

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

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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. To request an email subscription to this newsletter, or for more information, please contact us at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



05/24/17

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council on May 22, 2017 included a public hearing and subsequent action to approve a request to rezone Outlot A of Hallett Pond Subdivision from C-4 (Highway Service Commercial) to C-5 (Business/Professional Office); a public hearing on a loan application to be submitted to USDA Rural Development for funding for the hospital expansion project; authorization for the City Administrator to negotiate the terms for the Ameresco energy savings project; award of the bid for the 2017 Equipment Certificate issuance to Hometown Bank; authorization for transfer of excess funds in the 2013 and 2014 equipment certificates to fund a portion of the 2017 equipment certificate purchases; approval of a Tree Worker license application; approval for City assistance for the Ambassador's Bluesfest event; authorizing Bolton and Menk, Inc. to provide for inspection of the Broadway Water Tower repainting project; approval for execution of an agreement with MnDOT for the LRIP grant funds awarded for the Gardner Road project; approval for vacation of a drainage easement in Cub's Court Subdivision; approval for execution of an agreement with MnDOT for shared costs for the Broadway Avenue project; and authorization to execute a contract amendment with LJP Enterprises that would extend the contract to summer 2023 and provide for weekly recyclables collection.

The next City Council meeting is June 12, 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.



OUTDOOR POOL OPENING – The City's outdoor pool (located at 312 North Fourth Street), will open for the summer on Saturday, May 27th at 1:00 p.m.

Opening day is free admission for all with open swim from 1-6 pm and family swim from 6:15 – 8:15 pm.

After opening day the admission price is \$3 per time for ages 5 and up. But don't forget the pool

passes and ticket books which can substantially reduce that cost. Passes and ticket books are available for purchase now from the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at the Community Center and will be available at the pool once the facility is open.

Children ages 6 and under can use the Wading Pool free of charge although they must be accompanied by an adult or responsible supervisor (18 years or older). Concessions are also available for purchase.

To receive messages via text regarding cancellations or changes to swim lessons, open or family swim, lap swim or aerobics, send a text to 81010 or 651-691-4264 for each of the groups you wish to join:

- For open or family swim text: @afteveswim
- For morning lessons text: @amlessons
- For evening swim lessons text: @evelessons
- For aerobics or lap swim text: @aerobiclap

Or you can call the City's recreation hotline at 934-0070 for information on pool closure. More information on the City's policy related to pool closures can be found on the website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/outdoor-swimming-pool>.

RECREATION HOTLINE – The City has a “hotline” available for Recreation and Leisure Services Department activities. Need to know if Softball is being cancelled (cancellations are always made by 4:00 p.m.)? Call the Hotline.

Need to know if the pool is closed before sending your kids down there? Call the Hotline.

The Hotline is an easy and free way to access all the latest information about Recreation and Leisure Services Department program activities and cancellations.

MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURES – The following closures will occur due to the Memorial Day holiday:

- All non-emergency City offices will be closed on Monday, May 29th.
- The City Council will meet in a goal session on Tuesday, May 30th beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.
- The Community Center and Public Library will be closed Memorial Day weekend from Saturday May 27th through Monday, May 29th.
- The transit system (Minnesota River Valley Transit) will not operate on Monday, May 29th.



STORM SIRENS OR NOT? –

Last week’s stormy weather set off a storm of another kind...from people concerned about why the emergency sirens weren’t activated. How can people know when it’s safe to come out of their basement shelters? Why isn’t there an “all clear” notice provided? We had all kinds of questions and concerns and it’s time for a refresher.

Let’s start with the basics of severe weather lingo.....

- Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm **“WATCH”** - means that conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes or severe thunderstorms. When a watch is issued for our area, 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, residents should **TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY**. Emergency sirens are only issued for Tornado Warnings...not for severe thunderstorms.

Now, with that knowledge in place, let’s think about how the National Weather Service issues their watches and warnings. For many years, warnings for tornadoes were issued for the entire county. That meant that if a storm was 40 miles away on the other edge of Nicollet County, the warning was issued for the whole of Nicollet County regardless of whether it would come near Saint Peter or not. That led to the sirens being activated a lot and people starting to ignore the sirens. When people stop paying attention it poses a danger.

A few years back, the Weather Service changed their policy and now warnings are issued not based on county, but rather on the geographic area that the storm is actually in and/or traveling to. The “box” that you see on a radar screen for a warned area is oddly shaped to encompass only the area that is really in danger.

When the Tornado Warning was issued for Nicollet County on May 17th you may have got the notice on your television, or over your computer or smart phone. The Police Department gets notices sent directly to them by the National Weather

Service. When the warning is put out, the Police Department reviews the more detailed information they receive to determine if City emergency sirens should be activated. They also review radar information from numerous sources including local television stations. The direction of the possible tornado for which the warning was

issued on May 17th included the vague description of “southeastern portion of Nicollet County”. The actual tornado was not predicted to be near the Saint Peter area, therefore, the decision was made to not activate the sirens and instead, the Police Department closely monitored the situation until any threat of tornados had passed our area.

Some folks were upset that the sirens didn’t sound and during and after the storm we had several calls/emails from folks expressing that opinion and asking additional questions. Here’s a sample and the answers those callers were provided:

- **How are we supposed to know when to come out of our basement if there is no “all clear” siren?** *There isn't an “all clear” given. Everyone should take a NOAA weather radio or a portable battery powered radio, or a television into the shelter with them. That way you will know when the warning has expired and it is safe to exit your shelter.*
- **There is no basement in my house. Where do I go in the event of a warning?** *That's really something you need to determine before the weather turns nasty and there is no one good answer. Get to a windowless interior room, such as a bathroom, closet or inner hallway...Stay as far from windows as possible...Go to the center of the room – corners tend to attract debris...Get under a sturdy piece of furniture; heavy table or desk, and hold on to it...Protect your head and neck with a blanket, if possible. If you live in a rental property ask your landlord where the storm shelter is. If you live in a mobile home park, make sure your required emergency shelter is unlocked and accessible at all times and if not, check with the park owner to make sure that situation is changed. Traveling long distances across town to go to a shelter once the sirens have been activated is NOT a good idea, so make sure your emergency shelter is close at hand.*
- **Can I bring my cat/dog with to the emergency shelter?** *Probably, but if you do, make sure the animal is in a crate or on a leash. Animals get scared during storms just like humans do. An unrestrained scared animal may bite or bolt. And if a storm is approaching it might be a good idea to wrangle your dog or cat into a crate before the sirens start going off! Then you can just grab the container and head to your shelter.*
- **You need to put in another siren tower because I can't hear it in my house.** *The outdoor emergency sirens are NOT designed to be heard indoors. The system is specifically for those who are outside. If you don't already have one for your home, purchase a NOAA weather radio and keep it turned on at all times during severe weather season.*

We all need to be weather aware. If the skies appear threatening, find a way to tune in to local TV or radio. If you are a fisherman or enjoy camping or engage in a lot of outdoor activities, invest in a portable radio that you can tune to for weather updates so you can take shelter in the event of a

fast moving storm while you are enjoying the great outdoors.

The City will continue to do our part to monitor and warn residents when the need arises, but each of us as individuals also need to take responsibility for our own safety. And when those sirens do sound please....

- Don't stand outside and try and spot, or worse yet, video the tornado. Head to your emergency shelter.
- Don't get in your car to chase the tornado. Head to your emergency shelter.
- Don't call the Police or City offices and ask why the sirens are going off. Head to your emergency shelter...that's where most of the City employees will also be!

HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING RESCHEDULED – The May 30th meeting of the Heritage Preservation Commission has been rescheduled to Wednesday, May 31st. The meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center. For more information on Heritage Preservation Commission meetings, please contact the Community Development Department at 934-0661.

EDA MEETING CANCELLED – The Economic Development Authority meeting of May 25th has been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. The next meeting will be June 22nd. For more information on EDA meetings, please contact the Community Development Department at 934-0661.



NEW PARKS SIGNAGE - You will now see new parks signage throughout 2017 that will include a quick response (QR) code. This code can be scanned by your smart phone and will direct you to the City's website park page. Once on

the website viewers will be able to view a list of park amenities, learn some of the history of the park and find out how to reserve the facilities. For further questions, please call Public Works at 507-934-0670.

STREET WORK UNDERWAY SOON – This summer will be like all the others before and the City's Street crews will be busy making repairs and improvements to area roadways. From crack sealing, to seal coating, to full depth patching, our crews work very hard to keep Saint Peter roads in tiptop condition.

Work will begin in earnest on May 30th when City crews will begin removing asphalt with a milling machine in areas where full depth asphalt patching is required. This is followed by replacement of the asphalt surface. Many years ago, this was done by shoveling hot “tar” onto the roadway, but times have changed and now the City uses a milling machine and asphalt paving machine to complete the work. This work is being done in the same areas that will see seal coating later this summer. It is done in advance of the seal coating in large areas that have sustained significant damage or deterioration. These areas are blocked by traffic cones during the work and drivers are asked to be extra cautious in and around the construction zones.



During the patching work temporary “no parking” restrictions are put in place so that the work can commence on schedule without trying to find vehicle owners to move vehicles off the roadway. City staff will identify which areas will be closed to public parking and will post “no parking” signs 24-hours in advance.

Approximately 1700 tons of asphalt is planned for removal at the following locations:

- Swift and Fair Streets
- Madison Street
- North 3rd and 4th
- West Skaro Street
- Livermore and Ramsey
- Chatham and Chestnut
- Mill Pond circle road
- South 7th

Later in the summer, crack sealing will be completed and then the seal coating contractor will show up towards the end of summer. Crack sealing is a process where cracks in the roadway are cleared of all debris (using high pressure air) and then a sealant material is placed in the crack before a toilet paper type of material is placed on top of the sealant. This process moves very quickly which means minimal disruption for property owners along the route. Because it works so quickly parking restrictions should not be necessary in most cases.

Seal coating is done on a 5-8 year rotation throughout the community. The work is done to

prevent moisture from seeping under the pavement which causes the surface to deteriorate with cracking and spalling. During seal coating, the roadway is covered in asphaltic oil that is then covered with small red rock. As soon as the rock material is placed, drivers can use the roadway. The rock is left in place for several days to ensure it fully adheres before the excess rock is swept up by the City Streets crew. The seal coat contractor usually comes during August and the work takes several days.

For more information on street repair and maintenance work, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670 or keep an eye on the Hot Sheet for more information as crack sealing and seal coating work is scheduled.

RIVER’S EDGE HOSPITAL NAMED CENTER OF EXCELLENCE - River’s Edge Hospital & Clinic has been recognized as a DNV GL Healthcare certified Hip & Knee Replacement Center. The DNV GL Healthcare Hip and Knee Replacement Certification, based on standards set forth by DNV GL Healthcare and considering the guidelines of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, recognizes program excellence in patient care and outcomes.

DNV GL Healthcare certification as a Hip & Knee Replacement Center validates the hospital’s excellence across the spectrum of hip and knee replacement care, from diagnosis to treatment, rehabilitation, education and outcomes.

“This certification tells our community that we have the resources and commitment to provide the best possible care for Hip and Knee replacement,” says George Rohrich, CEO at River’s Edge. “It’s a combination of the right equipment, personnel and training to exhibit excellence in orthopedic surgery within the scope of Hip and Knee Replacement and related procedures. Achieving certification validates all the effort we have put into this program to ensure the health and safety of our patients.”

“This is a great accomplishment for REHC and the OrthoEdge program. It’s this kind of quality care that both REHC and OFC are known for. We have known that the care we provide is exceptional and that has now been confirmed by DNV GL. We would like to congratulate the hospital staff, administration, and physicians for their dedication and hard work to achieve this certification. Being a Center of Excellence in Total Hip and Knee Arthroplasty is important for the patient, community, and the region,” said Andrew Meyers, CEO at The Orthopaedic & Fracture Clinic.

“Achieving certification shows commitment to excellence,” says Patrick Horine, CEO of DNV GL

Healthcare. “It helps demonstrate to your community that you are performing at the highest level.”

River’s Edge Hospital & Clinic provides a wide range of healthcare services, combining state-of-the-art technology with compassionate care, collaboration, integrity and stewardship.

DNV GL Healthcare DNV GL is a world-leading certification body that helps businesses assure the performance of their organizations, products, people, facilities and supply chains through certification, verification, assessment, and training services. Within healthcare, DNV GL helps its customers achieve excellence by improving quality and patient safety through hospital accreditation, disease-specific certifications and quality management training. The DNV GL operates in more than 100 countries. Our 15,000 professionals are dedicated to helping its customers make the world safer, smarter and greener.

RESIDENTIAL SOLAR SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAM – The City Council has approved creation of a community residential solar subscription program for our residential electric utility customers. The program is being developed in conjunction with SMMPA.

The new program, which will begin July 1st, will allow residential electric utility customers to subscribe to the output of solar panels at a solar farm located in Owatonna (and in future years possibly a solar farm in Princeton).

Subscribers can sign up for up to 50% of their electric usage in the last 12 months. Panels which are located in SMMPA’s solar array, can be subscribed to in full or half sizes and in increments of 5, 10, 20, or 25 years.

The electricity generated by the purchased panels will be credited to the customer’s electric utility account over the term of the purchase.

Final details and sign-up paperwork are being developed at this time and more information on the program will be provided as soon as it is completed through the Hot Sheet, the Utility Bill flyer, and other means.

In the meantime, should you have questions on this program, please contact Finance Director O’Connell (934-0664), Public Works Director Moulton (934-0670) or City Administrator Prafke (934-0663) for more information.

CONSTRUCTION CLOSURES - Just a friendly reminder that there are several areas within the City that are “CLOSED” for construction. It may include a roadway, the Highway 99 Bridge, a sidewalk or a trail; but closed means closed – no car, truck or foot traffic is allowed in these areas even if you see a gap in the signage.

Many folks have decided to ignore the signage and wander onto construction sites to see what is going on. Or they see the signage has been moved offering just enough clearance for your car to get through. But don’t. Going around “closed” sign is a violation of the law. Officers can and will enforce these regulations leading to some hefty fines. But it’s more important that both the public and the workers are kept safe. So please remember that “CLOSED” means the area is off limits to the public and stay away.

Thanks for your help in keeping the work site safe.

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	May 24	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission Meeting
Thursday	May 25	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority Meeting
Friday	May 26	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau Meeting
Monday	May 29		MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY – City Offices Closed
Tuesday	May 30	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Tuesday	May 30	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Thursday	June 1	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	June 5	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	June 5	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session



Monday	June 12	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Thursday	June 15	5:30 p.m.	Board of Zoning Adjustments
Monday	June 19	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	June 19	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	June 22	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	June 23	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	June 26	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	June 27	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	June 28	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission

*** Please contact the City Administrator's office (507-934-0663) for up-to-date meeting information.***