

CITY OF SAINT PETER HOT SHEET

All the City news you need to know and a little bit more.
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06/20/18

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on June 11, 2018 included final acceptance of the Jefferson Avenue/Gardner Road Improvements Project; approval for City assistance for the Ride Across Minnesota event in Gorman Park; award of the bid for the 2018 N 3rd Street Improvement (Broadway to Chatham) Project; authorization for a process to provide for finished basements in the speculative homes already constructed in Traverse Green Subdivision; rescinding a previous resolution related to fees paid to realtors for sale of homes in Traverse Green Subdivision and instead authorizing a percentage fee; approving modifications to the Billing Clerk job description; and approving City assistance for the Veterans Memorial dedication event.

The next regular City Council meeting will be June 25, 2018 beginning 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.

WHEN IS THE FOURTH OF JULY? - Seems to be kind of a confusing question doesn't it? But unless the Fourth of July falls on a weekend, we get dozens of calls each year at City Hall asking that question. So here's the scoop.....

The Fourth of July is on July 4th each and every year in Saint Peter! The Chamber of Commerce, the entity that plans and hosts most of the Fourth of July events, does not change the schedule when the Fourth falls in the middle of the week.



If you have questions about the Fourth of July activities, want to be in the parade, want to be a vendor in the park, or whatever your question might be, please contact the Chamber of Commerce at (507)934-3400.

Next week's Hot Sheet will include information on the parade route and some basic etiquette rules for saving your parade viewing area.

RECREATION DIRECTOR CANDIDATE

MEET AND GREET – The City's long time Director of the Recreation and Leisure Services Department, Jane Timmerman, has announced her retirement at the end of the summer.

Recruitment for Ms. Timmerman's replacement is underway and part of the interview process for the candidates will be a public "Meet and Greet" event. The public is invited to join City Councilmembers and City staff to meet the candidates on Tuesday, June 26th from 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. in the St. Peter Room of the Community Center.

DNR GRANT AWARD - The City has been awarded grant funds from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for improvements at Hallett's Pond. The grant application was for a project to install a pier along the south side of the pond and asphalt trail surfacing over the existing gravel surface.



Hallett's Pond Natural Resource Area currently has an aggregate walking trail on the east and south side connecting to a concrete sidewalk near the Saint



Julien intersection. This area is owned by the City, but not classified as a City park. A Natural Resource Area is defined within the City's Parks Master Plan as "A *Natural Resource Area is undeveloped and is left in its natural state, just the way it was intended to be. Natural Resource Areas are subject to flooding.*"

The public can walk this path, and leashed dogs are allowed on this path. Benches, trees and other natural plantings will eventually be installed along the path.

WARM WEATHER SAFETY TIPS FOR YOUR PET –

June 21st is the official start of summer and that means warm weather and high humidity. Just as humans can suffer and be at risk during extreme heat and humidity, our companion animals can also suffer. Here are some tips to keep your cats and dogs safe during the extreme summer temps.

CATS

- **Provide cool, fresh air ventilation.** Use a sturdy fan, ceiling fan, open screened window(s), or an air conditioner - especially in severely hot temperatures. While cats are not particularly fond of cold air, an air conditioned room is essential during scorching weather to keep your pet cool and safe.



- **Make sure window screens are secure –** Cats love to sit in windowsills and enjoy the

great outdoors from a safe perch. And as cats are prone to do, stretching on a nice screen is a perfect ending to their sunny siesta. That makes it crucial to have sturdy window screens that are securely attached and which are free of holes and tears to prevent the cat from falling out and being injured or getting lost.

- **Provide fresh clean cool water throughout the day.** Cats can become dehydrated and need twenty-four hour access to water.



- **Slip ice cubes in drinking water.** This will help keep the water cool and drinkable.
- **Provide multiple bowls of drinking water throughout the house.** Having multiple water bowls around the house will entice your cat to

drink more, ensuring enough fluids during hot weather.

- **Stationery water bowls.** These are the spill-free bowls that will ensure the water doesn't accidentally end up on the floor.
- **Don't let wet food sit out too long.** Dry food can be left out all day, but if you feed wet food, it's good to remove it after feeding time and replace it with fresh food during the next meal so it doesn't spoil.
- **Never leave your cat alone while you go**



away for a few days!

You might be asking, "Who would do that?", but we probably would be surprised at the number of pet owners who do this. If you will be away from home for a day or

more, make sure that you have a responsible person in charge of your pet's care.

- **Don't let your cat outdoors during a heat wave!** Even though cats enjoy warm weather, letting your cat outside during a heat wave could be a fatal mistake. Keep kitty indoors until the heat wave passes.

- **Keep an eye out for sunburn –** Cats and dogs alike can be susceptible to sunburn on their ears and noses. Visit with your vet about what



options you may have to prevent these areas from burning and if your pet has suffered a burn, seek immediate veterinary care.

- **Never leave your cat in a hot car!** As with dogs, this is just plain common sense; but...pets die every year from heatstroke because of this neglectful act.
- **Provide a shady spot in your home.** Cats seem to love sunny rooms; but, in a heat wave, they will need a place to comfortably retreat to when the heat becomes dangerous. If their normal sun soaked area becomes unreasonably hot, close this area off and don't let the cat in the room until it cools down.

DOGS

- **Keep Fresh Cool Water Available.** One of the most important things to remember for dogs in hot weather is to make sure their water bowl is



always full. If the water bowl is outside, choose a light colored plastic or ceramic bowl rather than a metal one that can easily heat up in the sun. If possible, keep the water bowl in a shady area of the yard so that the water stays cool, and check it frequently to ensure your pup isn't being scalded by a supposed refreshment. As with cats, throwing in a few ice cubes helps to not only keep the water cooler, but for some dogs, it's a fun diversion.

- **Keep Your Pets Inside** - Dogs love the yard (or in this case the beach!), but if you're going to be gone for long days this summer, it may be safer to keep your dog in the house where they can lounge safely in the air conditioning. If you must leave your dog in hot weather in the yard, be sure there is plenty of shade. Dogs are susceptible to heat exhaustion and sunburn, so shade can be a life-saver.



- **Take a Dip** - Swimming can be a great way to help dogs cool off in hot weather. If you don't have access to a safe lake or river for your pooch to have a swim, kiddie pools in the backyard work great. Check the water occasionally to make sure it hasn't heated up. Keep your pets away from chlorine swimming pools, as the chemicals may be harmful if swallowed. But be cautious about allowing a dog in a pool. Many pet tragedies occur because a pool is too deep or difficult for a pet to get out of. And remember that not every dog swims and as with humans, it is a learned activity.



- **Take Walks in the Early**

Morning and Evening - Schedule your daily walks for times when the sun isn't in full force. Avoid hot asphalt, as this can be devastating to bare paws and find a place where the dog can walk on grass. Once the flood waters recede, the City's dog park is a great place to let your dog burn off some energy. But keep a close eye to make sure the dog isn't overly exerting itself in the hot sun.



- **Visit the Groomer** - Dogs in hot weather are much happier when they don't have to drag all that fur around. Give your pooch a shorter

haircut. It's best for the fur not to be shaved below 1/4 inch, though, since then the naked pup is susceptible to sunburn.

- **Summer Treats** - While you're enjoying ice cream and watermelon pay attention to what you're feeding the dog, and make sure any barbecue guests know the rules. Supervise the dog if you're offering him tasty bones.



One great summer treat for dogs is ice cubes. Most dogs love them, and ice cubes will keep them busy and hydrate them at the same time.

That's a treat for you too!

This information was compiled from several different sources on the web.

GNATS! – Does it seem as if all of outdoors is swarming with gnats this summer? Our heavy rains have certainly contributed to the gnat problem and many of us have searched for ways to enjoy the outdoors without being attacked by gnats. These relatively harmless insects are enough to force even the hardest souls indoors for the summer!

So, where do we turn for help when gnats are chewing on the tips of our ears and flying into our eyes? Here's some information that might be helpful:

- A little vanilla extract on the brim of your hat acts as a "natural" gnat repellent.
- Keep your garden free of mold, fungus, and rotting plant debris. Pay particular attention to shady areas with poor air circulation. Put your compost pile as far from the house as you can, cover your trash cans, and keep fallen debris cleaned up.
- Entice gnats with their favorite food and then get rid of them. You can do this by placing some rotten fruits or vegetables on a plate and position them near the door or window. They will soon track the smell of the trap and swarm on it. When they do, finish them all with a bug repellent spray.
- Prepare a deep bowl, fill it with a mixture of vinegar and dish soap. Gnats will be attracted to the smell of vinegar and will dive on to the bowl to get it. The way inside the bowl is easy, but the way out is impossible. The purpose of mixing the dish soap is to make the surroundings of the bowl slippery, so when they

try to struggle their way out of the bowl, they will always come sliding back in. In other words, they will be trapped inside the bowl. This is a very effective trap and is easy to prepare.

- Check your plants for some buzzing gnats. If you happen to notice gnats buzzing around your indoor or outdoor plants, this may indicate that they have nested around that very area. Try to sneak onto their nests by spraying them with bug repelling spray such as Gnatrol.
- Keep your home clean and properly protected from gnats. Wipe counter tops and tables with bleach. Eliminate gnat areas inside and outside your home, dispose of rotten vegetables and fruits in tightly sealed garbage bags or bins and properly dispose of trash to prevent it from building up. Also cover cracks and holes around windows or doors where gnats can easily pass through. You may also want to install some protective fine door and window screens as well.
- Control the use of outside lightings. Gnats are attracted to lights so try to turn off the lights in your porch, the front or back door, as soon as you are done using it.
- Purchase some bug repellents to use around your home. Insect repellent sprays, such as DEET (Off), are excellent for driving gnats away. You may also try using Avon's Skin So Soft to repel gnats from your skin.
- Repellents: DEET, citronella, pine oil, and dryer sheets are also commonly used to repel gnats. You can also use fans on your porch to keep the air moving and discourage hovering swarms. There are also a number of repellent sprays, lanterns, and granules on the market that claim to repel gnats with varying degrees of effectiveness or toxicity.

Better to try some of these remedies than to spend the summer waving your arms around your head and face!

SILENT DROWNING – You know how in the movies people who are drowning thrash around and cry out for help?



They wave their arms above their head trying to signal someone on shore to see them or draw the attention of a lifeguard. They flail desperately and scream for help, again and again. Unfortunately that picture is what many of us have in our minds when we think of

drowning. But it's not real life.

Drowning isn't loud – it's silent. It's quick and deadly and unless you're a trained professional you

may miss the signs of drowning all together. Drowning victims are using so much energy and air to keep alive, they don't have the ability to call for help. As they struggle to stay above the water, their lungs may already be filling with water before they slip silently beneath the surface. While we might expect them to wave their arms in the air to attract help, in reality, their natural instinct will be to keep those arms moving in the water trying to stay above water.

There is a terrific public safety spot airing now that shows a little girl in a swimming pool while a group of adults are visiting on the pool deck behind her and no one is watching her. She starts...."Hi, in a minute, I'm going to drown. My Mom thinks Dad is watching me. Dad thinks Mom is watching me...." It's really an impactful message. If you'd like to watch, here's the link. <http://abbeyshope.org/2012-03-26-22-30-46/videos>.

According to experts, unless the victim is rescued from the water, they have anywhere from 20 – 60 seconds before full submersion will occur and then this becomes an extremely dangerous and lifesaving scenario no one ever wants to experience.

Lifeguards know the warning signs of drowning but to untrained eyes, this is not what most think drowning looks like, which is even scarier.

Did you know that young children have what is called a diving reflex? If a toddler falls in the water, they have a natural instinct to hold their breath and sink. They won't fight for the surface; they don't splash and scream. When they slip under the surface, especially among a crowd of people, they can easily go unnoticed because drowning is silent.

Children, young children in particular, are noisy swimmers. When have you ever been at a pool when children aren't splashing or playing loudly? It's a terrifying sound when they're quiet and by the time you've noticed the lack of sound, it might be too late.

Here are the real signs of drowning (for both adults and children) every person should watch for.

- **Head Tilted Back:** The victim will tilt their head back to attempt to get air and breathe.
- **Mouth at Water Level:** A drowning victim is trying to keep their mouth at water's level to get air but has no time to yell for help because they are barely able to take in air. The mouth will bob up for air and back down under the water.



- No Waiving or Hailing for Help: Nature instinctively forces victims to extend their arms laterally and press down on the water. Pressing down on the surface of the water permits drowning people to leverage their bodies so they can lift their mouths out of the water to breathe.
- Eyes Appear Glassy/Empty
- Bodies Stay Upright in the Water: The victim will stay upright in the water because of the lateral arm pressing, but there is usually no supporting kick.

In the event of a near drowning incident for your family, do you know how to give a child CPR? One in three parents don't, but it's essential to have



American Red Cross

training for not only water saving and near-drowning resuscitation, but also for accidents, suffocation, smoke inhalation, electric injuries, SIDS (possible sudden infant death syndrome), and other medical issues. The American Red Cross offers CPR classes on a regular basis. If you're not trained in CPR, it might be something to consider.

It only takes a moment for a child to drown so as we enjoy backyard pools, the lake, and even the City's outdoor pool, it's up to each of us to know what to look for and possibly save a life.

For more information about water safety, please visit [RED CROSS WATER SAFETY](#).

ILLEGAL DUMPING – One of the lesser known laws in Saint Peter has to do with illegal dumping. Most people think of this as disposing of old tires in ditches, or dumping a broken refrigerator in a wooded area. That's part of it, but it is also illegal to dump or place garbage in another person's garbage container.



As everyone does know, each property owner pays to have garbage hauled away. Whether you are a home owner or own a business, the cost to dispose of garbage adds up. If you have excess garbage at a home, you have to buy special bags to dispose of the excess. If you are a business with a dumpster, the cost is based on the weight of materials in the

dumpster. So every bit of extra garbage costs more.

Yet there are some people in the community, or maybe they come from other communities, who try and toss their garbage in someone else's containers, but it's illegal! If you see someone illegally dumping garbage or other unwanted materials in a dumpster or container that is not theirs, please get a good description of the person and their vehicle and call the Police Department at 931-1550.

One more law that you may not know about....it's also illegal to dig through someone's recycling and take out materials like aluminum cans once that recycling container has been set out for collection.

HELP WANTED - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the following position:

- **BILLING CLERK** - in the Finance Department.
MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High school diploma or equivalent; Clerical experience; Demonstrated computer use experience; and experience working with the public. **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Demonstrated knowledge and experience using Microsoft Word software; Demonstrated knowledge and experience using Excel software; Minimum of one year demonstrated accounting or bookkeeping experience; Associate's degree in accounting; Bachelor's degree with a major in accounting; Demonstrated knowledge and experience using utility billing software; Demonstrated experience using accounts receivable billing software; Two or more years' experience working with utility billing; Two or more years' experience working with accounts receivable. \$19.25-\$20.00 per hour depending on qualifications.. Applicants are required to complete a 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 p.m. or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 p.m. July 12, 2018. Faxed, emailed, and/or late 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.

Monday June 18 5:30 p.m. City Council Workshop

Monday	June 18	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Friday	June 22	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	June 25	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	June 26	5:15 – 6:15 p.m.	Recreation Director Meet and Greet Event St. Peter Room of the Community Center
Tuesday	June 26	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	June 27	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	June 28	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Monday	July 2	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	July 2	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Wednesday	July 4		4th OF JULY - LEGAL HOLIDAY – City Offices Closed
Thursday	July 5	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	July 9	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	July 10	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	July 16	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	July 16	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday	July 23	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Wednesday	July 25	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	July 26	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	July 27	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Tuesday	July 31	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission