

# 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)



4/23/2014



## THIS IS...SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK!

Two statewide tornado drills will occur on Thursday, April 24th (1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m.) and the Police Department will be testing emergency sirens at each of those times. During the test, outdoor warning sirens and NOAA weather radios will both sound in a simulated tornado warning. The first drill is intended for institutions and businesses. The evening drill is intended for

second shift workers and families.

As we enter into the severe weather time of the year, it is important to remember the terms that are used when advisories are issued:

\* 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 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.

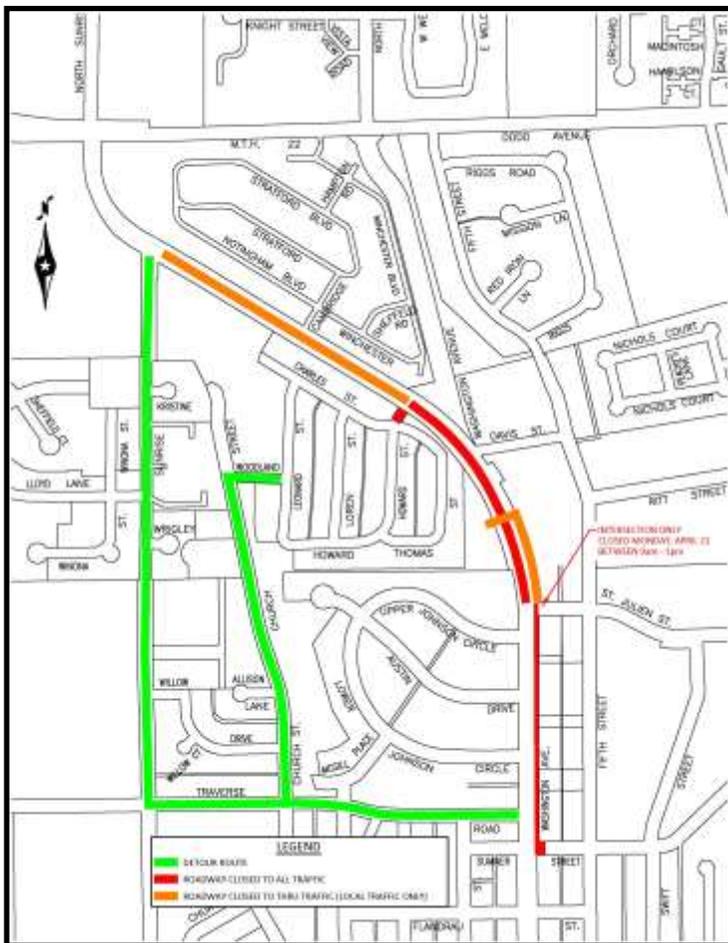
\* There is no all clear siren, so take a battery powered radio with you to the shelter so you can monitor when it is safe to emerge.



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>. If you would like more information about severe storms preparedness please call the Saint Peter Police Department (931-1550) or Denise Wright at Nicollet County Emergency Management (934-7874). Additional information is also available through the State of Minnesota Division of Homeland Security website at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-awareness-week-program.aspx>. The severe weather information contained in today's Hot Sheet includes information from the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security website.



(NOTE....The photos shown here are from Saint Peter. The damage photos are from the March 1988 tornado and the other two photos are from a tornado that struck just west of Saint Peter along Highway 99 a few years after the 1998 tornado.)



**WASHINGTON AVENUE LINK PROJECT DETOUR -**  
 The Washington Avenue Link Project is well underway. The map above shows the detour routes for the week of April 21st. This information will be updated each week on the City's website (<http://www.saintpetermn.gov/street-projects>) and on the City's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CityofSaintPeter>).  
 Monday, April 28 - Friday, May 2: North Washington Avenue access will be closed between

8:00 am-5:00 pm for residents that live on Lower Johnson Circle, Austin Drive and Upper Johnson Circle. Residents will need to use McGill Place and follow the detour onto Traverse Road. Residents in this area can put out their garbage as usual on Monday for pick up. School bus stops will remain the same and will not be affected by this detour.

Monday, April 28 - Friday, May 2: North Washington Avenue and the intersection of St. Julien Street will be closed between the hours of 8:00 am-5:00 pm. Residents will need to use North Fifth Street and follow the detour.

Drivers are reminded to obey the traffic control signs and to NOT drive around the barricades. This will protect the public from harm and also protect the construction workers as they go about their business.

For those with questions about the project, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.



**MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE - Drive Thru?** Now it is true that I have used the drive through at a McDonald's or Arby's or even Taco John's on

occasion, but a drive thru park?  
 There is no drive thru park in Saint Peter. It seems that many folks are starting to think that Minnesota Square Park is a drive thru. Minnesota Square Park is our community's front yard. On a recent Sunday afternoon I received reports of up to a half dozen cars that just decided it would be great to drive up to the grills or park near the playground equipment or I don't know, maybe drop off their picnic basket. Hmmm...

Minnesota Square Park is NOT a drive thru. For specific events or festivals we sometimes allow vehicles in the park in support of the festival, but the park is not a drive thru.

If you want to drive in Minnesota Square Park you need permission from the City to do so. If you don't have that permission....don't do it. I can list off a dozen safety reasons and park damage reasons why there should be no vehicles in the park. That park is a very special place, it is our Community's front yard. We don't come and drive on your front yard so don't drive on our community's front yard. What are you not thinking? Minnesota Square Park is not a drive thru, or a drive in and drop off, or a place where cars or trucks should be except for special community activities with City permission. It makes me wonder.....where your front yard is, so we can drive on it.



**PETS OF THE WEEK –** The “Pets of the Week” this week include two adult cats and two very small kittens.

Bamboo is the female calico kitten on the left and Twigs is the



female Tortoiseshell kitten shown to the right. Bamboo and Twigs are litter mates and their mother was surrendered to P.A.W.S. when she was pregnant. The mother and litter mates have all found forever homes, now it's Bamboo and Twigs turns! They are adorable little kittens and would be a great addition to your family. Their adoption fee is \$135 each.



Next up is George. He is a male neutered brown and white Tabby who was found in Kasota. He is about 4 years old. George's front leg was broken once, so it is a little shorter than the others but he gets around just fine and as you can see, he loves to pose for the camera! This is a wonderful cat who loves to purr and be petted and we're willing to bet your lap would become his favorite place to hang out! His adoption fee is only \$60.

Next up is Flick....a female spayed and declawed Torti. She is about 6 years old and was found on South Front Street. She's got beautiful markings and long hair and would love to be adopted into



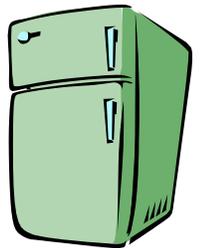
your family! Her adoption fee is also only \$60.

There is also another litter of kittens that are being fostered that should be ready for adoption in the next couple of weeks. If your family is looking for a kitten, please contact the numbers below to be put on a waiting list for these small kittens.

If your family can provide a forever home to any of these great pets, or if you can help any of the animals in the pound find a forever home, please contact Community Service Officer Janet Thompson at the Police Department at 931-1550, or Alaina at Kind Veterinary Clinic at 931-4700. All animals are spayed/neutered and up-to-date on vaccinations before being adopted out.

**SPRING CLEAN UP TIME –** It's that time of year to clean up and get rid of clutter. The Police Department will be going through the community beginning April 28th to ensure properties are being maintained and kept up according to City regulations. To help property owners in cleaning up debris and other items that may have accumulated, the following services have been scheduled or are available to Saint Peter residents:

- **Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, Curbside appliance pick up-** \$15.00 each. Stop in the Finance Department at City Hall, 227 South Front Street to register and pay for your appliance by Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. You must register and pay in advance for this collection. **Appliances**



**must be curbside by 8 am on the collection date or you forfeit your fee.**



- **Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, Curbside furniture pick up-** Stop in at the Finance Department at 227 South Front Street to register and pay by Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> for this collection. Prices are listed below. **Must be curbside by 8 am on the collection date or you forfeit your fee.**

Sofa	\$19	Miscellaneous	\$9
Mattress/Boxspring	\$17	Cabinet	\$19
Chairs	\$14	chest & Mirror	\$22
Recliners	\$19	headboard	\$12
Hide-a-Bed	\$32	footboard	\$12
Desk	\$19	carpet roll	\$17 each

- **Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 9 am-2 pm Electronics recycling**, located at the open lot at Nassau/Front Street. Drop off household electronics for \$0.25/pound (cash/check), payable at drop off. Accepted at no charge: laptops, keyboards, circuit boards, and cell phones.



• For those with exceptional amounts of recycling or items that haven't been addressed in this information, here are some more companies that can help....

- **Nicollet County Drop-Off Site- Free Recycling.** Open all day every day. Located at the corner of North Washington Avenue and Sunrise Drive. Recyclables accepted include: Newspaper, Magazines, Glass Bottles and Jars, #1 & #2 Plastic Bottles, Aluminum and Steel Cans, Corrugated Cardboard.
- **Don's Appliance-** 507-931-3832, 969 Old Minnesota Avenue, St. Peter. Please call for pricing, approximately \$20.00 per appliance if you bring to store. Will also recycle televisions by appointment for a fee.
- **LJP Waste and Recycling-** 507-625-1968- Will recycle appliances for approximately \$30.00 per appliance, please call to verify price. Dumpsters also available.
- **Wheel Get There Program-** 507-345-0446. Run by Minnesota Valley Action Council. Accepts almost any car and you receive the maximum tax deduction, call for more information.
- **Brandt's Auto Parts-** 507-931-1305/507-317-6454. Will pick up metal items, including vehicles and grills. Will take vehicles, lawn mower, or motorcycle batteries for free. Will take tires for a fee, please call for price.
- **Waste Management-** 1-888-960-0008 will arrange for a loose pick up for larger items, or provide dumpsters. Call for pricing.
- **Household Hazardous Waste Facility** 507-304-4242. Will collect paint, stain, pesticides, and many more household hazardous wastes. Open April through October, Tuesdays 12:00 noon to 6:00

p.m. and 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month 8:00 am- 12:30 pm. Address is 651 Summit Avenue Mankato, available for residents in Blue Earth and Nicollet Counties. Please bring identification.

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of April 14, 2014 included approval of change order #1 for the Broadway Electric Generation Plant Upgrade Project; approval for purchase of a replacement Police squad car; authorization for two purchases (automated pharmacy equipment and urological surgery equipment) for River's Edge Hospital and Clinic; approval of the preliminary and final plats for Welco West Subdivision No. 2; authorization for execution of a one growing season lease with Brett Annexstad to farm the 75.06 acres of agricultural land owned by the City; approval of updated construction standards for public improvements; and acceptance of a proposal from Nielsen Blacktopping, Inc. to demolish the City owned property at 1724 North Fifth Street. Mayor Strand also proclaimed April 25th as "Arbor Day" and May, 2014 as "Arbor Month" in Saint Peter.

The City Council also conducted a special City Council meeting on April 21st during which they took action to purchase road right-of-way property from McDonald's for flood mitigation work that will be done on West St. Julien Street in conjunction with the MnDOT Highway 169 project.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, April 28th 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 Council packet are also available on the City's website at [www.saintpetermn.gov/city](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city).

**COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING HOURS** - Beginning Friday, May 2nd, the Community Center weekend hours will change for the spring and summer seasons (May 3rd – September 2nd). During the month of May, the building will close at 6 p.m. on Fridays. On Saturdays the building will open at 8 a.m. and close earlier at 4 p.m. The building will be closed on Sundays. Please note that the Community Center will be closed over the Memorial Day weekend, May 24th-26th.

Official summer hours begin on Saturday, June 7th and run through Labor Day weekend. The building will open at 6 a.m. Monday through Thursday and close at 8 p.m. On Fridays, hours will be 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday hours will be 9

a.m.–4 p.m. and the facility will be closed on Sundays (except for approved reservations).

If you have any questions, or would like to inquire about room rentals, please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department, Suite 200 of the Community Center, by calling 934-0667 or emailing [heidis@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:heidis@saintpetermn.gov). Hours are also listed on the City website, [www.saintpetermn.gov/communitycenter](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/communitycenter).

**BARBECUE SAFETY TIPS** - Barbecuing in any environment presents certain hazards that people should consider so that they can take precautions to reduce the likelihood of starting a fire. Here are a few tips that can help make barbecuing safer.



- If possible, it is best to keep your grill 15 feet from your home. Some gas or electrical type grills can be within 18" of your home and installed on a deck. Before doing so, check and follow the manufacturer's instruction guide for safe distances to combustibles.
- LP cylinders should be stored outside of the house.
- Keep charcoal briquettes and lighting fluid stored away from living areas of your home.
- Charcoal briquettes should be allowed to cool naturally then doused with water before being placed in the trash.
- If you live in an apartment building or a rental home always check with the landlord or management to find out if, and where, you can safely grill.

With a little pre-thought and common sense we can make this summer a safer and tasty one! More information on this and other tips can be found at the State Fire Marshal Division website at [www.fire.state.mn.us](http://www.fire.state.mn.us)



**BEFORE YOU HIRE A CONTRACTOR**

- Do your homework before work begins on your home by making sure you have a reliable and licensed contractor. Contractors must be licensed by the State of Minnesota and they should be able to provide that license number to anyone who asks. That allows the property owner to investigate the contractor before hiring them.

Before you hire a contractor, the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) suggests homeowners ask for the following information:

- Get the contractor's license number and contact the Residential Building Contractors division at the DLI to verify the builder is currently licensed and to determine if they have a disciplinary history;
- Ask the contractor how long they have been in business and in what locations. Sometimes shady contractors will pick up and move to a different location when their bad reputation starts being known. You'll want to check to make sure they don't have a history of bad business in previous locations.
- Ask the contractor for references and check with those former customers to see if they were satisfied with the work. It's also a good thing to ask friends and neighbors what they may know about the contractor to see if there are any bad references out there the contractor might not tell you about.
- Ask for a Minnesota business address other than a post office box to ensure they have an actual place of business; and
- Ask for a local phone number where the contractor can be reached during normal business hours. It might also be wise to ask the contractor how long it takes him/her respond to those phone calls.

It's important to note that property owners who hire unlicensed contractors will not have access to the Contractors' Recovery Fund. The Contractor Recovery Fund compensates owners or lessees of residential property in Minnesota who have suffered an actual and direct out-of-pocket loss due to a licensed contractor's fraudulent, deceptive or dishonest practices, conversion of funds or failure of performance. If you have been the victim of an unscrupulous contractor, you can get more information on this fund by calling (651)284-5057.

Before you sign a contract, make sure the contract includes the following information:

- a detailed summary of the work to be done;
- a description of materials to be used;
- the total contract price or how the price will be calculated; and
- specific timelines and provisions that address what will happen if the contractor fails to meet the contractual deadlines.

Property owners with problems or complaints regarding a residential building contractor should contact the DLI Residential Building Contractors unit at (651)284-5065 to discuss the situation with an investigator who may offer suggestions about how to resolve the dispute. Property owners may also call the City's Building Department at (507)934-0662.



**TREE RELOCATION** – The three trees which are planted in the median on Highway 169 near Union Street will be relocated to Jefferson Fields in the next couple of weeks. This is necessary because of the Highway 169 reconstruction

that MnDOT will begin in the near future. Please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670 for more information on this process.

**PARK USERS NOTICE** – Seventy degree temps and sunshine might have you anxious to start using the City’s parks, but a word of caution.....City parks are not officially open until May 1st and that means the restroom facilities will not open until that date. This protects the facilities from broken pipes should the weather turn cold again.

**SPRING YARD WASTE COLLECTION** - The City of Saint Peter will be collecting brush, garden waste, and grass clippings at curbside the week of May 5th. Please note – leaves will not be picked up but can be taken to the yard waste drop-off site.

Brush and garden waste must be separated and placed parallel and adjacent to the curb (do not put it on the street or in bags) by 7:00 A.M. Monday, May 5th. Brush and tree trimmings should be less than 8’ in length.

Please note that it does take more than one day to pick up, but the City will only go through an area once and yard waste that is not out by 7:00 A.M.

Monday, May 5th, will not be picked up, but can be taken to the brush drop-off site. There will be no alley pick up.

Please help us serve you better by not placing brush and grass clippings by trees, posts, etc. and please do not park in front of the yard waste until pick-up is complete. Also, please do not put animal waste (dog, cat, rabbit, etc.) in soft yard waste piles as it will NOT be picked up.

The brush and soft yard waste drop-off sites located across the street from the Department of Public Works facility, 405 West St. Julien Street, at the southwest intersection of West St. Julien and Swift Streets, are open year around for the convenience of City utility customers in dropping off brush and soft yard waste. A separate bunker is now provided for dropping off fill (rocks, dirt, etc.).

FREE woodchips and sifted compost material, when available, will be at the site for City utility customers to pick up. The material is free to City utility customers, but you will have to bring your own shovels, bags or containers. Please refrain from placing foreign material in this area.

These services are provided and funded by the Environmental Service fee on City utility bills.

Please call the Department of Public Works at 934-0670 if you have any questions.

### 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	April 24	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 24</b>	<b>1:45 and 6:55 p.m.</b>	<b>Statewide Tornado Drill</b>
Friday	April 25	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	April 28	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	April 29	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	April 30	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Monday	May 5	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	May 5	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	May 6	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission



Monday	May 12	5:00 p.m.		Human Rights Commission
Monday	May 12	7:00 p.m.		City Council Meeting
Tuesday	May 13	5:30 p.m.		Library Board
Thursday	May 15			POLICE OFFICER'S MEMORIAL DAY
Monday	May 19	5:30 p.m.		City Council Workshop
Monday	May 19	7:00 p.m.		Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	May 22	12:00 noon		Economic Development Authority
Friday	May 23	8:00 a.m.		Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	May 26			MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Tuesday	May 27	5:30 p.m.		Heritage Preservation Commission
Tuesday	May 27	7:00 p.m.		City Council Meeting
Wednesday	May 28	12:00 noon		Hospital Commission