

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
www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



04/11/18



SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK!

Minnesota's "Severe Weather Awareness Week" is underway through April 13, 2018. Two statewide tornado drills will occur on Thursday, April 12th (1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m.) and the Police Department will be testing emergency sirens at each of those times. During the test, outdoor

warning sirens and NOAA weather radios will both sound in a simulated tornado warning. The first drill is intended for institutions and businesses. The evening drill is intended for second shift workers and families.

As we enter into the severe weather time of the year, it is important to remember the terms that are used when advisories are issued:

* Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm **"WATCH"** - means that conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes or severe thunderstorms. When a watch is issued for Nicollet County, 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, **TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY.**

* Warning sirens are tested year round on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. to assure that the sirens will work in the event of an actual emergency. If you hear the steady tone of a siren at any other time, it means that severe weather has been sighted in our area and you should take shelter immediately.





* There is no all clear siren, so take a battery powered radio with you to the shelter so you can monitor when it is safe to emerge. More information on these topics is available on the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-awareness-week-program.aspx>. If you would like more information about severe storms preparedness please call the Saint Peter Police

Department (931-1550) or Nicollet County Emergency Management (934-7874). The severe weather information contained in today's Hot Sheet includes information from the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security website.

(NOTE....The photos shown here are from Saint Peter. The damage photos are from the March 1988 tornado and the other two photos are from a tornado that struck just west of Saint Peter along Highway 99 a few years after the 1998 tornado.)

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on April 9, 2018 included a public hearing and subsequent action to rezone property owned by Nicollet County located east of South Front Street to Central Business District; approval of a series of resolutions related to USDA financing for the 2018 Hospital Expansion Project; approval of a request by Rachel More (dba The Pulse Fitness Studio) to extend the revolving loan balloon payment date by 24 months; approval for modifications to the City's construction standards for public improvements; and approval for purchase of two replacement Police squad cars.

Mayor Zieman also proclaimed April 27th as "Arbor Day" and March, 2018 as "Arbor Month" in Saint Peter and encouraged the public to participate in tree planting activities.

The next regular City Council meeting will be April 23, 2018 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.

The City Council will meet in a Joint Committee of the Whole with the Hospital Commission on April 19th beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Helen White Conference Room at the Hospital. At 6:15 p.m. the Hospital Commission will meet in special session followed at 6:30 p.m. by a special meeting of the City Council. These three meetings are all to consider bids for the 2018 Hospital Expansion Project.

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.

STORMWATER WATCH - An illicit discharge is defined as "any discharge into a municipal storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of

stormwater". Some of these pollutants are car wash wastewater, gas or motor oil, grass clippings, household cleaners, paints, pesticides, pet waste, solvents, and weed killer. Sometimes these pollutants are carried through the storm drainage system by rain, wind, or improper disposal into the Minnesota River. This can result in serious health and water quality problems. In addition, wildlife and the overall appearance of the river are adversely affected by illicit discharges.

Reporting will, in great part, rely on participation from the public. Residents who observe illegal dumping or observe pollutants within waterways or storm sewers should contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670 or use the "Report an Illicit Discharge" email address located on the City's website in the Stormwater section. This program cannot succeed without strong public participation.



BEFORE YOU HIRE A CONTRACTOR... do your homework! Contractors need a license from the State of Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) and before you hire someone, the DLI suggests you ask for the contractor's license number and contact the Residential Building Contractors division at the DLI to verify the builder is currently licensed.

Other information on the contractor is also available from the State including any history of State disciplinary action against the contractor. And before you sign a contract, make sure the document includes a detailed summary of the work

to be done; a description of materials to be used; the total contract price or how the price will be calculated; and specific timelines and provisions that address what will happen if the contractor fails to meet the contractual deadlines. If you have a problem or complaint with a residential building contractor, contact the DLI Residential Building Contractors unit at (651)284-5065, by fax at (651)284-5749; or by e-mail at DLI.Contractor@state.mn.us to discuss your situation with an investigator who may offer suggestions about how to resolve the dispute.

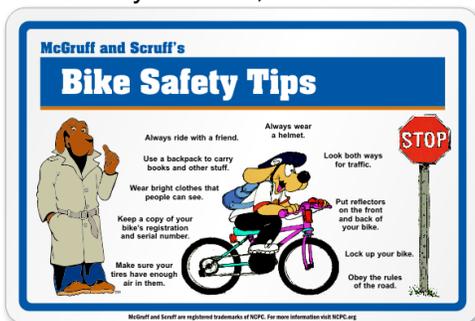
2018 BIKE SAFETY RODEO - Join the Saint Peter Police Department and River's Edge Hospital and Clinic for a Bike Safety Rodeo, on Saturday, May 12th from 11:00 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the parking lot of the Hospital at 1900 North Sunrise Drive. There will be FREE bike licensing; FREE bike helmets for kids up to 17 years of age (limited supply available); FREE hot dogs and refreshments; and a chance to ride on a bike safety course, learn bike maintenance, and ride around on the bike trails. You can also register to win fun prizes. Hope to see you there!



BICYCLE SAFETY - Summer's almost here and that means an increased number of bicycles on the roads and sidewalks. For many of us who haven't been on a bike in a while, a few safety tips might be helpful.

Riding a bike can be fun, if you know how to stay safe. But if you don't follow the rules, it can be dangerous. To be safe on your bike, follow these tips:

- Always wear a helmet and fasten it. Helmets protect your head, and in many states it's illegal not to wear one!
- Wear bright clothing so drivers and other bikers can see you.
- If you want to ride after dark, ask an adult and remember to put reflectors on your clothes, helmet, and bike. Adults should wear the reflectors also!



- Obey the rules of the road. Bikers must stop at all stop signs and traffic lights and use turning signals, just like cars.
- Ride on the right hand side of the road, in the same direction as traffic.
- Look both ways. Most crashes happen at intersections or driveways so be on the lookout for people who may not see you.
- Ride on bike trails, roads with little traffic or in parks. If you do come to a busy road, walk your bike across intersections at a crosswalk.
- Keep your bike tuned up. You don't want to get a flat tire far away from your house!

- Protect your bike. Lock it up or keep it in a safe place when you're not using it. Don't leave your bike out in your yard because someone just might come along and ride away with it. Also, don't leave your bike in an open or unlocked garage.

- Ride with friends. It's more fun and you have someone to help you if you need it.

And don't forget to register your bike at the Police Department. The cost is only \$1.00 and it may help get your bike back if lost or stolen. The information from the bike is entered into a nationwide database and if your bike is stolen and recovered somewhere else, the Saint Peter Police Department will be contacted for information on the owner. What a deal for only \$1!

SAVE MONEY ON OUTDOOR WATERING – Everyone loves to save money, but if you are one of the property owners who haven't yet installed an irrigation meter on your outdoor faucets you could be missing out on big savings!

The City allows property owners to install a 5/8" irrigation water meter on their homes. This meter separately monitors water used outside of the home that doesn't run into the City's stormwater system. Because this water isn't treated, there are no wastewater charges assigned to the water usage which saves the customer money.

To install an irrigation meter, you'll need a plumbing permit (available from the Building Department for a fee of \$25). The meter is provided at no charge and will need to be installed by a licensed Plumber.

Once the meter is in place, all water used through outside faucets is charged only for the water use – there are no wastewater charges applied.

TREE CITY USA DESIGNATION – Following the loss of thousands of trees during the 1998 tornado, both the City and private citizens have worked hard to rebuild and maintain a healthy urban forest full of diverse and sustainable species.



That work hasn't gone unnoticed as the Arbor Day Foundation has once

again designated the City of Saint Peter as a 2017 Tree City USA in honor of our commitment to effective urban forest management.

According to Dan Lambe, president of the Arbor Day Foundation, "Tree City USA communities see the impact an urban forest has in a community first hand. Additionally, recognition brings residents together and creates a sense of community pride, whether it's through volunteer engagement or public education."

The Arbor Day Foundation is a million member nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. More information on the Tree City USA program is available at www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.

SUMMER RECREATION BROCHURE - This summer recreation brochure has been mailed and is packed with summer activities and events for all ages including swimming lessons, outdoor pool information, STEM/STEAM activities, camps, art classes, cooking classes, special events and much more.

Recreation Department activities are indicated by a triangle ▲ and Community Education class descriptions are followed by a square ■ and extra brochures are available at the Community Center and Library.

Residents can register for classes online, in-person or by mail. For more information, please contact the City of Saint Peter Recreation www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation or School District Community and Family Education at www.stpetercommunityedonline.com.

ST. PETER READERS - St. Peter Reads invites you to participate in the 2018 Spring Author Event featuring Pat Dennis, *Author, Humorist and Comedian*. Thursday, April 26th at 7 p.m. in the Saint Peter Community Center, Room 219.

Minnesota author Pat Dennis, is an award-winning author and comedian. She is a veteran of 1,000

plus performances in comedy clubs, Fortune 500 special events, woman's organizations, and church basements across the country. She has worked with such notables as Phyllis Diller, David Brenner, Tommy Chong, and Lewis Black.

Dennis's latest book, *Vegas By Chance*, is the 4th novel in the Betty Chance Mystery series about the adventures of a woman whose husband leaves her for an older woman. Betty Chance is left penniless and deeply in debt. In order to earn a living she opens a tour business for gambling junkets to casinos. Mischievous, intrigue, and murder follow Betty and her gaggle of quirky friends to Sin City. Sponsored by: St. Peter Reads, Gustavus Book Mark, Saint Peter Community and Family Education, and the City of Saint Peter Recreation and Leisure Services Department.

BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION – The City Council will meet as the Saint Peter Board of Appeal and Equalization on Tuesday, April 17th beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center. (Please note, this is a new location for this meeting.)

Property owners who believe the value or classification which has been assigned to their property by Nicollet County is incorrect are asked to first contact the Nicollet County Assessor's office at 507-934-7060. After conferring with the Assessor, those who are still not satisfied may make an appointment through the Assessor's office to appear before the Board. The Board will then review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and consider making corrections as needed. State law requires property owners to appeal to the local board before an appeal can be taken to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

For questions about this process, please contact the Nicollet County Assessor's Office at 934-7060.

SCAM PREVENTION REMINDER - During spring and summer, many individuals are swindled and defrauded by transient/traveling criminal groups performing what are sometimes known as "bunco" or "gypsy" scams. In most cases, the perpetrator approaches a homeowner and offers to provide low-cost home improvements.

One of the most common types of scams involves asphalt paving. The perpetrator tells the homeowner they have asphalt left over from another job in their neighborhood and offers to



resurface their driveway or sidewalk at a reduced cost. When the homeowner agrees, the con artists proceed to either apply a thin layer of asphalt that breaks away in a few days, or use a substance other than asphalt. The perpetrators then collect their money and leave before the homeowner is aware of the substandard work.

This scam can also involve the perpetrator partially completing a job, requesting payment and then never returning to finish the work.

Some traveling criminals have also been known to perform exterior home improvements without the permission of the homeowner. This has occurred in cases where the perpetrator made contact with the homeowner, but the homeowner simply took the perpetrator's business card without requesting their services. The following day the perpetrator performs part of the work, and demands payment for the entire job.

These types of crimes are known to increase during the spring and summer months. In these types of cases the elderly are often an easy target. Victims often feel foolish about being taken advantage of and these crimes often go unreported.

Another scam that is often seen in Saint Peter is the door to door magazine selling scam. Young people will show up at the door saying that he/she is "collecting points" by people donating book or magazine subscriptions to achieve a college scholarship. This is typical of scamming agencies and the magazines never appear.

If someone appears at your door to sell you anything, ask the solicitor for their contact information **and** City of Saint Peter permit to conduct door to door sales. (All those doing sales in residential areas, without a permanent fixed office in Saint Peter, are required to have a permit from the City.) If the solicitor won't provide contact info, or doesn't have a City permit, or is hesitant to leave, this is a good sign they are not a legitimate company. Close the door and call the Saint Peter Police immediately at 931-1550. Be ready to provide as much information as you can about the solicitor including description, clothing, vehicle license, make and model, and direction they were going.

REFUSE REMINDER – If you can't close the lid of your refuse (garbage) curbie, it might not be collected. The City's refuse hauling contract only provides for collection of refuse from curbies that can fully close. Those who have excess refuse are required to purchase a special pink trash bag which covers the extra cost of collection for overflow materials.

Bags are available for purchase at City Hall, where you can buy as few as one bag, or at Arrow Ace Hardware where you will have to buy bags in a package of 10. Cost per bag is:

- 15 gallon bags - \$1.09 (includes tax) per bag
- 30 gallon bags - \$1.65 (includes tax) per bag



Residents who consistently overflow their carts might want to consider switching to a larger size curbie, or signing up for an additional cart. The Finance Department can provide information on costs for both options. (Larger or additional recycling curbies are available at no additional cost!)

In addition, residents are reminded that curbies need to be placed ON the boulevard and NOT in the roadway. Placing the carts in the roadway creates a hazard for vehicles and pedestrians alike so please make sure that the cart is placed ON the boulevard and NOT in the street.

For more information, please contact the Finance Department at 934-0664.

HOME BUYER EDUCATION CLASSES – Are you interested in buying a lot or a speculative home in the City's Traverse Green Subdivision? To qualify for the many financial benefits available to new buyers in this subdivision, you must first complete a "Home Stretch Workshop" training session. Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership is offering one of these training sessions this Saturday, April 14th from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 pm at the Community Center.

The class is taught by HUD certified counselors to prepare home buyers for successful home ownership. Participants will learn budgeting and money management techniques as well as terminology used for mortgages and loan program options.

Completion of the class may qualify you for special mortgages, down payment assistance or other financing to make home ownership affordable.

For online registration go to www.stpetercommunityonline.com or for more information, please contact the St. Peter Community and Family Education office at 934-3048.

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	April 16		HYDRANT FLUSHING STARTS – please note date change
Monday	April 16	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	April 16	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Tuesday	April 17	6:00 p.m.	City Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting
Thursday	April 19	5:30 p.m.	Joint City Council/Hospital Commission Committee Of the Whole Meeting*
Thursday	April 19	6:00 p.m.	Special Hospital Commission Meeting*
Thursday	April 19	6:15 p.m.	Special City Council Meeting
Monday	April 23	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	April 24	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	April 25	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	April 26	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	April 27	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	April 30	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session

*Times for these meetings are approximate and will be confirmed closer to the meeting dates.