

# 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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[www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter](http://www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter)  
@CityofStPeter

05/30/18

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action at the City Council meeting held on May 29, 2018 included modification to the City Code to raise the minimum age for purchase of tobacco products to 21 years of age effective August 1, 2018; establishing parameters for issuance and direct sale of two different Hospital revenue bonds to fund the 2018 Hospital Expansion Project; authorization for City assistance for a Gustavus alumni event on July 9th that is open to the public; authorization for City assistance for the St. Peter Ambassador's Blues Fest event on June 9th; approval for execution of a maintenance agreement for Community Spirit Park with School District #508; approval of a Peddler Permit Application; award of bid for an alternative window bid package for the 2018 Hospital Expansion Project; a closed session and subsequent action to authorize sale of City owned land located at the southeast corner of the South Third Street/South Washington Avenue intersection.

The next regular City Council meeting will be June 11, 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](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city).

**WIPES CLOG PIPES** – Please....DON'T FLUSH WIPES! Despite often being labeled "flushable," disposable wipes that are flushed down toilets don't break down in the sewer system. These wipes are often used in private homes, medical facilities and nursing homes. Flushed wipes cause expensive

problems for the City which has to clean them out of screens and pumps, and remove wipe-based clogs. And as with most expensive problems, the cost is then passed on to customers.



Many homeowners have experienced plumbing problems because of wipes, so you may have expensive maintenance issues at home if you flush them. Wipes may be labeled "flushable," but they don't degrade in the system. Flushing them is like flushing a handkerchief or other item made of cloth as shown in this video created by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQEAtUziOoc>  
Our sewer systems and treatment plants were not designed to handle wipes. They gum up the system, clog pipes and pumps, and cost taxpayers and residents lots of money in additional maintenance costs. So if you must use wipes, please put them in the trash, not the toilet!

And here's one more MPCA video that helps get the message out there...  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nz0FFHL9wrw>.

If you have questions about this topic, please contact the City's Public Works Department at 934-0670 for more information.



**EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT ACCESS** – Construction for the expansion project at River's Edge Hospital and Clinic requires a change in access for patients utilizing the emergency department. For the full notice, please visit the City's website ([www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov)) or Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter](http://www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter)).

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM** - Check out the summer reading program at the Library starting Saturday, June 2nd through Friday, August 10th.

This summer will rock in the Library! Every child, whether preschooler, school ager, tween or teen, is sure to enjoy this summer's program. The theme is "LIBRARIES ROCK" and the program kicks off next week with the Govenaires at Gorman Park, Saturday, June 2, 4:30 p.m.

Reading activities are FREE and take place at the Public Library unless otherwise noted. There is something for everyone!

- STORYTIMES - Guest Storytime readers will be at the library most Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Check out Evening Storytimes with Annie on Wednesdays at 6 pm!
- READ AND BEAD - To participate, pick up a tag, necklace and a reading log at the library. Read for 10 days, receive 10 read beads for your necklace! Keep reading all summer long to build your unique keepsake!
- TEEN PROGRAM - Those going into grades 6 and up will receive scratch-off tickets when they check out books. One in three tickets is a winner! Big winners in each category and non-winning tickets go into a drawing for a Fire Tablet or a Ukulele!
- OTHERS:
  - Kindess Rocks
  - Punk Skunks Storywalk
  - Reading Marathon
  - Polymer Clay Creations
  - Moo! Storywalk
  - Junk Funk Family Drum Circle
  - Ten Pigs Storywalk
  - Lego Day
  - Science of Sound STEM Program
  - Mankato Youth Symphony Orchestra and MAYSO Jazz
  - SWAP day
  - Battle of the Books
  - Summer End Movie Party

To find out more or see the calendar of events posted on the Library website ([www.saintpetermn.gov/library](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/library)) or pick up one at the Library.

**PROTECT YOUR PETS** - We've all heard the horror stories of what happens to living things left in hot cars during the summer and unfortunately, the stories continue with recent news reports of Officers or bystanders breaking windows on vehicles to rescue children or pets left in sweltering hot cars. So, here's your reminder for summer 2018.....**DON'T LEAVE KIDS OR PETS IN THE CAR!!**

Many people still believe that it's ok to leave a dog in a car on a warm day if the windows are left open or they're parked in the shade, but the truth is, it's still a very dangerous situation for the dog and it's against the law!

Because excessive heat is life-threatening, it is against the law in Minnesota (Minn. Stat. Sec. 346.57) to "leave a dog or a cat unattended in a standing or parked motor vehicle in a manner that endangers the dog's or cat's health or safety."

A car can become as hot as an oven very quickly, even when it doesn't feel that warm. As you can see from the chart shown here, the temperatures on even relatively mild days in Minnesota can reach dangerous levels in as little as 10 minutes putting your pet, in their wonderful fur coat, at risk of heat stroke, heat exhaustion and even death.

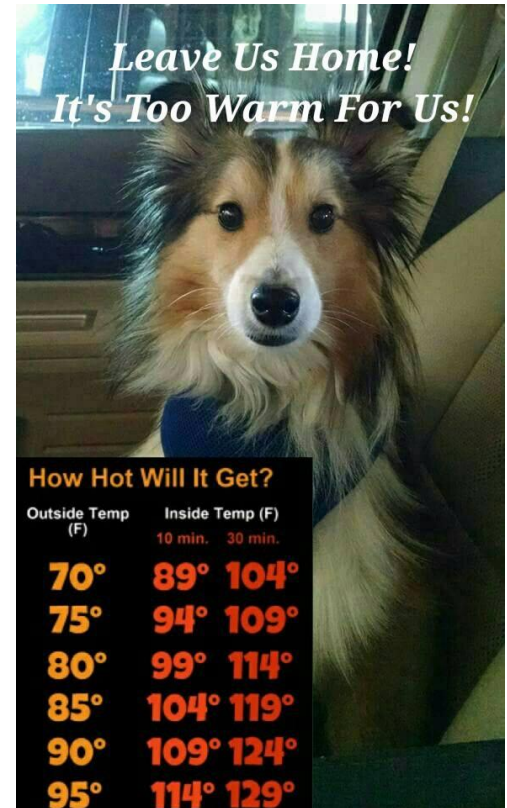
Please leave the dog or cat at home where they will be safe and happy to see you when you get back from your errands.

Warning signs that your animal may be in distress include heavy panting, tongue hanging out, restlessness, anxiety, clawing at windows, trembling, vomiting, disoriented, foaming at mouth, diarrhea, collapsing, and seizures. If your dog is in distress, take it straight to medical care.

If you see a pet left in a vehicle this summer and it appears to be in distress, please call 911 immediately and then, if you can, try to locate the owner in area businesses.

**STORM SIRENS OR NOT?** – Summer storms can come up quickly and be quite violent and in the past the City has had questions from people about when storm sirens are used and what happens when the storm has passed.

Let's start with the basics of severe weather lingo.....



- Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm **“WATCH”** - means that conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes or severe thunderstorms. When a watch is issued for our area, pay close attention to the weather and make sure that everyone in your family knows the correct action to take if the weather gets worse.
- Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm **“WARNING”** - means a tornado or severe thunderstorm has been reported or is indicated by weather radar. Warning information includes the tornado or storm's location, direction and speed. If the warning is issued for our portion of Nicollet County, residents should **TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY**. Emergency sirens are only issued for Tornado Warnings...not for severe thunderstorms.
- Emergency Alert Testing – Testing of the City's emergency sirens happens on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. However, if the weather is bad that day, the testing will not take place.

Now, with that knowledge in place, let's think about how the National Weather Service issues their watches and warnings. For many years, warnings for tornadoes were issued for the entire county. That meant that if a storm was 40 miles away on the other edge of Nicollet County, the warning was issued for the whole of Nicollet County regardless of whether it would come near Saint Peter or not. That led to the sirens being activated a lot and people starting to ignore the sirens. When people stop paying attention it poses a danger.

Warnings by the Weather Service are issued based on the geographic area of the storm and it's predicted path. The “box” that you see on a radar screen for a warned area is oddly shaped to encompass only the area that is really in danger.

With all the apps available these days, many of us get notices of incoming storms on televisions or over our computers or smart phones; however, the Police Department gets notices sent directly from the National Weather Service.

When the warning is received, the Police Department reviews the more detailed information from the Weather Service, along with radar information from other sources including local television, to determine if City emergency sirens should be activated. If the direction and location of the storm indicate that a possible tornado will be near Saint Peter, the sirens are activated. If it looks

like we are safe, sirens are not sounded, although Police Department personnel will continue to monitor the situation until any threat of tornadoes had passed our area.

Here are some more questions that we are frequently asked along with the answers we provide:

- **How are we supposed to know when to come out of our basement if there is no “all clear” siren?** *There isn't an “all clear” given. Everyone should take a NOAA weather radio or a portable battery powered radio, or a television into the shelter with them. That way you will know when the warning has expired and it is safe to exit your shelter.*
- **There is no basement in my house. Where do I go in the event of a warning?** *That's*



*really something you need to determine before the weather turns nasty and there is no one good answer. Get to a windowless interior room, such as a bathroom, closet or inner hallway. Stay as far away from windows as possible. Go to the center of the room – corners tend to attract debris, and get under a sturdy piece of furniture, heavy table or desk.. Protect your head and neck with a blanket, if possible. If you live in a rental property ask your landlord where the storm shelter is. If you live in a mobile home park, make sure your required emergency shelter is unlocked and accessible at all times and if not, check with the park owner to make sure that situation is changed. Traveling long distances across town to go to a shelter once the sirens have been activated is NOT a good idea, so make sure your emergency shelter is close at hand.*

- **Can I bring my cat/dog with to the emergency shelter?** *That's up to the rules of the shelter you use. But if you do, make sure the animal is in a crate or on a leash. Animals get scared during storms just like humans do. An unrestrained scared animal may bite or bolt. And if a storm is approaching it might be a good idea to wrangle your dog or cat into a crate before the sirens start going off! Then you can just grab the container and head to your basement or shelter.*
- **You need to put in another siren tower because I can't hear it in my house.** *The outdoor emergency sirens are NOT designed to be heard indoors. The system is specifically for those who are outside. If you don't already have one for your home, purchase a NOAA*

*weather radio and keep it turned on at all times during severe weather season.*

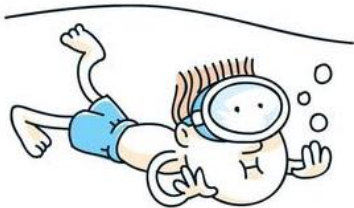
We all need to be weather aware. If the skies appear threatening, find a way to tune in to local TV or radio. If you are a fisherman, enjoy camping, or just enjoy outdoor activities, invest in a portable radio so you can tune to for weather updates when the sky appears threatening.

The City will continue to do our part to monitor and warn residents when the need arises, but each of us as individuals also need to take responsibility for our own safety. And when those sirens do sound please....

- Don't stand outside and try and spot, or worse yet, video the tornado. Head to your emergency shelter.
- Don't get in your car to chase the tornado. Head to your emergency shelter.
- Don't call the Police or City offices and ask why the sirens are going off. Head to your emergency shelter...that's where most of the City employees will also be!

**DONATE BLOOD - JOIN THE BATTLE OF THE BADGES!** It's not too late to sign up to donate blood.

The Saint Peter Police Department is sponsoring a "Battle of the Badges" blood drive on Thursday, May 31st from 1-7 pm at the Senior Center in the Community Center. It's a challenge between our men in blue and the boys in brown at the Sheriff's Department to see who can get the most donors to participate. Summer is an especially difficult time for blood banks and they need every pint they can get. Please consider donating. Call 1-800 RED CROSS or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to schedule an appointment and indicate "**St. Peter BotB**" for the donation site. Then when you arrive, tell them you are donating on behalf of the Saint Peter Police Department and help save a life!



**POOL OPENING** - The outdoor pool opens on Saturday, June 2nd at 1 p.m. with free admission on opening day, open swim from 1-6 p.m., and family

swim from 6:15-8:15 p.m.

Pool passes and ticket books are available for purchase now in the Recreation and Leisure

Services Department located at the Community Center and can be purchased at the pool during open hours.

Children ages 6 and under can use the wading pool free of charge but they must be accompanied by an adult or responsible supervisor at least 18 years of age. Concessions are available for purchase.

For more information on the City's outdoor pool, please visit our website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/outdoor-swimming-pool>.

**WATER SAVING TIPS** – To save money on outside water charges, here are some tips:

- Adjust lawn sprinklers so only the lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.
- Plant in the fall when temperatures are cooler and rainfall is more plentiful.
- Water lawns and gardens in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.
- Before watering, check the root zone of the lawn or garden for moisture using a spade or trowel. If it's still moist two inches under the soil surface, the area has enough water.
- Adjust lawn mowers to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds soil moisture better than if it's closely clipped.
- Collect water from roofs in a rain barrel to water garden or shrubs.

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

- **DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND LEISURE SERVICES**- Minimum qualifications include: Bachelor's degree in Recreational Services, Education, Sports Management, Library Services or related field from an accredited college or university; Three years' experience in progressively responsible positions with each of the following: recreational program development, developing recreation program budgets, and employee supervision; Demonstrated knowledge of the principles and procedures of municipal recreational program administration; and previous experience working with the public. Desirable qualifications: More than three (3) years' experience supervising, training and hiring staff; Master's degree in Recreational Services, Education, Sports Management, Library Services or related field from an accredited college or university; Certification

as a Parks and Recreation Professional; Demonstrated experience researching and applying for grants; Demonstrated experience working with recreation and facility scheduling software; and more than three years demonstrated experience developing recreation programming budgets. Starting salary range: \$68,000-\$71,000. Applicants are encouraged to review the position profile available at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/RecreationDirectorProfile2018.pdf>. Applicants must submit a cover letter; resume; minimum of three (3) professional references; Veteran's Preference form (whether claiming Veteran's Preference or not); and Affirmative Action form (both forms available in the position profile available on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/RecreationDirectorProfile2018.pdf>. Application materials must be received by the City Administrator's Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 14, 2018. Send applications to City Administrator's Office – Attn: Barbara; 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082; or by email at [barbaral@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov). Late applications will not be accepted. Interviews will be conducted June 26, 2018

- (with June 28th as the second date if needed). AA/EOE  
**PART-TIME BUILDING SUPERVISOR** - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the position of part-time Building Supervisor at the Saint Peter Community Center. Minimum qualifications include: High school diploma or equivalent. CPR and First Aid training or ability to be certified within six months of employment. Experience working with the public. Desirable qualifications include: Experience in building maintenance functions. Current CPR and First Aid Certification. \$10.56 per hour. Applicants must complete a City of Saint Peter available from the City Administrator's Office at 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 Friday, June 1, 2018. Faxed, emailed or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EOE

**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 4  | 3:30 p.m.  | Housing and Redevelopment Authority |
| Monday    | June 4  | 5:30 p.m.  | City Council Workshop               |
| Thursday  | June 7  | 5:30 p.m.  | Planning and Zoning Commission      |
| Monday    | June 11 | 7:00 p.m.  | City Council Meeting                |
| 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 | 5:30 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 –<br>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                     |