

CITY OF SAINT PETER HOT SHEET



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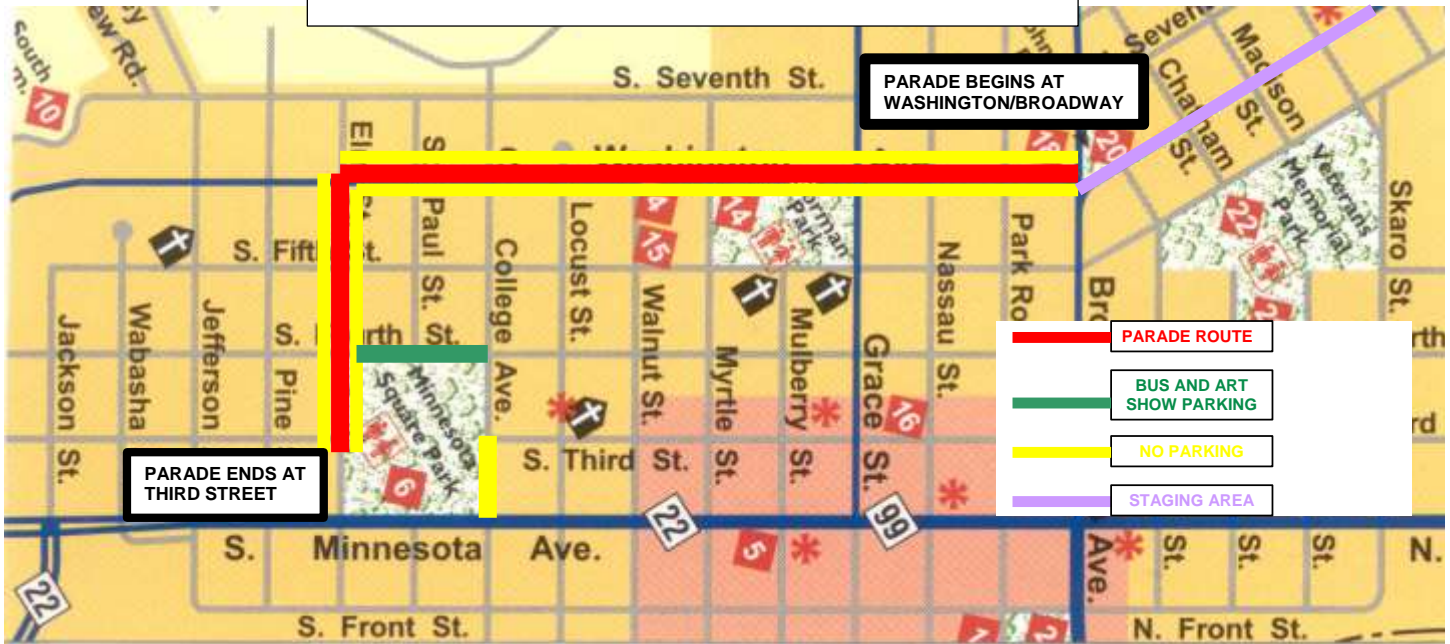


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06/22/16

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.



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! (Just for future reference, the only City Park that allows pets is the official dog park on Highway 99 east and on the road surrounding the Mill Pond if the dog is leashed.)



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 Tuesday 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.

EXAMPLES OF FIREWORKS THAT ARE NOW LEGAL TO SELL, POSSESS AND USE BY THE PUBLIC ON OR AFTER APRIL 30, 2002 AS PERMITTED BY MINNESOTA STATUTE 624.20 (C):	EXAMPLES OF FIREWORKS THAT CONTINUE TO BE ILLEGAL TO SELL POSSESS AND USE, EXCEPT AS PERMITTED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTE 624.20
<p>Wire or wood sparklers of not more than 100 grams of mixture per item</p> <p>Other sparkling items which are nonexplosive and nonaerial and contain 75 grams or less of chemical mixture per tube or a total of 500 grams or less for multiple tubes and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Cylindrical fountain</u> Upon ignition, a shower of colored sparks or smoke and sometimes a whistling effect is produced. • <u>Cone Fountain</u> The effect is the same as that of a cylindrical fountain. When more than 1 cone is mounted on a common base, total pyrotechnic composition may not exceed 500 grams • <u>Illuminating Torch</u> • <u>Wheel</u> - Pyrotechnic device intended to be attached to a post or tree by means of a nail or string. Upon ignition, the wheel revolves, producing a shower of color and sparks and, sometimes, a whistling effect • <u>Ground Spinner</u> - Small device venting out an orifice usually on the side of the tube. Similar in operation to a wheel but intended to be placed flat on the ground and ignited. The rapidly spinning device produces a shower of sparks and color. • <u>Flitter Sparkler</u> - Narrow paper tube attached to a stick or wire that produces color and sparks upon ignition. The paper at one end of the tube is ignited to make the device function. • <u>Flash/Strobe</u> - Emit a bright light <p>Novelty items such as snakes and glow worms, smoke devices, or trick noisemakers which include paper streamers, party poppers, string poppers, snappers, and drop pops, each consisting of not more than twenty-five hundredths grains of explosive mixture.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Any fireworks that are explosive</u> • <u>Any fireworks that are aerial</u> • Firecrackers (any size) • Ladyfingers • Sky rockets • Bottle rockets • Missile type rockets • Helicopters, aerial spinners, planes, UFOs • Roman Candles • Mines or shells (heavy cardboard or paper tube(s) attached to a base – upon ignition stars, balls or reports are propelled into the air) • Chasers • Parachutes • 1.3G Display (special or class B) Fireworks • Aerial shells • Theatrical pyrotechnics (see Minn. Stat. 624.20 to 624.25) <p>Basically, any fireworks listed above are still not legal for public sale, possession or use, except with a permit and by a certified operator according to Minnesota Statute 624.20. (i.e. these fireworks are still not legal unless a permit has been issued by the local jurisdiction and they are used by a state certified operator)</p>

- 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 the law says 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 www.fire.state.mn.us/fireworksinfo.html or call the Police Department at 931-1550. You can also check out this safety video from the State Fire Marshal...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmT8Q-h5kvc&list=UUtlLz5GmDkDHIaAaVIPLYRnQ&feature=share>

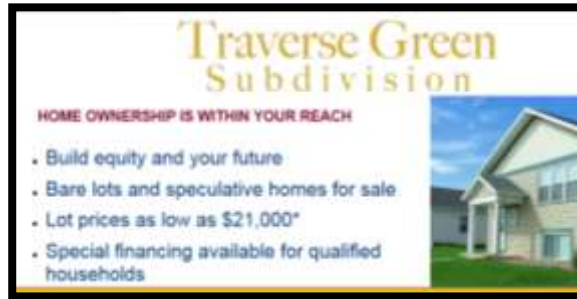
Fireworks are meant to be enjoyed, but you'll enjoy them much more knowing your family is safe. Take extra precautions this Fourth of July and your holiday will be a blast!

MOSQUITO SPRAYING - City staff will be spraying for mosquitoes at Minnesota Square Park between 5:00-5:30 am on July 4th in preparation for Fourth of July activities. The spray is a contact type pesticide used to control adult mosquitoes and is safe for use around recreational and residential areas such as athletic fields, parks, and campsites.

Questions about mosquito spraying? Please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.



TRAVERSE GREEN OPEN HOUSE - The City of Saint Peter is developing a new residential subdivision to provide opportunities for those seeking entry level home ownership. Just like Nicollet Meadows and Washington Terrace, the development will be



constructed using the principles of the Building Better Neighborhoods program authored by the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund.

Lots will be for sale at prices as low as \$21,900 for families with qualifying household incomes. Families of two persons or single person families need an annual household income below \$77,100 to qualify. Families of three or more persons need an income below \$88,665 to qualify for the reduced lot prices.

The Saint Peter Economic Development Authority and the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership will also be building speculative homes for those who prefer to let someone else manage the construction contract. The price of a speculative home can also be reduced by \$9,500 for those with the qualifying incomes.

Learn much more at an Open House scheduled for June 29, 2016 at the Senior Center in the Saint Peter Community Center (600 South Fifth Street). The Open House will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Can't make the open house? Find out more about this new and exciting home ownership opportunity at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/traverse-green-subdivision>.

ABSENTEE VOTING – Absentee voting for the State primary election which will be held on August 9th is now open. Voters who wish to cast their ballots by absentee may do so at the Nicollet County Property Services Department in the Nicollet County Government Center (501 South Minnesota Avenue) during regular business hours.

Due to a change in State law a couple of years ago, voters no longer have to provide a reason for voting absentee and it is now open to all eligible voters.

COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council at their regular meeting on June 13, 2016 included a public hearing and subsequent action to adopt a housing Tax Increment Financing district; a public hearing on the proposed annexation of property located at the southwest corner of the

intersection of West Broadway Avenue and Gardner Road; adoption of a Tax Increment Financing Plan the proceeds of which will be used to finance public improvements in the Traverse Green Subdivision; approval for purchase of a replacement ambulance for River's Edge Hospital and Clinic; and approval of a \$25,000 loan to Chabeans LLC (dba Patrick's On Third) for renovation of the restroom facilities at 125 South Third Street.

The next City Council meeting is June 27, 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) – *How great for our community..... Have you read the newspaper lately? Wow is there a bunch of stuff going in our*

community.

New schools, new housing, a great spring and the start of summer activities with farmers busy in the fields. Life is pretty good here in the valley.

I wanted to mention a few of the ideas that folks emailed us when we asked them about what's important to them in our community. My question was very broad and due to that I got a wide range of responses. They range from pretty ethereal to nuts and bolts and all are really great and reasoned. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate those ideas and thoughts.

Sustainability was loud and clear. Safety, feeling safe in our community, that ability to go for a walk in your neighborhood at night. Quality of parks and opportunities to commune with family and friends in an outdoor activity or play ball on a nice field. All great stuff for sure.

I can tell you, as a City employee, that our entire staff is proud of our community too. What talents and gifts we bring to help make Saint Peter a great place and what we do and how well we do it can have a significant impact on our community. We take that responsibility seriously and know that you, your friends and neighbors depend on what we do for many things.

We also know that it is about what you do and how you decide to impact your community including your participation in boards, commissions, coaching ball, helping your neighbors, and participating in scouts or your church all of which impact the quality of life we share in Saint Peter.

We are truly in this together. What more can we do together to make Saint Peter even better? It makes me wonder.....



WATER MAIN WORK – On Thursday, June 23rd, City crews will replace a water main valve on North Fifth Street between West Skaro and West Evenson Streets. (If it rains that day, the

work will be rescheduled for a later date.)

This work requires the roadway to be closed, but limited access will be provided for property owners along that block if necessary.

Prior to the work being completed, the crews will conduct test shutdowns to determine which properties will be out of water during the repairs. It is estimated that four blocks along North Fifth Street will be out of water from approximately 9:00 AM-3:00 PM. Please note that these times are estimates only and homeowners should take appropriate steps in advance to ensure they have plenty of water available throughout the day.

Crews will be leaving door hangers at the properties in the affected areas; however occasionally someone will be connected to a line and we were not able to determine so with the preliminary testing. If you live in or near this area and turn on the tap on Thursday to find you have no water, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670 for more information.

STREET WORK UNDERWAY – This summer will be



like all the others before and the City's Streets crews will be busy making repairs and improvements to area roadways. From crack sealing, to seal coating,

to full depth patching, our crews work very hard to keep Saint Peter roads in tiptop condition.

As shown in the pictures, work began in earnest on June 13th when City crews began removing asphalt with a

milling machine in areas where full depth asphalt patching is required. This is followed by replacement of the asphalt surface. Many years ago, this was done by shoveling hot



“tar” onto the roadway, but times have changed and now the City uses a milling machine and asphalt paving machine to complete the work. This work is being done in the same areas that will see seal coating later this summer. It is done in advance of the seal coating in large areas that have sustained significant damage or deterioration. These areas are blocked by traffic cones during the work and drivers are asked to be extra cautious in and around the construction zones.



During the patching work temporary “no parking” restrictions are put in place so that the work can commence on schedule

without trying to find vehicle owners to move vehicles off the roadway. City staff will identify which areas will be closed to public parking and will post “no parking” signs 24-hours in advance.

Approximately 220 tons of asphalt is planned for removal at the following locations:

- 1477 Church Street
- 1010 Allison Lane (2 areas)
- 848 North 9th Street
- 426 West Skaro Street
- Skaro and Fair Streets
- 1001 West Madison Street
- 401 North 8th Street

- 304 North 7th Street

For those with questions on this work, please contact the Public Works Department at 507-934-0670.

Later in the summer, crack sealing will be completed and then the seal coating contractor will show up towards the end of summer. Crack sealing is a process where cracks in the roadway are cleared of all debris (using high pressure air) and then a sealant material is placed in the crack before a toilet paper type of material is placed on top of the sealant. This process moves very quickly which means minimal disruption for property owners along the route and that parking restrictions should not be necessary in most cases.

Seal coating is done on a 5-8 year rotation throughout the community. The work is done to prevent moisture from seeping under the pavement which causes the surface to deteriorate with cracking and spalling. During seal coating, the roadway is covered in asphaltic oil that is then covered with small red rock. As soon as the rock material is placed, drivers can use the roadway. The rock is left in place for several days before the excess rock is swept up by the City Streets crew. The seal coat contractor usually comes during August and the work takes several days.

For more information on street repair and maintenance work, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670 or keep an eye on the Hot Sheet for more information as crack sealing and seal coating work is scheduled.

CITY FLAG POLICY –

Although many people don't give much thought to flags flying outside of City buildings or in our parks, some residents keep a keen eye on when the flags are flown, or lowered to half-staff. We have begun to receive more and more calls from people questioning why the City's flags weren't lowered for one event or another which prompted the City Council to discuss the City's flag policy at a recent goal session. Let's begin with some background information on the



National Flag Code which was reprinted from the Flag Code website...

“Previous to Flag Day, June 14, 1923 there were no federal or state regulations governing display of the United States Flag. It was on this date that the National Flag Code was adopted by the National Flag Conference which was attended by representatives of the Army and Navy which had evolved their own procedures and some 66 other national groups. This purpose of providing guidance based on the Army and Navy procedures relating to display and associated questions about the U. S. Flag was adopted by all organizations in attendance.

A few minor changes were made a year later during the Flag Day 1924 Conference; however it wasn't until June 22, 1942 that Congress passed a joint resolution which was amended on December 22, 1942 to become Public Law 829; Chapter 806, 77th Congress, 2nd session. Exact rules for use and display of the flag (36 U.S.C. 173-178) as well as associated sections such as (36 U.S.C. 171) “Conduct during Playing of the National Anthem” (36 U.S.C. 172) the “Pledge of Allegiance” to the Flag, and “Manner of Delivery” were included.

This code is the guide for all handling and display of the Stars and Stripes. While the Code empowers the President of the United States to alter, modify, repeal or prescribe additional rules regarding the Flag, no federal agency has the authority to issue “official” rulings legally binding on civilians or civilian groups. Consequently, different interpretations of various provisions of the Code may continue to be made. The Flag Code may be fairly tested: 'No disrespect should be shown to the Flag of the United States of America.' Therefore, actions not specifically included in the Code may be deemed acceptable as long as proper respect is shown.”

So that's the national standards. The City used that Code as the basis for the City's own policy on when flags will be lowered. The City's policy is that flags on City buildings and in City owned parks which are able to be lowered (some are in a fixed

position), shall be lowered to half-staff under the following conditions:

- When directed by the President of the United States or Governor of the State of Minnesota through an official directive ordering United States flags to fly at half-staff on all buildings (not just state and federal buildings). Most of the time, the order by the President and/or the Governor only applies to state and federal buildings.
- By order of the President, the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the U.S. Government or the governor of a state, territory, or possession, as a mark of respect to their memory.
- On the day of a funeral for the line of duty death of a member of the military who is also a Saint Peter native.
- On the day of a funeral for the line of duty death of an active member of the Saint Peter Police Department or Saint Peter Fire Department.
- On May 15th in recognition of Peace Officer's Memorial Day as required by Federal law.
- On September 11th as required by Federal law.
- On Memorial Day as required by Federal law; and
- At such other times as may be designated by resolution of the Saint Peter City Council.

Granted there are many, many more times when our hearts and minds want to recognize someone who has passed away and that's the problem. Where do you draw the line so that the honor that is implied by lowering the flag is not diluted? While we all recognize the sacrifices made by veterans across Minnesota, it is right that flags in Saint Peter be lowered upon the death of a veteran from Duluth? There is no right answer, but basing the City's policy on the National Code and adding recognition for certain Saint Peter natives seems to be a good compromise.

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	June 22	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	June 23	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	June 24	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	June 27	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting

Tuesday	June 28	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Monday	July 4		LEGAL HOLIDAY – 4TH OF JULY – City offices closed
Tuesday	July 5	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Thursday	July 7	5:30 p.m.	Planning Commission
Monday	July 11	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	July 12	6:00 p.m.	Library Board Meeting
Monday	July 18	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	July 18	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Friday	July 22	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	July 25	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	July 26	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	July 27	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	July 28	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority