

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. Please contact us at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter

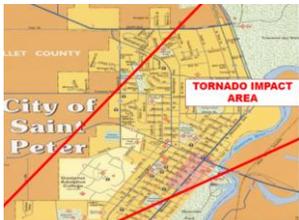


03/22/17

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council on March 13, 2017 included award of the bid for the 2017 Broadway Tower Repainting Project to Osseo Construction Company; approval of the 2017 Street Maintenance Program; retaining Bolton and Menk, Inc. to provide preliminary engineering for Zone 8 of the 2017-2019 Master Sidewalk Program; authorization to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for funding for installation of an asphalt trail and a fishing pier at Hallett's Pond; approval to retain Alpha Wireless to temporarily remove, relocate and then reinstall the City's antenna equipment on the Broadway Water Tower during the repainting project.

The City Council tabled action to consider a request by St. Peter Community Childcare Center for a 24 month extension of the balloon payment due on a previously approved revolving loan.

The next City Council meeting is March 27, 2017 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.



TORNADO ANNIVERSARY – Next week (March 29th), is the 19th anniversary of the tornado that struck Saint Peter and Comfrey in 1998. During that F3-F4 tornado, two people (Dustin Schneider of Saint Peter and an older man in the Comfrey area) lost their lives. Over 1,800 homes were damaged (200 destroyed) in Saint Peter; and,

depending on where you get results, there was \$235-\$300 million in damages.

The tornado was a great tragedy for two families, and most likely not something they wish to be reminded of every year. But there were also many blessings realized during the tornado and subsequent recovery.

Many whose homes were damaged or destroyed had an opportunity to rebuild and repair in ways they might never have otherwise been able to afford. The City constructed a new community center and a new hospital. A new Catholic Church was constructed along with a new church school. Tens of thousands of trees were replanted on public and private property, and while we might never live to once again see the grand canopy of foliage that existed throughout the community prior to the tornado, we now have new and varied species of trees that have taken root and are flourishing.

But more so than the bricks and mortar benefits from that day, the Saint Peter community grew in ways that those who have not gone through a disaster may never understand. As others rushed to our aid that night and in the weeks that followed, we learned how to accept help when it is offered and how to come to the aid of others when they need it. We were grateful for the employees of area cities and utility providers who came here and worked long, tiring days helping to restore "normal" to our community.



Community members pulled together with everyone offering what they had to those who had lost so much. Churches opened their doors and



hosted services for other religions. People went out of their way to check on the elderly and those who had suffered damages; and neighbors checked on damaged properties to prevent looting and vandalism.

And, contrary to what some “experts” had predicted, Saint Peter’s population actually grew in the months and years following the tornado as those who suffered damage rebuilt their homes and



reopened their businesses rather than moving to another community.

It won’t be long before it’s Severe Weather Awareness Month in Minnesota which will

most likely bring up memories of the tornado for a lot of residents. We’ll have more information on how to keep your family safe during severe weather in upcoming editions of the Hot Sheet.

But for now, as we look back to that day 19 years ago, our thoughts continue to be with the families who lost loved ones.....and our thanks continue to go out to everyone who came to our aid that evening and in the days, weeks and months that followed.

HOUSE NUMBERS REQUIRED - The Minnesota Fire Code, which has been adopted by the City Council, requires addressing of homes and businesses. The Code requires new and existing buildings to have address numbers that are visible from the street, in contrasting colors to the house/business colors, and a minimum of four inches (4”) tall. This is so emergency services like police, fire, and ambulance, can find a location quickly. It also helps the pizza delivery person. If your home or business doesn’t meet these requirements, please take action now to rectify the situation.

And for newer residents who might be transplants from southern states, the City does NOT allow address numbers to be painted on curbs. Not only is it not allowed, but it could be dangerous in the winter months when the curbs are covered with snow and emergency responders can’t see the address.

HYDRANT FLUSHING

Spring hydrant flushing will begin Monday, April 10th and is expected to be completed by no later than



April 21st. 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.

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’s Public Works Department 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 also 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 a video created by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency... (click here... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQEAiTUzIOc>).

The City’s 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.

MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY TRANSIT - The new Corridor Route runs Monday and

Thursdays 8:30 am – 6:30 pm and the second Saturday of each month 10:30 am – 6:30 pm. The two departure hubs are Valley Green Square Mall in Le Sueur and Family Fresh in Saint Peter. The drop off and pick up locations in Mankato are River Hills Mall, Walmart (by request) and Mayo



Clinic/Hospital. The charge for a one-way ride is \$6.00. Drivers will have printed schedules available for the public. Those with questions on the new Minnesota River Valley Transit are asked to contact the office at 888-880-4696.

“BE BRIGHT” CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS – Last fall the City’s electric utility partnered with local retailers to once again offer instant discounts on ENERGY STAR®-rated LED bulbs. The “Be Bright” campaign resulted in sales of over 3,200 LED bulbs to City utility customers – the highest in 16 years!

ENERGY STAR-labeled LEDs use 80% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent light bulbs. Costs for LED lighting are at their lowest ever - making this a perfect time to upgrade. Customers are encouraged to use the [Right Light Guide](#) to help find the right LED bulb for your home.



The City continues to offer year-round rebates for energy saving bulbs and fixtures for homes and businesses making it even more affordable for customers to upgrade to efficient lighting. Please visit www.SaveEnergyInSaintPeter.com to learn more.

WHY DOES THE CITY DO RENTAL INSPECTIONS? - The easy answer to this question is the City wants to ensure the basic or at least minimum level of safety is provided for the public. How do we go about doing that?

In 1997 the City adopted the Uniform Housing Code guidelines for the rental program. This sets the minimum qualifications for a residence to be considered for rental. When the City’s Inspectors inspect a possible rental property they look for smoke detectors, CO detectors, handrails, fire extinguishers, ground-fault inhibitors, plugins being further than three feet from water sources, and that furnaces and water heaters are in good condition. They also look at the general condition of the home including that the roof and siding are in good shape and that windows and doors lock and operate easily so the person can feel reasonably safe and secure in their home.

The Inspectors also visit with the City’s Community Service Officer about any previous complaints about the property for disorderly house, garbage outside of the residence, and/or unlawful assemblies. Yearly inspections are done on rental

properties to ensure that all these issues meet or exceed the safety standards. It also gives the landlord a chance to see how the tenant is caring for the home and gives the City a chance to talk to the landlord if things need to be repaired.

Ensuring safe rental properties benefits not only the renters, but everyone in the community. If you have a rental property that has not been inspected, or for more information on this program, please contact the Building Department at City Hall (931-0662).

DOG LICENSES DUE – Dog owners who want to keep their pups legal are encouraged to apply for their renewal dog licenses before April 30th. As with most communities in Minnesota, dogs and cats are required to be licensed by the City. This provides protection to the public by ensuring that pets are vaccinated for rabies and also helps City staff return wandering pups to their owners in the event they escape the confines of their own yards.



Licenses are available at the Community Development Office in City Hall (227 South Front Street) during regular business hours. Pet owners will need a rabies certificate signed by a licensed Veterinarian before a license can be issued. The licenses for dogs and cats are due in alternating years and are good for a two-year period. Any animal that is old enough to be vaccinated for rabies is required to be licensed. Cost for the two-year license is:

- Spayed/Neutered \$5
- Unaltered \$25

In the unfortunate situation where a previously licensed pet has passed away or is no longer living in Saint Peter, the owners are asked to contact the Community Development Department at 934-0661 so records can be updated.

And if you have adopted a new cat since 2016, please be advised that the cat will also need to be licensed even though it is not the cat licensing year. The cost will be pro-rated.



HELP WANTED - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications positions:

- **BUS DRIVERS (PT)**
- for the Minnesota River Valley Transit system. **MINIMUM**

QUALIFICATIONS: High school diploma or equivalent; possession of, or ability to obtain within 30 days of employment, a valid State of Minnesota CDL minimum of Class C Driver's License with passenger endorsement.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS: Previous experience working with the public; training in vehicle mechanics; experience operating a two-way radio/phone; and prior bus driving experience. Starting wage \$15.38 per hour. Applicants are required to complete City application form available in the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street or by calling (507) 934-0663. **Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 p.m. March 31, 2017.** Faxed and/or late applications will not be accepted. ****NOTE:** The successful candidates for this position will be required to successfully complete and pass a pre-employment drug test. The position is also subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing required by USDOT 49 CFR Part 655 (Federal Transit Administration) and USDOT 49 CFR Part 40. In addition, successful candidates for this position must have a vehicle driving record which is clear of revocations, suspensions and cancellations for the past three (3) years. Applicants may be required to submit to a criminal background check and be clear of convictions for crimes or anticipatory crimes (as defined in M.S. 609.17 and 609.175) within the previous fifteen (15) years. AA/EEO

- **SEASONAL POSITIONS** – in the Public Works and Recreation and Leisure Services Department Departments. ***Applications for the seasonal positions are available on the City's website at [seasonal application](#).*** A condition of employment shall be successful completion of a background investigation, and successful completion of pre-employment drug test. Employees will be subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing. Must be at least 16 years of age for Recreation and Leisure Services positions; 15 years of age

for aquatics positions and 18 years of age for Public Works positions. **Deadline for receipt of seasonal applications by the City Administrator's Office is 5:00 p.m., April 3, 2017.** The following seasonal positions are available:

- **PUBLIC WORKS SEASONAL LABORER:** Duties include a variety of manual labor tasks associated with the care, maintenance, and cleaning of City facilities and equipment including, but not limited to, painting, washing, mowing, weeding, digging, cleaning and organizing; planting, trimming, and removal of trees and shrubs and mowing and trimming facilities. 40 hours/week. Applicants must possess a minimum valid Class C or D driver's license. Must pass pre-employment drug test; subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing required by federal regulations. Starting wage \$9.50/hour. Minimum age: 18.
- **SPORTS/SPECIAL EVENTS PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** Train and supervise staff, organize and implement summer sports programs and special events (Baseball, Soccer, etc.). Need strong organizational, motivational, planning and leadership skills. Experience with school age children. 35–40 hours/week. Mid May–End of August. Starting wage: \$11.25/hour.
- **CREATE A CAMP PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** Train, supervise staff, organize and implement summer programs for 6–10 year old children. Leadership and supervisory experience with recreation activities required. Need strong organizational, motivational, planning and leadership skills. 35–40 hours/week. Mid May–Mid August. Starting wage: \$11.25/hour.
- **PRESCHOOL COORDINATOR:** Train and supervise staff organize and implement summer programs (Lil Rascals, Specialized Day Camps, Special Events) for 3-6 year old children. Leadership and supervisory experience with recreation activities required. Need strong organizational, motivational, planning and leadership skills. 35–40 hours/week. Mid May–Mid August. Starting wage: \$11.25/hour.
- **VOLUNTEER IN THE PARK COORDINATOR:** Recruit, train, assign and supervise youth volunteers. Strong leadership and organizational skills

required. Flexible hours. 30–40 hours/week. May–August. Starting wage: \$11.25/hour

- RECREATION LEADERS: Responsibilities include implementing youth summer recreation and sports programs and special events. Previous experience working with youth needed. Strong leadership and organizational skills required. Mid May–mid/end August. 35–40 hours/week. Starting wage: \$10.00/hour.
- PART-TIME RECREATION LEADERS: Responsibilities include implementing youth summer recreation and sports programs and special events. Previous experience working with youth desired. Strong leadership and organizational skills required. Mid May–mid/end August. 20–25 hours/week. Starting wage: \$10.00/hour.
- HEAD LIFEGUARDS: Duties include supervision of aquatics personnel, pool patrons, and pool facility. Must have three years of lifeguard experience. Current WSI,

LGT, First Aid and CPR certificates required. Strong leadership background. Minimum age: 18. Starting wage: \$11.00/hour.

- LIFEGUARD/WSI: Duties include teaching swim lessons and supervision of swimmers. Some maintenance. Full, part-time and substitute positions. Current WSI, LGT, First Aid and CPR Certificates required. Starting wage: \$10.00/hour.
- LIFEGUARD (without WSI): Duties include supervision of swimmers and some maintenance. Full, part-time and substitute positions. Current LGT, First Aid and CPR Certificates required. Minimum age: 15. Starting wage: \$9.50/hour.
- OUTDOOR POOL CASHIER: Duties include collection of pool fees, light bookkeeping, some maintenance and strong public relations skills. Minimum age: 15. Part-time. Starting wage: \$7.50/hour.

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	March 22	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	March 23	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	March 24	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	March 27	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	March 28	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Monday	April 3	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	April 3	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session
Tuesday	April 4	6:00 p.m.	City Board of Appeals and Equalization Meeting
Thursday	April 6	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	April 10	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	April 11	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Thursday	April 13	5:30 p.m.	Board of Zoning Appeals
Monday	April 17	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	April 24	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	April 25	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	April 26	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission

Thursday	April 27	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
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Friday	April 28	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
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*** Please contact the City Administrator's office (507-934-0663) for up-to-date meeting information.***