

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



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MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE –

Defacing of sidewalks.... Did you see it all along the parade route? Someone used sidewalk chalk or something else and wrote all over the sidewalks

along the parade route. They wrote things like "I Love STP" or "I Heart St. Peter" and "STP is the Best". Here is a photo I snapped.



Who were these daring dastardly deed doers? Why would they do such a thing? When did they do it so no one would see them? It is a big and heavily travelled area and people were out all hours because of the Firemen's Dance and All School Reunion activities.

The sidewalk "art" was not there on the 3rd when I put my chairs out at about 6:00 in the evening, but when I got to my chairs on the morning of the 4th they were there.

Did you see it on Facebook? Did you tweet or re-tweet an image like this over the 4th? If you love Saint Peter maybe you could send this image out to your friends and the folks who love our 4th and/or those who had a great time at the All School reunion. That great message is something we can and maybe should spread around!

Hmmm....do you know who did it? If you have an idea or a lead or want to confess to being one of those daring dastardly deed doers send me an email at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov. I want to thank those daring dastardly deed doers for expressing how so many of us feel.

Who done it? It makes me wonder.....

ROAD CLOSURES – Construction

work in the Saint Peter area continues and as more City projects begin next week, there will be more impact for drivers. For up-to-date information on road closures, detours and construction zones please go to the



City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/street-projects> or check out the Minnesota Department of Transportation website at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d7/>.

Drivers are asked to use extra caution in and around the construction zones and to slow speeds to make the construction area safe for drivers and the construction workers.

WHERE DO I GO FOR INFORMATION ON.....?

– Are you new to Saint Peter? Maybe you're reading the Hot Sheet online looking for information about our community? Maybe you are a City resident and just don't know who to go to for information on a specific topic.



Here's a list that might be helpful to you this summer:

- Nicollet County Fair – times, dates, location, judging, events, etc.... Check out the Fair Board's website at www.nicolletcountyfair.com.
- The City pool – contact the outdoor swimming pool by calling 934-3951.
- Recreation activities for children and adults – contact the City's Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-0667 or the

Recreation Hotline at 934-0070 for cancellations and updates.

- Riverside Campground information – available on the City’s website at www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation. It’s first-come, first-served for the campground and the City does not take reservations. Campers should go directly to the Police Department (207 South Front Street) to select a site and make payment.
- Reserving a City park for a family reunion, company picnic, wedding, etc.... – contact the City’s Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-0667.
- Seven Mile Park – this one is outside of the City of Saint Peter and you’ll need to contact Nicollet County at 931-6800.

More helpful information is available on the City’s website at www.saintpetermn.gov. Thanks for the interest and have a great summer!

CRACK SEALING WORK BEGINS – The annual crack sealing work has begun on certain City roadways and trails. This work involves blowing out debris from cracks in the roadway, applying a liquid asphalt emulsion oil and then applying a thin layer of paper (looks a lot like toilet paper), to the oil. This is done to seal out moisture that can get into the cracks and under the pavement/trail and cause further, more expensive cracks.

Property owners living along the crack sealing routes are asked to move their vehicles off the streets to give the contractor plenty of room to complete the work.

Trails will be done first, and then the roadways will be completed. Here is the complete list of areas to be crack sealed:

TRAILS

- Washington Terrace - North Washington Avenue to North Sunrise Drive
- Washington Terrace - Tee to Rock Ridge
- North Sunrise Trail - Dodd to dead end north
- Stormwater Basin Trail - North of County Road 15 includes Highway 22
- Stormwater Basin Trail - County Road 15 to Traverse Road – west side
- Stormwater Basin Trail - County Road 15 to tunnel under County Road 20
- Stormwater Basin Trail - Traverse Road to Broadway Avenue – west side
- Stormwater Basin Trail - Between County Road 15 and Traverse Road
- North Sunrise Trail Dodd Avenue to Sunrise Drive – both sides

- Sunrise Drive Trail - Traverse Road to North Sunrise Drive – both sides
- Sunrise Drive Trail - Traverse Road to Broadway Avenue – both sides
- Sunrise Drive Trail- Broadway Avenue to Capitol Drive – both sides
- Lincoln Drive Trail- Madison to Skaro
- Lincoln Drive Trail - Broadway Avenue to Madison
- Traverse Trail - Edgerton Street to Nicollet Avenue – north side
- Traverse Trail -Church Street to Sunrise Drive
- Broadway Trail - Sunrise Drive to Gardner Road – both sides
- Highway 99 West Trail - Nicollet Avenue west to dead end
- Highway 22 East Trail - Jefferson Avenue to Frisbee Golf
- Highway 22 East Trail - Bridge to service road under bridge
- Highway 22 East Trail - Bridge to S&K Auto Body
- Daun to Kollman Trail - North Fifth Street to Nichols Court

STREETS

- North Front Street – North Minnesota Avenue to Broadway including Skaro Street
- Madison Street – North Minnesota Avenue to North Front Street
- Chatham Street – North Minnesota Avenue to North Front Street
- Chestnut Street – North Washington Avenue to North Front Street
- South Front Street – Broadway Avenue to Walnut Street
- Broadway Avenue – Minnesota Avenue to Washington Avenue
- South Third Street – Broadway Avenue to West College Avenue
- Park Row – South Third Street to South Front Street
- Nassau Street – South Third Street to South Front Street
- Grace Street – South Third Street to South Front Street
- Mulberry Street – South Third Street to South Front Street
- College Avenue – South Minnesota Avenue to South Seventh Street
- Washington Terrace – complete
- Rock Ridge – complete
- West Welco – complete
- North Sunrise Drive – Dodd Avenue to Mason Street
- Country View Ridge – complete

- Welco West – complete
- Windsor Addition – complete
- Grace Street – complete
- Nicollet Meadows – complete
- Wabasha Street – South Fifth Street to cul-de-sac
- Walnut Street – South Minnesota Avenue to South Fifth Street
- South Fifth Street – Walnut Street to Grace Street
- North Fifth Street – Broadway Avenue to West Chestnut Street
- Madison Street – North Fourth Street to dead end
- Skaro Street – North Third Street to North Fourth Street
- Livermore Street – Fair Street to North Fourth Street

Roads will be done in order until the budgeted amount is reached.

REDUCING ENERGY COSTS - SUMMER heat is finally upon us. Here are some ways you can save energy costs and keep your utility bills lower:

- Be a speedy chef ...Nothing is more energy efficient for cooking than your microwave. It uses two-thirds less energy than your stove.
- Push a button to wash your dishes. Surprise! Your dishwasher uses less water than washing dishes by hand. Then let dishes air-dry to save even more!
- Fill up the fridge. Having lots of food in your fridge keeps it from warming up too fast when the door is open, so your fridge doesn't have to work as hard to stay cool.

Cutting back unnecessary energy use is an easy way to reduce energy consumption while saving money. Here are some additional suggestions you can do at home, at absolutely no cost to you.

- Turn up your thermostat. Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home and 85 degrees or off when you are away. Using ceiling or room fans allows you to set the thermostat higher because the air movement will cool the room. Always take into account health considerations and be sure to drink plenty of fluids in warm weather. Use your appliances wisely. Avoid running your appliances during peak hours.
- Do your laundry efficiently by using the warm or cold water setting for washing your clothes. Always use cold water to rinse clothes.
- Line dry clothes whenever you can. If you have to use the dryer, make sure to dry loads back to

back. Run full loads, use the moisture-sensing setting, and clean the lint trap after each use.

- Conserve energy by running your dishwasher only when it is fully loaded, and turn off the dry cycle and air dry dishes instead.
- Eliminate wasted energy. Turn off appliances, lights and equipment when not in use.
- Unplug electronic devices and chargers when they aren't in use. Most new electronics use electricity even when switched "off." Turn computers and printers off at the power strip.
- Unplug or recycle that spare refrigerator in the garage if you don't really need it. This will save you up to \$150 per year!

And for some inexpensive energy solutions, how about trying these ideas?

- Replace furnace/air conditioner filters. Dirty filters restrict airflow and can cause the system to run longer, resulting in increased energy use. Replace filters monthly for maximum benefit.
- Plug your home's leaks. Weather-strip, seal, and caulk leaky doors and windows and install foam gaskets behind outlet covers.
- Choose ENERGY STAR® products. Buy ENERGY STAR® certified table lamps and light fixtures, and replace your incandescent light bulbs that are used more than two hours per day with ENERGY STAR® compact fluorescent bulbs. For example, install compact fluorescent bulbs in your porch light if you leave it on overnight. And remember, there are rebate funds available if you purchase energy star products including CFL bulbs.
- Install an ENERGY STAR® programmable thermostat.

And finally, are you planning to do some remodeling soon? Time to replace old appliances? Consider these energy efficiency suggestions when you make purchases.

- Install a whole house fan. A whole house fan is permanently installed in your attic and draws cool air into your home through the windows while forcing hot air out through your attic vents. Use after sundown when the outside temperature drops below 80 degrees, and in the early morning to cool your house and help reduce your air conditioning use.
- Install window shading. Install patio covers, awnings, and solar window screens to shade your home from the sun. For additional future savings, use strategically planted trees, shrubs and vines to shade your home.
- Solar control window films applied to existing glass in windows and doors is an effective

method to reduce peak demand during hot months and conserve energy anytime air conditioning might be required. In addition to the energy management benefits, the use of these films can also reduce exposure to ultraviolet radiation and reduce glare.

- Invest in a new air-conditioning unit. If your air conditioner is on the way out, buy an ENERGY STAR® air conditioner. Even if you currently have an energy star model, today's AC units are much more efficient than older models.
- Seal your ducts. Leaking ductwork accounts for 25% of cooling costs in an average home, so have your ducts tested and have any leaks or restrictions repaired by a qualified contractor. Note: duct cleaning is not the same as duct sealing.
- Replace your refrigerator with an ENERGY STAR® model. Refrigerators with a top or bottom freezer design can save you an additional 2-3% on your bill compared to a side-by-side design.
- Increase attic insulation. If your existing insulation level is R-19 or less, consider insulating your attic to at least R-30.
- Install ENERGY STAR® windows. If your windows are due for replacement, ENERGY STAR® windows can make your house more comfortable year-round.

Also please note that you may be eligible for rebates, tax breaks, federal stimulus funds or other financial incentives to help you afford some of these improvements. Talk to your tax professional to see if anything is available for you.

WARM WEATHER SAFETY TIPS FOR YOUR PET – Just as humans can suffer and be at risk during extreme heat and humidity, our companion animals can also suffer. Here are some tips to keep your cats and dogs safe during the extreme summer temps.

CATS

- **Provide cool, fresh air ventilation.** Use a sturdy fan, ceiling fan, open screened window(s), or an air conditioner - especially in severely hot temperatures. While cats are not particularly fond of cold air, an air conditioned room is essential during scorching weather to keep your pet cool and safe.



- **Make sure window screens are secure** – Cats love to sit in windowsills and enjoy the great outdoors from a safe perch. And as cats are prone to do,

stretching on a nice screen is a perfect ending to their sunny siesta. That makes it crucial to have sturdy window screens that are securely attached and which are free of holes and tears.

- **Provide fresh clean cool water throughout the day.** Cats can become dehydrated and need twenty-four hour access to water.
- **Slip ice cubes in drinking water.** This will help keep the water cool and drinkable.
- **Provide multiple bowls of drinking water throughout the house.** Having multiple water bowls around the house will entice your cat to drink more, ensuring enough fluids during hot weather.
- **Stationery water bowls.** These are the spill-free bowls that will ensure the water doesn't accidentally end up on the floor.
- **Don't let wet food sit out too long.** Dry food can be left out all day, but if you feed wet food, it's good to remove it after feeding time and replace it with fresh food during the next meal so it doesn't spoil.
- **Never leave your cat alone while you go away for a few days!** You might be asking, "Who would do that?", but we probably would be surprised at the number of pet owners who do this.



If you will be away from home for a day or more, make sure that you have a responsible person in charge of your pet's care.

- **Don't let your cat outdoors during a heat wave!** Even though cats enjoy warm weather, letting your cat outside during a heat wave could be a fatal mistake. Keep kitty indoors until the heat wave passes.
- **Keep an eye out for sunburn** – Cats and dogs alike can be susceptible to sunburn on their ears and noses. Visit with your vet about what options you may have to prevent these areas from burning and if your pet has suffered a burn, seek immediate veterinary care.
- **Never leave your cat in a hot car!** As with dogs, this is just plain common sense; but...pets



die every year from heatstroke because of this neglectful act.

- **Provide a shady spot in your home.** Cats seem to love sunny rooms; but, in a heat wave, they will need a place to comfortably retreat to when the heat becomes dangerous. If their normal sun soaked area becomes unreasonably hot, close this area off and don't let the cat in the room until it cools down.

DOGS

- **Keep Fresh Cool Water Available.** One of the most important things to remember for dogs in hot weather is to make sure their water bowl is always full. If the water bowl is outside, choose a light colored plastic or ceramic bowl rather than a metal one that can easily heat up in the sun. If possible, keep the water bowl in a shady area of the yard so that the water stays cool, and check it frequently to ensure your pup isn't being scalded by a supposed refreshment.



- **Keep Your Pets Inside -** Dogs love the yard (or in this case the beach!), but if you're going to be gone for long days this summer, it may be safer to keep your dog in the house where they can lounge safely in the air conditioning. If you must leave your dog in hot weather in the yard, be sure there is plenty of shade. Dogs are susceptible to heat exhaustion and sunburn, so shade can be a life-saver.



- **Take a Dip -** Swimming can be a great way to help dogs cool off in hot weather. If you don't have access to a safe lake or river for your pooch to have a swim, kiddie pools in the backyard work great. Check the water occasionally to make sure it hasn't heated up. Keep your pets away from chlorine swimming pools, as the chemicals may be harmful if swallowed. But be cautious about allowing a dog in a pool. Many pet tragedies occur because a pool is too deep or difficult for a pet to get out of. And remember that not every dog swims and as with humans, it is a learned activity.



- **Take Walks in the Early Morning and Evening -** Schedule your daily walks for times when the sun isn't in full force. Avoid hot asphalt, as this can be devastating to bare paws and find a place where the dog can walk on grass. Once the flood waters recede, the City's dog park is a great place to let your dog burn off some energy. But keep a close eye to make sure the dog isn't overly exerting itself in the hot sun.



- **Visit the Groomer -** Dogs in hot weather are much happier when they don't have to drag all that fur around. Give your pooch a shorter haircut. It's best for the fur not to be shaved below 1/4 inch, though, since then the naked pup is susceptible to sunburn.
- **Summer Treats -** While you're enjoying ice cream and watermelon pay attention to what you're feeding the dog, and make sure any barbeque guests know the rules. Supervise the dog if you're offering him tasty bones. One great summer treat for dogs is ice cubes. Most dogs love them, and ice cubes will keep them busy and hydrate them at the same time. That's a treat for you too!



This information was compiled from several different sources on the web.

GNATS! – Does it seem as if all of outdoors is swarming with gnats this summer? Our heavy rains have certainly contributed to the gnat problem and many of us have searched for ways to enjoy the outdoors without being attacked by gnats. These relatively harmless insects are enough to force even the hardest souls indoors for the summer!

So, where do we turn for help when gnats are chewing on the tips of our ears and flying into our eyes? Here's some information that might be helpful:

- A little vanilla extract on the brim of your hat acts as a "natural" gnat repellent.
- Keep your garden free of mold, fungus, and rotting plant debris. Pay particular attention to

shady areas with poor air circulation. Put your compost pile as far from the house as you can, cover your trash cans, and keep fallen debris cleaned up.

- Entice gnats with their favorite food and then get rid of them. You can do this by placing some rotten fruits or vegetables on a plate and position them near the door or window. They will soon track the smell of the trap and swarm on it. When they do, finish them all with a bug repellent spray.
- Prepare a deep bowl, fill it with a mixture of vinegar and dish soap. Gnats will be attracted to the smell of vinegar and will dive on to the bowl to get it. The way inside the bowl is easy, but the way out is impossible. The purpose of mixing the dish soap is to make the surroundings of the bowl slippery, so when they try to struggle their way out of the bowl, they will always come sliding back in. In other words, they will be trapped inside the bowl. This is a very effective trap and is easy to prepare.
- Check your plants for some buzzing gnats. If you happen to notice gnats buzzing around your indoor or outdoor plants, this may indicate that they have nested around that very area. Try to sneak onto their nests by spraying them with bug repelling spray such as Gnatrol.
- Keep your home clean and properly protected from gnats. Wipe counter tops and tables with bleach. Eliminate gnat areas inside and outside your home, dispose of rotten vegetables and fruits in tightly sealed garbage bags or bins and properly dispose of trash to prevent it from building up. Also cover cracks and holes around windows or doors where gnats can easily pass

through. You may also want to install some protective fine door and window screens as well.

- Control the use of outside lightings. Gnats are attracted to lights so try to turn off the lights in your porch, the front or back door, as soon as you are done using it.
- Purchase some bug repellents to use around your home. Insect repellent sprays, such as DEET (Off), are excellent for driving gnats away. You may also try using Avon's Skin So Soft to repel gnats from your skin.
- Repellents: DEET, citronella, pine oil, and dryer sheets are also commonly used to repel gnats. You can also use fans on your porch to keep the air moving and discourage hovering swarms. There are also a number of repellent sprays, lanterns, and granules on the market that claim to repel gnats with varying degrees of effectiveness or toxicity.

Better to try some of these remedies than to spend the summer waving your arms around your head and face!

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	July 14	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	July 21	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	July 21	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	July 22	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	July 23	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitor's Bureau
Monday	July 28	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	July 29	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	July 30	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission

Monday	August 4	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	August 4	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	August 5	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	August 11	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	August 12		PRIMARY ELECTION DAY
Monday	August 18	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session
Friday	August 22	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Tuesday	August 26	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	August 27	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	August 28	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority