

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. Please contact us at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov. www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



May your holiday season be filled with joy and laughter. Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas from the Saint Peter City Council and City staff.



12/07/16

HOLIDAY HOURS – The upcoming Christmas and New Year's holiday's means lots of changes in hours of service provided by the City. Here's what you need to know....

- All non-emergency offices of the City will be closed on Monday, December 26th and Monday, January 2nd for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.
- Holiday Hours for Community Center: The Community Center will be open from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, December 24 and closed on Sunday, December 25. New Year's Eve hours are 8 a.m.–5 p.m.; closed on New Year's Day. The community center will be open regular hours on Monday, January 2.
- Holiday Hours for the Saint Peter Public Library: Saturday, December 24, library hours will be 9 a.m. to noon; closed on Sunday, December 25. New Year's Eve hours are 9 a.m.–4 p.m. The library will be closed January 1 and 2, 2017.
- Open Gym at the community center during the holidays:
 - Fri., Dec. 23, 2–5 p.m.
 - Sat., Dec. 24, 8–11:30 a.m.
 - Mon., Dec. 26, 2–5 p.m.
 - Tue., Dec. 27, Noon–5 p.m.
 - Wed., Dec. 28, 2–5 p.m.
 - Thu., Dec. 29, Noon–5 p.m.
 - Fri., Dec. 30, 2–5 p.m.

- Sat., Dec. 31, Noon–4 p.m.
- Transit.....

HOT SHEET HIATUS – This the last Hot Sheet of 2016. 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 or give us a call at City Hall at 934-4840.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) –

How lucky am I.... (this is flashback to a Makes me Wonder I wrote a few years back) The other day

I was running into Econo Foods for a quick something. It was that very snowy day last week.

Anyway, I checked out and went into the breezeway at the exit and started to put on my mittens. I had one little sack and fumbled around with my mitten and a woman, who must have been about 65 or 70 was sitting on the bench just inside with a very full grocery cart. We made eye contact as I fumbled my other mitten and my small purchase and I said” Hi. What a blustery day... You sure have a big load of groceries to get home.”

She smiled and said "It's a bunch of groceries for my son and daughter in law. They have both been laid off and it is a way that I can help them out."

I, at that moment, feeling pretty small for all of my trivial complaints of late responded, "They are sure lucky to have someone like you who can help."

To which this very wise woman said, "I am lucky to have someone to help."

Wow is that a killer statement! "I am lucky to have someone to help."

It makes all my problems with snow, kids, parents, cars, pets, work, budget, and bad hair days all seem pretty miniscule. How about you?

As I thought about that thirty second event in my life and what she said, "I am lucky to have someone to help", I have come to a conclusion about what a powerful statement that truly is and what it says.

"I am lucky to have someone to help."

She was not talking about economics, difficulty in our country, or what at times is a cruel holiday season. She wasn't even talking about her son and his family. She was talking about herself and how it made her feel to have someone who she loves and who she could help. She was happy to help for herself, for how it made her feel. Wow!

As for me, that evening, when I got home, I decided not to complain about the kids not hanging up their coats. I decided not to complain that no one had taken the dog out. I decided not to tell my 16 year old new driver that he parked in the wrong spot. I decided to smile, give my kids an extra hug and my wife an extra kiss and know that I too am lucky to have someone to help. I decided to give a little more than last year to the Saint Peter Area Food Shelf because, "I am lucky to have someone to help."

I hope you are lucky enough to have someone to help. It makes me wonder.....

SAINT PETER TRANSIT CHANGES - Over the past year plus, the City of Saint Peter has been in discussions to consolidate and increase transit services. Saint Peter Transit and Le Sueur Transit will be merging into Minnesota River Valley Transit (MRVT) on January 1, 2017. For the most part there will be no changes to the current service provided by either transit service. The major change will be the addition of service from Le Sueur through Saint Peter and on into Mankato. This service will be available on Mondays, Thursdays and the second Saturday of each month. The current plan for Mankato is to stop at River Hills Mall and then go on to the Mankato Clinic Health Systems on Marsh Street. Service will begin in Le Sueur at Valley Green Square,

leaving at 8:30 AM and every 2 hours thereafter with the last trip at 4:30 PM. The next stop will be at Family Fresh Market in Saint Peter and leaving that location at 8:50 AM. We will stop next at River Hills Mall/Cinemark Movies 8 entrance and leaving there at 9:10 AM. The bus will then go to the Mayo Clinic Health Systems (hospital). The return trip will begin at 9:30 from the hospital and be back at Valley Green Square by 10:30. The service on the second Saturday of the month will begin in Le Sueur at 10:30 rather than 8:30--two hours later than week day service.

Saint Peter service on Saturdays will also change on January 14th. We will be operating Dial-a-Ride service starting at 9:00 AM and running until 7:00 PM. In Le Sueur there will be Saturday Dial-a-Ride service on the second Saturday starting at 10:00 AM and running until 7:00 PM.

Also new for Saint Peter passengers will be scheduled rides. There are still numerous details that need to be worked out to implement the dispatched scheduled rides, but the hope and expectation is that MRVT will have scheduled rides beginning on January 2, 2017.

There are three major technology changes that need to come together before the New Year that could delay the implementation of the new service and scheduled rides so please be patient as all the new services are implemented. Once the final dates and implementation times are known, information will be available on the websites for the Cities of Le Sueur and Saint Peter, on the bus, on the City of Saint Peter Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CityofSaintPeter>), Saint Peter Public Access Channel 8, and in the local papers.

For more information on transit and the coming changes, please feel free to call 934-0668. But please note, that number will be changing in January and when we have that available, we'll advertise the new number.

CHRISTMAS LIGHT RECYCLING PROGRAM -

Have you replaced your old Christmas light strings with new LED lights? The City has a program to help you recycle the old lights.



Collection bins are located in the entryway of City Hall (227 South Front Street) and in the lobby of the Community Center (600 South Fifth Street). Lights will be accepted until mid-January 2017 and the program is free.

And don't forget to with the City's Finance Department (934-0664) if you are buying new LED

lights as rebate funds are available for a limited time!

RENTAL PROPERTY REGISTRATION - It is that time of year again! Time to renew rental property registrations. Property owners with last names beginning with M-Z will need to complete the rental application and return it to the Building Department at City Hall by December 30st and the inspection 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 and 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.

CITY COUNCIL – The next City Council meeting is December 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center. This will be the last Council meeting in 2016 as the City Council has taken action to cancel the last regular meeting and workshops in 2016.

Meetings will begin again with the workshop on Tuesday, January 3, 2017, followed by the first regular meeting of 2017 on January 9, 2017.

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.

ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT – Our first measurable snowfall is predicted for this coming weekend and of course we know there are bigger snow events yet to come. As you break in that new snow shovel, why not consider "adopting" your neighborhood fire hydrant?

As the snow begins to deepen, you 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



to save your house or the life of someone in your family.

So, remember.....each time it snows, take a few extra minutes and shovel out the corner fire hydrant. The Saint Peter Volunteer Fire Department thanks you for your help!

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.

TOWARD ZERO DEATH INITIATIVE – If your holiday celebration will include alcoholic beverages, you might want to think twice about getting behind the wheel of a vehicle! Saint Peter Police and law enforcement agencies across Minnesota will be continuing another "Toward Zero Death" enforcement initiative through New Year's. Extra patrols will be on the roads and highways specifically looking for drunk drivers. So, be smart....designate a sober driver if you will be drinking and make this holiday a safe and merry one!



SNOW SHOVELING

REGULATIONS –

Is your snow shovel handy? Whatever type you chose to use, it sounds like we might see

measurable snowfall in the next couple of weeks and 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 9th and 10th. 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.

TREE TRIMMING – (Not the Christmas tree kind of trimming!) Why is it important to keep trimming our boulevard trees? The City's Forester trims 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 starting on streets south of Broadway Avenue. Of course this work is weather dependent and may be put on hold if the crew spends lots of time in snowplow trucks!

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

WARMING HOUSE/SKATING RINKS – Got the itch to play a pick-up game of hockey or lace up your figure skates? Watch the City's Facebook page, website, and future Hot Sheets for more information on the opening of the City's skating rinks and warming house located at Veteran's Memorial Park.



And oh yea....pray for colder weather too!

SISTER CITY VISITORS – Representatives from Saint Peter's Sister City of Petatlan, Mexico visited at the City Council meeting this week. Petatlan Mayor Arturo Gomez and his wife Leticia and Sister City Committee President Miguel Ademe and Representative Chaz Brown



were in attendance at the meeting. Mayor Gomez presented the City with two gifts in recognition of the cooperative efforts and friendship developing between the two communities.

LIBRARY HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE – Please join us in the afternoon, Thursday, December 8th from 2–4 p.m., for live music performed by the St. Peter High School Madrigal Singers, sweet treats and refreshments. In the evening, 6–8 p.m., come for Cookies, Crafts and a Santa Sing-a-long. Sing-a-

long with Santa at 6:30 p.m. Cookies and crafts available while supplies last.



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.

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| Monday | December 12 | 7:00 p.m. | City Council Meeting |
| Monday | December 19 | 7:00 p.m. | Parks and Recreation Advisory Board |
| Thursday | December 22 | 12:00 noon | Economic Development Authority |
| Friday | December 23 | 8:00 a.m. | Tourism and Visitors Bureau |
| Monday | December 26 |  | CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – City Offices Closed |
| Tuesday | December 27 | | Heritage Preservation Commission |
| Wednesday | December 28 | 12:30 p.m. | Hospital Commission |
| Monday | January 2 | | NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY – City Offices Closed |
| Tuesday | January 3 | 5:30 p.m. | City Council Workshop |
| Thursday | January 5 | 5:30 p.m. | Planning and Zoning Commission |
| Monday | January 9 | 7:00 p.m. | City Council Meeting |
| Tuesday | January 10 | 5:30 p.m. | Library Board |
| Monday | January 16 |  | MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY – City Offices closed |
| Tuesday | January 17 | | 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 |



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| Monday | January 30 | 5:30 p.m. | City Council Workshop |
| Tuesday | January 31 | 5:30 p.m. | Heritage Preservation Commission |

Please note that due to the upcoming holiday season, some meetings may be rescheduled or cancelled. Please contact the City Administrator's office (934-0663), check out our website (www.saintpetermn.gov) or the City's Facebook page at [FACEBOOK](#) for up-to-date meeting information.