

CITY OF SAINT PETER HOT SHEET



All the City news you need to know and a little bit more.
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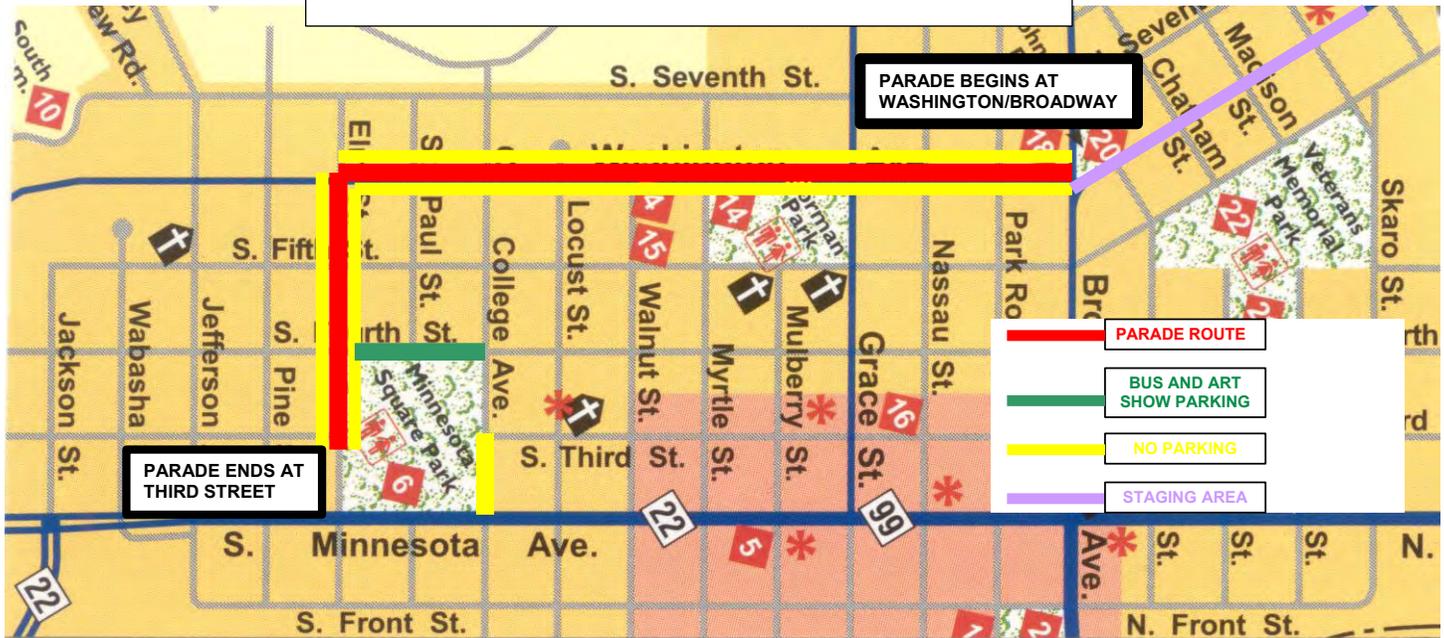


The following information is a publication of the City of Saint Peter, City Administrator's Office, 934-0663, 227 South Front Street. To request an email subscription to this newsletter, or for more information, please contact us at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



06/21/17

ST. PETER 4TH OF JULY PARADE



FOURTH OF JULY FESTIVITIES – Saint Peter’s annual Independence Day celebration, **which is organized entirely by the Chamber of Commerce (not the City)**, will take place on...you guessed it...the Fourth of July! Activities begin with a parade down South Washington Avenue at 10:00 a.m. followed by a picnic, water slide, entertainment and other activities in Minnesota Square Park before closing out the evening with fireworks at the Nicollet County Fairgrounds at approximately 10:00 p.m. For more information on the activities, please contact the Chamber of Commerce at 507-934-3400.



ARE YOU A PARADE SQUATTER? – Are you one of those folks who can’t resist staking out your prime spot for the Fourth of July parade several days or even a week or more in advance? If so, then you

are a parade squatter! Maybe the photo shown here is a little extreme, but sometimes it seems as if people start squatting earlier every year!



Saint Peter isn’t the only area community that struggles with parade squatters and some have gone so far as to prohibit this practice along their parade routes. But we would like to avoid being the parade police, so, before everyone lines up to cordon off their spot or “save” it with blankets staked to the ground or chairs tied to each other, let’s take a moment to review the rules of the game that we hope everyone will abide by.

- The parade takes place in a residential neighborhood with mostly privately owned property. Although the boulevard is public property, the private property owners are responsible for maintaining the grass and they will most likely need to mow before the parade. Staking your spot too early won't allow them to care for the lawn and they may remove whatever you left so they can maintain the lawn.
- Staking blankets or tarps to the ground will cause the grass underneath to become brown or yellow...even if the tarp is only down for a day or so. And "staking" something into the ground is dangerous especially in the boulevard where lots of utility lines and pipes are buried. This goes for those who put up tents and stake them to the ground also.
- Ever put down a chair or really nice blanket and come back on parade day with it nowhere in sight? That's the risk you take of staking out your spot too early. Not everyone is honest and lots of stuff goes missing.
- Anything placed in Gorman Park will almost surely be moved before the event. City crews work very hard to get the city looking spiffy for the Fourth when over 10,000 people come to town for the various events. Public Works crews will mow the parks a day or two in advance, set up bleachers in Gorman Park and generally work in all the areas where folks want to stake their claim. To prevent damage to our mowing equipment and injuries to our employees, anything left on the boulevard in any of the City's parks earlier than the night before the parade may be removed.
- Weather in July can include strong storms and if those storms come before the parade, a lot of the materials left to save a spot can end up blocks away or in people's back yards. Keep that in mind when saving your spot.
- And then there is after the parade.....everyone is expected to clean up after themselves and when you leave, we ask that you take all of your personal belongings home with you. Unfortunately not everyone abides by this rule and the parade route is sometimes littered with broken chairs and other debris that just didn't make the trip home with the owner.

As tempting as it may be to save a spot days in advance, we ask that everyone be courteous to those who live along the parade route and limit saving your spot to the day before. That also allows those who are coming from out of town to have the same opportunity for a prime viewing spot

as those who live nearby and everyone can enjoy the parade!

DOGS AND THE FOURTH: Dog owners are reminded that dogs (and other pets) are not allowed in Minnesota Square Park at any time and should be left at home during the Fourth of July festivities in the park. People with animals will be asked to leave the park and/or may be cited. So please leave Fido at home where he will probably be happier anyway!



FOURTH OF JULY CLOSURES – The list below shows closures of City offices related to the Fourth of July:

- All non-emergency City offices, including the Community Center and Library will be closed on July 4th
- Transit – closed July 4th
- Police Department – open 24-7!

Regular office hours will resume on Wednesday morning.



FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS - Fireworks and celebrations seem to go together, especially during the Fourth of July. Firework celebrations can result in serious burns and eye injuries or even death. Before your family celebrates this year, make sure everyone knows about fireworks safety.

If not handled properly, fireworks can cause burns and eye injuries in children and adults. The best thing you can do to protect your child is not to use any fireworks at home - period. Attend public fireworks displays and leave the pyrotechnics to the professionals. Here are some tips that might save someone you love from injury or worse....

- Children should never play with fireworks. Things like firecrackers, rockets, and sparklers are just too dangerous. If you give your child a sparkler, make sure your child keeps it outside and away from their face, clothing, and hair. Sparklers can reach 1,800° Fahrenheit (982° Celsius) - hot enough to melt gold.



- Buy only legal fireworks (legal fireworks have a label with the manufacturer's name and directions; illegal ones are unlabeled), and store them in a cool, dry place. Illegal fireworks usually go by the names M-80, M100, blockbuster, or quarter pounder.

These explosives were banned in 1966, but still account for many fireworks injuries.

- Never try to make your own fireworks.
- Always use fireworks outside and have a bucket of water and a hose or a fire extinguisher nearby in case of accidents.
- Steer clear of others - fireworks have been known to backfire or shoot off in the wrong direction. Never throw or point fireworks at someone, even in jest.
- Don't hold fireworks in your hand or have any part of your body over them while lighting. Wear some sort of eye protection, and avoid carrying fireworks in your pocket - the friction could set them off.
- Point fireworks away from homes, and keep away from brush, leaves, and flammable substances. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that local fire departments respond to more than 50,000 fires caused by fireworks each year.
- Light one firework at a time (not in glass or metal containers), and **never** relight a dud.
- Don't allow your child to pick up pieces of fireworks after an event. Some may still be ignited and can explode at any time.
- Soak all fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them in the trash can.
- Think about your pet. Animals have sensitive ears and can be extremely frightened or stressed on the Fourth of July. Keep your pet indoors to reduce the risk that the pet will run loose or get injured.



If someone is injured by fireworks, immediately go to a doctor or hospital. If an eye injury occurs, don't touch or rub it, as this may cause even more damage. Also, don't flush the eye out with water or attempt to put any ointment on it. Instead, cut out the bottom of a paper cup, place it around the eye, and immediately seek medical attention - your eyesight may depend on it.

If it's a burn, remove clothing from the burned area and run cool, not cold, water over the burn (do not use ice). Call your doctor immediately.

Even if you have legal fireworks, **NO FIREWORKS ARE ALLOWED ON PUBLIC PROPERTY** including parks, streets, alleys, government property or school property. It's also important to note that to purchase fireworks a

person has to be at least 18 years of age. The penalty is pretty stiff for violations of fireworks regulations and could lead to imprisonment for anywhere from 90-365 days and/or payment of a fine of \$700-\$3,000, (depending on the amount of fireworks involved). For more information on the laws regarding fireworks and "what's legal, what's not", please visit the State Fire Marshal website at [STATE FIRE MARSHAL](#) or call the Police Department at 931-1550. You can also check out this safety video from the State Fire Marshal... [FIREWORKS SAFETY VIDEO](#)

Fireworks are meant to be enjoyed, but you'll enjoy them much more knowing your family is safe. Take extra precautions this Fourth of July and your holiday will be a blast!

CRACK SEALING WORK BEGINS - The City's annual crack sealing work will begin on Monday, June 26th weather permitting. This work is done to prevent seepage of moisture under the roadway surface. Just like holes in your roof, moisture that gets underneath the top surface can cause a myriad of expensive problems. Crack sealing works to prevent moisture from getting under the asphalt surface which helps extend the life of the roadway and saves all of us money.

During the crack sealing process, high pressure air is sprayed into cracks in the roadway to clean all debris from the crack. The contractor then applies a liquid sealant that is then covered by a toilet paper like material to keep the sealant in place. The work is being done by an outside contractor in the following areas in the order shown:

- Department of Public Works lot
- Traverse des Sioux Museum lot
- Wastewater Treatment Facility lot
- Broadway Generation and Water Treatment Plant lots
- Pool Lot
- Fire Department lot and alley
- Alley - Chestnut Street to Broadway Avenue
- Alley - Broadway Avenue to Park Row
- Police Department and Frontage Road
- City Lot 3 and alley - Park Row to Nassau Street
- City Lot 2 and alley – Nassau Street to Grace Street
- Alley – Grace Street to Mulberry Street
- City Lot 4 and alley – Nassau Street to Park Row
- Swift Street – North Minnesota Avenue to dead end east

- Chestnut Street – North Minnesota Avenue to North Front Street
- Old Minnesota Avenue – Center Street to North Highway 169
- Lincoln Drive
- Traverse Road

Temporary road restrictions may be put in place while the work is done, but the process moves quickly and little inconvenience to motorists is expected.

Residents are asked to use extreme caution as these contractors work in the roadway and to try and avoid the areas until the work is completed.

For more information on the crack sealing process, please contact Public Works at 934-0670.

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY - SMMPA is an 18 member cooperative working for 40 years to provide reliable electricity at a fair price, while encouraging energy efficiency and keeping emissions as low as possible. The City of Saint Peter is a member of SMMPA.

SMMPA has reduced the use of coal and diversified our resource mix to include natural gas, solar and wind. Currently 17% of electricity from SMMPA is generated from renewable resources.

SMMPA partnered with the CapX2020 Project, which invested \$1.85 billion to upgrade the regional transmission system for existing and future growth of renewable generation. SMMPA also designed an aggressive Energy Efficiency program with its member utilities aimed at promoting products and services that reduce energy usage not performance.

The City of Saint Peter works cooperatively with SMMPA to provide the most reliable electric utility for our customers.

VOLUNTEER IN THE PARK PROGRAM FUNDRAISERS:-

One of the Recreation and Leisure Services Department's most popular programs is the Volunteers in the Park (VIP) program. VIP's are youth ages 10 and up who offer their services in our community in a variety of ways. For example, you may see them helping bag and carry out groceries at Family Fresh, selling concessions at the outdoor pool, walking animals from pound animals, washing Police Department squad cars, assisting Recreation Staff in rec programs, and playing Bingo with residents at the local nursing home. The program promotes leadership, responsibility and service to the community.

The VIP's are hosting a number of fundraisers and asking for the public's support as follows:

- VIP Garage Sale Fundraiser, Thursday, June 22, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Community Center lower parking lot off of South Fifth Street. The kids will have the items for sale and we hope the public will come and look it over and buy some of the gently used items.
- Jake's Pizza Fundraiser, Monday, June 26, 4–8 p.m. at Jake's Pizza in Saint Peter. Dine in, carry out, or delivery.
- VIP Car Wash, Thursday, June 29, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Community Center lower parking lot off of South Fifth Street.

The funds raised go to the Pound PALS program (helping with impounded animals in the City's pound) and for special VIP events.

SOLAR PROGRAM KICKOFF

- The City of Saint Peter is proud to present its first Solar Community Program! There will be a presentation **on Thursday, June 29 at 5:30 PM at the Community Center** in the Senior Center located at 600 S. Fifth Street.



The Community Solar Program Is Ideal for.....

Any City of Saint Peter residential customer receiving electric service who does not want to install their own solar array, but still wants to support solar energy.

What Does It Mean To Participate?

Residential customers can purchase one-half (1/2) of a panel, a full panel, or multiple panels of solar power up to 50% of their monthly electric use average.

Why Should I Join?

Community solar allows individuals to lock in a portion of their energy usage for an extended period of time. This also allows each participant to effectively save money and save the environment at the same time!

If you are unable to attend, more information on our Solar Community Program is available by visiting:

www.saintpetermn.gov/community-solar-program.

MOVIES IN THE PARK – Join the City's Recreation and Leisure Services Department to watch "The Lego Movie" outside, under the stars, at Jefferson Park on **Friday, June 30th**. The Lego Movie is rated PG and is 101 minutes long. The movie begins at dusk which is approximately 9:05 p.m. Free admission is sponsored by MANKATO BRACES.

Please note....City staff will be spraying for mosquitos in this area of Jefferson Park prior to the movie. If you have any health concerns relating to

mosquito control products, please keep this in mind before deciding to attend the movie.

RECYCLING CHANGES – The City is pleased to announce that starting July 10, 2017, the curbside recycling program is expanding to collect recyclables every week!



All recyclables must be placed in the container curbside by no later than 7:00 a.m. each week. Materials that may be recycled include glass, cans, plastics, paper and cardboard.

The materials do not need to be separated.

Recycling is not only good for the environment, but it also keeps costs down which is good for all of our customers!. For more information on recycling with the City of Saint Peter, please visit our website at www.saintpetermn.gov/single-sort-residential-recycling.

HOME BUYER EDUCATION CLASSES - Are you interested in buying a lot or a speculative home in the City's Traverse Green Subdivision? To qualify for the many financial benefits available to new buyers in this subdivision, you must first complete a "Home Stretch Workshop" training session. Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership is offering one of these training sessions on Saturday, June 24th from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 pm in Room 217 (St. Peter Room) at the Community Center. The class is being offered free of charge because it's Homeownership Month.

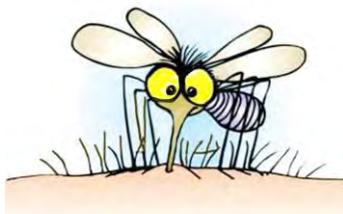
The class is taught by HUD certified counselors to prepare home buyers for successful home ownership. Participants will learn budgeting and money management techniques as well as terminology used for mortgages and loan program options.

Completion of the class may qualify you for special mortgages, down payment assistance or other financing to make home ownership affordable.

For online registration go to www.stpetercommunityedonline.com or for more information, please contact the St. Peter Community and Family Education office at 934-3048.

MOSQUITO SPRAYING - Bzzzzzz, bzzzzzz bzzzzz.

Can you hear it? The incessant droning of mosquitos flying around your head? Every year it seems



the horde of mosquitos can't get any worse but yet it does.

Calls are starting to come in to City Hall from residents hoping the City will do a city-wide spraying to control the mosquito population. But the City doesn't do that anymore.

Long time Saint Peter residents may remember back in the 60's and 70's when the City actually "fogged" all the areas of the community to kill mosquitos. That hasn't been done for decades. Concerns from residents about the negative health impacts from the chemicals being used put a stop to that and the City actually sold all of our city-wide spraying equipment.

Since that time, the science behind the mosquito control products, as well as the methods of applying those products, has changed dramatically and while the City won't spray city-wide, we will do limited spraying for mosquitos in public parks prior to a community event if the organizers of the event have requested spraying. For example, the Ambassadors did not request spraying before BluesFest, however the Chamber of Commerce did ask for it before the Fourth of July. Likewise, the City sponsored "Movies in the Park" events, which occur throughout the summer, will be preceded by spraying in Jefferson Fields in the area the movie is shown. The first of two "Movies in the Park" events will occur on June 30th and spraying will take place for several days in advance of this event.

The spray used in these limited instances is a contact type pesticide used to control adult mosquitos. It is deemed safe for use around recreational and residential areas such as athletic fields, parks, and campsites.

Each time a park is sprayed, the City will provide as much advance notice of this activity as possible on our Facebook page, website, and/or in the Hot Sheet. This allows those who choose not to be around the products, to make a decision not to attend the event.

As for those of us out and about in other areas of the community, we leave the decision to each individual as to whether or not to apply mosquito control products.

HELP WANTED - the City is currently accepting applications for the following position:

- **PART-TIME METER READER** – In the Finance Department. Minimum qualifications: high school diploma or equivalent; experience working with the public; and valid Class D driver's license. Desired qualifications: record keeping experience and previous meter reading experience. Position works full days over the

first two weeks of each month. Meter Readers must work in all weather conditions. \$13.81 per hour with health insurance. Applicants are required to complete a City application form available in the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street between the hours of

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's Office by 5:00 pm, July 14, 2017. Faxed, emailed and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EOE

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	June 22	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority CANCELLED!
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
Monday	July 3	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	July 3	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session (Governors' Room)
Tuesday	July 4		FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Thursday	July 6	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	July 10	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	July 11	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	July 17	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	July 17	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday	July 24	7:00 p.m.	City Council meeting
Tuesday	July 25	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	July 26	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	July 27	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	July 28	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	July 31	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session

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