

# 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)



09/14/16



**MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE)** – *The City Tax process, levy, taxes, process and priorities, and laws.....*

This is Part 1 in a series of articles that will provide some more detailed information about the 2017 budget. My goal is to give you a bit more insight into the budget, the process and how that impacts taxes. This will be on ongoing Council discussion for the next few weeks as under State law, the Council must take action to set a preliminary levy before the end of September. This levy may only be lowered or stay the same, but can't be increased, prior to final approval which must take place before the end of December.

Since the Levy is in many ways directly related to the budget, the Council has two more formal opportunities to discuss both the levy and budget for 2017.

The City continues to work to provide a budget that is based on Council priorities for customers and taxpayers while providing the financial resources needed to maintain the quality and quantity of staff that provide those services.

The Council thus far has considered a proposed budget and suggests a Levy that will increase your projected tax rate from 47.27 to 50.85 based on a gross levy increase of 11.34% or \$259,029. Continuing evolution of the tax capacity numbers will happen until the 2017 tax notices are distributed by Nicollet County. The projected 2017 tax capacity is based on a 3.5% increase, and again we will get a County determination of this value closer to December. Previous tax rates look like this:

Year	Rate
2012	49.00
2013	50.67

2014	51.13
2015	46.79
2016	47.27
2017	50.85 (estimated)

You may note from the data that tax rates have gone up and down coinciding with priorities set by the City Council and the cost of operations. What this means to property owners is that if a homeowner's property valuation hasn't changed from 2016, their City share of the tax bill on a \$150,000 home would increase approximately \$45.20 from the 2016 tax year.

It may be important to note that the City continues to look at the General Fund and Special Revenue Fund budgets as a portion of a larger business and believe we are very cognizant of the impact that modification in any of these areas has on other portions of the City business.

Budgets, levies, Local Government Aid, the cost of services, priorities and their impact on your taxes are all part of what the Council discusses. Do you want to know more about the overall plan? You can check on the information in the City Council packet at

<http://www.saintpetermn.gov/sites/default/files/meetings-agendas-packets/CITY%20COUNCIL%20WORKSHOP%20OF%20SEPTEMBER%206%2C%202016.pdf>

I will have another article in next week's HOT SHEET that provides more details about what the plan looks like using your tax dollars. Will you check out that article too? It makes me wonder.....



**POWER OUTAGE** – Portions of Saint Peter experienced a power outage late in the day on Monday, September 12th. The damage was caused by an unfortunate squirrel that got into the main substation on South Front Street. With that much

electricity, the squirrel didn't make it, and the City's equipment sustained heavy damage as shown by the picture to the right. The damage was to the oil circuit re-closure which operates the breaker in the substation. Power was restored when the quick responding Linemen were able to re-route power around the damaged areas. New equipment will be ordered and installed when it becomes available and until then, customers should not see any impact from this damage.

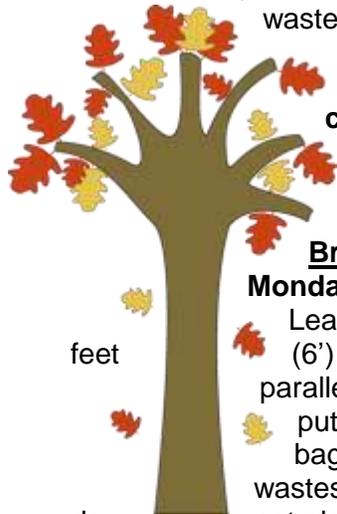


Crews only go through an area once; so if your yard waste is not out by the dates and times mentioned above it will not be picked up but can be taken to the City's yard waste drop-off site located at the intersection of North Swift Street and West St. Julien Street.

**DROP-OFF SITE** - The brush and soft yard waste drop-off sites located at the southwest intersection of St. Julien and Swift Streets are open year around for use by City residents to drop off brush and soft yard waste.

This service is provided and funded by the Environmental Service Fee on City utility bills.

**YARD WASTE COLLECTION** - The City of Saint Peter will be collecting **brush and garden waste** such as tomato plants, flowers, etc. at curbside the week of September 26th. Brush and garden waste must be placed parallel and adjacent to the curb by **7:00 A.M. Monday, September 26th**. Brush or garden waste will not be collected after the week of September 26th.



**Leaves and grass clippings** will be collected south of Broadway starting at **7:00 A.M. Monday, October 24th** and north of Broadway at **7:00 A.M. Monday, November 7th**.

Leaves must be placed within six (6') of the curb line and should be parallel to the curb. Please do not put the materials in the street or in bags and do not include animal wastes with the leaves. Also, please do not placing brush and grass clippings by trees, posts, etc. and please do not park in front of the yard waste until pick-up is complete.

The collection process takes a long time to complete, (it took five weeks in 2015), and in order to complete the process before it snows, crews sometimes have to start before all the leaves have fallen. To be fair to all, the crews rotate which end of the community they start on each year.

For those living on a corner lot, please note that it is possible that one side of your property will be picked up before the other as the trucks run north to south and then east to west to be more efficient in the collection process. If you want your materials collected on the same day, make sure to place the materials on the same side.

**TREE TRIMMING NOTICE** - City crews will be trimming boulevard trees in the new few months. This is done for vehicle and pedestrian safety and to maintain a healthy urban forest. City regulations require boulevard trees to be trimmed to a minimum height of 8 feet above sidewalks and 14 feet above the street.

Should you have any questions about this work, please call the Department of Public Works Office at 934-0670.

**SPECIAL FLAG FLYING OVER CITY HALL** - At the August 22nd City Council meeting, American Legion Post #37 Commander Ron Haugen and several members of the Legion presented the City Council with an American flag that was flown over the US Capital on August 10, 2016. The flag was symbolic of the 40+ flags that the American Legion donates to the City of Saint Peter each year to fly on poles in City parks and in front of City buildings. These generous donations have been made by the American Legion for several decades to help further patriotism within our community.

The Legion requested that this special flag be flown at City Hall. With that in mind, the flag was flown on the flag pole at City Hall (227 South Front Street) on September 11th and was lowered to half-staff as required by Federal law and in memory of the thousands who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

The members of the City Council and City staff thank all the members of Saint Peter American Legion Post #37 for their continued generosity to this community and to their work to promote patriotism in all.



**VOTER REGISTRATION -**  
 Are you new to the voting process? Have you moved since the last time you voted? Has it been more than four years

since you last cast a ballot? Not sure if you are registered or not?

If so, you might want to think about pre-registering to vote for the November 8th General Election and/or double checking your registration.

Voters in Minnesota have the option of registering on Election Day, but with large crowds expected to turn out for this year's Presidential Election, voters are encouraged to pre-register to vote so you don't have to stand in another lengthy. You can do so online at <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote> or you can fill out a voter registration application at the Nicollet County Public Services office at the Government Center (501 South Minnesota Avenue).

The Secretary of State's website also offers voters the ability to check their registration. Entering your name, birthdate and address will bring up your voting information including whether or not you are registered and if you are, where you vote. It's an easy tool to use and could save a lot of standing in line on Election Day.

Remember, if you have moved and/or changed your name since the last time you voted, you must re-register and it's easiest to do it before Election Day.

Pre-registration is available only until 5:00 p.m. on October 18th.

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS -** Absentee ballots for the November 8, 2016 General Election will be available from the Nicollet County Public Services office at the Nicollet County Government Center (501 South Minnesota Avenue) beginning September 23rd. Following a law change a couple of years ago voters no longer have to have a reason for voting by absentee ballot.

Voters will have to complete an absentee ballot application form and the form can be accessed online at <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote>. If the form is completed online, absentee ballots will be mailed to the voter.

Voters can also complete an application form in person at the Government Center and following receipt of the application, the voter will be provided with the absentee ballot to complete and turn in. If ballots are not yet available when you apply, one will be sent to you when they become available.

Questions about absentee voting? Please contact the Nicollet County Public Services Office at the Government Center.

**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).

Monday	September 19	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	September 19	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	September 22	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	September 23	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	September 26	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 27	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	September 28	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Monday	October 3	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	October 3	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	October 4	until 1:30 p.m.	CITY OFFICES CLOSED – staff training
Thursday	October 6	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	October 10	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting

Tuesday	October 11	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	October 17	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	October 17	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Tuesday	October 18		DEADLINE FOR VOTER PRE-REGISTRATION
Monday	October 24	7:00 p.m.	City Council meeting
Tuesday	October 25	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	October 26	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	October 27	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	October 28	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitor's Bureau