

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.
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04/25/18

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on April 23, 2018 included a public hearing and subsequent action related to changing the minimum age for purchase of tobacco and tobacco related products to 21; final acceptance of a project to improve the Front Street substation; award of the bid for the 2018 Seal Coating Project; award of the bid for the 2018 Asphalt Purchase project; approval of two change orders for the Broadway Avenue project; and approval for modifications to the job description for the Recreation and Leisure Services Director position.

The effort to modify the City Code to change the age for purchase of tobacco products failed on a 3-3 vote, but following receipt of a request by Councilmembers Kvamme and Brand, the Council will once again consider the changes at the Council meeting on Tuesday, May 29th.

The next regular City Council meeting will be May 14, 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.

2018 as "POLICE OFFICER WEEK" in Saint Peter and May 15th as "POLICE OFFICER MEMORIAL DAY". This special time is an observance in the United States that pays tribute to the local, state, and Federal peace officers who have died in the line of duty. The Memorial Day takes place on May 15th each year, and Police Week is the calendar week in which the Memorial Day occurs.

The holiday was created on October 1, 1961, when Congress asked the President to designate May 15th to honor peace officers. John F. Kennedy signed the bill into law on October 1, 1962. The Proclamation signed by President John F. Kennedy stated in part....*"To pay tribute to the law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and to voice our appreciation for all those who currently serve on the front lines of the battle against crime, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved October 1, 1962 (75 Stat.676), has authorized and requested the President to designate May 15 of each year as "Peace Officers Memorial Day," and the week in which it falls as "National Police Week" and by Public Law 103-322 (36 U.S.C. 175) has requested that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers' Memorial Day."*

Saint Peter residents are encouraged to recognize and thank our local Police Officers for their commitment to keeping us all safe as we honor their sacrifices on Police Officer Memorial Day.

STREET SWEEPING – The Streets crew is out on their third attempt to start this year's Spring street sweeping activities.

It's helpful if people can move vehicles off streets until all the winter salt and sand has been swept up. These materials, which are considered hazardous, are collected each Spring and at other times throughout the summer and fall to keep it out of the storm sewer system and prevent additional pollution to the Minnesota River.

THANK YOU

POLICE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY – Mayor Zieman has proclaimed May 15-21,



Street sweeping is expected to last several weeks and the public's cooperation in moving vehicles from areas that haven't yet been swept is greatly appreciated

PARK RESTROOMS TO OPEN – Restroom facilities in the City's parks will officially open for the season on Friday, April 27th. Should Mother Nature pull another cruel trick and dump more snow on us, they may close again, but if Spring is really here, they will remain open for the season and available to all those using the parks.

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY - Advertising on buses is a great way to get your message out to the market. Minnesota River Valley Transit has adopted a policy to allow for advertising on system buses. For details, please contact MRVT at 1-888-880-4696.

SPRING YARD WASTE COLLECTION - The City will be collecting branches, brush, tree trimmings at curbside the week of May 7th (no alley pick up).

Please place materials parallel and adjacent to the curb (within six-feet (6') of the curb line). Please do not put brush on the street, cover with tarp, or put in bags. Staff will begin collection at **7:00 A.M. Monday, May 7th**. Brush and tree trimmings should be cut to lengths no longer than six feet. Please note: it does take more than one day to pick up but we will only go through an area once; therefore, if your yard waste is not out by **7:00 A.M. Monday, May 7th**, it will not be picked up.

Please help us serve you better by not placing brush by light poles, trees, posts, mailboxes, etc. Please refrain from parking near (within 50') or in front of the yard waste until pick-up is complete.

Please note – leaves and grass clippings will not be picked up but can be taken to the yard waste drop-off site at 1128 West Swift Street.

DROP-OFF SITE OPEN 24-7 - The brush and soft yard waste drop-off sites located at 1128 West Swift Street, (southwest intersection of St. Julien and Swift Streets) with access off West Swift Street are open year around for your convenience in dropping off brush and soft yard waste. Brush and tree trimmings must be cut shorter than 6 feet. A separate bunker now provided for dropping off fill (rocks, dirt, etc.).

Woodchips and compost is available free to Saint Peter residents when available. The materials will be at the site for Saint Peter residents to pick up. While the material is free, please bring your own shovels, bags or containers to load and transport.

This service is provided and funded by the Environmental Service Fee on your utility bill. Please call the Department of Public Works at 934-0670 if you have any questions.

SPEAK UP, PUT THE PHONE DOWN - A young mother of two, killed while on a bike ride with her kids by a driver who was texting. A teenager



who was starting the first day of her senior year in high school, crashes and dies while sending a text.

These are examples of how distracted driving has changed Minnesota lives in recent years. The Saint Peter Police Department is conducting extra enforcement during the month of April in an effort to reduce distracted driving. These enforcement waves will also occur sporadically throughout the rest of the year (Fourth of July, Labor Day, etc...).

As part of the campaign, the Police Department is encouraging anyone riding with a distracted driver to speak up and tell them to put the phone down. The result of distracted driving can be devastating as it contributes to one in four crashes, 64 deaths and 234 serious injuries each year in Minnesota.

"We all must do our part to change the behaviors of drivers wanting to text and drive," said Saint Peter Officer Jon Hughes. "Speak up, tell your friends and loved ones to put the phone down before it's too late."

In 2014 in Minnesota distracted driving caused 47 deaths, 7,369 injuries, and 16,900 crashes. But it's not just a Minnesota problem. Nationwide statistics show:

- Drivers in their 20's make up 27% of the distracted drivers in fatal crashes. - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
- During daylight hours, approximately 666,000 drivers are using cell phones or electronic devices while driving. - National Occupant Protection Use Survey
- Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. - Virginia Tech Transportation Institute
- 25% of teens respond to a text message once or more every time they drive. - University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute
- Reaching for a phone, dialing or texting increases the risk of getting into a crash by three times. - Virginia Tech Transportation Institute

In Minnesota, it is illegal for drivers to read, compose or send texts and emails, and access the

web while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic. **That includes sitting at a stoplight or stop sign.**

It is also illegal for drivers with only a permit or provisional driver's license to use a cell phone while driving, except for emergencies to call 911.

If you injure or kill someone because of texting and driving, you can face a felony charge of criminal vehicular operation or homicide.

The Saint Peter Police Department underscores that driver distractions is not specific to a cell phone. It can also include reaching for items, fiddling with radio/music/vehicle controls, eating/drinking, dealing with rowdy passengers, grooming and more.

"At 55 miles per hour, texting and driving is like traveling the length of a football field without looking up," said Officer Hughes. "Make the right choice before you get behind the wheel and put the phone down."



Drivers are encouraged to

make the right choices:

- Cell phones — Put the phone down, turn it off or place it out of reach.
- Music and other controls — Pre-program radio stations and arrange music in an easy-to-access spot. Adjust mirrors and ventilation before traveling.
- Navigation — Map out the destination and enter the GPS route in advance.
- Eating and drinking — Avoid messy foods and secure drinks.
- Children — Teach children the importance of good behavior in a vehicle and model proper driving behavior.
- Passengers — Speak up to stop drivers from distracted driving behavior and offer to help with anything that takes the driver's attention off the road.

Distracted driving education is a component of Minnesota's core traffic safety initiative, Toward Zero Deaths (TZD). A primary vision of the TZD program is to create a safe driving culture in Minnesota in which motorists support a goal of zero road fatalities by practicing and promoting safe and smart driving behavior. TZD focuses on the application of four strategic areas to reduce crashes - education, enforcement, engineering and emergency trauma response.

TORNADO EVENT ONLINE – The "Twist of Fate: Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the St. Peter Tornado" video is now available on the City of Saint Peter YouTube channel for anyone who

missed it or wants to watch it again. The program was held at the Saint Peter High School on March 29, 2018. Use this link to get directly to the video: <https://youtu.be/2NhXEFWPZfQ>.

HYDRANT FLUSHING – Please note dates have changed due to recent snow storms.....

Spring hydrant flushing will begin Monday, April 30th and is expected to be completed by no later than May 11th....that is of course if the weather finally cooperates!

Flushing is done between the hours of 8:00 pm and 6:00 am to minimize disruption to our customers.

Hydrant flushing could temporarily make water cloudy. Please check your water before doing laundry. If you have questions about this process, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.



LIBRARY HOURS CHANGING - There will be a slight change in Saturday library hours through the summer months with the Library closing at 1 p.m. instead of 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Weekly hours remain the same; Monday–Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Saturday schedule will be 9 a.m.–1 p.m. The Library will be closed on the following holidays: May 26, May 28, July 4, and September 1.



FLUORESCENT BULB RECYCLING – Are you a City residential utility customer (or a small, for-profit business customer with less than 20 full-time employees)? Do you have fluorescent bulbs that need recycling? (Remember these are the ones that can't be placed in the garbage!)

If so, you are eligible for a free/reduced cost bulb recycling program offered by the City of Saint Peter. If you meet the qualifications above, the City will accept fluorescent bulbs for recycling on Wednesday, May 2nd from

7 am – 4 pm. The first 10 bulbs are free and those

in excess of that amount will be accepted for a nominal fee. More details about the costs, the types of bulbs accepted and recycling program forms are available from the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

COMMUNITY CENTER GYM CLOSED - Community Center staff will be working on annual gym maintenance for two weeks from Monday, April 30 – Saturday, May 12. Both the gym and track will be closed during this time and will re-open to the public on Saturday, May 12.

Thank you for your patience.

COMMUNITY CENTER ADJUSTS HOURS - Each year hours of operation at the community center adjust for the season and level of activity. May hours will be Monday–Thursday 6 a.m.to 10 p.m., Fridays 6 a.m.to 8 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m.to 4 p.m. and Sundays closed (except by special arrangement). Please note that the Community Center will be closed over the Memorial Day weekend, May 26-28th.

In June, summer hours begin and run through Labor Day weekend. Monday–Friday hours will be 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The facility will be closed on Sundays except for approved reservations.

If you have any questions, or would like to inquire about room rentals, please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department, Suite 200 of the Community Center by calling 934-0667 or emailing jenh@saintpetermng.gov. Hours are also listed on the [City website](http://www.saintpetermn.gov), www.saintpetermn.gov/communitycenter.

TRAFFIC SAFETY EVENTS – The Saint Peter Police Department, in conjunction with the Minnesota State Patrol and other partners, will conduct a special traffic safety event for 9-12 grade students on Friday, April 27, 2018 beginning at 7:55 AM in conjunction with St. Peter High School’s Prom, which is the following day.

The event will take place in the west side parking lot of the High School at 2121 W. Broadway Avenue and will include seat belt relays; displays of ambulances and squad cars; a rollover simulator; pedal cart course; and fun activities using fatal vision goggles. Information on the schedule for each grade level will be provided by the School.

A few other traffic related events planned for the week include:

- A Mother’s Against Drunk Drivers crash car on site for students to see.
- Posting the AAA PROMise kit in the school which will be available for students including a banner which the students can sign to pledge to not drink and drive
- Giveaways of bracelets and highlighters.
- Handing out incentives to students who are observed wearing their seatbelt.

These events provide an excellent opportunity for a collaboration of several different agencies and organizations to visually represent the consequences of negative decisions just in time for prom and graduation. For more information please contact the Saint Peter Police Department at 507-931-1550.

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.

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
Thursday	May 3	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	May 7	3:30 p.m.	Housing and
Redevelopment Authority			
Monday	May 7	5:30 p.m.	City Council
Workshop			



Tuesday	May 8	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	May 14	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	May 15		POLICE OFFICER MEMORIAL DAY
Monday	May 21	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	May 21	7:00 p.m.	Parks Advisory Board
Wednesday	May 23	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	May 24	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	May 25	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	May 28		LEGAL HOLIDAY – MEMORIAL DAY City Offices Closed
Tuesday	May 29	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting

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