

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



11/29/17

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council on November 27, 2017 included assessment of unpaid utility charges and miscellaneous charges; designation of certain trails and sidewalks as “no maintenance” during winter months; authorizing the City to act as sponsor and fiscal agent for a grant application for Local Road Improvement Program funds for a project to improve Township #361 which is just to the west of the new High School; and approval for execution of the 2018-2019 legal services contract with Brandt Law Office.

The next City Council meeting is December 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center. (Please note this is the last Council meeting of the year.) 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.



TREE TRIMMING – (Not the Christmas tree kind of trimming!) Why is it important to keep trimming our boulevard trees? The City's Parks crews trim trees to

raise the tree canopy over sidewalks to a height of 8 feet and over roadways to a height of 14 feet. Not only is it required by City Code regulations, but this allows larger trucks, (garbage, snow plows, etc.), to travel next to the curb without hitting and breaking off lower limbs. This also helps with intersection visibility and street light obstructions.

Over the winter months, City crews will begin tree trimming of boulevard trees. Of course this work is weather dependent and may be put on hold if the crew spends lots of time in snowplow trucks!

Property owners are reminded to remove Christmas lights from all boulevard trees when the holidays are over so the lights aren't damaged by this work.

Anyone with questions on the tree trimming work should contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

STREET LIGHT WORK – Saint Peter residents should get used to seeing the Retrofit Electric trailer parked around town. Following the City's execution of an energy savings project contract with Ameresco, Retrofit Electric has been retained to change out street lights to more energy efficient models throughout the community.



They are currently working in City owned parking lots like the Community Center and the municipal lots in the downtown, but will eventually make their way around the community changing out the lights on the older streetlights which will eventually save money for all of us!



HOLIDAY LIGHTING REBATES – It's time to trim your tree and trim your electric bill! Okay, so maybe it's not really tree trimming time, but if you will be in the market for new, energy efficient decorative lighting, don't forget to apply for your rebate from the City of Saint Peter.

LED decorative lighting saves energy and money; last up to 10 times longer than traditional incandescent strands; are cool to the touch, energy efficient; and if one bulb burns out, the other bulbs stay lit.

The rebate program is only available until December 31, 2017 so buy your new lights and apply now before you forget! Rebates are only available for City of Saint Peter electrical utility customers and the lights must be used within the City's service territory.

Rebate forms are available from the Finance Department in City Hall or on the web at <http://smmpa.org/members/saint-peter-municipal-utilities/home-services/holiday-led-rebate-campaign-limited-time!!!.asp>

*****SPECIAL NOTICE FOR THOSE WITH OLD STRINGS OF LIGHTS** – Unfortunately the City is no longer able to accept old holiday light strings for recycling as the vendor we previously worked with is no longer accepting the materials. We are attempting to find another source for recycling these lights and if we do, information will be included in a future edition of the Hot Sheet and/or on the City's website or Facebook pages.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CHARITY SCAMS – Before you make an end of the year donation to a charity,



make sure you protect yourself from a possible scam. Police Chief Peters offers the following suggestions to residents:

- Request written information. Ask for the name of the organization; its' mission, plans for achieving its' objectives; and how much of every dollar collected is used for charitable purposes.
- Call the beneficiary/organization. Find out whether they are aware of the solicitation and have authorized the use of their name.
- Find out how your donation will be distributed including how much will go to the program you want to support and how much will cover the charity's administrative costs.
- If the caller is a professional fund-raiser, ask them how much money they keep.
- Refuse high-pressure appeals. Legitimate fund-raisers won't push you to give on the spot.
- Consider the cost. When buying merchandise or tickets for special events, or when receiving free goods in exchange for giving, remember that these items cost money and are generally paid for out of the contributions.
- Avoid cash gifts because they can be lost or stolen. For security and tax record purposes, it is best to pay by check. Make your check payable to the beneficiary, NOT the solicitor.

To check on a charity in Minnesota, call the Minnesota Charities Review Council at 1-800-733-

4483 or the Charity Division of the Minnesota Attorney General's Office at 1-800-657-3787.

Holiday Open House
AT THE SAINT PETER LIBRARY



UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENT – Join us for treats and music at the holiday open houses at the Library (601 South Washington Avenue) on Thursday, December 7th from 2-4:00 p.m. and from 6-8:00 p.m. The afternoon event will feature sweet treats, hot beverages, and live music by the St. Peter High School Madrigal Singers. The evening event will be a special family open house for the holidays where children can make holiday crafts and decorate cookies. The evening event will also include a 6:30 p.m. sing-a-long and at 7:00 p.m. there will be a fireplace reading of "Can Candy Save Christmas?" by Mary Ann Waldon illustrated by St. Peter's Monica Zrust.

GREAT CANDY CANE HUNT – The Recreation Department's Great Candy Cane Hunt is right around the corner on Saturday, December 2nd at the Saint Peter Community Center!



Over 8,000 candy canes will be hidden throughout the building. Hunt times are: 9 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 10 a.m., and 10:30 a.m.

Please meet in the Community Center gym for this free event. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information on this family event, please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-0667.



CITY MEETING SCHEDULES – The City uses many different ways of notifying the public when and where City meetings take place. The one official spot is the legal notices bulletin board at City Hall. As required by the Open

Meeting law, all official notices of meetings to be held by the City Council and its' advisory boards and commissions are posted on this bulletin board at least 72 hours before the meeting.

We also include a calendar in the Hot Sheet and have a calendar available on the City's website. Meetings are sometimes referenced on the City's Facebook page. While we try to be as accurate as we can be in these different locations, the meetings are usually posted on the website a year in advance and sometimes things get changed.

Residents interested in attending a City Council meeting, or seeing what is on the agenda for an upcoming meeting, are encouraged to go directly to the Council packet for that meeting. The City Administrator's Office uploads copies of all City Council meeting agendas and packet to the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov under the GOVERNMENT tab. Click on "current City Council agendas and packets" and you can see exactly the same notice and information that is provided directly to the Council.

And as always, if it is really important to ensure you are at the meeting, please feel free to contact the City Administrator's Office (507-934-0663) to verify the start time and location of any meeting. We are happy to help.

PLAN FOR A DESIGNATED DRIVER – If you are going to be drinking this holiday season, please remember to plan for a sober driver to get you home safely because law enforcement Officers will be working extra hard to find impaired drivers.

The Saint Peter Police Department, along with law enforcement agencies across the state, will be participating in an enforcement action looking for impaired drivers through New Year's. As part of this Towards Zero Deaths initiative, extra Saint Peter Police Officers will be on patrol looking to stop impaired drivers before they injure or kill someone else.

So, remember, if you are going to drink, plan for a designated driver to get you home safely. You might be saving not only your life, but the life of someone you love.

And always remember to buckle up!

MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY TRANSIT RIDES – Have you thought about taking the transit from Le Sueur to Saint Peter to Mankato? If so, December is the

month to try it out. Minnesota River Valley Transit is offering free rides on this corridor route during the following days:

- Monday, December 4th
- Thursday, December 7th
- Saturday, December 9th
- Monday, December 18th
- Thursday, December 21st

If you are interested in taking advantage of these free rides, please call the Minnesota River Valley Transit System at 1-888-880-4696 to reserve your seat now. And for more information on how to catch the corridor bus, including what times it will be at each stop location, please check out the website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/mrvt-lesueur-stpeter-mankato-route>.

**Please note the free ride offer only applies to the inter-city corridor routes and does not apply to Saint Peter dial-a-ride or the Saint Peter route services.



PROPERTY TAX EXPLANATION – Property owners have by now received their 2018 property tax statements from Nicollet County. And

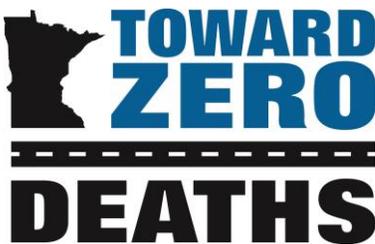
like many of us, you may have opened the statement and been dismayed by the amount of property taxes you'll be required to pay.

But have you really thought about what that money goes for? The League of Minnesota Cities has created a fun video that explains property taxes and how the money is used. It's available on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOAxwqh41iA> and the link is also included on the City's website and Facebook pages.

We hope you'll check it out and learn what your taxes pay for!

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS – City crews have been hard at work along Minnesota Avenue in the central business district and in Minnesota Square Park where the holiday lighting display will soon light up the dark and dreary winter nights.

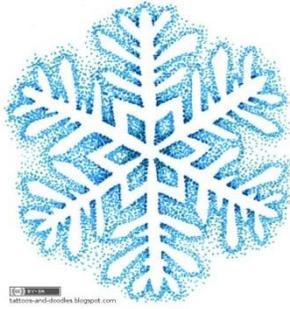
The work involves approximately 16,500 lights in the park; over 60 hours of labor to put the decorations up and another 60+ to take them down; 4-7 crew members all doing something different; anywhere from 11-25 days of work depending on the weather; 44 light fixtures on street light poles; 20 snowflake



fixtures in the medians; one arch at the Highway 169 intersection with West Grace Street and one at West Park Row; Sentence to Serve crews lighting the downtown tree trunks; and a great design on the Minnesota Square Pavilion this year thanks to the creativity of the Parks crew!

SNOW PREPARATIONS – It’s not too early to be planning for heavy snowfalls this winter, and residents who haven’t signed up for Nixle but would like to be notified of snow emergency declarations should sign up now. Nixle is a free community notification system and it’s easy to do.

Just visit www.nixle.com and follow the prompts to create an account for City notices. You can choose whether you wish to have notices sent by e-mail, by text, or both!



If you don’t have an off-street parking space available to you, make arrangements now to find a spot to park your vehicle before snow emergency declarations are in place.

Property owners with sidewalks are also reminded of the City regulations that require sidewalks, including handicap ramps at intersections, to be cleared of all snow and ice within 24 hours after a snowfall. The walkway must be cleared the entire width and be kept clear of blowback and drifting snow. Property owners who don’t clear their walks may face hefty fees from the City when City crews are dispatched to do the job. Minimum charge? \$75!

And for all those who plow snow for a living, please remember that it is illegal to plow the snow out into the street or onto the City owned boulevard. This creates a danger for the public and sight line issues for other drivers.

So get started on your winter preparations now and don’t wait for the first snowflakes to make plans!

LEAF COLLECTION CONCLUDED – The City’s fall curbside leaf collection has finally concluded. The program began on October 23rd and ended on November 17th. The crews worked from sunrise to sunset during the collection periods in an attempt to remove the majority of leaves that were placed on boulevards. The unique fall played havoc with the collection program as a lot of trees were not shedding leaves during the usual time frame.

If you were unable to participate in the curbside collection, the City’s yard waste drop off site at the corner of North Swift and West St. Julien streets is open year round for use by residents. Both the curbside collection and the compost site services are funded by the environmental services fee on City utility bills.

HELP WANTED – The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the following temporary part-time position:

- **WARMING HOUSE ATTENDANT** - Responsible for the supervision of the City’s warming house and outdoor rinks at Veteran’s Memorial Park. Includes light cleaning of the warming house as needed and assistance in clearing/shoveling light snow from the rinks. Must be 16 or older, able to lift up to 75 pounds and able to perform light to medium snow shoveling. Afternoon, evening and weekend hours, including holidays. \$10 per hour. A City of Saint Peter application must be received by the City Administrator’s office, 227 South Front Street, by 5:00 pm on December 1, 2017. Faxed, emailed, and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EEO.

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	December 4	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	December 4	5:30 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Thursday	December 7	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Friday	December 8	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau (reschedule of cancelled November/December meetings)
Monday	December 11	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting

Monday	December 18	7:00 p.m.	 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday	December 25		CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Tuesday	December 26	5:30 p.m.	 Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	December 27	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	December 28	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Monday	January 1		NEW YEAR'S DAY – City offices closed
Tuesday	January 2	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Thursday	January 4	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	January 8	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	January 8	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	January 15		 MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Tuesday	January 16	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	January 16	7:00 p.m.	Parks Board Meeting
Monday	January 22	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Wednesday	January 24	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission Meeting
Thursday	January 25	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	January 26	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	January 29	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Tuesday	January 30	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission

*** Due to the holidays the dates/times for some of these meetings may be changed. Please contact the City Administrator's office (507-934-0663) for up-to-date meeting information.***