

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

11/21/17

Happy Thanksgiving from the City Council and City staff!



This Thanksgiving, as you travel to your holiday festivities, please remember to buckle up and drive safely!

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council on November 13, 2017 included final acceptance of the 2016 Traverse Acres (now called Traverse Green) Subdivision Street and Utility Improvements Project; authorization to refinance the 2010C Electric Revenue Bond to save approximately \$252,000; canvassing of the 2017 general election returns; authorization to initiate the assessment of unpaid utility charges and miscellaneous charges; authorization for execution of a public access production services contract with Anthony Peregrin; approval for execution of several contracts for library services with the Traverse des Sioux Library Cooperative; and closed sessions to discuss sale of City owned property at the southeast corner of the South Washington Avenue/South Third Street intersection and union contract negotiations with the Police Officers and Communications Technician unions.

The next City Council meeting is November 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.

PLAN FOR A DESIGNATED DRIVER –

Recent news articles have reported the day before Thanksgiving is one of the most dangerous days to be on the roads. Some articles even called Thanksgiving eve "Blackout Wednesday" because of the high number of excessive drinking that goes on that evening. Whatever the reason for it, statistics show that a lot of folks over-indulge on Thanksgiving eve and then get behind the wheel. It's a trend that starts that day and lasts through New Year's as people celebrate at holiday parties and other get togethers.

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 beginning on Wednesday, November 22nd 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 rides only apply to the inter-city corridor routes and does not apply to Saint Peter dial-a-ride or the Saint Peter route services.

UTILITY REBATES – The City, through our partnership with Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Association, offers utility rebates to commercial and industrial customers.

Gustavus Adolphus College is one of the most recent recipients of a rebate from the City as shown in the photo here.

The City's commercial and industrial rebates help

customers improve the energy efficiency of their business to ensure that they get the most from each energy dollar. To get started on earning your rebate, simply contact the City's Finance Department (934-0664) and we will get you

connected with the right staff person to help you with your energy saving project. But don't wait too long...rebate funds may be limited.



THANKSGIVING CLOSURES – The Thanksgiving holiday will see closures of City offices as follows:

- All non-emergency City departments will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th.
- The Transit system will NOT operate on Thanksgiving Day, but will be up and running on Friday.
- The Library is closed both Thursday and Friday, but will reopen on Saturday, November 25th.
- The Community Center will be closed on Thanksgiving but will reopen on Friday.

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.



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.

RENTAL PROPERTY REGISTRATION - It is that time of year again! Time to renew rental property registrations. Property owners with last names beginning with A-L will need to complete the rental application and return it to the Building Department at City Hall by December 31st. Inspections must be completed by March 31st.

Cost of the rental license is \$44 per unit. A late fee of \$36 will be added if the application (including the payment) is received after December 31st and/or the inspection is not completed by March 31st.

Rental application forms are available on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/sites/default/files/images/RentalApplication.pdf> and can be printed out and returned to the Building Department with the payment or staff can mail an application to you. For an application, or for those with questions, please contact the Building Department at 934-0662.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED - The City Council will soon be considering appointments of City residents to advisory boards and commissions. The various boards are tasked with topics ranging from planning for streets, parks, recreation activities, hospital and library services to considering business loan requests and other financial matters.



Many openings will be available starting January 1st and more information on the various boards, including the dates/times of the meetings, is available on the City's website. Most terms are three years although some are up to five year terms.

If you live within the corporate limits of the City and are able to volunteer 1-2 hours a month to help the City Council, please consider applying. Application cards are available from the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street.

For more information, or to apply to serve on an advisory board, please contact the City Administrator's Office at 934-0663 or by email at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov.

- **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.

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

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	November 22	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday-Friday	November 23- 24		THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Monday	November 27	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	November 28	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
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

*** 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.***