

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. www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



02/13/2013



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE – Hospitals and money... In the not too distant future the Hospital Commission and the City Council will see reports on

the financial condition of the hospital.

The report for the 2012 year will not be great and will, in fact, show an operational loss of about \$1.5 million. The year before was not great either, but we had a number of years before that where our numbers were very, very good. The Hospital is still in a good financial position, but changes have been made and will continue to be made to improve the financial sustainability of this important service provider in our community.

It will not happen overnight. The Commission and Hospital staff are working hard to increase cost savings while providing the highest quality, health enriching, services you can find in our region. It will be hard work and some difficult decisions will have to be made. We are, however, up to that task.

The Commission and the Council receive reports thirteen times per year about the financial condition of the Hospital and all are keenly aware of the need to make the Hospital sustainable through high quality services and solid business practices. As we may also see the end of the discussion of tension with neighbors be able to enter into new, more positive, discussions about ongoing partnerships and ways that service can be enhanced for you, I am excited that our nimble size, excellent staff and wonderful facility can help us change to meet your community needs more quickly than any other hospital in our region.

We will continue to work with primary care providers to educate them about what we do well. I know that our patient visits and our patient satisfaction will continue to grow. After all, it really

is not about the money, but rather it is about how we help build a healthier community. Money is a tool and, sometimes, a measure of success, but for us, the measure of success needs to be about your health, working towards a healthy community, and providing services we need right here at home.

Isn't that just as important as the money? It makes me wonder....

PETS OF THE WEEK – The Saint Peter Police Department is seeking adoptive families for GI Bill, the cat shown to the right. Bill is an adult neutered male and he is very friendly.



The Police Department is also seeking the family of a dog that was recently impounded. She was found near Gault Park and she has lots of energy. She is wearing a pink collar with circles on it.



If you can help any of the animals in the pound find a forever home, please contact Community Service Officer Malinda Meyer at the Police Department (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.



CITY CLOSURES – All non-emergency City offices will be closed as follows:

- Monday, February 18th – President's Day holiday.

DUMPSTERS REMOVED – All of the recycling and dumpster containers at the City’s compost site on North Swift Street have been removed and will no longer be available for public use.

The recycling container was provided as an extra option for residents to recycle cardboard. The curbs were provided so that those bringing compost in bags had a place to dispose of the lawn bags.

However, misuse of the containers by individuals using the site for dumping all kinds of refuse that was not accepted at the site, has resulted in the containers being removed. There are no plans to replace the containers in the future.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION- The City will be working with Tri-County Solid Waste to host a household hazardous waste collection on May 18th from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. More information on the collection will be provided to residents as the date draws closer, but for now, if you have been storing up old paint and cleaning products and garden products and need a way to safely and legally dispose of the chemicals, please mark this date on your calendars!

SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT- The City’s seasonal positions in the Recreation and Leisure Services Department and Public Works Departments will open for application next Thursday, February 21st. Applications will be available online that day as well as in the City Administrator’s Office.

More information on these positions will be included in next week’s Hot Sheet.

PARK ROW CROSSING – As part of the workshop session on Tuesday, February 19th, the City Council will review concepts for the development of the Park Row Crossing townhomes which will be located on the site of the old Community Hospital.

The workshop will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room.

CITY WATER SYSTEM - The City constructed new water plants and upgraded an existing plant to improve the water quality throughout the community. In 2009 a water tower was added to the water system to provide redundancy for maintaining water pressure consistency throughout the lower distribution system. New treatment plants were placed into operation in the late summer of 2012.

In addition, the City’s Water Operators have been busy over the past ten months working to maximize the efficiency of the water treatment plants to assure the consistency of water delivered

throughout Saint Peter. Lots of checks and rechecks are made over the entire system to evaluate and measure the City’s water supply and to help make sure it is meeting system goals.

The City has a very accurate test for water hardness that can be conducted in the new laboratory at the Broadway Water Treatment Plant. As a part of standard procedures, staff regularly tests the City’s water and provides that information the Minnesota Department of Health. An annual report on water quality is prepared which summarizes the quality of the City’s water supply. Those results are sent out in utility bills in June of each year and the results are published on the City’s website.

If you have any concerns about the quality of water that is being delivered to your home or business (including things like taste, smell, pressure, color or hardness), please give us a call at 934-0670. Staff will be happy to meet with property owners and test the quality of the water that residents use. These tests will be performed in the City’s laboratory free of charge. Feedback from customers is helpful in assuring that the goals for water quality and water pressure are being met.

HOSPITAL CEO SELECTION MEETING INVITATION – The City Council and Hospital Commission would like to invite the Saint Peter community to take part in the process to select a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for River’s Edge Hospital and Clinic. On February 21st, an open meeting will take place at the Hospital to gather thoughts and input from the community on the traits a new CEO should possess.

The meeting will be held in the Helen White Conference Center at the Hospital on Thursday, February 21st beginning at 7:00 pm.

As a part of the pre-search process, the meeting was scheduled to solicit ideas from the Saint Peter community about the “best candidate“. What does the “best candidate” look like? What should be the highest priorities as we look to bring a new Hospital CEO to River’s Edge? Should the ideal candidate have a Healthcare Administration degree or maybe a Master’s degree in Business Administration? Maybe a Medical Doctor or someone with additional clinic management experience should be recruited? Should they be required to live in our area?

This meeting will be an organized discussion about candidate personal traits, characteristics and experiences. What you tell City and Hospital officials will shape how the position is advertised and how the resumes that are received are evaluated.

If you are interested in the future of health care services in Saint Peter, we hope you can attend the meeting!

WEBSITE UPGRADE – The City’s website (www.saintpetermn.gov) has been remodeled, revamped, and redone to provide even more information to residents and the public. Why not check it out and let us know what you think?

WINTER HOME SAFETY TIPS – Some folks really enjoy winter, but whether you agree or not, it is likely far from over. Here are some tips to help keep you safe in and around your home this winter.

- If you use a portable heating device make sure it is listed by UL, ETL or CSA so you know it is safe. Keep the heater away from combustibles and place the equipment on a firm, sturdy, flat surface so it doesn’t get knocked over. Remember when leaving the room or going to sleep, to be sure to turn off or unplug the unit.
- If you have a fireplace, make sure to keep the fireplace screen securely in place to prevent sparks from flying back into the room.
- Do some routine inspections and maintenance, such as changing furnace filters monthly, keeping snow from vents and outside gas and water meters, and check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors monthly.
- Keep an emergency kit handy; stock it with flashlights, a portable radio, extra batteries, and some nonperishable foods. Keep your kit some place easy to find even in the dark.
- If you light candles, make sure to keep them away from combustibles like paper, wood, plastic and fabrics like curtains or decorations. Anything placed closer than two feet from the flame could be a danger. Never leave candles unattended.
- If you have bedrooms in the basement or the lower level of your home be sure to keep snow cleared from the front of the window or the window well so the window can be opened if you need to get out fast.
- Keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice. Not only will it be easier for you to get around, but it is helpful to prevent slips and falls by visitors to your home. And your mail carrier would appreciate it too!
- Don’t blow or plow snow into the roadway. Many homeowners want to remove as much snow as possible from their driveways so they turn their snowblower chute to blow the snow



away from their property and into the road. Blowing/plowing snow into the roadway is against the law and creates a danger for motorists and pedestrians.

- Never use the stove or oven as a heat source for your home.
- If you need to remove snow from your roof, do so from the ground or hire a licensed contractor to do it for you. Using a roof rake, homeowners are often able to remove several feet of snow from the edge of the roof while standing safely on the ground. Roofs are dangerous places to stand even in dry weather. Don’t tempt fate trying to do work on your roof in winter weather! Using a little common sense can go a long way in staying safe in your home throughout the winter season.

Sidewalk Clearance Regulations: The public is reminded that snow and ice must to be cleared

from the entire width of sidewalks within 24 hours of a snowfall. This regulation includes not only residential sidewalks, but commercial and industrial properties as well. It is also necessary to keep the

sidewalk cleared from blowback/drift of snow. Once the City has cleared all City owned sidewalks, crews are dispatched to clear private walks which are in violation of the ordinance. The charge to the property owner if the City clears the walk? \$65 per hour with a \$65 minimum! (If you are going to be out of town for a few days during the snow season, please remember to make arrangements for someone to care for your walk.)

Snow Emergency Notification: We haven’t had a snow emergency yet this winter season, but none of us want to be the last to know about the declaration and risk getting a ticket for illegal parking.

The fastest and easiest way to be notified of a snow emergency is to sign up for the Nixle community notification system. The

City uses Nixle to announce snow emergencies and it’s the fastest, easiest, “pick the way you want to be notified” way to know when a snow emergency has been declared.

You’ll need computer access, then go to www.nixle.com and follow the prompts to set up your completely free account. As part of the set up, you decide if you want notices by email or text message or both...whatever works best for you and your family.



But, if you don't have email or text messaging you'll still need to find out when a snow emergency has been declared and you can do so with one phone call to the City's information line at 934-0675. If a snow emergency has been declared you will be provided with the rules and regulations that must be followed. Notices of snow emergencies are also provided to local media outlets.

Thanks for your cooperation!

HELP WANTED – The City is accepting applications for the following position:

- **POLICE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN** - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the position of full-time Police Communications Technician. Responsibilities include emergency communications, record keeping, record processing, computer entry and other related assignments. Hours of work are 12-hour shifts, which include nights, weekends and holidays. **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** High school degree or equivalent; Possession or eligible to receive a Class D Minnesota Driver's license; Skill and ability to receive State Certification on NCIC file operation; Excellent verbal and written communication skills; and ability to receive First Responder Certification.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS: Knowledge and experience in data entry, use of office equipment and office procedures; Experience working with the public; Knowledge of law enforcement procedures; Experience in the operation of radio equipment; experience in working in law enforcement or working with difficult individuals; and experience as a Dispatcher, Jailer or other law enforcement position. Starting wage \$18.51 per hour. Applicants are required to complete recruitment procedures as required by the Saint Peter Police Civil Service Commission. Applications may be obtained at, and must be submitted along with a resume, to the Saint Peter Police Department, 207 South Front Street, Minnesota, 56082, or phone (507)931-1550) by February 28, 2013. AA/EOE

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.

Monday	February 18		LEGAL HOLIDAY – PRESIDENT'S DAY City Offices Closed
Tuesday	February 19	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	February 19	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Tuesday	February 19	7:00 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Friday	February 22	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	February 25	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	February 25	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	February 27	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	February 28	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Monday	March 4	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	March 4	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	March 5	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	March 11	5:00 p.m.	Human Rights Commission

Monday	March 11	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	March 18	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Friday	March 22	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	March 25	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	March 26	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	March 27	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	March 28	12:00 noon	Economic Development Commission