? We just couldn't help it, we had to ask, "What do you mean two cups of cheese?"

With a big, partially toothless smile he proceeded to explain he had \$1.25 with today and since you could not just buy the two cups of Nacho Cheese (meant to be a side with the Nachos) you had to buy something to go with the cheese (pool rules), so he could buy the two cups of melted cheese, 50 cents each and an Air Heads (sour candy stick) for 25 cents for a total of \$1.25.

Now he said this all in a very happy, speedy, succession of words that showed his delight with the whole process and clearly explained his excitement about the 3 p.m. break time. Two cups of cheese, sour candy and fun at the pool. We nodded our heads and understood that it just doesn't get much better than that on a 90 degree Saturday afternoon.

Where you a pool rat as a kid? Have you been to the pool this year? Have you tried the cheese? It makes me wonder....

**ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATE** – City crews will be doing road construction on the following roadways this week....

- Gault Street on Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Traverse Road from Sunrise Drive to Edgerton Street on Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> between the hours 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.



During these times, access along these roadways will be very limited. Those who need to travel these routes are asked to be aware of the construction activities, slow speeds in construction zones, and to find alternate routes if possible.

**SUMMER WATER SAFETY** – *(This is an excerpt of an internet article written by Mario Vittone. The info was included on the Police Department Facebook page and was so surprising to some of us that we had to share it with the community again through the Hot Sheet. Maybe it will help save a life.)*

The new captain jumped from the deck, fully dressed, and sprinted through the water. A former lifeguard, he kept his eyes on his victim as he headed straight for the couple swimming between their anchored sportfisher and the beach.

"I think he thinks you're drowning," the husband said to his wife. They had been splashing each other and she had screamed but now they were just standing, neck-deep on the sand bar.

"We're fine; what is he doing?" she asked, a little annoyed.

"We're fine!" the husband yelled, waving him off, but his captain kept swimming hard.

"Move!" he barked as he sprinted between the stunned owners. Directly behind them, not 10 feet away, their 9-year-old daughter was drowning. Safely above the surface in the arms of the captain, she burst into tears, "Daddy!"

How did this captain know—from 50 feet away—what the father couldn't recognize from just 10? Drowning is not the violent, splashing call for help

that most people expect. The captain was trained to recognize drowning by experts and years of experience. The father, on the other hand, had learned what drowning looks like by watching television.

If you spend time on or near the water then you should make sure that you and your family knows what to look for whenever people enter the water. Until she cried a tearful, "Daddy," she hadn't made a sound. As a former Coast Guard rescue swimmer, I wasn't surprised at all by this story.

Do you know the signs of a person who might be drowning? Is it yelling for help, waving for help, splashing wildly? Surprisingly enough, in most cases, the answer is no!

Drowning is almost always a deceptively quiet event. The waving, splashing, and yelling that dramatic conditioning (television) prepares us to look for is rarely seen in real life.

The Instinctive Drowning Response—so named by Francesco A. Pia, Ph.D., is what people do to avoid actual or perceived suffocation in the water. And it does not look like most people expect. There is very little splashing, no waving, and no yelling or calls for help of any kind. To get an idea of just how quiet and undramatic from the surface drowning can be, consider this: It is the No. 2 cause of accidental death in children, ages 15 and under (just behind vehicle accidents) and of the approximately 750 children who will drown next year, about 375 of them will do so within 25 yards of a parent or other adult. In some of those drowning's, the adult will actually watch the child do it, having no idea it is happening. Drowning does not look like drowning—Dr. Pia, in an article in the Coast Guard's On Scene magazine, described the Instinctive Drowning Response like this:

1. "Except in rare circumstances, drowning people are physiologically unable to call out for help. The respiratory system was designed for breathing. Speech is the secondary or overlaid function. Breathing must be fulfilled before speech occurs.
2. Drowning people's mouths alternately sink below and reappear above the surface of the water. The mouths of drowning people are not above the surface of the water long enough for them to exhale, inhale, and call out for help. When the drowning people's mouths are above the surface, they exhale and inhale quickly as their mouths start to sink below the surface of the water.
3. Drowning people cannot wave for help. Nature instinctively forces them to extend their arms laterally and press down on the water's surface. Pressing down on the

surface of the water permits drowning people to leverage their bodies so they can lift their mouths out of the water to breathe.

4. Throughout the Instinctive Drowning Response, drowning people cannot voluntarily control their arm movements. Physiologically, drowning people who are struggling on the surface of the water cannot stop drowning and perform voluntary movements such as waving for help, moving toward a rescuer, or reaching out for a piece of rescue equipment.
5. From beginning to end of the Instinctive Drowning Response people's bodies remain upright in the water, with no evidence of a supporting kick. Unless rescued by a trained lifeguard, these drowning people can only struggle on the surface of the water from 20 to 60 seconds before submersion occurs."

This doesn't mean that a person that is yelling for help and thrashing isn't in real trouble—they are experiencing aquatic distress. Not always present before the Instinctive Drowning Response, aquatic distress doesn't last long—but unlike true drowning, these victims can still assist in their own rescue. They can grab lifelines, throw rings, etc.

Look for these other signs of drowning when persons are in the water:

- Head low in the water, mouth at water level
- Head tilted back with mouth open
- Eyes glassy and empty, unable to focus
- Eyes closed
- Hair over forehead or eyes
- Not using legs—vertical
- Hyperventilating or gasping
- Trying to swim in a particular direction but not making headway
- Trying to roll over on the back
- Appear to be climbing an invisible ladder

So if someone is in the water and everything looks OK—don't be too sure. Sometimes the most common indication that someone is drowning is that they don't look like they're drowning. They may just look like they are treading water and looking up at folks in a boat or on a dock. One way to be sure? Ask them, "Are you all right?" If they can answer at all—they probably are. If they return a blank stare, you may have less than 30 seconds to get to them. And parents—children playing in the water make noise. When they get quiet, get to them and find out why.

**SKY LANTERNS** - As summer approaches outdoor calls and weddings are planned, community events

take place, and families celebrate special events all in the great Minnesota outdoors.

Often times, planners for these celebrations may wish to involve fireworks, or something similar called "Sky Lanterns." Sky lanterns are made of paper, wire and a small fuel pad. When the inside is lit, the heat helps to raise them skyward like a small hot air balloon. Essentially, they are a type of floating fire ball that goes wherever the wind may carry it.

Although sky lanterns may look beautiful when released in a group, they are **ILLEGAL** in the State of Minnesota. Sky lanterns have already caused fires around the globe, and even took the life of a 10 year old boy. A sky lantern may land when the flame is weak but still burning, so there is significant fire potential if they land on flammable vegetation or buildings.

The bottom line is that it is illegal to sell or use them in Minnesota. Doing so could result in up to 90 days in jail, or a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both.

For more information on sky lanterns, fireworks or other tips on fire safety, please contact the State Fire Marshall's office.

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating\\_restrictions.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating_restrictions.html)



#### **ANIMALS SEEKING HOMES –**

The City is looking for new permanent homes for some nice pound animals including..... Milky Way a female, short-haired calico/tabby who is approximately 4 years old;..... and Cloud, a female, short-haired grey tabby cat who is about three years old. The

adoption fee for these animals includes their spay/neuter surgery and the entire first round of vaccinations. Can you find room in your family for a new forever family member? If you would like to adopt one of these pound animals, please contact CSO Meyer at the Police Department (931-1550) or Alaina at Kind Veterinary Clinic (931-4700) during regular business hours.



**RECREATIONAL FIRES** - As the temperature gets warmer, more residents become interested in spending time outdoors during the evening hours and for many of you that means having recreational fires on personal property. Before you put match to firewood, it is a good idea to review the standards and guidelines for having a recreational fire.

- Recreational fires must be at least 25 feet from all buildings or combustible materials. Combustible materials are things such as wood, paper, and plastics.
- Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure must be eliminated prior to ignition.
- Recreational fires must be constantly attended until the fire burns out completely or is extinguished.
- A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with MSFC (07) Section 906 with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, or garden hose shall be readily available at all times until the fire is extinguished. Examples of other approved fire extinguishing equipment would be a charged garden hose, dirt, or sand (and a means of applying it).
- The only materials permitted in a recreational fire are wood from trees, small branches, brush, or charcoal. Treated lumber materials, construction debris, garbage, plastic materials, or waste materials are not allowed to be burned in recreational fires.
- Recreational fires must be immediately extinguished if they pose a fire safety risk, if they are not in compliance with the above, or when directed to do so by a Police Officer, Firefighter, Fire Warden, or DNR Officer.

Also, please note that Minnesota Statutes defines a “campfire” as a fire set for cooking, warming, or ceremonial purposes, which is not more than three feet in diameter by three feet high, and has had the ground five feet from the base of the fire cleared of all combustible material.

**SPEED WEEK: PATROLS TO PUT BRAKES ON SPEEDERS** - The posted speed is the speed limit — and the Saint Peter Police Department is emphasizing the need to drive at safe speeds through accelerated speed patrols on June 17th through June 23rd. The special “speed week” enforcement and education effort is coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety.

Unsafe and illegal speed is the most commonly reported contributing factor in fatal crashes. During

2009–2011, speed was a contributing factor in two fatalities in Nicollet County and 254 traffic deaths statewide.

In Nicollet County, an average speeding citation for 10 mph over the limit is \$145. Motorists stopped at 20 mph over the speed limit face double the fine, and those ticketed traveling more than 100 mph can lose their license for six months.

“The posted speed is the speed limit and by following it we can prevent crashes,” says Officer Jay Link. “As drivers, driving at safe speeds and keeping a safe following distance is crucial to our safety.”

The Police Department cites these dangers of speeding:

- Greater potential for loss of vehicle control.
- Increased stopping distance.
- Less time available for driver response for crash avoidance.
- Increased crash severity leading to more numerous and severe injuries.

The Police Department reports that a motorist traveling at 65 miles per hour compared to 55 mph will save only 1 minute and 41 seconds on a 10 mile trip.

Aggressive driving traits such as tailgating, unsafe passing, running lights and weaving in and out of traffic are another safety concern of the Police Department. Officer Link says motorists confronted by aggressive drivers should get out of their way, stay calm, not challenge them and avoid eye contact. Motorists may also report aggressive driving and should be prepared to provide vehicle description, license number and location.

Officer Link says motorists should keep a three-second following distance to allow for safe stopping and reaction to other vehicles. (It takes more than the length of a football field to stop when traveling at 60 miles per hour.)

The Police Department along with other local law enforcement are conducting “speed weeks” extra speed enforcement and education efforts through Sept. 30, 2013, as part of the Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety Toward Zero Deaths traffic safety initiative. A primary vision of the TZD program is to create a safe driving culture in Minnesota in which motorists support a goal of zero road fatalities by practicing and promoting safe and smart driving behavior. TZD focuses on the application of four strategic areas to reduce crashes - education, enforcement, engineering and emergency trauma response.

**OUTDOOR POOL** - The outdoor pool is open daily for open swim, family swim, swim lessons and rentals. Every afternoon the pool opens at 1 p.m. for Open

Swim. Swim lessons are offered in the mornings as well as in the afternoon and evenings. Daily family swim time runs from 6:15–8:15 p.m. and the pool schedule and related fees are available on the City website at [www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation).



The “best deal in town” is the family pool pass; only \$35 for the whole summer! A family pass includes up to six people living in the same residence. Additional family

members can be included on the pass for only \$5 more per person. Pool passes can be purchased at the Recreation Office in the Community Center or at the pool during open hours.

The outdoor facility also offers a wading pool free of charge for families with children ages six and under. On Monday – Friday, join area families any time from 10:30 a.m. – 8:15 p.m. and on weekends from 1–8:15 p.m. A responsible supervisor (at least 13 years old) must accompany children. There is a lifeguard on duty at all times.

The pool is a great place for a birthday party or special group event. Large rafts, water polo, basketball and volleyball equipment can be provided for groups. Food and beverage can be served in the picnic area inside the facility. For more information contact the Pool Manager at 934-3951.

When weather affects the pool, cancellations and closings are posted on the Rec Hotline at 934-0070.

**VOLUNTEER IN THE PARK (V.I.P.)** - Beginning this week be on the lookout for youth in bright turquoise blue t-shirts with the bold florescent letters, “VIP”, on the back.

These youth are part of a Recreation program called Volunteers in the Park. The program is for youth 10 years and older that are interested in helping others in our community. They provide services such as carry out service on Tuesdays in the Econofoods grocery store, selling treats at the pool concession stand, calling BINGO at the Wilds of Sand Prairie, and assisting Recreation Coaches at T-Ball and Squirts games and Rec Leaders at Lil’ Rascals events.

Over sixty area youth take part in this leadership program coordinated by Recreation summer staff. Each youth completes an application form, meets with a Rec Leader and then becomes part of a special group of kids that provide exceptional service to others in our community. We partner

with local businesses and organizations such as; Godfather’s Pizza, Kind Veterinary Clinic (Pound Pals), St. Peter Schools “Read and Feed”, Community and Family Education, Nicollet County Relay for Life, St. Peter Senior Center and more.

The VIP’s are always looking for more ways to be of service in the community. If you have need for enthusiastic, dedicated volunteers this summer, please call the Recreation Office at 934-0667 and ask for Taylor!

**LAWN MOWING REMINDERS** – How many times have you mowed your lawn already this spring? Once, twice, more? As residents get into the weekly mowing routine, please keep in mind ....

First of all.....the need to keep up with mowing. At this time of the year the grass seems to grow overnight so everyone will have to work to keep up with mowing chores. Unfortunately many folks haven’t been able to do so. Either the mower is still being tuned up or there has been too much rain and we just haven’t gotten to mow yet. And that has resulted in complaints to the City about unsightly lawns all over the community. Weeds and grass longer than six inches in height are prohibited by the City Code and if property owners don’t take care of their yards, the City has to step in. Property owners may receive a notice to comply with the rules (mow) or, in some cases, a citation may be issued. If the property owner still doesn’t comply, the City will arrange for the property to be mowed and the property owner will get stuck with a very expensive bill.



Secondly.....it is illegal to mow lawn clippings into the street. If someone inadvertently (or on purpose) spreads lawn clippings into the street, it is up to the property owner to make sure the clippings are swept up and properly disposed of. It’s much easier to turn the mower in the other direction when you get close to the curb line and avoid getting clippings in the roadway.

Finally, residents are encouraged to leave the lawn clippings on their lawns or, if you absolutely can’t bring yourself to do so, dispose of the materials at the yard waste compost site at the corner of North Swift/St. Julien Streets. Clippings that wind up in the street eventually find their way into the storm sewer system and travel, untreated, to the Minnesota River. This increases the phosphorus level in the river and endangers wildlife and plant life. Leaving the clippings on the lawn or properly composting through the City eliminates the damage to our waterways. For more information

about this topic, please visit [www.cleanwatermn.org](http://www.cleanwatermn.org).

**PREVENT BICYCLE THEFT** - The Police Department needs your help to prevent bicycle thefts. We have already had bike thefts reported this spring. Please take a few seconds and acquaint yourself with a few things to help prevent your bike from being stolen.



Things to do to protect your bicycle:

- Record the serial number/model/make/color of your bike (type the number into your cell phone).
- Take photos of your bike.
- Etch your frame and other bike parts with your personal ID, write your ID on the inside rim or on a card inside the frame.
- Invest in at least one quality bike lock or locks (unlock, 3/8" hex or quad chain, heavy padlock).
- Learn how to lock your bike. Don't put the lock through the front wheel of the bike if the wheel is removable!
- Lock and secure your bike in your home or garage at all times when not in use.
- If you keep your bike in your yard or on the street use high quality locks to secure it to a permanently fixed location.
- Do not leave your bike unattended or unlocked even if it is for "just of a minute". Thieves can steal a bike in minutes.

How to get involved:

- If you see someone steal a bike call 911.
- If you see suspicious activity or a prowler call the Police Department at 931-1550.
- Do not get personally involved. Be a good witness and call the Police.
- Document vehicle descriptions, especially license plates, and look for distinguishing marks or features on both the individual and any vehicle.
- Get to know your neighbors and exchange telephone numbers (home and cell).

Where to lock your bike:

- Park at bicycle racks, sign- fence- light- posts, parking meters, gas mains, or mature trees.
- Properly secure it to a fixed location that can't be lifted up and taken away.
- Keep the bike within your view, the view of the front door, or a highly traveled pedestrian area.
- Don't lock your bike overnight in an unfamiliar neighborhood without **many** locks.

For a primer on bicycle parking guidelines check this out...

[http://www.apbp.org/resource/resmgr/publications/bicycle\\_parking\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.apbp.org/resource/resmgr/publications/bicycle_parking_guidelines.pdf)

Or for more bicycle resources check out the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center at <http://www.bicyclinginfo.org/index.cfm>

**SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM PROTECTION-** During the past few years, City staff has been working on the large pumps at the Main Lift Station located at Highway 169 and Union Street. Pumps are inspected annually and we often find that they have been partially plugged with baby wipes. (Yes, we said baby wipes!)

While most manufacturing companies have been knowingly marketing these products as "flushable", baby wipes cause a great deal of problems in the main sewer line and in the large sewage pumps.

**Please do not flush these materials down the toilet!** Once the materials are in the sanitary sewer, the wipes form a ball and grow in size, binding to each other. Sometimes the combined materials will cause a blockage in the private lateral line (which the homeowner must pay to remove), but it will most certainly cause major issues once the wipes continue down the main sewer line to the City's lift station leading to expensive repairs. Last year, the City spent over \$40,000 in repairs to wastewater pumps. These expenditures result in increased rates for all of us.

So, be kind to our sewer system and please dispose of baby wipes in the garbage instead of down the toilet!

**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	June 17	5:30 p.m.	City Council Meeting
<del>Monday</del>	<del>June 17</del>	<del>7:00 p.m.</del>	<del>Parks Board</del> CANCELLED!
Monday	June 24	5:30 p.m.	City Council Committee of the Whole Meeting
Monday	June 24	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	June 25	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission

Wednesday	June 26	12:00 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	June 27	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	June 28	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	July 1	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	July 1	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	July 2	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Thursday	July 4		CITY OFFICES CLOSED – 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Holiday
Monday	July 8	5:00 p.m.	Human Rights Commission
Monday	July 8	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	July 9	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	July 15	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
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

