

# 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. To request an email subscription to this newsletter, or for more information, please contact us at [barbaral@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov) [www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter](https://www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter)



03/27/19

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action at the City Council meeting held on March 25, 2019 included approval for purchase of a replacement pool heater funded by the 2019 Equipment Certificate; authorization for City assistance for the Relay For Life event; and Mayor Zieman proclaiming March, 2019 as “Women’s History Month” in the community.

The next regular City Council meeting, will be Monday, April 8th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.



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

We’ve got a ton of them going on in all shapes, sizes and places including with other government entities, the

private sector, not-for-profits and many community based volunteer groups. Some examples of these relationships include the various ball associations, School District #508, Nicollet County, Gustavus, and so many more.

The Council reviews our relationships with these partners on a regular basis at their goal setting sessions and we often talk about goals, tasks and ways to enhance communication. There are so many things that we partner on, many of which are never seen by the general public but can have a big impact on the quality of life that we have this in our community.

The Council believes that a strong community is stronger through cooperative efforts and by working with the many groups who develop opportunities to participate and develop programs in our community. The Council thinks actively and strategically about opportunities to partner and how important it is to make sure common goals and objectives are explored with our potential partners. We hope to do that through ongoing and enhanced communication, opportunities to meet together and

discuss our goals, and through sharing of expertise and resources.

We see examples of this throughout the community including work at Vet’s field, enhancements that have been made to Community Spirit Park, and the programs that teach our young people to play ball, to develop Lego projects, and to encourage volunteerism within Saint Peter. I’d love to know if you have a favorite partnership that involves the City of Saint Peter and your group.

Have you seen some of these great partnerships in action? It makes me wonder...

**FLOOD RECOVERY INFORMATION** – The following information is provided by the Nicollet County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator.



The Minnesota River is just starting to recede in St. Peter this

week, but problems are still rising for some property owners dealing with flood issues. Nicollet County Public Health offers simple tips on how residents can stay safe and healthy during clean-up and repair:

- Injury prevention: Stay out of flood waters; even the strongest swimmers can drown in flood waters. Do not drive through standing water. Never make contact with power lines or objects that are in contact with the lines. Wear rubber gloves and boots, as well as eye goggles to clear debris.
- Water: Check for local boil-water advisories. Do not use contaminated water to wash dishes, brush teeth, prepare food or baby formula, or make ice.
- Well water: If your well has been affected by flood waters, it is recommended to boil water for at least one minute at a rolling boil or instead

purchase from a safe source. Before resuming normal use of the well, have the water tested for possible bacteria and pollutants. See <https://www.health.state.mn.us/news/pressrel/2019/wellflood031819.html>

- Food: Do not eat food that has come in contact with flood waters. Throw away any food that cannot be kept cold or properly heated due to lack of power.
- Carbon monoxide poisoning: Don't use a generator, pressure washer, charcoal grill, camp stove, or other gasoline- or charcoal-burning device inside your home, garage, or near a window, door or vent. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can cause flu-like symptoms, illness or death. Seek fresh air and consult a healthcare provider immediately if poisoning is suspected.
- First aid: Immediately clean all wounds with soap and water. If your skin or eyes come in contact with hazardous materials, wash thoroughly with clean water. Make sure your tetanus vaccination is up to date. See: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/tetanus/tetanusfacts.html>
- Mental health: Floods and other natural disasters can create stress and anxiety for those affected and those who help. Talking to others, along with eating healthy and getting enough sleep can make a big difference. See: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/ep/behavioral/stress.html>
- Mold: Mold can begin to grow within 24 hours on items that have contact with floodwater. Remove it by washing with soap and water and letting surfaces dry completely. Bleach can be used to kill germs and mold on non-porous surfaces. Surfaces that hold food can be sanitized with a mixture of 1 tablespoon of bleach to a gallon of safe water, increasing to ¼ - to a ½-cup for items like walls, floors and tables that won't come in contact with food or mouths. Materials such as moldy clothing, ceiling tiles and sheetrock may have to be replaced. See: <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/mold/index.html>
- Free Salvation Army Clean-up Kits that include a 5-gallon bucket, bleach, sponges, and a mop



are available at the Nicollet County Emergency Management Office in the basement of the Nicollet County Government Center (501 South Minnesota Avenue) during business hours. Information sheets on these topics can be obtained by Brown-Nicollet Environmental Health at 507-934-7089.

**FLOODING UPDATE** – We live on the Minnesota River. The Minnesota River occasionally floods. Bridges are occasionally closed due to flooding. Welcome to spring in Minnesota!

All kidding aside, Spring flooding has arrived and the City and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (they have control over bridge closures) are taking the necessary steps to keep residents safe.

So here's where we stand now:

- Highway 99 bridge is closed to all traffic.
- The Mill Pond area of Riverside Park, including the boat landing and the campgrounds and the road around the Mill Pond, is closed to all traffic.
- Also closed is the Dog Park on Highway 99 and the south portion of Riverside Park (Disc golf course and trails near Highway 22 bridge.)
- A stockpile of sand is available for City residents who need extra protection around their property. The sand bag itself is available from Nicollet County Emergency Management in the basement of the Government Center.
- Other than park land, no City facilities or other structures are at risk at this point.

As tempting as it may be, it's just water folks so having pictures or video of it isn't that interesting. Do NOT go around barricades to get those selfies!

**PEDDLERS NEED PERMITS** – Tis the time of year when Peddlers arrive and we've already had at least one person call the Police Department.

Regulations for Peddlers, which were formerly called "Green River" laws have been in place for decades. The term refers to the U.S. licensing law protecting residents from door-to-door solicitation. This ordinance grants protection to residents from unwanted peddlers and salespersons, by prohibiting door-to-door solicitations without prior consent and the City Code places restrictions on how these activities can be undertaken.

People who are going door to door in a residential area without a permanent and fixed business

location within the corporate limits of Saint Peter are subject to permitting requirements.

When a Peddler applies for a permit, each individual who is going door to door must have their own permit with their own name on it. The Police Department does a background check on each of the individuals and then, if recommended for approval, the permit application goes to the City Council. Once issued, each Peddler must carry their permit on them and present it to anyone who asks to see it.

As part of the permitting process, Peddler's must issue a bond with the City. This helps ensure that anyone who might be swindled by the transaction can get a bit of relief.

But here's the thing about Peddlers....if you don't want to let them in your house, don't! There is no rule that says just because they have a permit from the City you must do business with them. While we do a background check on the applicants, it's still up to each of us to use our own best judgement when dealing with a salesperson that appears at the door.

If you do open your door to a Peddler, certainly ask to see their permit before inviting them into your home or ordering anything. If they can't or won't show you the permit, simply don't do business with them. And don't believe them when they say they don't need a permit or the company holds the permit. They DO need the permit no matter what other statute they might reference and it's the individual that receives the permit, not the company.

If someone comes to your door selling without the required permit, please feel free to call the Police Department at 931-1550 and provide a report. Give the Police the best description you can of the individual including what direction they were going; whether on foot or by vehicle and, if in a car, what make/model/color; what they were wearing; and what they were trying to sell you. An Officer will try and find them and if necessary, direct them in how to obtain the proper permit or send them on their way.

**FRONT YARD PARKING** - The Saint Peter Zoning Ordinance requires off-street parking be provided for each particular use of land; the number of required parking spaces for each of the various land uses; and the location of the parking spaces, particularly in residential districts.

The adopted zoning code reads in part: *"Within residential districts, no required off-street parking*

*shall be located within any required front yard except as may be provided within the private driveway servicing a residential structure."*

The only exception to this section of the ordinance would be during snow emergencies declared by the City of Saint Peter.

The zoning ordinance also requires that any driveways or parking areas be surfaced with an asphalt, concrete or a similar hard surfaced material. Gravel does not constitute a "hard surfaced" material and is not acceptable given that the gravel often migrates into the City's drainage system impeding the flow of stormwater and resulting in added maintenance costs.

This section of the City Code was established when the zoning ordinance was comprehensively amended in 2007 and applies to parking areas established since that time. Those that had gravel parking areas prior to that time are considered to be "grandfathered" and can continue. The installation of a hard surface would be required should the use be enlarged or expanded due to new construction.

**SQUIRRELS AND POWER OUTAGES** – A couple of weekends ago, there was a power outage that impacted a portion of the community. As people



were chatting about it on social media, a few people jokingly suggested the City would claim a squirrel was the cause. This has been going on for years and we've even had a few

Councilmembers tease staff about using that excuse. But little did you know that squirrels have oftentimes been found to be the culprits when the power goes out!

We are not the only ones experiencing this issue. In fact, "Minnesota Cities" magazine recently published the following news beif about that very thing.....

*"The American Public Power Association (APPA) recently displayed some collaborative spirit when it reached out publicly to its arch nemesis: squirrels. On Squirrel Appreciation Day, January 21st, rather than berate the furry fiend, APPA wrote a blog post recommending a variety of power-grid approved tips for staying safe. The blog also linked to the association's eReliability Tracker which reveals that in 2016, utilities reported 3,456 outages caused by*

squirrels. Read the acorn in cheek post at [www.publicpower.org/blog/open-letter-squirrels](http://www.publicpower.org/blog/open-letter-squirrels).”

So the next time you experience a power interruption, think of our furry friends.

**2019 RAIN BARREL REBATES** - Beginning May 15th through July 15, 2019 City utility customers may purchase a 45 – 50 gallon rain barrel or rain barrel diverter and parts kit from Arrow Ace Hardware and earn a rebate from the City. At the time of purchase a rebate form will be filled out at the store that will then provide the information to the City for rebate processing.

Purchase of one of the qualifying barrels entitles the utility customer to either a \$25 rebate on their utility bill or a \$10 rebate for the purchase of a rain barrel diverter and parts kit. Rebates are available to the first 50 qualified purchasers and there is a limit of two rebates per household.



So why rain barrels? There are lots of great reasons for installing one:

- Rainwater is great for gardens, houseplants, auto cleaning, window washing, and other household chores.
- Barrels allow customers to store water use on a sunny day.
- Stops stormwater from polluting neighboring waters by keeping it where it falls.
- Recycling rain water reduces personal energy consumption by using less treated water.
- Reduces erosion and increase water quality while reducing stress on the municipal storm drain and sewer systems.

It's that easy to have a positive impact on the environment. For more questions about the rain barrel program, please contact Public Works at 507-934-0670.

**CITIZENS ACADEMY** – The City Council has discussed the establishment of a “Citizens Academy”. The goal of this academy would be to give members of our community an opportunity to get to know City staff and learn more about the City and how it operates. The academy would be a free program that takes place over five evenings at various locations throughout the City. Each session would include meeting staff, getting to

know some of the things that go into everyday activities of the City, and tours.

The Academy gives participants the opportunity to learn more about each City department, including Police, Fire, Administration, Community Development, Public Works (including the Utilities divisions), Building, and Recreation. Each session will be about an hour and a half in length. Graduates, those attending four or more of the five sessions, will receive special recognition by the City Council in the HOT SHEET and at a Council meeting. The Academy will start after Labor Day and will be on Wednesday evenings.

At this point in time, we are just trying to determine how many might be interested in participating in the program. If you think you might be interested, please contact my office at [barbaral@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov) or 507-934-0663. A minimum of 12 participants will be required. Actual registration will take place sometime this summer.

**CITY COUNCIL ADVISORY BOARDS** – This is the seventh in a nine part series on the City Council's advisory boards. These boards are comprised of mostly citizen members and are tasked with various responsibilities....the most important of which is providing recommendations to the City Council. Applicants are recommended for appointment by Mayor Zieman and the full Council votes on each appointment. Last week's article focused on the Library Board and this week we're highlighting the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was created to study the needs of the City in the area of public parks and recreational programs and to make recommendations to the Council on park and recreation policies. The Board reviews policies, the need for additional park land, prepares a park land acquisition and development plan and capital equipment and improvement plans for the parks systems; and also serves as the City's Tree Advisory Board.

The Board is comprised of 11 members who serve staggered three-year terms. Members include David Hoehn, Sarah Nielsen, Laura Zender, Al Christensen, Bernard Bidelman, Jordan Paula (representing School District #508), Ryan Kupcho, Michael Looft, Brian Fremo, and Susie Carlin and Roger Parras representing the City Council. Ex-officio's on the Board include City Administrator Prafke, Recreation and Leisure Services Director Schugel and Public Works Director Moulton.

The Parks Board meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Public Works

Department conference room at 405 West St. Julien Street.

If you are interested in applying to be on one of the many City Council advisory boards or commissions, applications are available from the City Administrator's Office at City Hall (227 South Front Street) or by emailing [barbaral@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov).

To be eligible for appointment to an advisory board, applicants must live within the corporate limits of the City and must commit to making the regularly scheduled meetings of the board.

Next week's edition of the Hot Sheet will provide information on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

**HELP WANTED** – The City of Saint Peter is now accepting applications for the following positions:

- **ELECTRIC SUPERINTENDENT** - in the Department of Public Works. Responsibilities include but are not limited to planning, coordinating, directing, and monitoring the operation of the Electric Utility; planning and supervising construction of the electrical generation and distribution system; setting priorities to deal with emergencies; coordinating activities with other divisions, departments, and organizations; assisting with planning, design, and construction of projects; evaluate need for and prepare specifications for materials and equipment; maintain operating records; prepare specifications for electric utility services, equipment, and materials; prepare reports as requested; assist in annual budget preparations; set quality standards for work to be performed; set priorities. Minimum qualifications: high school degree and satisfactory completion of a technical school program for lineman electricians and completion of a recognized apprenticeship in electrical line work, including eight years of responsible experience in electrical distribution systems. An additional five years of experience may be substituted for technical training. Possession of, or ability to obtain, a State of Minnesota Lineman Electrician License issued by the State Board of Electricity. Possession of a valid State of Minnesota Class A Driver's License with air brake endorsement or ability to obtain such within one month of the date of employment with the City. **NOTICE:** The successful candidate must complete and pass a pre-employment drug test and is subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing. Starting salary \$81,120 to \$86,320 per

year. Applicants must complete a City application form available in the City Administrator's Office, 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082-2538 or by calling (507) 931-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's Office no later than 5:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 17, 2019. Faxed, e-mailed, or late application will not be accepted.

- **WASTEWATER OPERATOR** - in the Department of Public Works. Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma or equivalent; possession of a State of Minnesota Wastewater Treatment Facility Operator



Certificate or ability to obtain within one year of the date of employment with the City; possession of a State of Minnesota Type IV Biosolids Operator or ability to obtain within one year

of the date of employment with the City; possession of a valid State of Minnesota Class A driver's license with Air Brake Endorsement and Tanker Endorsement or ability to obtain within six months of the date of employment with the City; possession of an American Heart Association Certification as a Basic Rescuer for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency cardiac care or ability to obtain within six months. Desirable qualifications: Satisfactory completion of a technical school program related to wastewater systems operations; up to six years of responsible experience as a wastewater system operator with at least two years experience in the operation of a Class A, B, or C system or facility, or similar industrial facility; knowledge of the principles, practices, chemicals, and equipment used in wastewater treatment, biosolids treatment and disposal, and pumping operations; ability to perform a wide variety of tests on raw and treated wastewater, and raw and treated bio-solids; knowledge of the principles of plumbing and hydraulics; knowledge of and ability to operate Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) system; knowledge of the functions and service requirements of mechanical equipment and machinery; knowledge of OSHA regulations and safety precautions of the trade; demonstrated ability to operate a variety of wastewater plant pumping, treatment, and control equipment, biosolids treatment and disposal equipment; demonstrated ability to

diagnose problems under emergency conditions and take corrective action; knowledge and experience in the operation of equipment including but not limited to backhoes, dump trucks, jet rodder machine, tanker trucks, main line TV cameras, and line locators. NOTICE: The successful candidate must complete and pass a pre-employment physical and drug test and is subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing required by federal regulations. Pay range

\$21.16 - \$31.38 per hour depending on certification level. Applicants are required to complete a City of Saint Peter application form available in the City Administrator's Office, 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082-2538 or by calling (507) 934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 2, 2019. Faxed applications will not be accepted. Interviews will be conducted April 19, 2019. AA/EEO

**CITY MEETING CALENDAR** – For questions on meeting dates/times, please contact the City Administrator's Office at 934-0663. Full calendar available at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov).

Wednesday	March 27	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	March 28	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Monday	April 1	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	April 1	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Thursday	April 4	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	April 8	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	April 9	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
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.	City Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting
Wednesday	April 24	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	April 25	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	April 26	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	April 29	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Tuesday	April 30	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission