

# 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). [www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter](http://www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter)



03/20/2013



## **MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE – TREEmendous....**

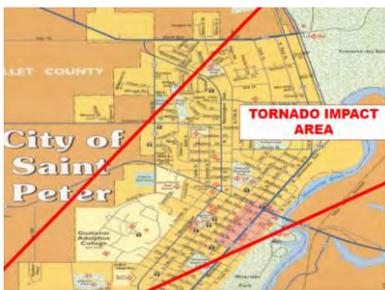
A few weeks back I wrote about the TREEmendous Playground. The goal of the article was to get a few

people to raise their hand and say, "I am interested in picking up where the TREEmendous Moms are leaving off".

No one contacted me. No one seemed to raise their hand and say, "I think this is a special place and I will put in some energy to keep it special."

So here I go one more time.... If you have some time and energy to put into keeping the TREEmendous playground TREEmendous, let me know. Contact my office to get your name on a list for an upcoming meeting where we will try to develop a strategy to raise some money to help keep the ground cover made of wood fiber material instead of pea rock like the rest of our parks.

If this is important to you, I encourage you to step forward and help your community. Please call me at 934-0663 or e-mail me at [barbaral@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov). Will a few of us step up? It makes me wonder.....



### **TORNADO ANNIVERSARY –** Next week (March 29<sup>th</sup>), will be the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tornado that struck Saint Peter and Comfrey in 1998. During that F3-F4

tornado, two people (Dustin Schneider of Saint Peter and an older man in the Comfrey area) lost their lives. Over 1800 homes were damaged (200 destroyed) in Saint Peter; and, depending on where

you get results, there was \$235-\$300 million in damages.

The tornado was a great tragedy for two families, and most likely not something they wish to be reminded of every year. But there were also many blessings realized during the tornado and subsequent recovery.



Many whose homes were damaged or destroyed had an opportunity to rebuild and repair in ways they might never have otherwise been able to afford. The City constructed a new community center and a

new hospital. A new Catholic Church was constructed along with a new church school. Tens of thousands of trees were replanted on public and private property, and while we might never live to once again see the grand canopy of foliage that existed throughout the community prior to the tornado, we now have new and varied species of trees that have taken root and are flourishing.

But more so than the bricks and mortar benefits of that day, the Saint Peter community grew in ways that those who have not gone through a disaster may never understand. As others



rushed to our aid that night and in the weeks that followed, we learned how to accept help when it is offered and how to come to the aid of others when they need it. We were grateful for the employees of area cities and utility providers who came here and

worked long, tiring days helping to restore “normal” to our community.

Community members pulled together with everyone offering what they had to those who had lost so much. Churches opened their doors and hosted services for other religions. Neighbors went out of their way to check on the elderly and those who had suffered damages; and neighbors checked on damaged properties to prevent looting and vandalism.

And, contrary to what some “experts” had predicted, Saint Peter’s population actually grew in the months and years following the tornado as those who suffered damage rebuilt their homes and reopened their businesses rather than moving to another community.

As we look back to that day fifteen years ago, our thoughts continue to be with the families who lost loved ones.....and our thanks continue to go out to everyone who came to our aid that evening and in the days, weeks and months that followed.

**PICKLEBALL MANIA!** - What sport is a mix of table-tennis, badminton and tennis and is the fastest growing sport in the United States you never heard of? Answer: Pickleball!

Pickleball originated in the United States in the 1960’s and is named after the founder’s family dog - a cocker spaniel named Pickles.

Using a racquet similar to an enlarged table-tennis paddle and a perforated plastic ball the size of a tennis ball, the game is usually played on badminton courts, tennis courts or at community centers. Played by two or four players at a time, the rules are similar to that of tennis while points are scored in the same way as in a badminton game. Players race to score 11, 15 or 21 points to win a match.

Pickleball is a versatile and family-oriented game which is largely low-impact in nature resulting in a large following.

If you want to experience Pickleball, stop by the Community Center gym on Wednesday evenings between 6-8:30 pm. All equipment is provided. To see how Pickleball is played, check out this 12 minute video from the Pickleball association website....

[http://usapa.org/whatis\\_pball/video\\_promo.html](http://usapa.org/whatis_pball/video_promo.html)

Call the Recreation Department at 934-0667 for more information.



**STORMWATER WATCH** - An illicit discharge is defined as “any discharge into a municipal storm sewer

system that is not composed entirely of stormwater”.

These are pollutants that end up, untreated, in the Minnesota River. Some of these pollutants are car wash wastewater, gas or motor oil, grass clippings, household cleaners, paints, pesticides, pet waste, solvents, and weed killer. Sometimes these pollutants are carried through the storm drainage system by rain, wind, or by improper disposal from area residents. This can result in serious health and water quality problems and eventually wildlife and the overall appearance of the river are adversely affected by the illegal dumping.

To help combat this illegal activity, City staff relies strongly on participation from the public. Residents who observe illegal dumping or observe pollutants within waterways or storm sewers are asked to contact the Public Works Department by phone at 934-0670 or use the City’s website ([http://www.saintpetermn.gov/sites/default/files/documents/public-works/ComplaintForm\\_Stormwater2.pdf](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/sites/default/files/documents/public-works/ComplaintForm_Stormwater2.pdf)) to

complete a stormwater violation form. This program cannot succeed without strong public participation. With your help, we can continue work to clean up the Minnesota River.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**ICE RINKS CLOSED** - The Veteran’s Park ice rinks are now closed for the season. Approximately 700 skaters enjoyed the warming house and rinks from December 26th through February 28th. Three skating rink attendants staffed the warming house and worked to keep the pathways cleared of snow and ice. The Public Works Department and volunteers from the Saint Peter Hockey Association teamed up to keep the ice in good condition for skaters and our thanks go out to all the volunteers.

**RECREATION SUMMER PROGRAM BROCHURE** - Summer officially begins this Thursday, March 21st and with it comes planning for the Recreation Department’s summer recreation programs.

Summer staff interviews are underway, program details are being finalized, and the summer brochure is being prepared. This joint Summer Program Guide that features City Recreation programs/activities and School District 508’s Community Education classes/activities, will be mailed to area homes on Friday, April 19th. Watch for the brochure in your mailbox and remember that there are always extra copies at the Recreation Department and the Community Education office if you don’t receive your copy in the mail. Both offices are conveniently located in the Community Center at 600 South Fifth Street.

**OPEN GYM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER** - The monthly calendar for scheduled Open Gym can be found on-line at [www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation) or picked up at the Recreation and Leisure Services Department located in the Community Center. The Recreation Hotline (934-0070) also lists open gym hours.

This week, open gym is available for community youth on Thursday and Friday, (March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>) from 3-5 p.m. and Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from noon to 2 p.m.

Open gym is free of charge.

#### **WHAT IS THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT ANYWAY? –**

Whether you are new to Saint Peter, or have never done any remodeling or construction on property you own, you may not know the City has a Building Department staffed by a licensed Building Official and Building Inspector.



The Department was created to oversee construction in the community and to ensure that all buildings meet the safety standards established by the

State and the Federal government through the building code.

What is the Building Code? Practically... It's the City's official statement on the minimum required level of building safety expected for our community.

Technically... It's a collection of minimum safety standards arranged in a systematic manner for easy reference addressing all aspects of building construction - fire, building, plumbing, mechanical (heating, air conditioning, solar, commercial refrigeration and kitchens), energy, accessibility, etc.

What are the benefits of the Building Code?

- Consistent construction standards help property owners know that when they compare contractors, the same minimum requirements must be met by each one.
- Gives the national Insurance Services Organization (ISO) an additional form of justification to consider reduced property insurance rates within the municipality.
- Provides Federal Emergency Management Agency (F.E.M.A.) reconstruction standards in case of a disaster.
- Provides construction standards and services that are consistent for state and federal partnerships involving local grants and loans.

So why should the City be involved when I want to work on my own home? A City inspector will check to make sure the work that was done meets the Code to assure safety for you and your family. In

addition, home lenders often require a pre-sale inspection. If the inspector finds work that does not meet the minimum of the Code it may delay the sale or require the property owner to make the repairs before closing the sale. If a permit was taken out and the required inspections were made, the property owner has proof that the work was done within the requirements of the Building Code.

For more information on the work of the building inspection team at City Hall, please stop in (227 South Front Street) or give them a call at 934-0662.

**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS HEARING** - The Saint Peter Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at approximately 7:00 p.m. in the Governors Room of the Saint Peter Community Center (600 S. Fifth St.). The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comment regarding a Conditional Use Permit for the development of property under the regulations of the Residential Planned Unit Development overlay district.

The property in question is legally described as Block 83, Skaro and Evenson Addition, City of Saint Peter. The property is commonly referred to as the former Saint Peter Community Hospital site.

All persons will be provided an opportunity to address the Board to speak in support or opposition to the proposed Conditional Use Permit. Written comments may be submitted to the Community Development Director (227 S. Front St., Saint Peter, MN 56082) prior to the date of hearing.

**PARK ROW CROSSING PROJECT OPEN HOUSE** - The public hearing referenced above will be preceded by an Open House to provide information on details of the proposed multi-family housing project to be constructed at the intersection of West Broadway Avenue and South Washington Avenue (the former Community Hospital site). The Open House will be held in the main floor lobby of the Community Center beginning at 5:30 p.m. on March 26<sup>th</sup> and ending promptly at 6:30 p.m.

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

- **PART-TIME LIBRARY CIRCULATION CLERK** - **Minimum** qualifications: Experience working with the public in a customer service setting. **Desired** qualifications: Experience in provision of library services; ability to operate a PC and use internet and related programs including on-line cataloging system. Up to 13 hours per week. (M-F days) plus some Saturdays. Wage \$7.84/hour. Applicants are required to complete City application form available in the City

Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1-5:00 p.m. or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 pm on March 29, 2013. Faxed, late, and/or emailed applications will not be accepted. AA/EEO

**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).

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
Monday	April 1	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	April 2	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	April 8	5:00 p.m.	Human Rights Commission
Monday	April 8	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	April 15	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	April 22	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	April 23	6:00 p.m.	Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting
Wednesday	April 24	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission Meeting
Thursday	April 25	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	April 26	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	April 29	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	April 30	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission