

# 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](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov). [www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter](http://www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter)



*May your holiday season be filled with joy and laughter. Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas from the Saint Peter City Council and City staff.*



12/18/2013

**HOLIDAY HOURS** – The upcoming holidays will impact City services as follows:

**Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

City offices - closed at noon  
Community Center - closed at non  
Library – closed at noon  
Transit Dial a Ride operating 7AM to 4:30 PM  
Transit Route bus operating 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

City offices – closed all day  
Community Center – closed all day  
Library – Closed all day  
No Transit Services

**New Year's Eve - December 31<sup>st</sup>**

Community Center – closed at 5:00 p.m.  
Transit – normal hours of operation  
Thanks to The Red Men Club, Blaschko's Embassy Bar and the Flame Bar, the Transit will also run within the City limits from 8:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. on New Year's Eve. There is no charge for riders during this time.

**New Year's Day, January 1<sup>st</sup>**

City offices – closed all day  
Community Center – closed all day  
Library – closed all day  
No Transit services

Open gym is scheduled every day the Community Center is open during the holidays. Check the schedule on the City's website at [www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation), pick up a schedule at the Community Center, or call the Recreation Hotline 934-0070. Work off the extra calories from all those holiday treats!

**HOT SHEET SCHEDULE** – December 18<sup>th</sup> will be the last Hot Sheet published in 2013 and the next publication date will be January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT** – We've had our first taste of winter and are getting warmed up for the bigger snows yet to come. Now that your shovel is broken in, why not consider "adopting" your neighborhood fire hydrant?

As the snow begins to deepen, you can help out the Fire Department by keeping the area around the hydrant shoveled out as shown in the picture. In the event of a fire, this will save valuable time for the Firefighters who respond to save your house or the life of someone in your family.



So, remember.....each time it snows, take a few extra minutes and shovel out the corner fire hydrant. The Saint Peter Volunteer Fire Department thanks you for your help!



**WARMING HOUSE OPEN** – The Veteran’s Park warming house is now open. Hours during weekdays when there is school will be 4-9 p.m. When school is not in session the warming house will be open from 1 – 9 p.m. Saturday hours are 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. and Sunday the warming house is open from 1 – 9 p.m.

**RENTAL INSPECTIONS** – It’s that time of year....the time to think about renewing rental licenses. During even years (2014) rental property owners with last names beginning with A-L need rental applications completed, fees paid and properties inspected. The rental application must be received by the Building Department at City Hall by December 31st of this year and the rental inspection must be completed by March 31, 2014.



Rental applications are available on the City’s website at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov). The applications can be printed out and returned to the Building Department along with the required fee.

Questions about rental licensing? Please call the Building Department at (507)934-0662.

**NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE TREES** - Have you seen the ribbons around some of the trees on North Washington Avenue? They are marked for the chainsaw as they will be removed this winter for the new Washington Avenue Link Improvement Project which will be constructed in the spring of 2014.

These particular trees are old Silver Maples. As they get older, these types of trees tend to have root systems that heave and disrupt sidewalks and driveways that are constructed above them.

But don’t worry....all the trees that are removed will be replaced with a new species near the end of the construction!

Questions on the project or the tree replacement? Please call the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

**PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CHARITY SCAMS** – Before you make an end of the year donation to a charity, make sure you protect yourself from a possible scam. Police Chief Peters offers the following suggestions to residents:

- Request written information. Ask for the name of the organization, its’ mission, plans for achieving its’ objectives, and how much of every dollar collected is used for charitable purposes.



- Call the beneficiary/organization. Find out whether they are aware of the solicitation and have authorized the use of their name.
- Find out how your donation will be distributed. How much will go to the program you want to support and how much will cover the charity’s administrative costs.
- If the caller is a professional fund-raiser, ask them how much money they keep.
- Refuse high-pressure appeals. Legitimate fund-raisers won’t push you to give on the spot.
- Consider the cost. When buying merchandise or tickets for special events, or when receiving free goods in exchange for giving, remember that these items cost money and are generally paid for out of the contributions.
- Avoid cash gifts because they can be lost or stolen. For security and tax record purposes, it is best to pay by check. Make your check payable to the beneficiary, NOT the solicitor.

To check on a charity in Minnesota, call the Minnesota Charities Review Council at 1-800-733-4483 or the Charity Division of the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office at 1-800-657-3787.

**MEETING CANCELLATIONS**– The City Council has taken action to cancel the December 23<sup>rd</sup> regular City Council meeting and the December 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> workshop sessions. The next time the Council will meet as a group will be the January 6<sup>th</sup> workshop session.

January 13<sup>th</sup> will be the first regular Council meeting of 2014 and Councilmembers-elect Stephen Grams and Roger Parras will take the oath of office at the meeting.

For information on City Council meetings, please contact the City Administrator’s Office at 934-0663.

The December 27<sup>th</sup> Tourism and Visitors Bureau meeting has also been cancelled. The next regular meeting for the Tourism group is January 24<sup>th</sup>.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** - The City Council is seeking interested Saint Peter residents who are willing to serve on a City Council advisory board or commission. Openings currently exist on the following boards:

- Civil Service Commission
- Heritage Preservation Commission
- Human Rights Commission
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- Tourism and Visitors Bureau

Qualified candidates must live within the corporate limits of Saint Peter and must commit to attending the monthly meetings of the board. Most terms are three years in length.

If you are interested in being considered for appointment to an advisory board, please contact the City Administrator's office at 934-0663 or by e-mail at [barbaral@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov) for an application. An application card must be completed to be considered.



Also, if you happen to live on a corner, you are required to ensure that the handicap crossing area is kept clear in both directions.

What's the cost if the City has to come out and shovel for you? Minimum of \$65 per hour (the fee is going up to \$75 per hour on January 1<sup>st</sup>!) with a minimum of one hour charge! City crews tackle properties in violation of the ordinance as soon as they are done with the City owned sidewalks.

So put that shovel to work, hire the neighbor kid, put your own kids to work, or hire one of the local snow removal companies to do the work for you and let's keep those sidewalks clean and safe!

**TOWARD ZERO DEATH INITIATIVE** – If your holiday celebration will include alcoholic beverages, you might want to think twice about getting behind the wheel of a vehicle! Saint Peter Police and law enforcement agencies across Minnesota will be continuing another "Toward Zero Death" enforcement initiative through New Year's. Extra patrols will be on the roads and highways specifically looking for drunk drivers. So, be smart...designate a sober driver if you will be drinking and make this holiday a safe and merry one!

**SNOW SHOVELING REGULATIONS** – Is your snow shovel handy? Sounds like we might see continued snowfall in the next couple of weeks and of course that means we will be out shoveling those pesky sidewalks!

City crews really hate having to shovel private property so hopefully everyone can help them out this year and keep all those sidewalks shoveled as required by City regulations.

Within 24 hours of a snowfall, property owners are required to ensure sidewalks are free of snow and ice across the entire width of the walk. That also means a little extra work to continue to ensure that blow back and drifting of snow is also removed.

**TREE TRIMMING** – (Not the Christmas tree kind of trimming!) Why is it important to keep trimming our boulevard trees? The City's Forestry staff trims trees to raise the tree canopy over sidewalks to a height of 8 feet and over roadways to a height of 14 feet. Not only is it required by City Code regulations, but this allows larger trucks, (garbage, snow plows, etc.), to travel next to the curb without hitting and breaking off lower limbs. This also helps with intersection visibility and street light obstructions.

Over the winter months, City crews will begin tree trimming starting on streets south of Broadway Avenue. Of course this work is weather dependent and may be put on hold if the crew spends lots of time in snowplow trucks!

Anyone with questions on the tree trimming work should contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

### 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).

Tuesday	December 24			CITY OFFICES CLOSE AT NOON
Wednesday-	December 25			CHRISTMAS DAY – City offices closed
Wednesday	January 1			NEW YEAR'S DAY – City offices closed
Monday	January 6	3:30 p.m.		Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	January 6	5:30 p.m.		City Council Workshop
Tuesday	January 7	5:30 p.m.		Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	January 13	5:00 p.m.		Human Rights Commission
Monday	January 13	7:00 p.m.		City Council Meeting



Tuesday	January 14	6:00 p.m.	Library Board Meeting
Monday	January 20		LEGAL HOLIDAY – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day City Offices Closed
Tuesday	January 21	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Thursday	January 23	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	January 24	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	January 27	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	January 28	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	January 29	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission

*\*\*For meetings which are scheduled to occur between December 23, 2013 and the end of the year, please contact the City Administrator's office or visit the City's website calendar ([www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov)) for meeting dates/times.*