

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



08/24/16

COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council at their regular meeting on August 22, 2016 included a flag presentation by the American Legion Post #37; approval for execution of a quit claim deed to Northern Con-Agg LLP for property abutting North Third Street; close out of the Façade Renovation Fund and authorization for transfer of the balance to the Revolving Loan Fund; approval for execution of a shared use agreement with School District #508 for a portion of Ramsey park and recreational facilities at the MVED Building on Davis Street; and approval for modifications to certain rooms at River's Edge Hospital and Clinic to remove the bathtubs and replace with showers.

The next City Council meeting is September 12, 2016 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 <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city-council-minutes-agendas-packets>.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – *Do you walk the walk?.....*The Council is continuing to look at ways to expand sidewalks in much of the community.

While that comes with pros and cons, it is driven by what I see as their belief that sidewalks are good, they are used, they help make us healthy, they provide a space to visit with your neighbors, and they make our part of the world more accessible to all while reflecting changes in the way we choose to live and get places.

Part of that discussion has to do with where it gets done, and part of it has to do with the money it

takes to get it done. The Council has contemplated a number of ways to get the money together, but please know the Council understands that it comes from all of us.

The question is maybe more about what is the best way to share in an improvement or set of improvements that benefit us all. That is one of the issues they will continue to discuss along with what areas need sidewalks.

Do you use the sidewalk? Do they do all those things that I mentioned above? Do sidewalks bring more value to our community than cost and/or hassle? What do you think? It makes me wonder.....

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT FOR UTILITIES - Did you know that City utility bills can be paid by credit card over the phone or online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?



The City offers an automated bill payment service, which allows customers to pay with a credit card, debit card, or electronic check. To make an online payment go to: <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/pay-utility-bills>. Or, to make a payment by phone, please call 1-855-288-5244. A convenience fee of \$4.95 will apply for this service and there is a limit of \$300 for payments.

If you have any questions, please contact the Finance Department at 934-0664. (Please note....credit cards are not accepted in the Finance Department and are only available to use when paying bills online or by phone.)



PETS OF THE WEEK – It's been a while since we have featured any of the pound animals in the Hot Sheet, but that doesn't mean there haven't been



animals waiting for their forever families.

Here's some little ones that especially need a forever home as they have been in the pound a long



time....

Each of these kittens/cat are available for adoption for the highly reduced price of only \$50. The adoption fee includes the spay/neuter surgery and up-to-date vaccinations.



Please help these little ones

find a loving and warm home. For more information, or to meet the kittens, please contact Community Service Officer Ireland at the Police Department (931-1550) or Alaina at Kind Veterinary Clinic (931-4700) during regular business hours.



LABOR DAY CLOSURES - The following closures will occur over the Labor Day holiday:



- All non-emergency City offices will be closed on Monday, September 5th in recognition of the Labor Day holiday.
- The Community Center will be closed Labor Day weekend beginning at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, September 2nd through Monday, September 5th. Regular (non-summer) Community Center hours will resume Tuesday, September 2nd. Regular building hours are Monday through Friday: 6 a.m. – 10 p.m., Saturdays: 8 a.m.–8 p.m., and Sundays 12 noon–8 p.m.
- The Library will be closed the Saturday before Labor Day and also on Labor Day. Please note that Saturday hours for the Library will be extended back to 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. starting the weekend after Labor Day.
- Transit buses will not be in service on Labor Day.
- The City Council workshop session that would normally be scheduled for Monday, September 5th, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, September 6th at 5:30 p.m. in the Library

meeting room. The agenda for the workshop session will be available on the City's website (www.saintpetermn.gov) the Friday before the meeting.

COLD WEATHER RULE NOTICE – If you are behind on your utility bill it's not too early to start making arrangements to get that bill paid before winter.

The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule provides that from October 15th through April 15th, the City of Saint Peter, the utility provider for Saint Peter residents, cannot disconnect a residential utility customer for nonpayment. However, **all** of the following four requirements must be met to qualify:

- 1) The account is current for the billing period immediately prior to October 15th.
- 2) The electric disconnection would affect the customer's primary heat source.
- 3) The customer's household income is less than 185% of the federal poverty level, as documented by the customer to the City.
- 4) The customer has filed a "declaration of inability to pay" form with the City.



For the cold weather period October 15th to April 15th of each year the City of Saint Peter will install a limiting meter rather than disconnect service for a customer whose account has become delinquent.

The limiting meter will only allow customers to run their furnace, refrigerator and one or two lights. A customer whose service is limited must pay all past due amounts plus a reconnection charge of \$70.00 plus tax prior to reconnection. The charge for reconnection after 3:30 pm or when the Finance Department is otherwise closed is \$300 plus tax.



What should a customer do if they can't pay their utility bill? A customer with a delinquent account may request a payment arrangement. The payment arrangement will require the customer to pay the current bill each month and make payments on the unpaid portion on a payment schedule limited to six (6) months. If payment is not made on the date agreed to by the customer and the current utility bill is not paid by the fifteenth of each month, service will be immediately disconnected. During the cold weather period, a limiting meter will be installed.

Customers needing help paying utility bills may qualify for State or Federal fuel assistance. For complete qualifications and application information, please contact the Nicollet County Social Services office (934-8559) or the Minnesota Valley Action Council (934-5224). The Salvation Army Heat Share program may also be able to help and can be reached at 507-345-7840.

TRANSIT SURVEY - The City of Saint Peter and the City of Le Sueur are working cooperatively to develop a joint transit system that would not only continue the existing transit services in each community, but potentially provide expanded services to Mankato and/or Henderson.

As the details are worked out one of the most important things needed is for the public to weigh in by completing a survey on what is important to riders. Would you take the transit to Mankato? How about Le Sueur? Do you need transportation for medical appointments, shopping or something else in one of the communities? To determine the possible routes and services to be provided in the future, the City Council is asking for your input. Please take 30 seconds (really that's all it takes!), to complete the transportation survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DFCJSRC>

Deadline to complete the survey is September 16th. Your input will help determine the future of transit service in our community, so please submit your opinions now.

TRANSIT NAMING CONTEST - Want another chance to win by helping the City make a decision? The Cities of Saint Peter and Le Sueur are sponsoring a "Transit Naming Contest" to help name the new joint transit system being developed between the two communities and we need a new name for the combined system.

The person with the winning entry will receive a book of transit tickets for FREE rides in Saint Peter or Le Sueur.

Saint Peter residents can enter in one of three ways....

- Call the Saint Peter transit office (507-934-0668) and leave a message.
- Email wayne@saintpetermn.gov; or
- Message us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter; or
- Ask a Transit Driver for an entry form which are available on the buses.

Be sure and provide your contact information in the event you are the big winner.

Entries must be received by Friday, September 16th. Good luck!

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY – School is now in session and it's important for parents to work with their children to ensure their safety as they make their way back to the classroom. It's also a good time for a safety refresher for drivers and pedestrians alike.

This information is a compilation of materials put out by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association.

If your child is going to ride the bus to school you probably already know that buses are safer than cars. However, that doesn't mean the bus won't pose a danger for your child. To help prevent injuries involving school buses, here are some tips to pass on to your children:



- Have a safe place to wait for your bus, away from traffic and the street.

• Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.

- When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk ten giant steps away. Remember that the bus driver can see you best when you are back away from the bus.
- Use the handrail to enter and exit the bus. Backpacks are heavy and can throw a child off balance when climbing steps. Using the handrail provides an extra measure of safety.
- Be aware of street traffic around you. Drivers must follow certain rules concerning school buses, however, not everyone does and it's better to wait until you see cars come to a complete stop before you try and cross the street.
- Only cross the street at corners in the crosswalk.

Not all children will be bused to school and if your child lives close enough to walk or bike to school, here's some tips to help limit their danger:

- Instruct your child to follow traffic signals and instructions from the crossing guard and never cross the street against the light.
- Know your child's route to and from school and the time it takes. Ask them to not deviate from the established path or timeline. If your child rides a bike to school or home, practice the route before the start of school and know where any crossing guards or help might be.
- Instruct your child to walk their bike through intersections.
- Instruct the child to walk with a buddy.

- Outfit your child with reflective material to make them more visible to traffic. Putting this material on their backpacks is also helpful.
- Teach your children to lock up their bikes when they get to their destination, including when they get home. Bikes are often stolen from yards and unlocked garages.
- Get your child in the habit of always wearing a helmet when they get on their bike. Make yourself an example by wearing your helmet too.
- Ride with your child! A bicycle ride creates an opportunity for parent-child involvement and good quality conversation time.
- Have a safety contingency plan...just in case! Does your child know a certain neighbor whose home can be considered a "safe house" in the event of a bike or safety issue? Could your youngster carry a walkie-talkie or, if an older child, a cell phone (even if it's only for emergencies)? Parents should provide their kids with "what if" scenarios they can think through...just in case the unthinkable happens. When it comes to your child's well-being, there is no such thing as being over-prepared.



As the driver of a vehicle, whether you are taking a child to school or not, it's important to be even more alert and aware because school creates significantly more traffic in and around school zones. Here are some tips to help everyone be safer:

- Wear your seat belt! Seat belts are the best form of protection in the event of a crash. And everyone needs to be buckled up properly. That means older kids in seat belts, younger kids in booster seats and little kids in child safety seats. And you, the driver? Set an example for your children and remember to buckle up yourself.
- Remember that in Minnesota it's illegal to pass a school bus with flashing red lights. And don't think you can get away with violating this rule just because there aren't any Police Officer's around! Bus drivers can and will pass on the license number of a driver violating this rule to the Police.



- Reduce your speed in a school zone. Legal speed limits in these areas will be posted, but you can make it even safer by slowing down even further.
- Be alert for children who might dart out between parked cars. Remember they are smaller than most vehicles and you might not see them until it is too late. And parents, teach your child to always cross at the crosswalk so that this situation doesn't happen.

That's a lot of things to think about, but parents and children also need to be aware of personal safety. Here are a few more tips to keep your child safe:

- Never label or print your child's name on the outside of backpacks, lunches or clothing. Doing so will make it possible for criminals to learn your child's name and trick them.
- Establish a "SECRET CODE WORD" with your child. Explain to your kids never to go with anyone that does not know the "code word" regardless of the circumstances.
- Explain to your children to:
 - Never talk to strangers.
 - Never get in a car with strangers.
 - Never let a stranger into their home.
 - Never let a stranger touch them.
- Never allow your child to play in a dimly lit or unsupervised place.

CHILD SAFETY TIP
 Before departing with children/ grandchildren/kids to any event, take a second, pull out your cell phone and take individual pictures of each child. That way, if the unthinkable happens and a child gets lost, you have a picture of how they are dressed and what they looked like that day.

The photo can then be immediately sent to police to aid in locating the child. Seconds can be precious in this scenario, so take a second, make it a habit and take a picture!

- Remind your child to play and walk in a group. There is safety in numbers.
- Take a current photo of your child. Should the child go missing, having a current photo will help the Police. One of the best things about this tip, is you can use it for the upcoming State Fair or any other large gathering

where your child could get lost in a crowd.

This is just a sampling of ideas that you can use to keep your children safe as they go back to school. Talking to your children before school starts, and giving them gentle reminders throughout the year, is a good start to ensuring everyone has a safe school year!

PARK NAMING CONTEST - Don't forget to submit your suggestions for the names of the two new City parks (Traverse Green Subdivision and near the new High School)!

Both parks are under construction with the first being located directly north of the new High School

(the school is being constructed just off Broadway Avenue on the western edge of Saint Peter). The second park is located in the new Traverse Green Subdivision which is being constructed north of Traverse Road near its intersection with Nicolet Avenue.

The contest is open through September 1st and suggestions can be submitted via:

- Email at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov
- Regular mail at City Hall, Attn: City Administrator's Office, 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter MN 56082 – must be received by September 1st.
- Drop off at City Hall (either in the City Administrator's office or in the utility bill drop box near the flag pole – be sure it is labeled "Park Name Contest").
- Drop off at the Chamber of Commerce (101 South Front Street).

Submissions must include:

- Which park you have a name idea for by identifying either **Broadway Park** or **Traverse Road Park**.
- Your name and contact info including an email address if you have one and a phone number. (Remember we will need to contact you if you win.)
- Suggested park name. (Don't forget this part!)
- A short narrative indicating why the submitted name should be chosen. (Without this your name idea will not be considered. The story behind the name can be just as important as the name itself.)

A select committee will be established to review the name ideas and recommend 5 of the submittals for each park to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board which shall recommend the top two or three ideas for each park location to the City Council.

The chance to submit names will start on August 17th and be open until the end of business on September 1st.

The winning participant will be given a gift and some great recognition in the HOT SHEET. If the Council selects a park name that has multiple submitters the winner of the gift will be determined by placing each submitters name in a hat and the Mayor or a Councilmember will pull out one name. All the winning submitters will be recognized in the HOT SHEET, but only the one pulled from the hat will receive the gift.

For questions about this process, please feel free to call the City Administrator's office at 507-934-0663.

ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED – The City of Saint Peter is seeking additional Election Judges to work during the November 8th general election. Election Judges are paid \$10 per hour and will work either 6:00 a.m. – approximately 8:30 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. until counting is completed which may be as late as 2:00 a.m.

To qualify as an Election Judge, individuals must:

- Submit an Election Judge application available from the City Administrator's Office.
- State an affiliation with one of the major political parties recognized by the State of Minnesota. For this year, that means either Democrat or Republican.
- Attend a three hour mandatory training session that will take place October 5, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
- Be eligible to vote in the State of Minnesota; and be able to read, write and speak English.
- An Election Judge cannot be a candidate in that election (i.e. be running for an office on the ballot used in that precinct); or the husband, wife, parent, step relative, child, brother, or sister of a candidate or another judge in the same precinct; or a challenger.
- Able to understand sometimes complex regulations and procedures
- Able to sit for extended periods of time. Election days are very long and this year's general election day will be super hectic with few breaks.
- Dependable. We need people who will show up on Election Day and be on time.
- Judges have to be able to work with all types of people and in sometimes challenging situations.

If you are employed, State law (M.S. 204B.195) allows individuals to be absent from work to serve as an Election Judge without penalty.

Being an Election Judge can be very challenging, but it is also very rewarding and if you think you meet the criteria outlined and wish to be considered for appointment as an Election Judge, please submit an application by no later than September 23, 2016. Applications are available in the City Administrator's Office at (507)934-0663, by email at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov, or at City Hall (227 South Front Street).

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.

Wednesday August 24

12:30 p.m.

Hospital Commission

Friday	August 26	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitor's Bureau
Monday	August 29	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Tuesday	August 30	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Thursday	September 1	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Thursday	September 1	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission CANCELLED
Monday	September 5		LEGAL HOLIDAY – LABOR DAY City offices closed
Tuesday	September 6	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	September 12	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 13	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	September 19	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	September 19	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	September 22	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	September 23	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	September 26	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 27	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission