

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 www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



07/20/16

COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council at their regular meeting on July 11, 2016 included approval for Ameresco to conduct an energy savings feasibility analysis for the City; modification to the City Code to allow for keeping of up to three hen chickens on private property under certain conditions and establishing a fee for the chicken permit; approval to see for proposals for private development of a 15.56 acre Outlot in Traverse Green Subdivision; approval of the right-of-way plat for the intersection of Gardner Road and West Broadway Avenue; a closed session covered under attorney/client privilege regulations regarding the Schafer Construction lawsuit; and action related to the Schafer lawsuit.

The next City Council meeting is July 25, 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) – *For all you “foodies” out there.* One hot spot in town that you may not have thought about to get a great,

snack.... Here is a rerun of an article that we put out a couple of years back.

Learning and culinary delights at the pool. By the way, if you have not heard, the \$40 family pass is the best deal in town for family entertainment for the whole summer.

So anyway... I was at the pool with my wife and kids this last weekend. As with any pool there are

those kids that are always at the pool. They live at the pool and they have a keen sense of what is going on at the pool. They know all the ins and outs of the pool, the staff, and the routine. Sometimes they are referred to as “Pool Rats”. Because my wife works at the school she knows many of the kids and they know her.

We didn't know when the break was so she asked one of these kids when the break was. He opened his mouth and rattled off the break times in rapid fire succession that clearly demonstrated his knowledge of the subject for us novice pool goers.

Monday through Thursday the break times were blah blah blah but on Friday, Saturday and Sunday it was different and since this was a Saturday the break was at 3. He added with a giant smile, “I can't wait for the break today.”

Which is just begging the question, which we asked, “Why can't you wait for the break?” to which he said... now get this... “I can't wait for the break to get my two cups of Cheese!”

Two cups of cheese you say? Two cups of cheese? What does that have to do with the pool? Does he have a snack from home with strict instructions from Mom about when he can have the cheese from the zip lock baggie?

We just couldn't help it; we had to ask “What do you mean two cups a cheese?”

With a big, partially toothless smile he proceeded to explain he had \$1.25 with today and since you could not just buy the two cups of Nacho Cheese (meant to be a side with the Nachos) you had to buy something to go with the cheese (pool rules). So he could buy the two cups of melted cheese, 50 cents each and an Air Heads (sour candy stick) for 25 cents for a total of \$1.25.

Now he said this all in a very happy, speedy, succession of words that showed his delight with the whole process and clearly explained his

excitement about the 3 p.m. break time. Two cups of cheese, sour candy and fun at the pool.

We nodded our heads and understood that it just doesn't get much better than that on a 90 degree Saturday afternoon.

Where you a pool rat as a kid? Have you been to the pool this year? Have you tried the cheese? It makes me wonder....

WHERE DO I GO FOR INFORMATION ON.....? – Are you new to Saint Peter? Maybe you're reading the Hot Sheet online looking for information about our community? Maybe you are a City resident and just don't know who to go to for information on a specific topic.

Here's a list that might be helpful to you this summer:



- Nicollet County Fair – times, dates, location, judging, events, etc.... Check out the Fair Board's website at www.nicolletcountyfair.com.
- The City pool – contact the outdoor swimming pool by calling 934-3951.
- Recreation activities for children and adults – contact the City's Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-0667 or the Recreation Hotline at 934-0070 for cancellations and updates.
- Riverside Campground information – available on the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation. It's first-come, first-served for the campground and the City does not take reservations. Campers should go directly to the Police Department (207 South Front Street) to select a site and make payment.
- Reserving a City park for a family reunion, company picnic, wedding, etc.... – contact the City's Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-0667.
- Seven Mile Park – this one is outside of the City of Saint Peter and you'll need to contact Nicollet County at 931-6800. However with the Highway 169 construction, we expect this park is closed to the public for at least the summer.

More helpful information is available on the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov. Thanks for the interest and have a great summer!

HIGH UTILITY BILLS? – If your utility bill is creeping up as the summer warms and your grass needs a little sprinkling, here's something that might help you cut



your bill. One of the biggest expenses on City utility bills is the wastewater fee which is directly tied to the number of gallons of water used by the customer.

This expense is even greater for customers who have not had an irrigation meter installed on their homes. Irrigation meters are separate utility meters that monitor the usage of water that does **not** go down the City's wastewater system.....outside uses like watering the lawn, washing the car, watering the garden, etc.... With an irrigation meter, the only charges the homeowner pays for this outside water use is the water cost. That can result in significant savings to the homeowner if you use a lot of outside water. Another plus is that during the winter months when outside water isn't used, customers don't pay a base charge for the irrigation meter!

So, how do you get an irrigation meter? The first step is to apply for one at the Building Department at City Hall. The cost is \$25. Then you'll need a plumber to install the meter. The cost for that depends on your plumber and what work is needed in your home to install the meter. (The homeowner is responsible for the plumbing costs.) From that point on, any water used from outside faucets will not be charged wastewater fees. If you would like more information on how irrigation meters work, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

REDUCING ENERGY COSTS - Summer heat is finally upon us. Here are some ways you can save energy costs and keep your utility bills lower:

- Be a speedy chef ...Nothing is more energy efficient for cooking than your microwave. It uses two-thirds less energy than your stove.
- Push a button to wash your dishes. Surprise! Your dishwasher uses less water than washing dishes by hand. Then let dishes air-dry to save even more!
- Fill up the fridge. Having lots of food in your fridge keeps it from warming up too fast when the door is open, so your fridge doesn't have to work as hard to stay cool.

Cutting back unnecessary energy use is an easy way to reduce energy consumption while saving money. Here are some additional suggestions you can do at home, at absolutely no cost to you.

- Turn up your thermostat. Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home and 85 degrees or off when you are away. Using ceiling or room fans allows you to set the thermostat higher because the air movement will cool the room. Always take into account health considerations and be sure to drink

plenty of fluids in warm weather. Use your appliances wisely. Avoid running your appliances during peak hours.

- Do your laundry efficiently by using the warm or cold water setting for washing your clothes. Always use cold water to rinse clothes.
- Line dry clothes whenever you can. If you have to use the dryer, make sure to dry loads back to back. Run full loads, use the moisture-sensing setting, and clean the lint trap after each use.
- Conserve energy by running your dishwasher only when it is fully loaded, and turn off the dry cycle and air dry dishes instead.
- Eliminate wasted energy. Turn off appliances, lights and equipment when not in use.
- Unplug electronic devices and chargers when they aren't in use. Most new electronics use electricity even when switched "off." Turn computers and printers off at the power strip.
- Unplug or recycle that spare refrigerator in the garage if you don't really need it. This will save you up to \$150 per year!

And for some inexpensive energy solutions, how about trying these ideas?

- Replace furnace/air conditioner filters. Dirty filters restrict airflow and can cause the system to run longer, resulting in increased energy use. Replace filters monthly for maximum benefit.
- Plug your home's leaks. Weather-strip, seal, and caulk leaky doors and windows and install foam gaskets behind outlet covers.
- Choose ENERGY STAR® products. Buy ENERGY STAR® certified table lamps and light fixtures, and replace your incandescent light bulbs that are used more than two hours per day with ENERGY STAR® compact fluorescent bulbs. For example, install compact fluorescent bulbs in your porch light if you leave it on overnight. And remember, there are rebate funds available if you purchase energy star products including CFL bulbs.
- Install an ENERGY STAR® programmable thermostat.

And finally, are you planning to do some remodeling soon? Time to replace old appliances? Consider these energy efficiency suggestions when you make purchases.

- Install a whole house fan. A whole house fan is permanently installed in your attic and draws cool air into your home through the windows while forcing hot air out through your attic vents. Use after sundown when the outside temperature drops below 80 degrees, and in

the early morning to cool your house and help reduce your air conditioning use.

- Install window shading. Install patio covers, awnings, and solar window screens to shade your home from the sun. For additional future savings, use strategically planted trees, shrubs and vines to shade your home.
- Solar control window films applied to existing glass in windows and doors is an effective method to reduce peak demand during hot months and conserve energy anytime air conditioning might be required. In addition to the energy management benefits, the use of these films can also reduce exposure to ultraviolet radiation and reduce glare.
- Invest in a new air-conditioning unit. If your air conditioner is on the way out, buy an ENERGY STAR® air conditioner. Even if you currently have an energy star model, today's AC units are much more efficient than older models.
- Seal your ducts. Leaking ductwork accounts for 25% of cooling costs in an average home, so have your ducts tested and have any leaks or restrictions repaired by a qualified contractor. Note: duct cleaning is not the same as duct sealing.
- Replace your refrigerator with an ENERGY STAR® model. Refrigerators with a top or bottom freezer design can save you an additional 2-3% on your bill compared to a side-by-side design.
- Increase attic insulation. If your existing insulation level is R-19 or less, consider insulating your attic to at least R-30.
- Install ENERGY STAR® windows. If your windows are due for replacement, ENERGY STAR® windows can make your house more comfortable year-round.

Also please note that you may be eligible for rebates, tax breaks, federal stimulus funds or other financial incentives to help you afford some of these improvements. Talk to your tax professional to see if anything is available for you.

WARM WEATHER SAFETY TIPS FOR YOUR PET – Just as humans can suffer and be at risk during extreme heat and humidity, our companion animals can also suffer. Here are some tips to keep your cats and dogs safe during the extreme summer temps.

CATS

- **Provide cool, fresh air ventilation.** Use a sturdy fan, ceiling fan, open screened window(s), or an air conditioner - especially in severely hot temperatures.



While cats are not particularly fond of cold air, an air conditioned room is essential during scorching weather to keep your pet cool and safe.

- **Make sure window screens are secure** – Cats love to sit in windowsills and enjoy the great outdoors from a safe perch. And as cats are prone to do, stretching on a nice screen is a perfect ending to their sunny siesta. That makes it crucial to have sturdy window screens that are securely attached and which are free of holes and tears.



- **Provide fresh clean cool water throughout the day.** Cats can become dehydrated and need twenty-four hour access to water.

- **Slip ice cubes in drinking water.** This will help keep the water cool and drinkable.
- **Provide multiple bowls of drinking water throughout the house.** Having multiple water bowls around the house will entice your cat to drink more, ensuring enough fluids during hot weather.
- **Stationery water bowls.** These are the spill-free bowls that will ensure the water doesn't accidentally end up on the floor.
- **Don't let wet food sit out too long.** Dry food can be left out all day, but if you feed wet food, it's good to remove it after feeding time and replace it with fresh food during the next meal so it doesn't spoil.



- **Never leave your cat alone while you go away for a few days!** You might be asking, "Who would do that?," but we probably would be surprised at the number of pet owners who do this. If you will be away from home for a day or more, make sure that you have a responsible person in charge of your pet's care.
- **Don't let your cat outdoors during a heat wave!** Even though cats enjoy warm weather, letting your cat outside during a heat wave could be a fatal mistake. Keep kitty indoors until the heat wave passes.
- **Keep an eye out for sunburn** – Cats and dogs alike can be susceptible to sunburn on their ears and noses. Visit with your vet about what options you may have to prevent these areas

from burning and if your pet has suffered a burn, seek immediate veterinary care.

- **Never leave your cat in a hot car!** As with dogs, this is just plain common sense; but...pets die every year from heatstroke because of this neglectful act.

- **Provide a shady spot in your home.** Cats seem to love sunny rooms; but, in a heat wave, they will need a place to comfortably retreat to when the heat becomes dangerous. If their normal sun soaked area becomes unreasonably hot, close this area off and don't let the cat in the room until it cools down.



DOGS

- **Keep Fresh Cool Water Available.** One of the most important things to remember for dogs in hot weather is to make sure their water bowl is always full. If the water bowl is outside, choose a light colored plastic or ceramic bowl rather than a metal one that can easily heat up in the sun. If possible, keep the water bowl in a shady area of the yard so that the water stays cool, and check it frequently to ensure your pup isn't being scalded by a supposed refreshment.



- **Keep Your Pets Inside** - Dogs love the yard (or in this case the beach!), but if you're going to be gone for long days this summer, it may be safer to keep your dog in the house where they can lounge safely in the air conditioning. If you must leave your dog in hot weather in the yard, be sure there is plenty of shade and fresh water. Dogs are susceptible to heat exhaustion and sunburn, so shade can be a life-saver.



- **Take a Dip** - Swimming can be a great way to help dogs cool off in hot weather. If you don't have access to a safe lake or river for your pooch to have a swim, kiddie pools in the backyard work great.



Check the water occasionally to make sure it hasn't heated up. Keep your pets away from chlorine swimming pools, as the chemicals may be harmful if swallowed. But be cautious about allowing a dog in a pool. Many pet tragedies occur because a pool is too deep or difficult for a pet to get out of. And remember that not every dog swims and as with humans, it is a learned activity.

- **Take Walks in the Early Morning and Evening** - Schedule your daily walks for times when the sun isn't in full force. Avoid hot asphalt, as this can be devastating to bare paws. Instead find a place where the dog can walk on grass. The City's dog park on Highway 99 east is a great place to let your dog burn off some energy. But keep a close eye to make sure the dog isn't overly exerting itself in the hot sun.



- **Visit the Groomer** - Dogs in hot weather are much happier when they don't have to drag all that fur around. Unless you have a double coated breed, give your pooch a shorter haircut. It's best for the fur not to be shaved below 1/4 inch, though, since then the naked pup is susceptible to sunburn.

- **Summer Treats** - While you're enjoying ice cream and watermelon pay attention to what you're feeding the dog, and make sure any barbeque guests know the rules. Supervise the dog if you're offering him tasty



bones. One great summer treat for dogs is ice cubes. Most dogs love them, and ice cubes will keep them busy and hydrate them at the same time. That's a treat for you too!

- **Pets in Cars** – It can't be said often enough or loud enough.....NEVER LEAVE YOUR PET IN A CAR! In nice weather you may be tempted to take your pet with you in the car while you travel or do errands. However during warm weather, the inside of your car can reach 120 degrees in a matter of minutes, even if you're parked in the shade. This can mean real trouble for companion animals left in the car. Dogs and cats cannot perspire and can only

dispel heat by panting and through the pads of their feet. Pets left in hot cars even briefly can suffer from heat exhaustion, heat stroke, brain damage, and can even die. Even if you'll be gone "just a minute," your pet will not be safe while you're gone. Even being in an air-conditioned car with the motor off is not healthy for your pet. To avoid any chance that your pet will succumb to the heat of a car during warm summer months, be sure to leave your pet at home while you're on the road.

This information was compiled from several different sources on the web. Using a little common sense and good pet owner etiquette, we can make this summer a safe and fun one for dogs, cats and their humans.

BICYCLE SAFETY - Summer's here and that means an increased number of bicycles on the roads and sidewalks. For many of us who haven't been on a bike in a while, a few safety tips might be helpful. These tips are provided by McGruff.org.....



Riding a bike can be fun, if you know how to stay safe. But if you don't follow the rules, it can be dangerous. To be safe on your bike, follow these tips:

- Always wear a helmet and fasten it. Helmets protect your head, and in many states it's illegal not to wear one!
- Wear bright clothing so drivers and other bikers can see you.
- If you want to ride after dark, ask an adult and remember to put reflectors on your clothes, helmet, and bike. Adults should wear the reflectors also!
- Obey the rules of the road. Bikers must stop at all stop signs and traffic lights and use turning signals, just like cars.
- Ride on the right hand side of the road, in the same direction as traffic.
- Look both ways. Most crashes happen at intersections or driveways so be on the lookout for people who may not see you.
- Ride on bike trails, roads with little traffic or in parks. If you do come to a busy road, walk your bike across intersections at a crosswalk.
- Keep your bike tuned up. You don't want to get a flat tire far away from your house!
- Protect your bike. Lock it up or keep it in a safe place when you're not using it. Don't leave your bike out in your yard because someone just

might come along and ride away with it. Also, don't leave your bike in an unlocked garage.

- Ride with friends. It's more fun and you have someone to help you if you need it.

And don't forget to register your bike at the Police Department. The cost is only \$1.00 and it may help get your bike back if lost or stolen. The information from the bike is entered into a nation-wide database and if your bike is stolen and recovered somewhere else, the Saint Peter Police Department will be contacted for information on the owner. What a deal for only \$1!

RECREATION FIELD USE: If you are a coach or organizer of an event and you plan to use the City owned recreational fields, please remember that you must schedule such use with the Recreation and Leisure Services Department PRIOR to the event. This includes practices AND games. Should you have any questions, please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-0667.

SIDEWALK USE PERMITS - The City of Saint Peter issues permits to allow downtown businesses to utilize the sidewalk in front of their operations for the display of merchandise or to provide sidewalk tables and seating for their patrons. With the exception of bonafide Saint Peter Chamber of Commerce events, no merchandise or other materials may be stored or displayed upon the public sidewalk or otherwise in the public right-of-way in the absence of a Use of City Property Permit.

Businesses must complete an application for the use of the City property. The permit requires certain disclosures as to hours of operations, occupancy limits, materials displayed and the means and methods implemented to restrict the consumption of alcoholic beverages to the licensed area and to prevent the removal or consumption of alcohol outside of the permitted area.

Once submitted, a permit application is reviewed by the Chief of Police, Fire Chief, City Administrator and Community Development Director to determine the "suitability of the proposed application in light of the applicable fire, building and life-safety codes, zoning ordinance and adequacy of the proposal for

the safety of person on the proposed premises, impact on surrounding land, adequacy of lighting, appropriateness of noise level, suitability of ingress and egress arrangements, and crowd control".

In addition to the application materials, the applicant must provide evidence that they maintain a sufficient level of liability insurance. A certificate of insurance must be provided to the City naming the City as an additional insured under that insurance for services provided under the license. Providing the certificate ensures existence of the insurance required, including a provision to hold the City harmless and defend and indemnify the City. The minimum amount of insurance is required to be \$1,500,000 per occurrence.

The permit fee is \$100 and if granted, the Use of City Property Permit is valid for a five year period.

At this time it has been determined that every Use of City Property Permit previously issued has expired. The Community Development Department will be contacting those businesses with expired permits to ensure future and on-going conformance to the policy. For questions about the permit process, please contact the Community Development Department at 934-0661.

HELP WANTED – The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the following position:

- **PART-TIME BUS DRIVERS** - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the position of Part-time Bus Drivers (no benefits). **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** High school diploma or equivalent; possession of valid State of Minnesota Driver's license. **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Experience working with the public; experience operating two-way radio/phones; training in vehicle mechanics; previous bus driving experience. Starting wage \$14.93 per hour. Applicants are required to complete a City application form which is available from the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1-5 p.m. or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's Office by 5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2016. Faxed, emailed, and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EEO

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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| Friday | July 22 | 8:00 a.m. | Tourism and Visitors Bureau |
| Monday | July 25 | 7:00 p.m. | City Council Meeting |

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| Tuesday | July 26 | 5:30 p.m. | Heritage Preservation Commission |
| Wednesday | July 27 | 12:00 noon | Hospital Commission |
| Wednesday | July 27 | 12:00 noon | Economic Development Authority – Library Board Room |
| Monday | August 1 | 3:30 p.m. | Housing and Redevelopment Authority |
| Monday | August 1 | 5:30 p.m. | City Council Workshop |
| Monday | August 8 | 7:00 p.m. | City Council Meeting |
| Tuesday | August 9 | | PRIMARY ELECTION DAY |
| Monday | August 15 | 5:30 p.m. | City Council Workshop |
| Thursday | August 18 | 5:30 p.m. | Planning and Zoning Commission |
| Monday | August 22 | 7:00 p.m. | City Council Meeting |
| Wednesday | August 24 | 12:30 p.m. | Hospital Commission |
| Thursday | August 25 | 12:00 noon | Economic Development Authority |
| Friday | August 26 | 8:00 a.m. | Tourism and Visitor's Bureau |
| Monday | August 29 | 5:30 p.m. | City Council Workshop |
| Tuesday | August 30 | 5:30 p.m. | Heritage Preservation Commission |

