

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. www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



11/21/2012



Happy Thanksgiving from the City Council and City staff!

This Thanksgiving, as you travel “over the river and through the woods to Grandma’s house you go”, please remember to buckle up and drive safely!

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of November 13, 2012 included a public hearing and subsequent action on assessment of unpaid utility charges; presentation of the 2011 Human Rights Award to Mrs. Sara McKay; acceptance of the Mayor’s Task Force report on the Minnesota Square Park pavilion; approval for purchase of a video surveillance system for the Community Center; approval for a fish house parade on December 1st; approval of a tree worker’s license for Affordable Landscaping and Tree Care; and approval for survey and design work associated with a new compost site.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, November 26th 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 agenda and Council packet are also available on the City’s website at www.saintpetermn.gov/city.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE
– *Communities...* that is where we really live. But the interesting thing to me is that

we all live in many different communities. Let me try to explain.

I live in Saint Peter, that’s one community. I also resided in a community of 11 and 12 year old soccer parents this summer. I also lived in a community of baseball families. I also live in a community of friends that I like to go see movies with. That’s four communities and there are many more.

You each live a life of many communities too. You have different expectations from each of those communities. You talk about different things in each. You make different decisions in each and I bet, just like me, the way you make decisions is even different. The process we use to make choices in each of these communities is not the same. Here is another example...

In my community of baseball we had a great coach and he decided when practice would take place, where we played, who played where and all of that. I really didn’t decide anything. That worked for me.

In my community of soccer the coach wanted parents to let him know what we wanted to have happen and so we did for practice nights and snacks, but he decided on when and where we played tournaments. That worked fine for me too although it was a bit different than baseball.

In my community of movie goers we all chime in on what we want to see and where and then after that we all visit about it and the wives decide. ☺ ☺

That works for me too, but again notice how each is a bit different depending on the nature of the activity or the expectation of the services provided.

How does the “community” you live in affect your perspective on the services we provide? It makes me wonder....

PETS OF THE WEEK – This week’s featured pets include a pointer mix dog and several very young kittens.

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 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.

SNOW EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION – It’s not too early to be planning for heavy snowfalls this winter, and residents who would like to be notified of snow emergency declarations should sign up now for the Nixle community notification system. It’s a free service and easy to do. Go to www.nixle.com and follow the prompts to create an account for City notices. You can choose whether you wish to have notices sent by e-mail or by text to your cell phone or both! And if you don’t have an off-street parking space



available to you, make arrangements now to find a spot to park your vehicle when snow emergency declarations are in place. Don’t wait for the first snowflakes to plan for the winter!

HOLIDAY CANCELLATIONS/CLOSURES – All non-emergency City offices, including the public library, will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 22-23, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Regular office

hours will resume on Monday, November 26th and the library will reopen on Saturday, November 24th at 9 am.

The closures will be repeated for the Christmas holiday from Monday-Tuesday (December 24-25th) and on New Year’s Day (January 1st).

The City Council has also taken action to cancel the December 24th regular meeting and the December 31st workshop session.

2011 HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD WINNER – St. Peter Choral Society Director Sara McKay has been named the recipient of the 2011 Human Rights Award by the Saint Peter Human Rights Commission.

Mrs. McKay was honored by the members of the Commission for her work to ensure that the facilities for practice and performances of the Choral Society are accessible for all performers and audience members regardless of any physical limitations.

Commission Chairperson Michelle Twait, along with several other members of the Commission, presented the award to Mrs. McKay at the November 13th City Council meeting.

LED HOLIDAY LIGHTING REBATE - The City is once again offering rebates for LED holiday lights. The rebate amounts range from \$3 for strings or decorations with up to 99 LED bulbs, \$6 for 100-199 LED bulbs, \$9 for 200-299 LED bulbs, or \$12 for strings with 300 or more LED bulbs. All LED holiday lights and decorations qualify for a rebate. Coupons are available in stores and at the Finance Department in City Hall. Rebate requests must be submitted to the Finance Department by December 31, 2012 to qualify.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHT RECYCLING – It’s a bit early to be thinking about Christmas, but if you have old holiday lights to dispose of, here’s an option for you.

Old, used, broken, tangled holiday lights can be dropped off in the front lobby of the following City building locations:

- City Hall (227 South Front Street)
- Community Center (600 South Fifth Street)
- Public Works (405 West St. Julien Street)
- Arrow Ace Hardware (201 South Minnesota Avenue)



Beginning November 15th, just look for the green plastic bins in these buildings and drop off your old light strings. This free program to recycle your old lights and electrical cords will continue through January 31, 2013.

BLOOD DRIVE HELD TO SUPPORT HURRICANE SANDY

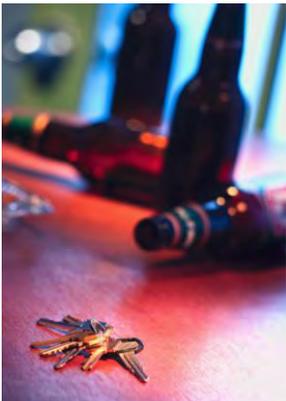
- An outpouring of support since Hurricane Sandy has helped stabilize the American Red Cross blood supply. However, there is still a demand and the need increases for the holidays. The American Red Cross is asking all eligible donors to step up, roll up a sleeve and give blood or platelets as soon as possible.

River's Edge Hospital & Clinic and the American Red Cross are working together to host a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Friday, November 23rd, at the Hospital which is located at 1900 N. Sunrise Drive.

The donating process takes just over an hour and while appointments are recommended, they are not required. (Donors with appointments donate first!)

To schedule an appointment or for more information, please call River's Edge Hospital & Clinic at 931-2200, or go online to www.redcrossblood.org.

TOWARDS ZERO DEATHS CAMPAIGN - The Saint Peter Police Department will conduct a DWI enforcement campaign this holiday season as part of a statewide and nationwide "*Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*" effort. The campaign is being coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety. Eleven area law enforcement agencies, including the State Patrol, will be participating in this crack down on drunk driving.



As holiday celebrations get underway, the public is encouraged to do three things

to increase safety on the roads...

- Plan for a safe ride – designate a sober driver, use a cab or public transportation, or stay at the location of the celebration. Let family/friends know you are available to offer a safe ride home.
- Buckle up – the best defense against a drunk driver!
- Report drunk driving – call 911 when witnessing impaired driving behavior. Be prepared to provide a location of the

vehicle, license plate number and the observed dangerous behavior.

And remember.....drive sober....or get pulled over!

BOARD/COMMISSION OPENINGS - By the end of the year several openings will be available on various advisory boards and commissions including Civil Service, Planning and Zoning, Heritage Preservation, Human Rights, Economic Development, Library, Housing and Redevelopment, and Parks and Recreation. These boards serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council and members are appointed by the City Council for terms ranging from three years to five years. Here is some additional information on the boards and their responsibilities.

- The **Heritage Preservation Commission** deals with issues surrounding the downtown heritage preservation district and hears requests related to developing and preserving structures within the district by providing standards for design, signs, and materials.
- The **Human Rights Commission** works to secure equal opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodations, public services and education and full participation in the affairs of the community.
- The **Economic Development Authority** is responsible for advising the Council on administering business incentives and other economic development measures. The EDA is the main economic development board for the City.
- The **Housing Authority** administers Parkview Manor; the City owned apartment building at 1010 South Fourth Street.
- The **Parks Board** makes recommendations to the City Council on City parks and recreation activities and also serves as the Tree Advisory Board.
- The **Library Board** makes recommendations regarding policy, programs and operation of the library.
- The **Civil Service Commission** deals with Police personnel needs.
- The **Planning and Zoning Commission** considers development of land, zoning issues, conditional use permits, and annexation requests.

If you live within the corporate limits of the City of Saint Peter, have interest in one of the boards listed, and have the ability to make monthly meetings of the board, please contact the City Administrator's office at 934-0663 and we would be happy to send you an application card. More

information on the boards is available on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/>.

CALENDAR

Thursday - Friday	November 23- November 24		THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – City Offices Closed
Monday	November 26	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	November 27	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	November 28	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	November 29	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority**
	(**Note rescheduled date due to Thanksgiving holiday)		
Friday	November 30	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	December 3	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	December 3	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	December 10	5:00 p.m.	Human Rights Commission
Monday	December 10	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	December 11	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	December 17	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	December 17	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday- Tuesday	December 24 - December 25		CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY–CITY OFFICES CLOSED
Thursday	December 27	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	December 28	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Tuesday	January 1		NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY – City offices closed