

CITY OF SAINT PETER HOT SHEET



All the City news you need to know and a little bit more!
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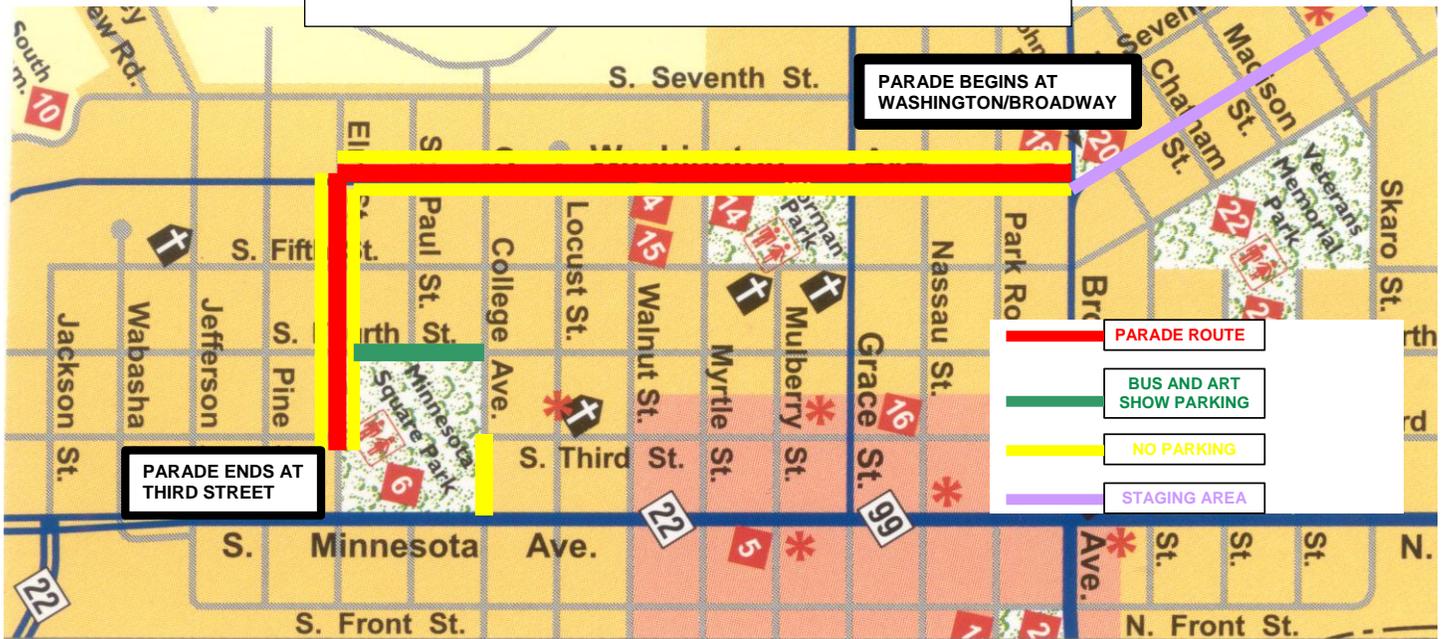


The following information is a publication of the City of Saint Peter, City Administrator's Office, 934-0663, 227 South Front Street. Please contact us at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



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ST. PETER 4TH OF JULY PARADE



FOURTH OF JULY FESTIVITIES – Saint Peter's annual Independence Day celebration, **which is organized entirely by the Chamber of Commerce (not the City)**, will take place on...you guessed it...the Fourth of July! Activities begin with a parade down South Washington Avenue at 10 a.m. followed by a picnic, water slide, entertainment and other activities in Minnesota Square Park before closing out the evening with fireworks at the Nicollet County Fairgrounds at approximately 10:00 p.m. For more information on the activities, please contact the Chamber of Commerce at 507-934-3400.



DOGS AND THE FOURTH: Dog owners are reminded that dogs are not allowed in Minnesota Square

Park at any time and should be left at home during the Fourth of July festivities in the park. People with dogs will be asked to leave the park and/or may be cited. So please leave Fido at home where he will probably be happier anyway! (Just for future reference, the only City park that allows pets is the Mill Pond area of Riverside Park [behind City Hall] and the official dog park on Highway 99.)



FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS - Fireworks and celebrations seem to go together, especially during the Fourth of July. Firework celebrations can result in serious burns and eye injuries or even death. Before your family celebrates this year, make sure everyone knows about fireworks safety.

If not handled properly, fireworks can cause burns and eye injuries in children and adults. The best thing you can do to protect your child is not to use any fireworks at home - period. Attend public fireworks displays and leave the pyrotechnics to the professionals. Here's some tips that might save someone you love from injury or worse....

- Children should never play with fireworks. Things like firecrackers, rockets, and sparklers are just too dangerous. If you give your child a sparkler, make sure your child keeps it outside and away from their face, clothing, and hair. Sparklers can reach 1,800° Fahrenheit (982° Celsius) - hot enough to melt gold.
- Buy only legal fireworks (legal fireworks have a label with the manufacturer's name and directions; illegal ones are unlabeled), and store them in a cool, dry place. Illegal fireworks usually go by the names M-80, M100, blockbuster, or quarter pounder. These explosives were banned in 1966, but still account for many fireworks injuries.
 - LEGAL fireworks include wire or wood sparklers, cylindrical fountains, cone fountains, illuminating torches, wheels, ground spinners, flitter sparklers, flash/strobes, and novelty items such as snakes, glow worms, smoke devices, and trick noisemakers including paper streamers, party poppers, string poppers, snappers, and drop pops.
 - ILLEGAL fireworks include any fireworks that are explosive or aerial, any size of firecrackers, Ladyfingers, Skyrockets, Bottle rockets, missile type rockets, Helicopters, aerial spinners, UFO's, roman candles, mines or shelves, chasers, parachutes, 1.3G display fireworks aerial shells, M-80's, cherry bombs and theatrical pyrotechnics.
- Never try to make your own fireworks.
- Always use fireworks outside and have a bucket of water and a hose or a fire extinguisher nearby in case of accidents.
- Steer clear of others - fireworks have been known to backfire or shoot off in the wrong direction. Never throw or point fireworks at someone, even in jest.
- Don't hold fireworks in your hand or have any part of your body over them while lighting. Wear some sort of eye protection, and avoid carrying fireworks in your pocket - the friction could set them off.



- Point fireworks away from homes, and keep away from brush, leaves, and flammable substances. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that local fire departments respond to more than 50,000 fires caused by fireworks each year.



- Light one firework at a time (not in glass or metal containers), and **never** relight a dud.
- Don't allow your child to pick up pieces of fireworks after an event. Some may still be ignited and can explode at any time.
- Soak all fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them in the trash can.
- Think about your pet. Animals have sensitive ears and can be extremely frightened or stressed on the Fourth of July. Keep your pet indoors to reduce the risk that the pet will run loose or get injured.

If someone is injured by fireworks, immediately go to a doctor or hospital. If an eye injury occurs, don't touch or rub it, as this may cause even more damage. Also, don't flush the eye out with water or attempt to put any ointment on it. Instead, cut out the bottom of a paper cup, place it around the eye, and immediately seek medical attention - your eyesight may depend on it.

If it's a burn, remove clothing from the burned area and run cool, not cold, water over the burn (do not use ice). Call your doctor immediately.

Even if you have legal fireworks, **NO FIREWORKS ARE ALLOWED ON PUBLIC PROPERTY** including parks, streets, alleys, government property or school property and to purchase fireworks, a person has to be at least 18 years of age. The penalty is pretty stiff for violations of fireworks regulations and could lead to imprisonment for anywhere from 90-365 days and/or payment of a fine of \$700-\$3,000, (depending on the amount of fireworks involved). For more information on the laws regarding fireworks and "what's legal, what's not", please visit the State Fire Marshal website at www.fire.state.mn.us/fireworksinfo.html or call the Police Department at 931-1550.

Fireworks are meant to be enjoyed, but you'll enjoy them much more knowing your family is safe. Take extra precautions this Fourth of July and your holiday will be a blast!

MOSQUITO SPRAYING - City staff will be spraying for mosquitoes at Minnesota Square



Park between 5:00-5:30 am on July 4th in preparation for wide Fourth of July activities. The spray is a contact type pesticide used to control adult mosquitoes and is safe for use around recreational and residential areas such as athletic fields, parks, and campsites.



CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of June 24, 2013 included a public hearing and subsequent action on a request to vacate a portion of Ewing Street; a public hearing and subsequent action to approve rezoning of property owned by Nicollet County to Central Business District; a presentation by the City's Auditors on the 2012 audit and acceptance of the audit; approval for execution of a development agreement for the Park Row Crossing housing units; authorization to receive competitive bids for the sale of \$890,000 in general obligation tax increment bonds to finance public improvements along North Third Street; approval for modification of the job description for Part-time Housekeeper; and acceptance of a \$10,000 donation from Drummer Corporation and its' employees to help finance delivery of the donated fire truck to Petatlan, Mexico and for ongoing maintenance costs associated with the TREEmendous playground.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, July 8th 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 you see meon Facebook or on our website...?*

I have re-started my video blog on Facebook. I have been doing it for about 24 months or so and try to do it about once a week even though I have missed a few weeks here or there.

Using Facebook and having the video blog is an effort to use social media to let people know what is going on with their City. I talk about a few of the agenda items from the previous Council meeting and pass along a few tidbits that I think people may have interest in.

Right now it is called "State of the City", or sometimes, "Welcome to my office" or "It is great to have you stop by my office". As you can see I am not really solid on a name for it yet but I would encourage you to check it out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CityofSaintPeter>.

Please let me know if you are a Facebook user and if this is a handy way for you to get some of your information about the City. Does social media work for you as a good way for us to provide information? Should this video blog be one of the tools we use? Let me know what you think. Have you seen it? Can you give me a better name for it? It makes me wonder.....

MEET THE CEO CANDIDATES – The public is invited and encouraged to attend a "Meet the CEO Candidates" event at River's Edge Hospital and Clinic. The event will take place from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Hospital on Wednesday, June 26th. This is the Saint Peter community's chance to meet the candidates who are being interviewed for the River's Edge CEO position. Refreshments will be served.

YOUTH FISHING CONTEST - The Recreation Department's Annual Fishing Contest will be held on Friday, June 28th from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Mill Pond. All ages are welcome and no registration is necessary. Win prizes in a variety of categories! Please bring your own pole and bait. The Mill Pond is located in Riverside Park behind City Hall at 227 South Front Street.



ST. PETER YOUTH TACKLE FOOTBALL - The deadline for registration for the Fall 2013 youth tackle football program is coming up on Friday, June 28th. Youth entering 5th and 6th grade are eligible to participate. Registration is available at the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 600 South Fifth Street in the Community Center.

Saint Peter is part of the Mankato/North Mankato Football League and the season begins the week of August 5th. Participants will be divided into 5th and 6th grade teams and play teams from Mankato, Blue Earth and Fairmont. The registration fee of \$90 includes all equipment (except shoes) and a photograph.



Please call the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-0667 if you have questions or

need more information or e-mail us at lanced@saintpetermn.gov.



METER READERS AND DOGS

– Meter Readers like dogs. Some Meter Readers even have dogs. But Meter Readers and dogs and reading meters don't go together very well. It's always a bit challenging for the Meter Readers to do

their job without the added stress and fear of being charged, or worse - bitten, by a dog that has not been secured by its owner. Seeing an unfamiliar person suddenly appear in your back or side yard (where most meters are located) can make even the most docile dog suddenly become protective of his family. Unfortunately, that means we have had several times when our Meter Readers have been bitten by dogs in the last few months and we need your help to keep our employees safe.

Dog owners in Saint Peter are required to keep the dog in a proper enclosure and are not allowed to let the dog run at large. The City Code defines these terms as follows:

- "Proper enclosure" means securely confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen or structure suitable to prevent the animal from escaping and providing protection from the elements for the animal. A proper enclosure does not include a porch, patio, or any part of a house, garage, or other structure that would allow the animal to exit of its own volition, or any house or structure in which windows are open or in which door or window screens are the only obstacles that prevent the animal from exiting.
- "Run at large" - An animal is considered to be running at large if it is off the premises of its owner and the animal is not controlled by a leash, or the animal appears to have no owner and is not controlled by a leash. It is unlawful for any person who is the owner of a dog to permit such animal to run at large; or to permit such dog onto the grounds of any City park or playground, whether at large or on a leash, unless the park is designated for dogs or cats by Council Resolution. The owner of any animal which is required to be quarantined pursuant to this section is subject to a penalty of 90 days in jail, a fine of \$700, or both if the animal is found to be running at large.

Please help us keep our employees safe and secure your pets at all times. If you have a dog that is regularly allowed to be loose in the area of the meter, please notify the Finance Department (934-

0664) so that we can make note of it and take other actions to provide for your meter reading.

IT'S PEDDLER TIME – Peddlers have arrived in Saint Peter and now is a great time to review the rules and regulations that protect Saint Peter residents from being swindled by peddlers.

The City Code requires peddlers and/or transient merchants (those without fixed and permanent locations in Saint Peter), to be licensed by the City or receive a permit from the City before going door-to-door in a residential area. Those regulations also require the peddler to carry the permit on their person and to show it to anyone who might ask to see it.

The reason the City requires peddlers and transient merchants to be licensed by the City is to protect the public. When they apply for their license, we conduct background investigations on each of the people who are selling door to door. If they have a criminal history, they are not eligible for a license. Some peddlers are hard-working legitimate salespeople...some are not and those are the people the regulations are in place to protect us from.

We also require them to provide a bond to the City so that if anyone in the community is swindled by them, we have a means of recouping the money paid by residents. And Saint Peter is not alone in these requirements. Almost every community in Minnesota has some type of regulation requiring peddlers to be licensed.

Even if the peddler is licensed, you are under no obligation to allow the person into your home. You don't have to open your door for them and you don't have to talk to them. That's an important thing for senior family members to know. Seniors often feel more vulnerable around strangers and they should know that they don't have to allow anyone into their home if they aren't comfortable with it.

Recently an unlicensed peddler had the misfortune to appear at the door of a local law enforcement officer who promptly asked to see his license. Unable to do so, a suggestion was made to the peddler that he gather his friends and leave town until they are properly licensed by the City. That peddler was very lucky the officer did not confiscate all of the peddler's wares and even more fortunate that they weren't cited for violation of City ordinance.



If a peddler comes to your door and tries to sell you something, we encourage you to ask to see their City license. Some may claim that they are licensed by the State or the USDA or some other organization, but even if they are, they still must have a City license. If they can't produce the license, say goodbye and don't hesitate to contact the Police Department at 931-1550. The Police will

ask you to provide the best description you can of the person include their looks, clothing, any vehicle, and what direction they were going when they left your home.

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.

Wednesday	June 26	12:00 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	June 27	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	June 28	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	July 1	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	July 1	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	July 2	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Thursday	July 4		CITY OFFICES CLOSED – 4 th of July Holiday
Monday	July 8	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	July 9	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	July 15	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	July 15	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday	July 22	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Thursday	July 25	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	July 26	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	July 29	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday- Tuesday	July 30- August 13		CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FILING PERIOD
Tuesday	July 30	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	July 31	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission