

# 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. Please contact us at [barbaral@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov) [www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter](http://www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter)



01/11/17



## **MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – Budgets and questions.....**

A week or so back I was making a presentation to a group and as a part of that

presentation I talked about budgets and taxes. In the middle of the group of attendees a hand sprung up to ask a question.

Usually I will get questions about why do this or that? How will that impact my property taxes? How come it almost always goes up? But this time the question was unusual. This time the question was, "What philosophy do you approach your budget work with?" Now that is a thought provoking question. So here is the answer for those who may not have been at the meeting.

The philosophy is to bring the Council budgets based on the programs and service standards we have had in place without puffing it up needlessly, simply to be cut later in October or November to show how great a job we can do budget cutting. That is to say, we bring a budget that will provide for the operation the Council tells us they want. Reserves are used for emergencies or efforts that are unknown to us at the time budgets are proposed. In some past years we have used reserves for a deal that is too good to pass up or to pay an unexpected cost. As we set the budgets in September we do not believe that additional information about costs projected only a month or two will substantially later impact our thoughts on needs and/or priorities so we don't plan to come back to the Council multiple times between September and December and modify the budget.

We also believe the results from past budgets speak for themselves and that our budgeting philosophy has shown very positive results both from a financial and a service perspective. The

positive results are measured by the deviation from budget at the end of each year. That deviation has been very, very small, as reported by the City's auditors in past years. Further, the Council does not see a flurry of purchases at the end of each year based on the theory of, "if we don't spend it we won't get it next year." We just don't do that.

There are lots of factors and things to consider in a budget and I think the most important things to note here may be that the budget is not just about numbers, but rather it is more about a plan, a work plan, a capital plan, a plan for operations. The philosophy and the story of a budget are very important. and I think they are just as important in setting a budget as the numbers.

Do you agree? It makes me wonder.....



## **HOLIDAY CLOSURES –**

Monday, January 16th is the Martin Luther King, Jr. legal holiday. All non-emergency City offices will be closed for this holiday.

- The City Council workshop that would normally take place that evening has been rescheduled for Tuesday, January 17th. The workshop will take place at the Library meeting room beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- City transit services will continue to operate as usual.
- The Library is closed.
- The Community Center will be open as usual; however the Recreation and Leisure Services Department will be closed.

Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 17th

**POWER OUTAGE** - City of Saint Peter utility customers experienced an electrical outage in the

west and southern portions of Saint Peter (Gustavus, Saint Peter Regional Treatment Center and Saint Peter High School areas) early Monday afternoon. The outage was caused by an equipment failure at the City's generation facility on Broadway Avenue. Periodically, the City will hire a contractor to come in and test high voltage circuit breakers. The test was conducted which identified deficiencies in the breaker and unfortunately, the testing led to the failure, however corrections were made and the power was quickly restored.

**YOUTH SNOWMOBILE FIELD DAY** - The Saint Peter Police Department, in conjunction with the Nicollet County Sheriff's Office, North Mankato Police Department, and the Minnesota DNR, is hosting a Youth Snowmobile Safety Field Day on January 29, 2017. The class will begin promptly at 12:30 at the Nicollet County Fairgrounds - Johnson Hall (400 W Union Street) in Saint Peter. In order to attend this Field Day, the youth must first successfully complete an online snowmobile training course, which is available on the Minnesota DNR's website at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/vehicle/snowmobile/index.html>.

This course is for students between 11 - 15 years of age, but the certificate would not become valid until the student turns 12. The youth must also be pre-registered. For pre-registration or if you have questions, please contact Saint Peter Police Officer Keith Ruffing at (507) 931-1550 or by email at [keithr@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:keithr@saintpetermn.gov).

**COMMUNITY CENTER OPEN GYM** – Looking for some indoor family fun? Why not try open gym at the Community Center? Upcoming hours include the following:

- Fri., Jan. 13 from 2–5 p.m. (no school)
- Sat., Jan. 14 from 1–4 p.m.
- Sun., Jan. 15 from 12–4 p.m.

For more information on the open gym schedule please check out the City's website at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov).

**SIDEWALK CLEARANCE REMINDERS** – It's snowing again and that means more snow shoveling.

City regulations require sidewalks to be cleared the entire width within 24 hours of snow ending. It's a hefty charge



(minimum of \$75) if City crews come out and do the work for you so, please make arrangements to get those walkways and handicap sidewalk corners shoveled!

**RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT** - The recently adopted 2016 Comprehensive Plan identifies the goals for residential development within the community. One specific goal is that, "Safe, affordable and desirable rental housing opportunities should be provided. Rental housing options should exist for households of all incomes."

At the time of the 2010 U.S. Census, 34.7% of Saint Peter households resided in rental property while 65.3% owned their residence. The 2000 U.S. Census indicated a home ownership rate of 68.9% in Saint Peter. The Comprehensive Plan suggests that the current 65/35 ratio of owner occupied and rental property is optimal and provides sufficient opportunity for those seeking to lease a residence.

Since 2003, a total of 298 rental residential units have been constructed in Saint Peter. Of those, a total of 204 (68.5%) of the new rental units are charging "market rate" rent levels. Multi-family construction during the years 2003-2016 included the following:

Development	Rate	Subsidy	Total
Alpine Meadows	44	0	44
Rock Ridge	36	0	36
Apple Tree	21	0	21
Nicollet Meadows	9	11	20
Central Square	12	43	55
Park Row Crossing	0	40	40
309 S. Minnesota	2	0	2
Orchard Ridge Twins	16	0	16
Bunker Lane	24	0	24
WELCO West	40	0	40
	204	94	298



**TRANSIT CHANGES** - On January 1, 2017 Saint

Peter Transit and Le Sueur Transit completed a merger and became Minnesota River Valley Transit (MRVT). The majority of passengers should not notice changes other than the buses will eventually have the new logo (shown above), however, there are some important things to know about the new system.....

Saint Peter fares will NOT change. However, as part of the merger, the MRVT governing board changed fares and the ticket structure for rides to and from Kasota. The new Kasota cash fares will be:

- Adults \$5.25
- Seniors \$3.00
- Children (0 through 5) \$1.50

There will no longer be Kasota specific tickets. Instead, Kasota passengers will use regular tickets. For those going to or from Kasota, the fare will be three yellow tickets for adults or three red tickets for seniors. Passengers who still have Kasota specific tickets may use those until the end of March.

The transit system has also begun to schedule rides and a toll free number (888-880-4696) has been put in place to do so.

- For rides between now and January 15th, passengers should call 934-6070 as they have in the past.
- For rides scheduled for January 16th or later, please call (888) 880-4696 between 8 am – 4 pm (Monday-Friday).
- Starting on January 16<sup>th</sup> all calls for rides, both immediate and scheduled should be made through the toll-free number at (888) 880-4696.
- Also starting on January 16<sup>th</sup> the toll free number will be answered from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM Monday through Friday and from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Saturdays.

Beginning January 7th, Saturday hours expanded in Saint Peter to 9 am – 7 pm.

Here's the info on the new corridor route between Le Sueur/Saint Peter/Mankato.

- Begins Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>
- Operates Mondays and Thursdays and the second Saturday of the month.
- Fare - \$6.00 for adults and seniors and \$2.00 for those ages 0 through 5 years.
- Pre-sale of corridor tickets will be available in the future, but for now it will be a cash only ride.
- The corridor route schedule will be:
  - Leave Valley Green Square Mall in Le Sueur at 8:30 AM and stop at Family Fresh Market in Saint Peter.
  - Leave Family Fresh at 8:50 AM.
  - The next stop is the Cinemark Movies 8 entrance to the River Hills Mall in Mankato.
  - The bus will leave River Hills Mall at 9:10 AM.
  - The last stop on the corridor route is at the Mankato Clinic at Main Street (at about 9:20 AM) and Mayo Clinic at Marsh Street (at about 9:25 AM).
  - At 9:30 the bus will leave Mankato from the Mayo Clinic building and return to Saint Peter at Family Fresh Market.

- The bus will leave Family Fresh at 10:10 AM and return to Le Sueur Valley Green Square Mall.
- The next route will begin at 10:30 from Le Sueur.

- Routes start in Le Sueur at 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 2:30 PM and finally at 4:30 PM. The Saturday route will not start until 10:30 AM.
- Rides can be scheduled by calling (888) 880-4696.
- The buses only have two wheel chair positions, so those using wheelchairs or scooters must schedule their rides in advance to reserve their space. Ambulatory passengers are also encouraged to call to schedule as scheduled rides will have priority over non-scheduled passengers.

The newly combined transit system should be a fairly seamless transition for Saint Peter transit users; however, passengers are encouraged to be patient and to call the Transit Compliance Manager at 934-0668 for additional information on how the new system works if needed.

**WARMING HOUSE HOURS AT VET'S PARK RINKS** - A warming house/rink attendant is on duty during the following scheduled hours:



Mon.–Fri. from 4–9 p.m.,  
Saturdays 10 a.m.–9 p.m.,  
Sundays 1–9 p.m.  
School Vacation Days from 1–9 p.m.

*Leisure Skating Only will be available at one of the Veteran's rinks during the following days/times:  
Monday–Friday, 6–7 p.m.  
Saturday/Sunday from 1–3 p.m.*

Warming House/Rink Closure Guidelines: The rink/warming house will be closed if any of the following conditions exist:

- Air temperature at -15 or colder,
- Wind chill temperature at -20 or colder,
- Temperatures that soften the ice,
- More than 1" of snow accumulates on the ice and maintenance crews are not available (e.g. holidays, weekends).

The Warming House/Rinks may also close early due to lack of skaters.

For more information on warming house/rink closures please call the Rec Hotline at 934-0070. We also encourage parents to call the Rec Hotline prior to dropping kids off or sending them to the rink to make sure the warming house is open. And finally, for additional information please talk with the

warming house/rink attendant or contact the Recreation Department at 507-934-0667 or by email at [jenh@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:jenh@saintpetermn.gov).

**SNOWSHOES FOR RENT** - Bundle up, get outside (when the weather cooperates!), and experience nature. Enjoy the winter by taking a snowshoe stroll through the woods. The Saint Peter Recreation Department and Treaty Site History Center provide adult and youth size snowshoes for rent. Rental fees: \$5 per pair per day, \$10 for the weekend, (Deposit of \$50 per pair due upon pick up). Adult and youth sizes are available. Please call ahead for larger groups. Call 934-0667 (Recreation) or 934-2160 (Treaty Site History Center) for more information.

**COMMUNITY CENTER ADVERTISING** - Advertise for your business or organization in the gymnasium at the Saint Peter Community Center! Every week hundreds of people have the opportunity to spend time in the gym and on the walking/running track. Activities in the gym include school volleyball and basketball practices and games for middle school and 9<sup>th</sup> grade teams, noon hour basketball, adult volleyball, open gym, fencing, senior exercise classes, Pickleball, Creative Play Place Fitness Days, special events, and much more. The walking/running track attracts all ages throughout the day. By purchasing an advertising panel and renting advertising space at the Community Center gym your business or organization information will be viewed by thousands throughout the year. Only nine remaining spaces open so act now so you don't miss this opportunity to reach out to the community. Once you purchase and have your advertising panel installed, the advertising rental rate is only \$400 per year. For information on securing an advertising space, please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 507-934-0667, or email [jane@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:jane@saintpetermn.gov).

**HELP WANTED** - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the following position(s):

- **GROUNDSKEEPER** - in the Parks Section of the Department of Public Works. Two individuals will be hired for this position. Essential job functions include completing tasks associated with the maintenance, care, and cleaning of city parks and recreational facilities. Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma and one year of experience in the maintenance of parks and recreational facilities, possession of a valid State of Minnesota Class A Driver's License with Air Brake Endorsement and Tanker Endorsement or to obtain within six months of employment with the City; possession of an American Heart Association Certification as a Basic Rescuer or obtain within six months. Desirable qualifications: knowledge of materials, methods, and practices used in the maintenance and care of parks recreational facilities; knowledge of the care of plants, trees, and shrubs; knowledge of OSHA regulations and safety precautions; knowledge of equipment and its operation to perform related tasks in parks maintenance. **NOTICE:** The successful candidate must complete and pass a pre-employment physical and drug test and is subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing required by federal regulations. Proposed start date March 20, 2017, pay \$16.95 per hour. Applicants are required to complete a City of Saint Peter application form available January 5, 2017, in the City Administrator's Office, 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082-2538 or by calling (507) 934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 19, 2017. Faxed, e-mailed, or late applications will not be accepted. Interviews will be conducted Thursday, February 9, 2017. AAEO

**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 or visit the City's website at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov).

Monday	January 16		MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY – City Offices closed
Tuesday	January 17	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	January 17	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday	January 23	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting

Wednesday	January 25	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	January 26	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	January 27	8:00 p.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	January 30	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Tuesday	January 31	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Thursday	February 2	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	February 6	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	February 6	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	February 13	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	February 20		PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Tuesday	February 21	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Wednesday	February 22	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	February 23	12:00 p.m.	Economic Development Authority
Friday	February 24	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	February 27	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	February 28	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission

\*\*\* Please contact the City Administrator's office (934-0663), check out our website ([www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov)) or the City's Facebook page at [FACEBOOK](#) for up-to-date meeting information.\*\*\*