

CITY OF SAINT PETER HOT SHEET

All the City news you need to know and a little bit more.
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08/22/18

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on August 13, 2018 included a change in the bid award for the flooring portion of the 2018 River's Edge Hospital Expansion Project bids; retaining Bolton and Menk, Inc. to develop a transition plan for compliance with Americans With Disabilities Act regulations related to public infrastructure like the right-of-way, intersections, parks, etc...; and approval of a petition by School District #508 to vacate the entire length of Lincoln Drive. The roadway will now become the property of the School District and changes will be made to restrict traffic.

The next regular City Council meeting will be August 27, 2018 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.

CAMPAIGN SIGN RULES – Do you have a campaign sign in your yard? Sometimes the folks who deliver the signs haven't been told the rules and sometimes the property owner, wanting to make the sign more visible for their candidate will move it onto the City owned boulevard. But improperly placed sign cause problems for your favored candidate.



To avoid that situation, please remember to abide by the following regulations:

- Signs are not allowed anywhere on public property. This includes City, County and State owned rights-of-way, and parks; structures in the City-owned boulevard including light poles, street signs, traffic control devices like stop signs, trees, shrubs, rocks, and fences; or other City owned structures. Signs must be kept back from the City owned boulevard (or right-of-way) using these guidelines:
 - If a public sidewalk exists, signs may be placed behind the sidewalk; or

- If no sidewalk exists, it is safe to assume that a sign placed twenty feet (20') behind the curb line will be on private property.
- If the sign is on a corner lot, the rules for placement include BOTH sides of the property as right-of-way's exist next to all City roadways.
- Signs can only be put on private property with permission of the private property owner. When asking private property owners to place signs, candidates are encouraged to review the rules with the property owner to ensure they don't move signs closer to the curb line.
- Signs must not obstruct sightlines for drivers. On corner lots, signs are asked to be 25' behind both curb lines to ensure vehicular traffic is not impeded.

For more information on campaign signs or election regulations, please contact the City Administrator's Office (934-0663).

ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED – Remember those helpful Election Judges you saw at last week's primary? How would you like to be one of them for the November 6, 2018 general election?

The City is actively seeking additional Election Judges to work in November. To be eligible for appointment as an election judge, a candidate must be:

- eligible to vote in the State of Minnesota; and
- affiliated with a major political party; and
- able to read, write and speak English; and
- appointed by the City Council; and
- trained and currently certified as an election judge (training is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10th beginning at 6:00 p.m.)

An election judge cannot be:

- a candidate in that election (i.e. be running for an office on the ballot used in that precinct); or



- the husband, wife, parent, step relative, child, brother, or sister of a candidate or another judge in the same precinct; or
- a challenger.

We love kids! High school students ages 16 and 17 can be trainee judges and we love to work with them. (Students 18 and over can serve as full-fledged judges.) Students must be in good academic standing, and have permission from their school and parents. Trainee judges perform most of the same duties as the adult judges (except those requiring judges of different political affiliations) and are paid for their service. Trainee judges cannot work past 10:00 p.m.

All Judges must attend a mandatory training session before the election and are paid at the rate of \$10.25 per hour for their service. While most judges work all day (6:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.) on election day, some positions will work from 5:30 p.m. until final counting is completed (which can go quite late).

If you would like to be considered for appointment as an election judge, or for more information on how you can serve your community in this way, please contact the City Administrator's office at 934-0663 or send us an e-mail at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov to request an application. All applicants are required to state a major party affiliation.

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY – Schools starts soon for Saint Peter students. That makes it a great time to review back to school safety tips for drivers and pedestrians alike.

This information is a compilation of materials put out by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association.



If your child is going to ride the bus to school you probably already know that buses are safer than cars. However, that doesn't mean the bus won't pose a danger for your child. To help prevent injuries involving school buses, here are some tips to pass on to

your children:

- Have a safe place to wait for your bus, away from traffic and the street.
- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk ten giant steps away. Remember that the bus

driver can see you best when you are back away from the bus.

- Use the handrail to enter and exit the bus. Backpacks are heavy and can throw a child off balance when climbing steps. Using the handrail provides an extra measure of safety.
- Be aware of street traffic around you. Drivers must follow certain rules concerning school buses, however, not everyone does and it's



better to wait until you see cars come to a complete stop before you try and cross the street.

- Only cross the street at corners in the crosswalk.

Not all children will be bused to school and if your child lives close enough to walk or bike to school, here's some tips to help limit their

danger:

- Instruct your child to follow traffic signals and instructions from the crossing guard and never cross the street against the light.
- Know your child's route to and from school and the time it takes. Ask them to not deviate from the established path or timeline. If your child rides a bike to school or home, practice the route before the start of school and know where any crossing guards or help might be.
- Instruct your child to walk their bike through intersections.
- Instruct the child to walk with a buddy.
- Outfit your child with reflective material to make them more visible to traffic. Putting this material on their backpacks is also helpful. Remember that once daylight savings changes in the fall it might be dark in the mornings when they go to school or when they are coming home.
- Teach your children to lock up their bikes when they get to their destination, including when they get home. Bikes are often stolen from yards and unlocked garages.
- Get your child in the habit of always wearing a helmet when they get on their bike. Make yourself an example by wearing your helmet too.
- Ride with your child! Parents can always use the extra exercise, and a bicycle ride creates an opportunity for parent-child involvement and good quality conversation time.



- Have a safety contingency plan...just in case! Does your child know a certain neighbor whose home can be considered a "safe house" in the event of a bike or safety issue? Could your youngster carry a walkie-talkie or, if an older child, a cell phone (even if it's only for emergencies)? Parents should provide their kids with "what if" scenarios they can think through...just in case the unthinkable happens. When it comes to your child's well-being, there is no such thing as being over-prepared.

As the driver of a vehicle, whether you are taking a child to school or not, it's important to be even more alert and aware because once school begins there will be significantly more traffic in and around school zones. Here are some tips to help everyone be safer:

- Wear your seat belt! Seat belts are the best form of protection in the event of a crash. And everyone needs to be buckled up properly. That means older kids in seat belts, younger kids in booster seats and little kids in child safety seats. And you, the driver? Set an example for your children and remember to buckle up yourself.



- Remember that in Minnesota it's illegal to pass a school bus with flashing red lights. And don't think you can get away with violating this rule just because there aren't

any Police Officer's around! Bus drivers can and will pass on the license number of a driver violating this rule to the Police!

- Reduce your speed in a school zone. Legal speed limits in these areas will be posted, but you can make it even safer by slowing down even further.
- Be alert for children who might dart out between parked cars. Remember they are smaller than most vehicles and you might not see them until it is too late. And parents, teach your child to always cross at the crosswalk so that this situation doesn't happen.

That's a lot of things to think about, but parents and children also need to be aware of personal safety. Here are a few more tips to keep your child safe:

CHILD SAFETY TIP

Before departing with children/ grandchildren/kids to any event, take a second, pull out your cell phone and take individual pictures of each child. That way, if the unthinkable happens and a child gets lost, you have a picture of how they are dressed and what they looked like that day.

The photo can then be immediately sent to police to aid in locating the child. Seconds can be precious in this scenario, so take a second, make it a habit and take a picture!

- Never label or print your child's name on the outside of backpacks, lunches or clothing. Doing so will make it possible for criminals to learn your child's name and trick them.
- Establish a "SECRET CODE WORD" with your child. Explain to your kids never to go with anyone that does not know the "code word" regardless of the circumstances.
 - Explain to your children to:
 - Never talk to strangers.
 - Never get in a car with strangers.
 - Never let a stranger into their home.
 - Never let a stranger touch them.
 - Never allow your child to play in a dimly lit or unsupervised place.
- Remind your child to play and walk in a group. There is safety in numbers.
- Take a current photo of your child. Should the child go missing, having a current photo will help the Police.

This is just a sampling of ideas that you can use to keep your children safe as they go back to school. Talking to your children before school starts, and giving them gentle reminders throughout the year is a good start to ensuring everyone has a safe and enjoyable school year!

MINNESOTA SQUARE PARK PAVILION UPDATE – It's been a while since the City Council has discussed the project to replace the Pavilion in Minnesota Square Park. So what's happening with the project?

Currently the City's team of architects, construction manager, and staff is working with a Committee to find cost efficiencies for the project.

LABOR DAY



LABOR DAY CLOSURES – All non-emergency City offices, including the Library, Community Center and Minnesota River Valley Transit system, will be closed on Labor Day.

In addition, the Community Center will be closed over the Labor Day weekend, (Saturday, September 1st–Monday, September 3rd) and the Library will also be closed on Saturday, September 1st.

Regular Community Center (non-summer hours) hours start Tuesday, September 2nd. The revised hours will be:

Monday through Friday: 6 a.m.–10 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m.–8 p.m.
Sundays noon–8 p.m.

JOB OPENING: The Civil Service Commission is currently accepting applications for the following position:

- **POLICE PATROL OFFICER** - The City of Saint Peter Police Civil Service Commission is currently accepting applications to establish an eligibility ranking for the position of Police Patrol Officer. Applicants must have a minimum of two year degree in Law Enforcement from P.O.S.T. accredited college or vocational school or five years experience as a police officer; Possession of a *valid* current Minnesota P.O.S.T. board license or eligibility to *immediately* receive a P.O.S.T. board license; possession of, or eligible for a Minnesota Class D Drivers license; and satisfactory results on recruitment instruments designated by the

Police Civil Service Commission, such as oral examinations, written examinations, physical examinations and psychological examinations. Desired qualifications include: four year Bachelor's Degree in law enforcement or related field; experience in working with a law enforcement agency; and specialized training or certificate in a law enforcement related field; customer service oriented employment history. Probationary pay rate has been established at \$26.77/hour. Applications may be obtained at, and must be submitted, along with a cover letter and résumé, to the Saint Peter Police Civil Service Commission, c/o Saint Peter Police Department, 207 South Front Street, Saint Peter, MN 56082, (507)931-1550, by 5:00 p.m. September 15, 2018. Faxed, emailed and/or late applications will *not* be accepted.

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	August 22	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	August 23	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	August 24	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	August 27	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	August 28	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Monday	September 3		LABOR DAY HOLIDAY – City Offices Closed
Tuesday	September 4	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Thursday	September 6	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	September 10	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	September 10	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 11	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	September 17	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	September 17	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday	September 24	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 25	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	September 26	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission

Thursday	September 27	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	September 28	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau