

# 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](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov) [www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter](https://www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter)



12/11/17

**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](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city).

**COMMUNITY CENTER OPEN GYM** – Have kids that will be bored and restless shortly after Christmas vacation begins? The City will be hosting Open Gym at the Community Center during the holiday season. Parents should note that open gym is an unsupervised activity. Open gym will be offered on the following dates and times:

- Fri., Dec. 22, 2-5 p.m.
- Sat., Dec. 23, 12–4 p.m.
- Tue., Dec. 26, 11–5 p.m.
- Wed., Dec. 27, 2–5 p.m.
- Thu., Dec. 28, 11–5 p.m.
- Fri., Dec. 29, 2–5 p.m.
- Sat., Dec. 30, 12–4 p.m.
- Sun., Dec. 31, 12–4 p.m.

Participants are asked to wear non-marking footwear. Some basketballs will be available for

use, but you may want to consider bringing your own.

**HOLIDAY HOURS** – The upcoming Christmas and New Year's holidays mean lots of changes in hours of service provided by the



City. Here's what you need to know....

- As always our Police and Fire Departments will be available 24-7 to help with any emergency needs.
- All non-emergency offices of the City will be closed on Monday, December 25th and Monday, January 1st for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.
- The Community Center will be closed on Sunday, December 24th and Monday, December 25th; New Year's Eve hours are 12–4 p.m.; closed on New Year's Day.
- The library will be closed on Monday, December 25th and Monday, January 1st



**HOT SHEET HIATUS** – This will be the last Hot Sheet of 2017. Normal publication dates will resume in early January. Until then, for any news you need about the City, please visit our website at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov) or give us a call at City Hall at 934-4840.

**ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT** – Have you considered “adopting” your neighborhood fire hydrant?

As winter snows begins to deepen, residents can help out the Fire Department by keeping the area around the hydrant shoveled out as shown in the picture. In the event of a fire, this will save valuable time for the Firefighters who respond and even save a



life.

**SNOW SHOVELING REGULATIONS** – Is your snow shovel handy? Our unusual start to winter can't last forever and measurable snowfall will eventually occur. Of course that means we will need to be out shoveling those pesky sidewalks!

City crews really hate having to shovel private property so hopefully everyone can help them out this year and keep all those sidewalks shoveled as required by City regulations.

Within 24 hours of a snowfall, property owners are required to ensure sidewalks are free of snow and ice across the entire width of the walk. That also means a little extra work to continue to ensure that blow back and drifting of snow is also removed.



Also, if you happen to live on a corner, you are required to

ensure that the handicap crossing area is kept clear in both directions.

What's the cost if the City has to come out and shovel for you? Minimum of \$75 per hour with a minimum of one hour charge! City crews tackle properties in violation of the ordinance as soon as they are done with the City owned sidewalks.

So put that shovel to work, hire the neighbor kid, put your own kids to work, or hire one of the local snow removal companies to do the work for you and let's keep those sidewalks clean and safe!

**CHRISTMAS TREE CURBSIDE COLLECTION** - Here's a bit of advance notice about the collection of Christmas trees after the holidays. City crews will collect real Christmas trees curbside on January 8th and 9th. The trees are chipped and used for composting.



Residents need to have all decorations removed from the trees and then place them

curbside (not in the street). Trees should NOT be in bags.

No artificial trees, garlands or wreaths will be accepted.

And for those who need or want to dispose of their tree before this time, real trees may be taken to the City's compost site located at the southwest corner

of the West St. Julien/North Swift Street intersection.

If you will be having a real tree this Christmas, please note these important dates on your calendar!

**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!!!.aspx>

\*\*\*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.

**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](http://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.



**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:

- 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.

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

- **PART-TIME BUS DRIVERS** - for the Minnesota River Valley Transit system. Successful candidates for this position must have, at a minimum, a High school diploma or equivalent and a valid State of Minnesota CDL minimum of Class C Driver's License with passenger endorsement. Candidates will have thirty (30) days from the date of employment to obtain the required driver's license and the City will help the new employee train for the license test. Candidates who possess the following desired experience or education will qualify for additional points towards an interview: previous experience working with the public; training in vehicle mechanics; experience operating a two-way radio/phone; and prior bus driving experience. Starting wage \$15.76 per hour. Applicants are required to complete a City application form which is 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. January 5, 2018. Faxed, emailed, 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

**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.

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 Jr. Day	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.\*\*\*