

# 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

The City of Saint Peter is an equal opportunity provider.

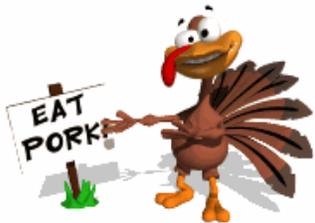


The following information is a publication of the City of Saint Peter, City Administrator's Office, 934-0663, 227 South Front Street. To request an email subscription to this newsletter, or for more information, please contact us at [barbaral@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov) [www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter](https://www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter)



11/21/18

## Happy Thanksgiving from the City Council and City staff!



*This Thanksgiving, as you travel to your holiday festivities, please remember to buckle up and drive safely!*

**THANKSGIVING CLOSURES** – All non-emergency City offices, including the Library, will be closed on Thursday, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd for the Thanksgiving holiday. The Community Center will also be closed on Thanksgiving Day, but will reopen on Friday.



The Minnesota River Valley Transit system will also be closed on Thanksgiving Day, but will run regular Friday hours on November 23rd.

**COUNCIL VACANCY** – Councilmember Jeff Brand has announced his resignation from the City Council effective January 1, 2019. Brand was recently elected to the position of State Representative. Brand represents Ward I (North) and the term expires on December 31, 2019. The position will be on the City's 2019 general election ballot.

As provided for in State Statute, the vacancy will be filled by Council appointment and the City Council has decided on the following process to fill the vacancy.

Residents of the North Ward who are interested in being considered for appointment to this vacancy, are asked to provide a written letter describing your interest in being appointed; information on your previous service to the community including any civic projects you have been involved with; and information on your education background and experiences that you believe the Mayor and Councilmembers may find relevant as they consider appointment of the new Councilmember.

To qualify for consideration, applicants must also be able to attend not only Council meetings on almost every Monday of the year, but also accept advisory Board and Commission assignments. No experience is needed.

As provided for in State Statute, the minimum qualifications to serve on the City Council include the following:

- At least 21 years of age on or before taking office;
- Reside in the North Ward – a copy of the Ward map can be found here... <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/where-do-i-vote>
- Be eligible to vote in Minnesota

If you are interested in being considered for appointment to this one-year position, please submit a letter of interest via regular mail or in person to the City Administrator's Office 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter MN 56082; or via email to [barbaral@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov).

Deadline for receipt of letters of interest by the City Administrator's Office is 5:00 p.m. on November 28th. All letters will be reviewed by the Mayor and City Council prior to the regular City Council meeting of December 10th. All letters received will become public information.

Please call the City Administrator's office at 507 934 0663 if you have any questions or would like to know more about the process or the time commitment that is needed to serve. It is the goal of the Council to make an appointment so that service may begin on January 1, 2019.

#### PLAN FOR A DESIGNATED DRIVER –

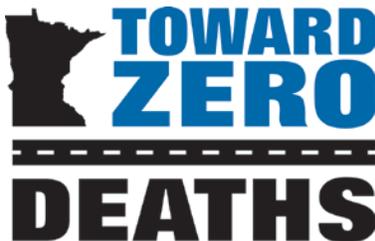
Recent news articles have reported the day before Thanksgiving is one of the most dangerous days to be on the roads. Some articles even called Thanksgiving eve "Blackout Wednesday" because of the high number of excessive drinking that goes on that evening. Whatever the reason for it, statistics show that a lot of folks over-indulge on Thanksgiving eve and then get behind the wheel. It's a trend that starts that day and lasts through New Year's as people celebrate at holiday parties and other get togethers.

If you are going to be drinking this holiday season, please remember to plan for a sober driver to get you home safely because law enforcement Officers will be working extra hard to find impaired drivers.

The Saint Peter Police Department, along with law enforcement agencies across the state, will be participating in an enforcement action looking for impaired drivers beginning on Wednesday, November 21st. As part of this Towards Zero Deaths initiative, extra Saint Peter Police Officers will be on patrol looking to stop impaired drivers before they injure or kill someone else.

So, remember, if you are going to drink, plan for a designated driver to get you home safely. You might be saving not only your life, but the life of someone you love.

And always remember to buckle up!



**UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS** – The Recreation and Leisure Services Department is hosting several holiday related events. Although they are a ways away, we wanted everyone to have a chance to include these fun family events on their calendars. Here's what you have to look forward to....

- Great Candy Cane Hunt - All ages with an adult. Join in "The Great Candy Cane Hunt!" Over 4,000 candy canes can be found while exploring the Community Center! Sat., Dec. 1, Free, SPCC Gym Hunt Times: 9–9:10 a.m., 9:30–9:40 a.m., 10–10:10 a.m., 10:30–10:40 a.m.
- Library Holiday Open House - Thu., Dec. 6, 2–4 p.m., Saint Peter Public Library. Pie, hot beverages and live music. In the afternoon enjoy music performed by St. Peter High School madrigal singers!
- Holiday Family Event at the Library - Tue., Dec. 11, 6:00 p.m., Saint Peter Public Library. A reading of "Twas a Night Before Christmas" will be accompanied by the Armstrong Boulevard Brass Quintet! Holiday crafts will be available too. Stay and browse our great collections of holiday books, movies and cds!
- Tour of Holiday Lights - Meet at the Senior Center to enjoy holiday lights at Sibley Park and leave the driving to the bus service! Reservations taken AFTER Nov. 23 only. Call the Saint Peter Police Department at 931-1550. Hosted by Saint Peter Police Reserves and 4.0 Bus Services. Tue., Dec. 4, 6–8 p.m., Free.



**COMMUNITY CENTER ADVERTISING** - Advertise for your business or organization in the gymnasium at the Saint Peter Community Center! Every week hundreds of people have the opportunity to spend time in the gym and on the walking/running track. Activities in the gym include school volleyball and basketball practices and games for middle school and 9<sup>th</sup> grade teams, noon hour basketball, adult volleyball, open gym, fencing, senior exercise classes, Pickleball, Creative Play Place Fitness Days, special events, and much more. The walking/running track attracts all ages throughout the day. By purchasing an advertising panel and

renting advertising space at the community center gym your business or organization will be viewed by thousands throughout the year. Of the thirty ad panels on the perimeter of the gym there are only nine remaining spaces open. Don't miss this opportunity to reach out to the community. Once you purchase and have your advertising panel installed, the advertising rental rate is only \$400 per year. For information on securing an advertising space, please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 507-934-0667, or email [jenh@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:jenh@saintpetermn.gov).

**PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CHARITY SCAMS** – Before you make an end of the year donation to a charity,



make sure you protect yourself from a possible scam. Police Chief Peters offers the following suggestions to residents:

- Request written information. Ask for the name of the organization; its' mission, plans for achieving its' objectives; and how much of every dollar collected is used for charitable purposes.
- Call the beneficiary/organization. Find out whether they are aware of the solicitation and have authorized the use of their name.
- Find out how your donation will be distributed including how much will go to the program you want to support and how much will cover the charity's administrative costs.
- If the caller is a professional fund-raiser, ask them how much money they keep.
- Refuse high-pressure appeals. Legitimate fund-raisers won't push you to give on the spot.
- Consider the cost. When buying merchandise or tickets for special events, or when receiving free goods in exchange for giving, remember that these items cost money and are generally paid for out of the contributions.
- Avoid cash gifts because they can be lost or stolen. For security and tax record purposes, it is best to pay by check. Make your check payable to the beneficiary, NOT the solicitor.

To check on a charity in Minnesota, call the Minnesota Charities Review Council at 1-800-733-4483 or the Charity Division of the Minnesota Attorney General's Office at 1-800-657-3787.

**CITY MEETING SCHEDULES** – The City uses many different ways of notifying the public when and where City meetings take place. The one official spot is the legal notices bulletin board at City

Hall. As required by the Open Meeting law, all official notices of meetings to be held by the City Council and its' advisory boards and commissions are posted on this bulletin board at least 72 hours before the meeting.

We also include a calendar in the Hot Sheet and have a calendar available on the City's website. Meetings are sometimes referenced on the City's Facebook page. While we try to be as accurate as we can be in these different locations, the meetings are usually posted on the website a year in advance and sometimes things get changed.

Residents interested in attending a City Council meeting, or seeing what is on the agenda for an



upcoming meeting, are encouraged to go directly to the Council packet for that meeting. The City Administrator's Office uploads copies of all City Council meeting agendas and packet to the City's website at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov) under the GOVERNMENT tab. Click on "current City Council agendas and packets" and you can see exactly the same notice and information that is provided directly to the Council.

And as always, if it is really important to ensure you are at the meeting, please feel free to contact the City Administrator's Office (507-934-0663) to verify the start time and location of any meeting. We are happy to help.



**PROPERTY TAX EXPLANATION** – Property owners have by now or will soon receive their 2019 property tax statements from Nicollet County. And like many of

us, you may have opened the statement and been dismayed by the amount of property taxes you'll be required to pay.

But have you really thought about what that money goes for? The League of Minnesota Cities has created a fun video that explains property taxes and how the money is used. It's available on You Tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOAxwqh41iA> and the link is also included on the City's website and Facebook pages.

We hope you'll check it out and learn what your taxes pay for!

**HOLIDAY DECORATIONS** – City crews have been hard at work along Minnesota Avenue in the central business district and in Minnesota Square Park

where the holiday lighting display will soon light up the dark and dreary winter nights.

The work involves approximately 16,500 lights in the park; over 60 hours of labor to put the decorations up and another 60+ to take them down; 4-7 crew members all doing something different; anywhere from 11-25 days of work depending on the weather; 44 light fixtures on street light poles; 20 snowflake fixtures in the medians; one arch at the Highway 169 intersection with West Grace Street and one at West Park Row; and Sentence to Serve crews lighting the downtown tree trunks. **Special note...the Pavilion is not being decorated this year in the hope that demolition of the existing structure will start soon.**



**SNOW PREPARATIONS** – It's not too early to be planning for heavy snowfalls this winter, and residents who haven't signed up for Nixle but would like to be notified of snow emergency declarations should sign up now. Nixle is a free community notification system and it's easy to do.

Just visit [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) and follow the prompts to create an account for City notices. You can choose whether you wish to have notices sent by e-mail, by text, or both!



If you don't have an off-street parking space available to you, make arrangements now to find a spot to park your vehicle before snow emergency declarations are in place.

Property owners with sidewalks are also reminded of the City regulations that require sidewalks, including handicap ramps at intersections, to be cleared of all snow and ice within 24 hours after a snowfall. The walkway must be cleared the entire width and be kept clear of blowback and drifting snow. Property owners who don't clear their walks may face hefty fees from the City when City crews are dispatched to do the job. Minimum charge? \$75!

And for all those who plow snow for a living, please remember that it is illegal to plow the snow out into the street or onto the City owned boulevard. This creates a danger for the public and sight line issues for other drivers.

So get started on your winter preparations now and don't wait for the first snowflakes to make plans!

**LEAF COLLECTION TO CONCLUDE** – The City's fall curbside leaf collection is scheduled to conclude by November 30th, weather permitting. The crews continue to work from sunrise to sunset in an attempt to remove the majority of leaves that were placed on boulevards. The unique fall played havoc with the collection program as a lot of trees were not shedding leaves during the usual time frame. It also didn't help that the past weekends snowfall has covered many leaves that otherwise would have been raked to the curb.

As always, for those who miss the curbside collection, the City's yard waste drop off site at the corner of North Swift and West St. Julien streets is open year round for use by residents. Both the curbside collection and the compost site services are funded by the environmental services fee on City utility bills.

**RENTAL PROPERTY REGISTRATION** - It is that time of year again! Time to renew rental property registrations. Property owners with last names beginning with M-Z will need to complete the rental application and return it to the Building Department at City Hall by December 31st. Inspections must be completed by March 31st.

Cost of the rental license is \$44 per unit. A late fee of \$36 will be added if the application (including the payment) is received after December 31st and/or the inspection is not completed by March 31st.

Rental application forms are available on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/sites/default/files/images/RentalApplication.pdf> and can be printed out and returned to the Building Department with the payment or staff can mail an application to you. For an application, or for those with questions, please contact the Building Department at 934-0662.

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED** - The City Council will soon be considering appointments of City residents to advisory boards and commissions. The various boards are tasked with topics ranging from planning for streets, parks, recreation activities, hospital and library services to considering business loan requests and other financial matters.

Many openings will be available starting January 1st and more information on the various boards, including the dates/times of the meetings, is



available on the City's website. Most terms are three years although some are up to five year terms.

If you live within the corporate limits of the City and are able to volunteer 1-2 hours a month to help the City Council, please consider applying. Application cards are available from the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street.

For more information, or to apply to serve on an advisory board, please contact the City Administrator's Office at 934-0663 or by email at [barbaral@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov).

**HELP WANTED** – The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the following temporary part-time position:

- **WARMING HOUSE ATTENDANT** - Supervise and maintain Veteran's Park warming house and ice rinks. Must be 16 or older. Position is responsible for light cleaning of warming house (including restrooms) and clearing light snow from rinks. Afternoon, evening and weekend hours, including holidays. \$10 per hour. City of Saint Peter application must be received by the City Administrator's office, 227 South Front Street, by 5:00 pm on December 11, 2018. Faxed 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	November 19	5:30 p.m.		City Council Workshop
Thursday-Friday	November 22-23			THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – City Offices Closed
Monday	November 26	7:00 p.m.		City Council Meeting
Tuesday	November 27	5:30 p.m.		Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	November 28	12:30 p.m.		Hospital Commission Meeting
Thursday	November 29th	12:00 noon		Economic Development Authority
Friday	November 30	8:00 a.m.		Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	December 3	3:30 p.m.		Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	December 3	5:30 p.m.		City Council Workshop
Thursday	December 6	5:30 p.m.		Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	December 10	7:00 p.m.		City Council Meeting
Monday	December 17	5:30 p.m.		City Council Workshop
<del>Monday</del>	<del>December 17</del>	<del>7:00 p.m.</del>		<del>Parks and Recreation Advisory Board</del> CANCELLED
Wednesday	December 19	12:30 p.m.		Hospital Commission Meeting
Monday-Tuesday	December 24-December 25th			CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – CITY OFFICES CLOSED
Thursday	December 27	12:00 p.m.		Economic Development Authority

Friday	December 28	8:00 a.m.		Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Tuesday	January 1			NEW YEAR'S DAY – City Offices Closed

\*\*\*\*Please note.....due to the upcoming holidays, the schedule of meetings for City Council boards and commissions may be modified. To verify a meeting date/time, please contact the City Administrator's office at 507-934-0663.\*\*\*\*