

# 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)



09/23/15

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of September 14, 2015 included final acceptance of a project for repairs to the exterior of the wastewater treatment plant; adoption of the preliminary 2015 levy payable 2016; approval of a \$25,000 façade renovation loan for Community Core Partners LLC; approval for City assistance for the St. Peter Ambassador's Oktoberfest event; approved purchase of radiology equipment for River's Edge Hospital and Clinic; accepted donation of a parcel of land (Outlot A in Welco West Subdivision) from Mike and Julie Drummer; authorized Councilmember Carlin to travel to Columbia, Missouri as part of the InterCity Leadership Visit program through Greater Mankato Growth; and approved modification to the definition of the probationary period for part-time employees.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, September 28th 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 507-934-0663. Copies of the Council packet are also available on the City's website at [www.saintpetermn.gov/city](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city).

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The City Council has adopted a preliminary budget that will result in a levy that will increase the projected tax rate from 46.79 to 48.06 based on a gross levy increase of \$113,954. The overall General Fund budget is about \$6.8 million.

What this means is, if a homeowner's property valuation hasn't changed from 2015, their City share of the tax bill on a \$150,000 home would increase approximately \$16.09 from the 2015 tax year. The preliminary levy certified to the County Auditor in September may be lowered, but not increased when the final levy is approved in December.

Below you will see a table that illustrates tax rates over the last few years and the 2016 Tax Rate is based on a preliminary 2.5% increase in tax capacity. As you may know, both Levy and Tax Capacity are the factors that are used to calculate the Tax Rate. Previous tax rates look like this:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>RATE</u>
2012	49
2013	50.67
2014	51.13
2015	46.79
2016	48.06 (estimated)

The changes within the budget, as compared to 2015, are very small with a few specific exceptions:

- There is a presidential election in 2016 which will increase our election costs (more judges and more hours).
- Minimum wage increase to \$9.50 as of August 1, 2016.
- Street maintenance for 2016 is planned at the same level as the 2015 budget (less the Union Street, Third Street sidewalk project, and payroll

**MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE)** – *Money and Taxes.....* This "Makes Me Wonder" includes some excerpts from the budget memo that the City Council sees and uses as a part of

their budget deliberation. The entire memo can be found on our website included with the Council meeting packet from September 14th. So if you want to read the whole memo, which is about 9 pages long with about 60 pages of financial reports,



costs). The ongoing street program provides maintenance on one of the City's biggest investments that is very expensive and inconvenient to replace.

- Gardner Road intersections at Broadway and Jefferson will have additional work of \$175,000, with an Oshawa Township grant funding a majority of reconstruction of Gardner Road.
- Parks will see a \$30,000 increase in capital for resurfacing the Veteran's Field tennis courts (\$20,000) and a trench drain and sump in the Parks shop (\$10,000).
- Councilmembers discussed and directed staff to work toward the completion of a gravel trail around Hallett's Pond. This will be funded out of the Parks maintenance budget.
- The Fire Department budget includes \$34,001 which will: contribute a second year to a replacement fund of \$7,500 per year for equipment items that have certification expiration needs; \$15,000 for turn out gear (while we did receive an AFG Grant it will not fund the entire cost for turnout gear), \$5,000 to replace five MSA cylinders; \$4,751 for confined space rescue; and \$1,750 for a roof saw.
- The 2015 budget includes an allocation of \$2,500 for The Third Floor youth center.
- The insurance fund doesn't have any contributions funding the 2016 year. The projected 2015 ending fund balance is \$270,000. (The City's target here is \$300,000)
- General Fund reserves are projected to increase to 57% of expenditures. This includes the use of \$84,236 to fund the projected 2015 operations. The percentage of reserves is higher than the City's policy of 35% to 50% of the 2016 year expenditures.
- The 2016 expenditures reflect the use of \$405,000 in reserves to cover the expense of Magner Farm Subdivision improvements (City/School partnership site). This is in addition to the \$465,000 the Council previously designated for this use.
- Local Government Aid (LGA) has remained the same as 2015 even though the State was in a more than \$1 billion surplus.
- There are a number of large building permits that may generate approximately \$1,305,000 in additional revenues in 2016. This revenue is a one-time collection and we do not believe the dollars should be used to satisfy inflationary operational costs without consideration of impact to future year levies.

For 2016, we will use the same philosophy we have over the past 17+ years. We do not look at the total levy and then make cuts or additions. We

look at the divisional budgets line by line and think about needs and priorities the Council has set, make changes, and then look at how that would influence the total.

The philosophy is to bring budgets based on the programs and service standards the Council has had in place without puffing it up needlessly, simply to be cut later in October or November to show how great a job we can do budget cutting. That is to say, this is a budget that will provide for the operations the Council believes you as tax payers want to fund.

The entire document is on our website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/sites/default/files/meetings-agendas-packets/CITY%20COUNCIL%20MEETING%20OF%20SEPTEMBER%2014%2C%202015.pdf>.

Will you want to read the whole thing? It makes me wonder.....



**MAYOR FOR A DAY CONTEST** – What if kids were in charge? Now's your chance to find out! The League of Minnesota Cities, which the City of Saint Peter is a member of, is sponsoring a "Mayor for a Day" contest for children in grades 4th, 5th, and 6th. The contest gives these children a chance to say what they would do as a "Mayor for a Day" in an essay contest sponsored by the League.

For this year's contest, the League is asking students what they would do to get city residents more involved in city government. Three winners will be chosen and awarded \$100. Plus, winning essays will be published in the League's "Minnesota Cities" magazine.

Interested participants may access the entry form at [www.lmc.org/mayorforaday](http://www.lmc.org/mayorforaday). Entries must be handwritten and postmarked no later than October 23, 2015 to: League of Minnesota Cities, ATTN: Mayor for a Day, 145 University Ave W, St. Paul, MN 55103.

**THE THIRD FLOOR YOUTH CENTER** - The Saint Peter Recreation Department is happy to announce that The Third Floor Youth Center at North Intermediate School will be opening on Monday, October 5. The youth center welcomes all 3-6th grade youth in Saint Peter and is open Monday-Friday after school until 5 p.m. Registration forms for parents to complete and return will be included in student's backpacks and available at school offices.

Kayla Spurling is the new Youth Center Coordinator and is excited to meet both students

and parents and get things rolling. We are fortunate again to have several Gustavus Adolphus College work study students on staff. Volunteers from various Gustavus organizations will also be involved at TTF on a regular basis. Please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services office at 934-0667 or [jenh@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:jenh@saintpetermn.gov) with any questions.

The Third Floor Youth Center is a program of the City of Saint Peter Recreation and Leisure Services Department in cooperation with School District 508 and Gustavus Adolphus College.



**CO-ED ADULT VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE** - Attention volleyball players! Friday, October 2 is the deadline for teams to register for this Monday night

recreational, non-sanctioned volleyball league. The season begins on Monday, November 16th and consists of 12 regular season games plus an end-of-the-season tournament. Register at the Saint Peter Recreation and Leisure Services office, Suite 200, in the Community Center. For more information and/or to receive a registration form, visit [www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation), call 934-0667 or email [jenh@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:jenh@saintpetermn.gov).

**JOINT CITY PARK/HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT** – Did you miss the opportunity to attend the September 9th “show and tell” event co-hosted by the City and School District on the new park and high school? Check out this link to see some of the displays provided to the public during the show and tell event. ...

<http://www.stpeterschools.org/district/new-high-school/resources.htm#plans>



**ABSENTEE BALLOTS AVAILABLE** – Absentee ballots for the November 3, 2015 general election are now available from the Nicollet County Public Services Office

(formerly known as the Auditor's Office). All voters eligible to vote at the general election, even those in School District #508 living in Le Sueur County, will do absentee voting through Nicollet County.

The ballots contain Mayor, City Councilmember, and School District #508 Board member races.

Absentee voting is available through 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 2nd, but all mailed absentee ballots must be received by the County Auditor's Office by Election Day.

Unsure where to cast your ballot in person on Election Day? Here's a link that will help...

<http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>. Once you have provided your address, you'll be provided information on your polling place and what races are included on your particular ballot. And if you are new to the community and don't know where to find your polling place building, you can access a map to your polling place.

**VOTER PRE-REGISTRATION** – Not registered to vote? Want to save time on Election Day? Voters have until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13th to pre-register to vote. The simplest way to pre-register is online at the Secretary of State's site: <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationStep1.aspx>. You'll need some specific personal identification information, but if you don't have it, you can still print out the form and mail in a paper application.

Voters need to register (or re-register) if they have never voted before or have changed residences since that last time they voted.

And if you don't pre-register before the deadline, you can still register at the polls on Election Day. It will just take a little bit longer to vote that day, but we'll have lots of Election Judges waiting to help you through the process. Unregistered voters will need to provide proof of residence. A list of the acceptable documents is available on the City's website at

[http://www.saintpetermn.gov/sites/default/files/documents/admin/ACCEPTED PROOF OF RESIDENCE.pdf](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/sites/default/files/documents/admin/ACCEPTED%20PROOF%20OF%20RESIDENCE.pdf).

For questions related to voter registration, please contact the City Administrator's Office at 934-0720 or by email at [barbaral@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov).

**FALL 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 28th. Brush and garden waste must be placed parallel and adjacent to the curb by 7:00 A.M. Monday, September 28th. No more brush or garden waste will be collected after the week of September 28th.

Leaves and grass clippings will be collected from properties north of Broadway Avenue starting at 7:00 A.M. Monday, October 26th and for properties located south of Broadway Avenue beginning at 7:00 A.M. Monday, November 9th.

The collection process is accomplished by one person driving the vacuum truck with another



person walking behind using a hose to collect the leaves and grass clippings. For this reason, please do not include animal wastes with the leaves, as the person using the hose gets covered with a fine dust of whatever is in the leaves.

Leaves must be placed parallel and adjacent to the curb (do not put on the street or in bags).

The collection process is quite lengthy, (it took five weeks for the whole town in 2014), which may necessitate starting the collection before all the leaves have fallen. The street sweeper then goes behind the leaf collectors so streets are cleaned before the snow comes. Collection dates for the areas north and south of Broadway Avenue are rotated each year.

Those living on a corner lot may have one side 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 all of your materials collected at the same time, please make sure to pile the materials on the same side of the property.

Crews will only go through an area once; so if yard waste is not out by the dates and times mentioned above it will not be picked up but can be taken to the drop-off site.

To help the City better serve property owners, please do not park in front of the yard waste until pick-up is complete. Note: Snow may end the process prematurely but leaves, brush, and garden waste can be taken to the drop-off site.

The brush and soft yard waste drop-off sites located across the street from the Department of Public Works facility, 405 West St. Julien Street, at the southwest intersection of St. Julien and Swift Streets, are open year around for your convenience in dropping off brush and soft yard waste.

This service is provided and funded by the Environmental Service Fee on utility customer's bills.

**TREE PRUNING NOTICE** - During the upcoming months, City staff will be trimming boulevard trees throughout the community. 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.

Those with questions about this work are encouraged to call the Department of Public Works at 934-0670.

**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 21	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	September 21	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	September 24	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	September 25	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	September 28	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 29	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Thursday	October 1	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	October 5	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	October 5	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	October 6		CITY OFFICES CLOSED UNTIL 10:30 – STAFF TRAINING
Monday	October 12	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	October 13	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	October 19	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop

Thursday	October 22	12:20 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Friday	October 23	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Saturday	October 24	10:00 a.m.	P.A.W.S. Walk
Monday	October 26	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	October 27	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	October 28	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Saturday	October 31		HALLOWEEN FUN RUN

