

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



09/02/16



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – *Isn't it all just getting more complicated? It sure seems to be or maybe it is just messier....*

As the Council approaches its' budget for the upcoming year, the amount of data that they see can sometimes seem overwhelming and sometimes the closer you look, the harder it is to see the picture. Our goal is to make it understandable and not only be solid about the numbers, but also provide a narrative about what is being done and how that connects to the service and strategic priorities of the Council.

As we continue that work you may want to follow along. One great way is to check out the Council packets that are on our website. Everything the Council sees is put out on the website so you can see the numbers and story or narrative about what is going on.

Budgets are so important, but frankly it's not just about the numbers. It's also about the story it tells connecting to the services and strategic plans that are needed in our great community.

Will you follow along? It makes me wonder.....

PET OF THE WEEK –

This week's Pet of the Week is "Booger" aka "Boo". He is a one year old male tuxedo cat with shiny black and white short fur. He is currently in foster care.

He is smart as a whip, very active, and loves to cuddle when he is not playing. He's already been neutered and is up



to date on vaccinations. His adoption fee is only \$25 and he would make a terrific addition to any active family.

Please help find a loving and warm home for not only this handsome cat, but all the other dogs, cats, and kittens that end up in the pound. For more information, or to meet this great cat, please contact Community Service Officer Ireland at the Police Department (931-1550) or Alaina at Kind Veterinary Clinic (931-4700) during regular business hours.

RECYCLING IN THE PARKS - Visitors to certain Saint Peter parks now have an opportunity to make the world a bit better by recycling!

Minnesota Square, Gorman and Gault Parks are now outfitted with the gold topped recycling containers.

As with all recycling in Saint Peter, the following items are recyclable:

- Plastic #1 - #7 including milk juice cartons. (Plastic bags and foam products are NOT accepted.)
- Glass Bottles/Jars – Please don't break bottles and jars. (Window glass, drinking glasses, light bulbs, ceramics are NOT accepted.)
- Metal Beverage and Food Cans
- Paper and Cardboard
- Paper from newspapers, magazines, junk mail, dry non-coated food paper box board, and small flat pieces of corrugated cardboard box material are all accepted.

It's important to only put recycling in the gold topped containers as any trash in the recycling



container will contaminate the entire container and it won't be recyclable.

Recycling a portion of the waste generated in parks helps save the City (taxpayers) money and it's good for the environment too!

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.)

PROVIDING ANIMALS WITH SHELTER WALK – Time to



start hitting up your family, friends, co-workers, neighbors and even complete strangers for donations for this year's P.A.W.S. fundraiser. This is the 16th year for this fun Trick or Treat Walk and this year it will be held on Saturday, October 8th beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Mill Pond

area of Riverside Park. (Registration begins at 9:30!)

The walk involves stopping at stations along the designated route and collecting donated items from generous sponsors. Pets and people alike are encouraged to dress for Trick or Treating and take part in the costume contest.

Pets must be leashed and pledges should be collected before walk day. Walkers raising \$20 or more will receive a trick or treat bag to participate in the treat stops and those raising \$35 or more will also receive a free P.A.W.S. t-shirt.

All proceeds generated from this fundraiser are used to provide medical care and shelter for abandoned or surrendered animals while they wait for adoption by their forever families. The funds are sometimes also used to buy down the cost of adoption for animals that have been in the pound a long time and need a forever home.

For more information on this event, or to pick up a pledge sheet, please visit City Hall (227 South

Front Street) or the Police Department (207 South Front Street) or check out the City's website for a copy of the poster for the walk....<http://www.saintpetermn.gov/2016PawsPoster.pdf>; the brochure to participate in the walk....<http://www.saintpetermn.gov/2016PawsBrochure.pdf>; or the PAWS page at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/paws>.

Don't worry if you don't have a pet to walk! If you love animals and want to help out, register to walk and make friends with someone else's pet or just make a donation. Donations are always welcome!

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.)

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 is 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!

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.

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
Wednesday	September 28	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Monday	October 3	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	October 3	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop



Tuesday	October 4	until 1:30 p.m.	CITY OFFICES CLOSED – staff training
Thursday	October 6	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	October 10	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	October 11	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	October 17	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	October 17	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Tuesday	October 18		DEADLINE FOR VOTER PRE-REGISTRATION
Monday	October 24	7:00 p.m.	City Council meeting
Tuesday	October 25	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	October 26	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	October 27	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	October 28	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitor's Bureau