

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



03/27/2013

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of March 25, 2013 included sale of \$730,000 in equipment certificate bonds (to finance the new fire truck and some other equipment); approval of the 2013 water fund budget and increases in water rates; approval of the right-of-way plat for the extension of North Washington Avenue; scheduling a public hearing on the proposed vacation of Ewing Street; approval for continuation of the rain barrel program which began in 2012; rejection of the lone bid received for the air pollution equipment on the electric generation plant; approval for the unbudgeted purchase of a replacement boiler for the Library; and a closed session to discuss real estate acquisition negotiations.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, April 8th 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. Copies of the agenda and Council packet are also available on the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov/city.

WATER RATE CHANGES– New water treatment improvements for the City of Saint Peter were placed in operation in the summer of 2010. The improvements were funded by a combination of grant funds, low-interest loan funds, and a utility bond.

Repayment of the bond and loan funds begins this year and will be payable over the next 20 years. As was projected in 2008, water rates need to increase to be able to fund the annual debt payments, capital and operation costs for production of the improved quality of water, and increased capacity.

Monthly base domestic and irrigation charges for City utility customers will be increasing in April and October of this year. Residential 5/8" irrigation

meters, will remain at no base charge. Over the next 18 months, **starting April 1st**, consumption rates will also change. Changes include a \$.25 - \$.50 increase in domestic water, \$.50 - \$.75 increase in irrigation and the elimination of the 1,000 gallons for a \$1.00 charges.

For detailed information on these rates changes, please visit the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/sites/default/files/meetings-agendas-packets> or contact the Finance Department at 934-0664.



SURPLUS PROPERTY AUCTION – The City is auctioning off quite a bit of surplus property for which it no longer has a need.

Items available for purchase include a 1993 Ford Ranger pickup truck (pictured here) which was used for meter reading, Motorola radios and associated equipment, 35mm cameras, vcr's, and camcorders. Some of this equipment is pretty "vintage" and will be sold as one big lot.

The auction is an online auction through the State of Minnesota Department of Administration website. To participate in the auction, go to <http://www.fss.state.mn.us/SurplusServices.html>. Bidding on these items closes on April 4th so don't hesitate.

RECREATIONAL FIRES - Spring is a great time of the year to enjoy a recreational fire in your backyard with friends and neighbors. But it's important to do so safely. The following rules must be followed if you are going to enjoy a recreational fire at home....

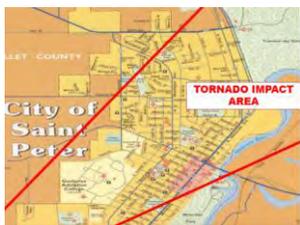
- Recreational fires must be at least 25 feet from all buildings or combustible materials. Combustible materials are things such as wood, paper, and plastics [MSFC (07) Section 307.4.2].
- Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure must be eliminated prior to ignition [MSFC (07) Section 307.4.2].
- Recreational fires must be constantly attended until the fire burns out completely or is extinguished [MSFC (07) Section 307.5].
- 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 must be readily available at all times until the fire is extinguished. [MSFC (07)

Section 307.5].

- 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 [MN Statute 88.171].
- 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 [MSFC (07) Section 307.3].



TORNADO ANNIVERSARY – This week (March 29th), is the 15th anniversary of the tornado that struck Saint Peter and Comfrey in 1998. During that F3-F4 tornado, two people (Dustin

Schneider of Saint Peter and an older man in the Comfrey area) lost their lives. Over 1800 homes were damaged (200 destroyed) in Saint Peter; and, depending on where you get results, there was \$235-\$300 million in damages.

The tornado was a great



tragedy for two families, and most likely not something they wish to be reminded of every year. But there were also many blessings realized during the tornado and subsequent recovery.

Many whose homes were damaged or destroyed had an opportunity to rebuild and repair in ways they might never have otherwise been able to afford.



The City constructed a new community center and a new hospital. A new Catholic Church was constructed along with a new church school. Tens of thousands of

trees were replanted on public and private property, and while we might never live to once again see the grand canopy of foliage that existed throughout the community prior to the tornado, we now have new and varied species of trees that have taken root and are flourishing.

But more so than the bricks and mortar benefits of that day, the Saint Peter community grew in ways that those who have not gone through a disaster may never understand. As others rushed to our aid that night and in the weeks that followed, we learned how to accept help when it is offered and how to come to the aid of others when they need it. We were grateful for the employees of area cities and utility providers who came here and worked long, tiring days helping to restore “normal” to our community.

Community members pulled together with everyone offering what they had to those who had lost so much. Churches opened their doors and hosted services for other religions. Neighbors went out of their way to check on the elderly and those who had suffered damages; and neighbors checked on damaged properties to prevent looting and vandalism.

And, contrary to what some “experts” had predicted, Saint Peter’s population actually grew in the months and years following the tornado as those who suffered damage rebuilt their homes and reopened their businesses rather than moving to another community.

As we look back to that day fifteen years ago, our thoughts continue to be with the families who lost loved ones.....and our thanks continue to go out to everyone who came to our aid that evening and in the days, weeks and months that followed.

RECREATION SUMMER PROGRAM BROCHURE - Summer officially begins this Thursday, March 21st and with it comes planning for the Recreation Department’s summer recreation programs.

Summer staff interviews are underway, program details are being finalized, and the summer brochure is being prepared. This joint Summer Program Guide that features City Recreation programs/activities and School District 508's Community Education classes/activities, will be mailed to area homes on Friday, April 19th. Watch for the brochure in your mailbox and remember that there are always extra copies at the Recreation Department and the Community Education office if you don't receive your copy in the mail. Both offices are conveniently located in the Community Center at 600 South Fifth Street.

OPEN GYM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER - The monthly calendar for scheduled Open Gym can be found on-line at www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation or picked up at the Recreation and Leisure Services Department located in the Community Center. The Recreation Hotline (934-0070) also lists open gym hours.

This week, open gym is available for community youth on Thursday and Friday, (March 21st and 22nd) from 3-5 p.m. and Saturday, March 23rd from noon to 2 p.m.

Open gym is free of charge.

HELP WANTED – The City is currently accepting applications for the following position:

- **PART-TIME LIBRARY CIRCULATION CLERK** - **Minimum** qualifications: Experience working with the public in a customer service setting. **Desired** qualifications: Experience in provision of library services; ability to operate a PC and use internet and related programs including on-line cataloging system. Up to 13 hours per week. (M-F days) plus some Saturdays. Wage \$7.84/hour. Applicants are required to complete City application form available in the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1-5:00 p.m. or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 pm on March 29, 2013. Faxed, late, and/or emailed 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.

Thursday	March 28	12:00 noon	Economic Development Commission
Monday	April 1	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	April 2	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	April 8	5:00 p.m.	Human Rights Commission
Monday	April 8	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	April 15	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	April 15	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday	April 22	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	April 23	6:00 p.m.	Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting
Wednesday	April 24	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission Meeting
Thursday	April 25	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	April 26	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	April 29	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	April 30	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission