

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



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**POLICE OFFICERS
MEMORIAL DAY** – Mayor Ziemann has proclaimed May 15th as “Police Officer Memorial Day” and next week (May 12th-18th) as “Police

Officer Week” in the United States.

This special time is an observance in the United States that pays tribute to the local, state, and Federal peace officers who have died in the line of duty. The Memorial Day takes place on May 15th each year, and Police Week is the calendar week in which the Memorial Day occurs.

The holiday was created on October 1, 1961, when Congress asked the President to designate May 15th to honor peace officers. John F. Kennedy signed the bill into law on October 1, 1962. The Proclamation signed by President John F. Kennedy stated in part....*“To pay tribute to the law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and to voice our appreciation for all those who currently serve on the front lines of the battle against crime, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved October 1, 1962 (75 Stat. 676), has authorized and requested the President to designate May 15 of each year as “Peace Officers Memorial Day,” and the week in which it falls as “National Police Week” and by Public Law 103-322 (36 U.S.C. 175) has requested that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers’ Memorial Day.”*

Saint Peter residents are encouraged to recognize and thank our local Police Officers for their commitment to keeping us all safe as we honor their sacrifices on Police Officer Memorial Day.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – *“I never heard about that“....* Is a phrase I hear spoken to me almost on

a weekly basis. Whenever I hear that phrase I often try to ask and then analyze what we can do to get information out.

One of the challenges I see is that the din of information in our lives is so loud its hard to figure out what we need for my daily lives and what is simply information chaff. We at the City put out good quality information in a number of different formats. There is often much to tell, so much in fact, that the difference between transparency and invisibility becomes blurred by the sheer amount of things we seemingly need to know.

I know that I cannot make you know something and while we try very hard to be transparent and not be invisible, there is no way for me to give you information in such a way that you will know everything you need or want to know about the City. You have higher priorities for the information you just have to know like your mom’s birthday, your boss’s phone number, your next dentist appointment, and that is how it should be.

The HOT SHEET is a great example of what we do. While other cities put out a newsletter maybe once a month or twice a year, we distribute a weekly newsletter straight to your email box (if you have asked for it). We put notices in your utility bill. We maintain a website with Council packets (the same packet Councilmembers get before a meeting) and minutes. We put information on Facebook and Twitter and I do a video blog on YouTube. We publish notices not only on our website, but also in the local paper.

In addition to all that, the Saint Peter Herald covers just about every City Council meeting and it is rare when the front page of the Herald doesn’t include a story about what the City Council is doing. We are on the radio with Pete Steiner at KTOE and KNUJ, both stations providing nice coverage of Saint Peter activities.

City staff make presentations and are part of Lions, Rotary, Silver Seniors and Chamber of Commerce functions among many others. We respond to emails and phone calls. Our Council

meetings are on Cable TV and even on YouTube. You can even attend a Council meeting in person and still people ask me questions about all sorts of things at church, at Family Fresh, at the gas station, and at ball games just to name a few.

So let me help you know more about the City. If you have an idea about how we might be able to get information out let me know, but in the meantime, if you are going to take one or two steps to know more, this is what I would recommend....sign up to get the Hot Sheet emailed to you. Email barbaral@saintpetermn.gov and we'll get you on the subscription list. "Like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityofSaintPeter or check out our website at www.saintpetermn.gov, or even subscribe to the local newspaper. Do you want to know more? Then feel free to give me a call at 934-0663.

Will you try one of these easy and cheap opportunities to know more? It makes me wonder....

SUMMER HOURS - The Library and Community Center will have modified hours during the summer as follows:

Community Center building hours starting in May shall be:

- Monday – Friday, 6 am to 8 pm
- Saturdays, 9 am to 4 pm
- Sundays – Closed except for approved reservations.

Hours at the Saint Peter Public Library from June 2–August 25.

- Monday – Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm
- Fridays, 10 am to 5 pm
- Saturdays, 9 am to 1 pm
- Sundays, CLOSED

If you have any questions, or would like to inquire about room rentals, please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department by calling 934-0667 or emailing jenh@saintpetermn.gov. Hours are also listed on the City website.

BIKE SAFETY RODEO – Yee-haw! It's time for the fourth annual Bike Safety rodeo sponsored by Saint Peter Police Department and River's Edge Hospital and Clinic.

This year's event takes place Saturday, May 18th from 10:30 am. – 12:30 p.m. at the River's Edge Hospital and Clinic Hospital parking lot.

There will be free bike licensing, free bike helmets for kids 17 and younger (quantities are limited and will be provided on a first



come/first serve basis), a bike safety course, lots of free fun stuff, training on bike maintenance, free lunch and fun for the entire family. Hope to see you there!

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP - At its Monday evening work session the Saint Peter City Council engaged in a wide ranging discussion on matters topical to the Police Department.

The discussion began with a presentation by the commander of the MN River Valley Violent Crime Enforcement Team. Member agencies are Mankato DPS, Blue Earth County Sheriff, Saint Peter Police Department, North Mankato Police Department, Nicollet County Sheriff, Saint James Police Department, Watonwan County Sheriff, Fairmont Police Department, Martin County Sheriff.

The team began as the "MN River Valley Drug Task Force", but is now tasked with not only the investigation of drug enforcement, but also violent crimes, especially those involving firearms.

The Commander provided information about current illegal drug trends in our area of responsibility. Methamphetamine remains the primary drug being distributed in our area. Methamphetamine begins its journey to Minnesota from Mexico and there is so much of this extremely addictive drug flowing into the country it has driven the price down.

Discussion with the Commander also covered many other drugs also prevalent in our area. We have seen a few drug overdoses caused by heroin laced with fentanyl although we are not seeing as many heroin cases as the metro area is.

Council discussion included information on the statistic of crime and disorder complaints in Saint Peter continuing to be static or provide a downward trend. SPPD has implemented National Incident Based Records System (NIBRS). This is a record keeping initiative required by the FBI Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS). Minnesota is one of the last states to initiate NIBRS with a requirement that all departments participate by 2021. About 5% of Minnesota police agencies have implemented NIBRS the benefits of which include:

- **Provides greater specificity in reporting offenses.** Not only does NIBRS look at all of the offenses within an incident, but it also looks at many more offenses than the traditional SRS does. NIBRS collects data for 52 offenses, plus 10 additional offenses for which only arrests are reported. SRS counts limited data for 10 offenses and 20 additional crimes for which only arrests are reported.

- **Collects more detailed information**, including incident date and time, whether reported offenses were attempted or completed, expanded victim types, relationships of victims to offenders and offenses, demographic details, location data, property descriptions, drug types and quantities, the offender's suspected use of drugs or alcohol, the involvement of gang activity, and whether a computer was used in the commission of the crime.
- **Helps give context to specific crime problems** such as drug/narcotics and sex offenses, as well as modern crime issues like animal cruelty, identity theft, and computer hacking.
- **Provides greater analytic flexibility.** Through NIBRS, data users can see many more facets of crime, as well as relationships and connections among these facets, than SRS provides.

The City Council also had a brief discussion about any work being done concerning body-worn video cameras. We also discussed the priority of crime prevention and continuing efforts to implement an additional school resource officer.

FOOD WASTE COMPOST PROGRAM - The City of Saint Peter is happy to announce the creation of a Food Waste "Green" Composting program. Starting June 3, 2019, the City will offer drop-off site Food Waste Composting to residential customers at two locations where specially signed containers will be provided:

- The current yard waste compost facility just off North Swift Street adjacent to the National Guard Armory.
- The overflow parking area of Jefferson Fields.

This great program comes at no additional cost for City residential refuse customers and has the added benefit of possibly reducing the size of your refuse curbie to save additional money too.

The program is easy....

- Send an email to sallyv@saintpetermn.gov indicating your name, property address and phone number. In return you'll receive a code that allows you to open the food waste compost dumpster at the collection site. Remember that code. We are asking for sign up and using the code so that we can communicate with you about future changes in the system, challenges we face, and amount of use. Our hope is to get a group of great users that can then help spread the word about the environmental and financial benefits of food waste composting.

- Once you've received your code, begin dropping off allowed food waste at either site. The containers are available 24-7, but remember, the site doesn't accept food in plastic bags. If you need to put the food waste in something, local retailers have compostable bags available for purchase.
- Then, once your food waste is in the container, simply lock it back up and that's it!

By offering this program, the City hopes to reduce waste going to the incinerator for waste to energy, see the use of these materials go to better environmental purposes, and, hopefully in the future, save a few dollars on overall disposal costs; not to mention making the world a better place for gosh sakes!

The list of acceptable products for food waste is shown below and included in a flyer in May utility bills:

	
FOOD WASTE	PAPER PRODUCTS
Baked Goods (Pastas, Bread, Cereal) Nuts, Shells, Grounds, Filters, Tea Bags Fruits, Vegetables, Peelings, Pits, Dairy Products (Yogurt, Cheese), and Meats (Bones, Fish)	Paper Bags, Food-Soiled Products, Pizza Delivery Boxes, Cardboard, Egg Cartons, Flour, Sugar Bags, Napkins, Paper Towels, Parchment, Wax Paper, Plates, Cups, Bowls, Utensils, Straws, and Certified Compostable: bpiworld.org/products.html

But not every type of product is accepted at this time. Some of the items we aren't able to accept include the following:

				
GLASS, PLASTICS	METALS, PAINT	ROCKS/CLAY	HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES	TREATED WOOD
Metals, Aluminum Cans, Rocks, and Treated Wood (Painted Wood Fences, etc.)	Household Appliances/Furnaces, Paints/Oil/Chemicals, Food Packaging (Unless BPI-Certified), and Microwave Popcorn Bags	Cartons (Wax-Lined), Frozen Food Boxes, and Take-Out Containers	**NO PLASTIC BAGS OR BATHROOM GARBAGE**	

For more information on food composting, please check out this link for tips and tricks on the benefits of composting and look for more information from the City on backyard food waste composters:

<https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home#home>.

HOUSE NUMBERS REQUIRED -

The Minnesota Fire Code, which has been adopted by the City Council, requires addressing of homes and businesses. The Code requires new and existing buildings to have address numbers that are visible from the street, in contrasting colors to the house/business colors, and a minimum of four inches (4") tall. This helps emergency services like police, fire, and ambulance, can find a location quickly. If your home or business doesn't meet these requirements, please take action now to rectify the situation.



And for newer residents who might be transplants from southern states, please note the City does NOT allow address numbers to be painted on curbs. Not only is it not allowed, but it could be dangerous in the winter months when the curbs are covered with snow and emergency responders can't see the address.

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

- **PART-TIME BUS DRIVER** - for the Minnesota River Valley Transit system. Successful candidates for this position must have, at a minimum, a High school diploma or equivalent and a valid State of Minnesota CDL minimum of Class C Driver's License with passenger endorsement. Candidates will have thirty (30) days from the date of employment to obtain the required driver's license and the City will help the new employee train for the license test. Candidates who possess the following desired experience or education will qualify for additional points towards an interview: previous experience working with the public; training in vehicle mechanics; experience operating a two-way radio/phone; and prior bus driving experience. Starting wage \$16.23 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 or by calling (507) 934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 p.m. May 23, 2019 2018. Faxed, emailed, and/or late applications will not be accepted. ****NOTE:** The successful candidates for this position will be required to successfully complete and pass a pre-employment drug test. The position is also subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing required

by **USDOT 49 CFR Part 655** (Federal Transit Administration) and **USDOT 49 CFR Part 40**. In addition, successful candidates for this position must have a vehicle driving record which is clear of revocations, suspensions and cancellations for the past three (3) years. Applicants may be required to submit to a criminal background check and be clear of convictions for crimes or anticipatory crimes (as defined in M.S. 609.17 and 609.175) within the previous fifteen (15) years.

- **PUBLIC WORKS SEASONAL LABORER** - Duties include a variety of manual labor tasks associated with the care, maintenance, and cleaning of City facilities and equipment including, but not limited to, painting, washing, mowing, weeding, digging, cleaning and organizing; planting, trimming, and removal of trees and shrubs and mowing and trimming facilities. 40 hours/week. Applicants must possess a minimum valid Class C or D driver's license. Must pass pre-employment drug test; subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing required by federal regulations. Minimum age: 18. A condition of employment shall be successful completion of a background investigation and pre-employment drug test. Employees will be subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing. Must be at least 18 years of age for Public Works positions. Applications for this position are available from the City Administrator's Office at 227 South Front Street, or by calling (507)934-0663 or by email at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov.
- **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

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	May 13	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
			
Wednesday	May 15		POLICE OFFICER MEMORIAL DAY
Thursday	May 16	5:30 p.m.	Board of Appeals
Monday	May 20	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	May 20	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday	May 22	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	May 23	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	May 24	9:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	May 27		MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Tuesday	May 28	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Meeting (location to be determined)
Tuesday	May 28	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting