

# 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)



06/19/2013

**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) – *Swipe me....***  
About six months ago the City started accepting credit cards for payment of utility bills. Last month about 330

accounts were paid using credit cards which also involved paying a convenience fee. Automatic bank transfers accounted for about 1,000 payments. The total number of utility customers we have is slightly over 4,000. Since late last year you can use your card and pay on-line if you wish. (Call the Finance Department for more details at 507-934-0664.)

Here's the hitch...when you use a credit card we get charged by the credit card companies for processing the charge so we charge you a convenience fee. We started accepting cards because some of our customers asked for that convenience and, frankly, we're accepting them to make it less cumbersome for folks who may have had their lights turned off to get turned back on and the City (you) get paid sooner.

We also take credit cards at the Recreation Department for sign up of classes and passes to places like the pool. In the future our acceptance of cards will expand to other departments as well.

I am not in a big hurry to make it expand because in the other areas there have not been many requests. Acceptance of cards is one of the areas where I am unsure whether to jump in with both feet or wade in slowly.

So if you have a thought on that let me know. Would you pay a convenience fee of let's say \$5 if you could pay for your \$3,000 building permit on your card? What about a parking ticket or pet license? Would you pay \$3 extra to pay a parking ticket with your card? Or maybe we should just raise all charges a dollar or two and allow credit cards throughout our entire system based on the fact it would cost the system money to process the cards?

Maybe I am not thinking about this right at all? What do you think? It makes me wonder.....

**MEET THE CEO CANDIDATES** – The public is invited and encouraged to attend a "Meet the CEO Candidates" event at River's Edge Hospital and Clinic. The event will take place from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Hospital on Wednesday, June 26th. This is the Saint Peter community's chance to meet the candidates who are being interviewed for the River's Edge CEO position. Refreshments will be served.



## METER READERS AND DOGS

– Meter Readers like dogs. Some Meter Readers even have dogs. But Meter Readers and dogs and reading meters don't go together very well. It's always a bit challenging for the Meter Readers to do

their job without the added stress and fear of being charged, or worse - bitten, by a dog that has not been secured by its owner. Seeing an unfamiliar person suddenly appear in your back or side yard (where most meters are located) can make even the most docile dog suddenly become protective of his family. Unfortunately, that means we have had several times when our Meter Readers have been bitten by dogs in the last few months and we need your help to keep our employees safe.

Dog owners in Saint Peter are required to keep the dog in a proper enclosure and are not allowed to let the dog run at large. The City Code defines these terms as follows:

- "Proper enclosure" means securely confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen or structure suitable to prevent the animal from escaping and providing protection from the elements for the animal. A proper enclosure does not include a porch, patio, or any part of a house, garage, or other structure that would allow the animal to exit of its own volition, or any house or structure in which windows are open or in which door or window screens are the only obstacles that prevent the animal from exiting.
- "Run at large" - An animal is considered to be running at large if it is off the premises of its owner and the animal is not controlled by a leash, or the animal appears to have no owner and is not controlled by a leash. It is unlawful for any person who is the owner of a dog to permit such animal to run at large; or to permit such dog onto the grounds of any City park or playground, whether at large or on a leash, unless the park is designated for dogs or cats by Council Resolution. The owner of any animal which is required to be quarantined pursuant to this section is subject to a penalty of 90 days in jail, a fine of \$700, or both if the animal is found to be running at large.

Please help us keep our employees safe and secure your pets at all times. If you have a dog that is regularly allowed to be loose in the area of the meter, please notify the Finance Department (934-0664) so that we can make note of it and take other actions to provide for your meter reading.

**IT'S PEDDLER TIME** – Peddlers have arrived in Saint Peter and now is a great time to review the rules and regulations that protect Saint Peter residents from being swindled by peddlers.

The City Code requires peddlers and/or transient merchants (those without fixed and permanent locations in Saint Peter), to be licensed by the City or receive a permit from the City before going door-to-door in a residential area. Those regulations also require the peddler to carry the permit on their person and to show it to anyone who might ask to see it.

The reason the City requires peddlers and transient merchants to be licensed by the City is to protect the public. When they apply for their license, we conduct background investigations on each of the people who are selling door to door. If they have a criminal history, they are not eligible for a license. Some peddlers are hard-working legitimate salespeople...some are not and those are the people the regulations are in place to protect us from.



We also require them to provide a bond to the City so that if anyone in the community is swindled by them, we have a means of recouping the money paid by residents. And Saint Peter is not alone in these requirements. Almost every community in Minnesota has some type of regulation requiring peddlers to be licensed.

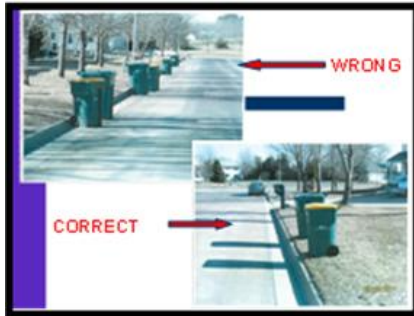
Even if the peddler is licensed, you are under no obligation to allow the person into your home. You don't have to open your door for them and you don't have to talk to them. If you have senior family members that's a good thing to point out to them. Seniors often feel more vulnerable around strangers and they should know that they don't have to allow anyone into their home if they aren't comfortable with it.

Recently an unlicensed peddler had the misfortune to appear at the door of a local law enforcement officer who promptly asked to see his license. Unable to do so, a suggestion was made to the peddler that he gather his friends and leave town until they are properly licensed by the City. That peddler was very lucky the officer did not confiscate all of the peddler's wares and even more fortunate that they weren't cited for violation of City ordinance.

If a peddler comes to your door and tries to sell you something, we encourage you to ask to see

their City license. Some may claim that they are licensed by the State or the USDA or some other organization, but even if they are, they still must have a City license. If they can't produce the license, say goodbye and don't hesitate to contact the Police Department at 931-1550. The Police will ask you to provide the best description you can of the person include their looks, clothing, any vehicle, and what direction they were going when they left your home.

**CURBIE PLACEMENT-** It continues to be apparent that several property owners haven't quite figured out what to do with their garbage and recycling curbies on collection day. Some people have erroneously placed their curbies on the roadway on collection day rather than on the boulevard behind the curb. The photos shown here show the right and wrong way to put the curbies out for collection.



Placing the curbies in the street results in street maintenance work taking longer and being less effective as the equipment has to go around the curbies. This means large sections of the streets don't get swept or, in the winter, large amounts of snow remains on the street. In addition, having these large objects in the roadway creates a danger for drivers and bike riders as they are forced to swerve to avoid the obstruction or to drive in the wrong lane to avoid the curbies.

Placing the curbies on the boulevard, behind the curb, means the refuse collection truck can drive along the curb line and easily pick up and replace the curbie without it falling over or hitting something else in the roadway.

And one more rule of thumb when you put your curbies out on collection day.....make sure to leave at least three feet (3') between each of the curbies. This allows the claw arm of the garbage truck to easily come down from the truck, pick up the curbie and dump it without hitting the other curbie and possibly spilling the contents all over the boulevard!



**LOCK YOUR DOORS!** - Spring and summer are the times when we tend to see an increase in personal property crimes. It's up to each of us to make sure we aren't victims.

Using the "Power of Prevention", the best thing you can do is lock your doors and windows including the garage door into the house. Locked doors can be a big deterrent to burglars. The harder it is to get into your home, the less attractive your property will be to a thief. If you have outside lighting, make sure it is in good working order and actually turned on.

And help prevent vehicle break-ins. Make your vehicle less attractive to a would-be-thief by removing items of value from your car or truck or keeping them out of sight. And don't forget to lock those car doors too!

**CITY CAMPGROUND** - Looking for a place to stay? Are you looking for a close to home getaway for a few days? Maybe you have relatives coming to visit and no place to put them?

The City of Saint Peter has camping spots available in Riverside Park near the Mill Pond. Sites with electrical hookups are available at a cost of only \$20 (plus tax) per day and primitive sites for tents can be had for just \$10 (plus tax) per day. The restroom building at the Mill Pond also has shower facilities available for campers. Registration can be completed at the Police Department (207 South Front Street) 24 hours a day and a dump site for RV's is located near the north entrance to the park and at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant on West St. Julien Street. Sites are provided on a first-come, first served basis. The campground is open until approximately the end of October, depending on the weather.

**ANIMALS SEEKING HOMES** - The City is looking for new permanent homes for twelve (12) 5-6 week old kittens! We have black, white, tabby, tortie, calico, orange/white, orange, long haired, short haired...male/female....you



name it we have it. These kittens are very cute, very cuddly and super sweet and they could use a wonderful home.

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.

**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 the pool fee schedule 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).

**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).

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|---------------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| 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                | 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 15               | 7:00 p.m.  | Parks and Recreation Advisory Board                   |
| 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-<br>Tuesday | July 30-<br>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                                   |