

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. To request an email subscription to this newsletter, or for more information, please contact us at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



06/12/19

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on June 10, 2019 included authorization for purchase of an additional network switch by River's Edge Hospital; approval for City assistance for the Fourth of July event; approval for temporary closure of the west one-half of the 100 block of West Park Row on July 27th for an event at Arrow Ace Hardware; approval of a Peddler Permit; and a closed session to discuss a possible land transaction as authorized under Minnesota State Statutes.

The next regular City Council meeting, will be Monday, June 24th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE)

The Council has a list....that list does not have a very catchy title; it's called "The List of Issues of Vital

Importance". Like I said not very catchy but it is very important. Here is the list:

- Community that treats all people like neighbors
- Proactive housing solutions
- Availability of quality health care
- Thriving business community
- Action on the changes in our demographics
- Aesthetically distinctive
- Improved Sustainability
- Available early childhood care and educational opportunities and exceptional schools

My "Makes Me Wonder" columns for the next few weeks will focus on these issues and what the Council is doing surrounding these issues. After all, if they are Vitally Important we should be doing something about it.

But first let me explain the use. This list is really meant to be that 50,000 foot level check in always asking the question, "Are these the things that make our community great and what, if anything, can we do about it?" It may also be important to note that the list is reviewed every three to four months by the Council. They ask themselves, "Is this the right list?"

So next week I plan to start at the top of the list (which by the way is not a prioritized list) and work my way down talking a bit about what each of these means and what we are doing or have done about them. I may even mention a few that that we are expecting others to do something about.

Will you read on? Do you see these as issues of vital importance? It makes me wonder.....

RIVER'S EDGE HOSPITAL AWARD – The Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) on May 31st honored innovative programs and outstanding leaders in health care at its 35th annual awards ceremony. River's Edge Hospital was awarded the Quality and Patient Safety Award in the small hospital category for implementing best practices to reduce the number of patient falls at the facility. River's Edge Hospital also received this award in 2016.

"The safe patient handling committee works extremely hard on promoting patient safety," said Janelle

Rauchman, RN, Chief Quality Officer at River's Edge Hospital. "I am proud of this team and the staff at River's Edge and their dedication to quality."

Awards were given for extraordinary achievement in categories ranging from advocacy on behalf of



hospitals and volunteerism to innovation and improvement in patient care and patient safety.

“Each day, all across the state, Minnesota’s hospitals and health systems are working to strengthen the health of our communities,” said MHA President and CEO Lawrence Massa. “Our exceptional care teams set the bar high for patient care and for meeting the needs of their communities. Thanks to their expertise, diligence and commitment to excellence, Minnesota’s hospitals continue to be among the best in the nation.”

PEDDLER’S – This week, as part of the regular City Council meeting, the Council approved issuance of a Peddler’s Permit. The permit allows the applicant to go door-to-door in a residential area to peddle certain goods and services. In this instance, three individuals were authorized to peddle Dish One Satellite services.

Recent Hot Sheet publications have included information on peddler’s and what residents should and shouldn’t do, but now, with an actual permit in hand, we wanted to remind everyone of the rules again.

First rule is....and it’s the most important one....just because they have a permit from the City does not mean you have to buy from them or let them in your homes! It’s up to each individual

property owner to make that decision, but if you are going to let a peddler in your home, please make sure to ask to see their permit from the City first. Here’s a photo of what it looks like.

(Note....Solicitors

and Peddlers are issued the same permit.)

If they tell you they don’t need to be licensed, they are wrong. If they tell you that someone else in the group is carrying the license, they are not complying with the regulations. Each person going door-to-door will have their own permit with their name written plainly on the permit. In addition, the permit will be signed with original signatures by both the Chief of Police and the City Administrator.

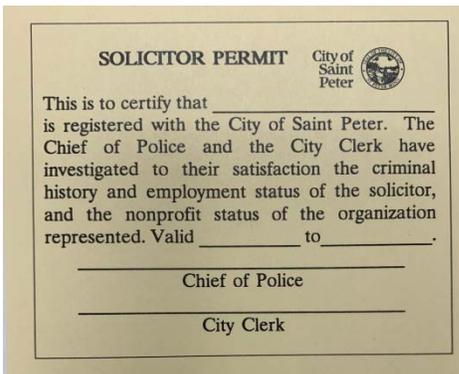
Next, if someone does come to your door and won’t or can’t show you a permit, it’s time to become suspicious. The laws requiring peddlers to be permitted are common throughout the United

States and reputable companies know to stop in at City Hall to become licensed. It’s the other folks you should be wary of.

Unlicensed folks should be reported to the Police Department by calling 931-1550. Provide as much information as possible...description of the person, what they were wearing, what vehicle they were driving, what direction they headed, what they were trying to sell you, etc.... Our Officers will track them down, check with them to see if they are permitted, and if not, escort them out of town or down to City Hall to follow the rules.

The City doesn’t license Peddler’s for the fun of it. We do so to ensure that the individual is legitimate and to help prevent any fraud being perpetrated upon Saint Peter residents. Each individual going door-to-door in a residential area undergoes a background investigation first and then must provide a bond that can be used to recoup any losses suffered by residents related to transactions with the company.

Finally, if you have any questions about Peddlers at your door, pick up the phone and call the Police Department at 931-1550 before purchasing anything. They will have a list of all those who are permitted.



SEVERE WEATHER REMINDERS – Summer is grilling, and travel, and the pool, and....severe weather. We haven’t been in the path of anything yet, but odds are at some point this summer, St. Peter will be included in a warning of some kind. Does your family know what to do in the event of severe weather?

Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm “WATCH” means that conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes or severe thunderstorms. When a watch is issued for Nicollet County, pay close attention to the weather and make sure that everyone in your family knows the correct action to take if the weather gets worse.

Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm “WARNING” means a tornado or severe thunderstorm has been

reported or is indicated by weather radar. Warning information includes the tornado or storm's location, direction and speed. If the warning is issued for our portion of Nicollet County, TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY.

Warning sirens are tested year round on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. to assure that the sirens will work in the event of an actual emergency. If you hear the steady tone of a siren at any other time, it means that severe weather has been sighted in our area and you should take shelter immediately.

There is no all clear siren, so take a battery powered radio with you to the shelter so you can monitor when it is safe to emerge. More information on these topics is available on the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-awareness-week-program.aspx>.

Summertime is meant for enjoying outdoor activities, but if you hear thunder, that means lightning is close enough to put you in danger so

remember the motto...."When it Roars, Go Indoors!"

Lightning is one of the top storm-related killers in the United States and when thunderstorms

are in the area and you hear thunder, it's time to get indoors and stay there for 30 minutes after the last roar of thunder.

And lastly, if you have a mobile phone, activate and/or sign up for severe weather alerts so you will always know about severe weather in your area. At home, consider purchasing a NOAA weather radio and tuning it to our area so you have notice of severe weather even overnight.

Mother Nature might play dirty once in a while, but it's up to each of us to outsmart her and keep our family safe.

HIGHWAY 169 TRAFFIC SIGNALS – *The following information is from a MnDOT press release.....*

Motorists traveling on Highway 169 through and around Saint Peter will soon see improved traffic signal operations. Over the past few weeks, the Minnesota Department of Transportation has been upgrading traffic signal hardware, and testing signal timing plans for all five traffic signals. Starting on

June 14, the final updated signal timing plans will be implemented.

The adjustments will provide improved traffic operations on Highway 169 and allow for advanced performance monitoring through a central traffic management system. Motorists can expect to hit more green lights when traveling the speed limit, but may experience a bit more delay in crossing or turning onto Highway 169. Pedestrian signal timing was also checked to ensure adequate walk/don't walk crossing times.

When making a left turn at certain intersections, drivers may find that the left turn arrow appears at a different time in the cycle.

"Motorists will need to pay closer attention at the signals, as the timing and sequencing may not be what they are used to," explained Scott Thompson, District Traffic Engineer. These changes were made to improve how the traffic signals operate together as a system.

Motorists will benefit from reduced delays, stops, fuel usage, and wear and tear on their vehicles. Nationally, updating traffic signal timing has been shown to reduce traffic delay by 15-40 percent, reduce travel times by up to 25 percent, and has a benefit to cost ratio that can exceed 50:1.

For real-time traffic and travel information in Minnesota, visit www.511mn.org or get the free smartphone app at Google Play or the App Store.

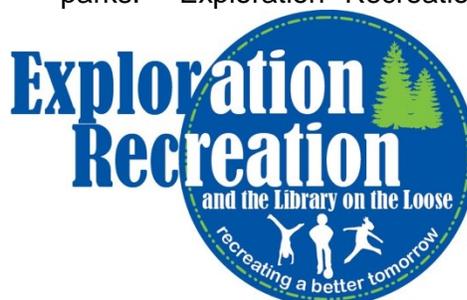
FREE RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS – The City's Recreation and Leisure Services Department will be providing FREE recreational programs throughout the entire summer at neighborhood parks. Exploration Recreation staff will set up

games, sports, arts, crafts, books and more for youth and teens to enjoy. Staff will arrive and leave at the times listed below and will not be

responsible for any children after staff exits the park.

Program dates are June 3-August 16, 2019 and the schedule is as follows:

- Mondays – Gorman Park from 3-4:30 p.m.
- Tuesdays – Gault Park 10-11:30 a.m.; Middle School – 12:30-2:00 p.m.; Jefferson Park – 2:30-4:00 p.m.
- Wednesdays – Roy T. Lindberg Memorial Pool 3-4:30 p.m.



- Thursdays – Ramsey Park 10-11:30 a.m.; Warren Park 12:30-2:00 p.m.; Stones Park 2:30-4:00 p.m.

If you are unfamiliar with the City's park system, you can find the parks using the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/parks>.

This program is made possible through a partnership with Community and Family Education (School District #508) and the Arts Center of St. Peter.

ADULT SUMMER READING PROGRAM - The City's Adult Summer Reading Program, collaboration between the Library and Senior Center, includes a lecture series with the summer reading theme: "A Universe of Stories".

The first lecture is "A Look at What We Know About Our Universe," Take a tour through the universe from the big bang until now. Learn about the sun, our solar system, stars, constellations, clusters of stars, galaxies, clusters of galaxies, and cosmology.



The program will highlight what we know and what we think we know about the beginning of the universe and its evolution to its current state while speculating about life beyond the Earth. Gustavus Adolphus College physics professor Chuck Niederriter is the speaker.

The program is tonight, Wednesday, June 5, from 6:30—8 p.m. in the Library meeting room. The event is provided free of charge.

OUTDOOR POOL INFORMATION - Pool season has officially begun at the City of Saint Peter's Roy T. Lindberg Memorial Pool located at 300 North Fourth Street. The pool offers a variety of fun and exercise including a lap pool with an inflatable Wibit play structure and basketball hoop, a diving well with two low boards and a high board, and a free wading pool for children 6 and under that are accompanied by a responsible supervisor 18 years of age or older.



- Here's more information on the various options:
- Open Swim - \$3.00 per time for ages 5 and up (free for kids under 5). Children must be at least 7 years old to be admitted to the main pool without an adult or a responsible supervisor. Children under 7 must have an adult or supervisor (age 18 or older) in the water and within an arms reach of the child at

all times with or without an approved lifejacket. Hours are Mon - Sun 1:00 - 4:15 p.m.; Fridays 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. (Unless make-up swim lessons); Sat – Sun 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

- Family Swim - \$3.00 per time for ages 5 and up. Family Swim is a special time reserved just for families. Children 0—4 admitted free of charge but all youth MUST be accompanied by a paying adult or responsible supervisor (18 years or older). Hours are Mon - Thu 6:15 - 8:15 p.m. and Sat - Sun 4:15 - 6:15 p.m.
- Wading Pool hours are Mon – Sat 10:30 - 8:15 p.m. and Sundays 1:00 - 8:15 p.m.

There are many different affordable opportunities to cool off with us this summer whether it be open swim, family swim, swim lessons, water aerobics, or a private pool rental. The most affordable and best value for the summer is the Family Pool Pass for only \$40 which covers up to 6 family members.



Since the pool is an outdoor complex there are times when weather or other factors may force closure for a few hours or sometimes even the day. The pool will close under the following policy:

- When the outdoor temperature falls below 65°F.
- When lightning is sighted or the weather is threatening. If the pool closes for weather, staff will re-assess conditions at two hour intervals and if weather permits, the pool will re-open. Please check at 3:00, 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.
- The pool may close for the remainder of a scheduled open swim when there are fewer than 15 people in the pool; and finally...
- The pool may close when there is need for maintenance or emergency action or repairs.

For cancellations and closing information residents are asked to sign up for texts from *Remind101" or call the Recreation Hotline number at 934-0070. If the weather situation is questionable, parents are encouraged to make sure the pool is open before dropping children off.

For more information on the City's outdoor pool completed, please visit the City's website, at www.saintpetermn.gov, or call the Recreation Office at 507-934-0667.

LAWN MOWING REMINDERS – This year it seemed we went straight from snow shoveling to mowing lawns and already City Hall has received numerous complaints about properties that are



not being properly maintained.

Grass and weeds longer than six inches (6") in height are a violation of the City's weed ordinance and must be mowed. If not taken care of, the City will arrange for a contract mower to mow the property at a minimum cost of \$75 per hour for the first two hours and an additional \$30 per hour each hour thereafter.

In addition, residents are asked to be careful when mowing so that grass clippings do not end up in the street. It's easy to prevent simply by turning the mower around so the discharge chute is aimed back onto the lawn. Grass clippings that wind up in the street eventually enter the City's storm sewer system and make their way untreated into the Minnesota River contributing to pollution of the waterway.

If you are aware of a problem property that has not been mowed in keeping with the City's weed ordinance, please contact the Community Service Officer at the Police Department (931-1550).

HELP WANTED – The City of Saint Peter is now accepting applications for the following positions:

- **ELECTRIC SUPERINTENDENT** - in the Department of Public Works. Responsibilities include but are not limited to planning, coordinating, directing, and monitoring the operation of the Electric Utility; planning and supervising construction of the electrical generation and distribution system; setting priorities to deal with emergencies; coordinating activities with other divisions, departments, and organizations; assisting with planning, design, and construction of projects; evaluate need for and prepare specifications for materials and equipment; maintain operating records; prepare specifications for electric utility services, equipment, and materials; prepare reports as requested; assist in annual budget preparations; set quality standards for work to be performed; set priorities. Minimum qualifications: high school degree and satisfactory completion of a technical school program for lineman electricians and completion of a recognized apprenticeship in electrical line work, including eight years of responsible experience in electrical distribution systems. An additional five years of experience may be substituted for technical training. Possession of, or ability to obtain, a State of Minnesota Lineman Electrician License issued



by the State Board of Electricity. Possession of a valid State of Minnesota Class A Driver's License with air brake endorsement or ability to obtain such within one month of the date of employment with the City. NOTICE: The successful candidate must complete and pass a pre-employment drug test and is subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing. Starting salary \$91,120.00 to \$96,320.00 per year. Applicants must complete a City application form available in the City Administrator's Office, 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082-2538 or by calling (507) 931-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's Office no later than 5:00 P.M., Wednesday, June 19, 2019. Faxed, e-mailed, or late application will not be accepted.

- **GROUNDSKEEPER** - The City of Saint Peter, Minnesota is currently accepting applications for the position of: Groundskeeper in the Parks Section of the Department of Public Works. Essential job functions include completing tasks associated with the maintenance, care, and cleaning of city parks and recreational facilities. Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma and one year of experience in the maintenance of parks and recreational facilities, possession of a valid State of Minnesota Class A Driver's License with Air Brake Endorsement and Tanker Endorsement or to obtain within six months of employment with the City; possession of an American Heart Association Certification as a Basic Rescuer for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency cardiac care or obtain within six months. Desirable qualifications: knowledge of materials, methods, and practices used in the maintenance and care of parks recreational facilities; knowledge of the care of plants, trees, and shrubs; knowledge of OSHA regulations and safety precautions; knowledge of equipment and its operation to perform related tasks in parks maintenance. NOTICE: The successful candidate must complete and pass a pre-employment physical and drug test and is subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing required by federal regulations. Starting pay \$18.62 per hour. Applicants are required to complete a City of Saint Peter application form available in the City Administrator's Office, 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082-2538 or by calling (507) 934-0663. Completed applications

must be received by the City Administrator's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 13, 2019. Faxed, e-mailed, or late

applications will not be accepted. Interviews will be conducted Thursday, June 27, 2019.

CITY MEETING CALENDAR – For questions on meeting dates/times, please contact the City Administrator's Office at 934-0663. Full calendar available at www.saintpetermn.gov.

Monday	June 17	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	June 24	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	June 25	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	June 26	12:30 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
Thursday	July 4		 FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Monday	July 8	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Thursday	July 11	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
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
Wednesday	July 24	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	July 25	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	July 26	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	July 29	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Tuesday	July 30	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Tuesday- Tuesday	July 30 August 13	8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FILING PERIOD