

# 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)



## Happy Thanksgiving from the City Council and City staff!



*This Thanksgiving, as you travel “over the river and through the woods to Grandma’s house you go”, please remember to buckle up and drive safely!*

11/27/2013

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of November 25, 2013 included award of the bid for installation of catalyst equipment at the Broadway Generation Plant to Prestige Manufacturing; approval for submission of a variance request related to the Highway 295 Turnback project; authorization to participate in a study of the Mount Simon Aquifer; approval for execution of the 2014-2015 legal services contract with Brandt Law Office; approval for execution of a library services contract with Traverse des Sioux Library system; approval for City assistance for the fish house parade; approval for wage increases for non-union/non-contract employees in 2014; approval of the Police, Communications Technician, Parks, Streets and Utility unions 2014 contracts; approval for a taxi cab license; and a closed session to continue the Council’s annual evaluation of the City Administrator.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, December 9th 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)**

*– Did I hear a phone ringing?....Sometimes I write things and no one says a word about it. Sometimes the things I write spur lots of conversation*

and interest. Well....a few people looked at the Parks Plan on our website after I wrote about it in last week's Hot Sheet column. (You can find it at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/sites/default/files/documents/public-works/ParksMasterPlan2005Part1.pdf>.)

Here is the deal....we have pressure to provide additional parks for all kinds of uses from organized activities to festivals to just plain green space. As we continue to look towards the future, the Council plans to act to make sure those needs are met. Parks have such a positive and important position in our community and it's important to plan well for them. So as you look at maps in the Parks Plan you can get some idea about what we are thinking

relative to the amount of land we need and where it might be located to meet our park goals.

The Council is in a position to meet some of our future needs for parks. I expect that in the near future they will take action to secure some of those needs into the future. Usually we try to find the easiest way to get those needs met, but if it cannot be accomplished one way, we will search for others to meet community needs. I think it is important that the Council is looking forward and planning ahead to meet those needs.

Have you felt the need? I know many have because it is an issue that I often hear about.

Will you take a look at page 46 of the Parks plan and see what the future may hold? It makes me wonder.....

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> Dial a Ride operating 7AM to 4:30 PM  
Route bus operating from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> No Transit Service  
Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> Normal Hours  
Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> No Transit Service



**COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM** – Saint Peter residents are encouraged to sign up for the free community

notification system through [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com). This service allows residents to sign up to receive special notices from the City in the event of a snow emergency, water main break, or other information that is important to know. The City has partnered with Nixle to provide this information.

You have the option to set up the service the way you like it. Want to get notices on your cell phone? Want notices sent through e-mail? Want both? It's up to you to decide how you want to be contacted. And because you are setting up the service, your information is not stored by the City. You can cancel or change your account with Nixle at any time.

Snow emergency notices are always provided through Nixle (in addition to other options) and Nixle participants usually are the first to know when a snow emergency has been called.

So save yourself from getting an expensive snow emergency ticket and sign up for Nixle today..... [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) and follow the prompts!



**COUNCILMEMBER PRESENTATION** – As part of the November 25, 2013 Council meeting, Mayor Strand presented outgoing Councilmembers Jerry Pfeifer and Ken

Eichmann with retirement clocks as they prepare to end their terms on the City Council.

Councilmember Pfeifer has been on the Council for 24 years. Councilmember Eichmann will be retiring from the Council after 8 years of service.

Mayor Strand thanked both for their dedication and service to the community.



**HOLIDAY HOURS** – All non-emergency City offices, including the Library, will be closed on Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Community Center will be closed on Thanksgiving Day but will be open on Friday at 6 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Hours on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> will be 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> the building opens at 12:00 noon and closes at 8:00 p.m.

Here are the hours for transit during the upcoming holidays:

Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> No Transit Service  
Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> Normal hours

**SNOW EMERGENCY RULES** – We're already a couple of snowfalls into the snow season and that makes it a prime time to review the City's snow emergency rules.....



1. Snow emergencies will be declared before 5 p.m. and information on the declaration will be provided to local media. When it snows, check local media outlets for more information, or call the City information line at 934-0675, or sign up for community notices at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com).
2. When a Snow Emergency is declared, there is NO PARKING on any of the posted SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES for the entire 48-hour period. (Even if the street has been plowed curb-to-curb there is NO PARKING.) "Snow Emergency Routes" means the following: Jefferson Avenue from Minnesota Avenue to the west corporate limits; College Avenue from

Minnesota Avenue to Seventh; Grace Street from Fourth Street to Sunrise Drive; Broadway Avenue from Third Street to Gardner Road; Traverse Road from Washington Avenue to Nicollet Avenue; Saint Julien Street from Minnesota Avenue to Washington Avenue; Washington Avenue from Highway 295 to Sunrise Drive; North Washington Avenue from Dodd Avenue to Bunker Lane; Sunrise Drive from Grace Street to Dodd Avenue; North Sunrise Drive from Dodd Avenue to Mason Street; and Nicollet Avenue from Highway 22 to Highway 99.

3. Beginning at 11:59 p.m. on the day a snow emergency is declared, for two days (48 hours), there is NO PARKING on Residential Streets from midnight until 7 a.m. (Even if the street has been plowed curb-to-curb there is NO PARKING.)
4. Beginning at 2 a.m., for two days (48 hours), there is NO PARKING on Downtown Streets from 2 a.m. until 6 a.m.

VEHICLES PARKED IN VIOLATION OF THE SNOW EMERGENCY REGULATIONS WILL BE TICKETED (FINED \$25.00 - \$150.00) AND TOWED AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE.

If off-street parking is a problem, please make arrangements now. The list below includes free municipal parking lots which can be used during snow emergencies. These lots will be plowed only after 24 hours posted notice (watch for signs posted in the lots).

1. Next to the Municipal Building located at 227 South Front Street
2. West of the Qwest Building on South Front and Nassau Streets
3. Directly behind Ace Hardware and Godfather's Pizza in the 200 block of South Minnesota Avenue
4. East of the old Shopko Pharmacy/Soderlund Drug building located at 201 South Third Street
5. Jefferson Park at 1401 Nicollet Avenue.
6. Department of Public Works located at 405 West Saint Julien Street
7. Municipal Parking Lot #5 located in the 400 block of South Minnesota Avenue (intersection of Grace Street and South Minnesota Avenue – southwest corner)
8. Municipal swimming pool parking lot on the 300 block of North Fourth Street.
9. The east row only of the parking lot for the old nursing home on the 200 block of South Washington Avenue.

Many churches and businesses also have private lots, which may be used with permission. The City

will not be issuing any parking permits except for medical emergencies.

**SALT/SAND MIX AVAILABLE** – Saint Peter residents can receive up to five (5) gallons of a salt/sand mixture for use on sidewalks or driveways at their homes or businesses during the winter. Interested residents should stop at the Public Works office (405 West St. Julien Street) between the hours of 7:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday, or 7:00 am - 11:00 pm on Fridays. Residents must supply their own bucket. (Please do not drive into the fenced area without first stopping at the office for permission.)

Additional quantities are available for purchase. Please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670 for more information on bulk quantity purchases.

**RV DUMP STATIONS CLOSED** –

The City's two RV dump stations located at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and just north of Culligan at the Park Row entrance to the park have been closed for the season. The dump stations will be reopened again in the spring when the weather cooperates.



**LEAF COLLECTION IS COMPLETED!**

– The City's annual curbside leaf collection has been completed. Although we realize that not everyone may have had time to rake their leaves to the curb, after one month and combing the entire community six (6!) times, the process has been concluded by the City and the Public Works crews are now focusing on their final street sweeping before the snow falls and boulevard tree trimming begins.

Property owners who missed the curbside collection may haul their leaves to the City's compost drop-off site located at the intersection of St. Julien and North Swift Streets. The site is open 24-7 for the convenience of City residents. This service is funded by the environmental assessment charge on City utility bills.

(Please note that it is illegal to burn leaves or any other materials within the City limits.)

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT PROCESS** – *This is the next installment in a series of articles following the building permit process.*

On November 5<sup>th</sup> the City's Building Department was called to do a framing inspection at the Prafke's home. This inspection is a long one. The

inspector starts with the roof trusses. Roof and floor trusses are an engineered system. The contractor is required to have the specs for both on the job site. The Inspector looks at the truss design to see if the manufacturer is requiring any additional bracing or tie downs.

The Prafke job has a small roof and floor span so no extra bracing is needed, but tie downs are required. You can see the metal roof tie downs above the patio door header in the photo shown below.

Also, there is a 3-ply gutter roof truss. This truss is made up of three common trusses nailed together to work as one unit. This truss is holding the roof of the existing home and allowing the bearing wall to be removed. The spec for this truss required that it gets nailed every four inches on both sides and up each web. Also 11 hangers are installed to support the existing roof truss.

Now with that done, the Inspector looks at the wall framing and header sizes for the windows and doors. In the photo you can see the patio door header. Notice the studs on the end that hold the header in place? These are called bucks. The



bucks need to be supported down to the foundation wall. The bucks end at the floor level, but the contractor has filled in under the floor through the rim joist to get down to the top of the foundation. This is also done under the gutter truss.

We also looked at the wall sheathing, window and door installations, house wrap and any flashing if needed. All looks good at this point.

Also on November 5<sup>th</sup> the Building Department did an insulation inspection at the Prafke home. At this inspection the inspector looked for how the insulation is fitted into the stud spaces. The insulation is not to be pushed in tight, but put in lightly so the inspector does not see the inside face of the stud or any opening. He is also looking to ensure that the insulation is fitted around electrical

boxes and wires or any other voids. With this inspection he also looks at the poly install on the walls and ceiling to see that the poly is sealed at the top and bottom plate and all the joints are lapped at least six inches or sealed.

The next inspection will be sheetrock.

More information will be provided in an upcoming issue of the Hot Sheet on the Prafke project and the City's inspection services.

**REFUSE SERVICES** – You may have seen recent news articles about the increasing amount of recyclable materials that is ending up in the refuse stream. It appears the amount of kitchen waste (leftovers, scraps from peeling vegetables, etc....) being put into the regular refuse container is increasing along with the amount of paper and plastic materials. One estimate is that over \$217 million in recyclable materials is being thrown away rather than being recycled.

The City has worked with our refuse contractor to make recycling of materials as easy as possible. We offer mixed curbside recycling and the kinds of products that are recyclable has been steadily increasing.

The City's contract with Waste Management will expire in early 2014 and staff has been

gathering lots of information that will help the City Council as they consider a new contract. Here's a little info on the breakdown of the options selected by our residential customers....

- 155 customers use volume base
- 1,958 using the 60 gallon service
- 783 using the 90 gallon service

In addition, many, many of our customers are such good recyclers that they have more than one recycling curbie. Customers who would like an additional recycling curbie (the gold topped cart) can get one at no cost by contacting the Finance Department at City Hall (934-0664).

**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).

Thursday- November 28-  
Friday November 29



THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – City offices closed

Monday December 2 3:30 p.m.

Housing and Redevelopment Authority

Monday December 2 5:30 p.m.

City Council Workshop

Tuesday	December 3	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
<del>Monday</del>	<del>December 9</del>	<del>5:00 p.m.</del>	<del>Human Rights Commission</del> CANCELLED
Monday	December 9	5:30-6:30 p.m.	Council Reception
Monday	December 9	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Wednesday	December 11	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Thursday	December 12	5:30 p.m.	Board of Zoning Appeals
Monday	December 16	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
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



*\*\*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. As boards meet in November, members are expected to provide alternate dates for the meetings which conflict with holiday schedules.*