

CITY OF SAINT PETER HOT SHEET



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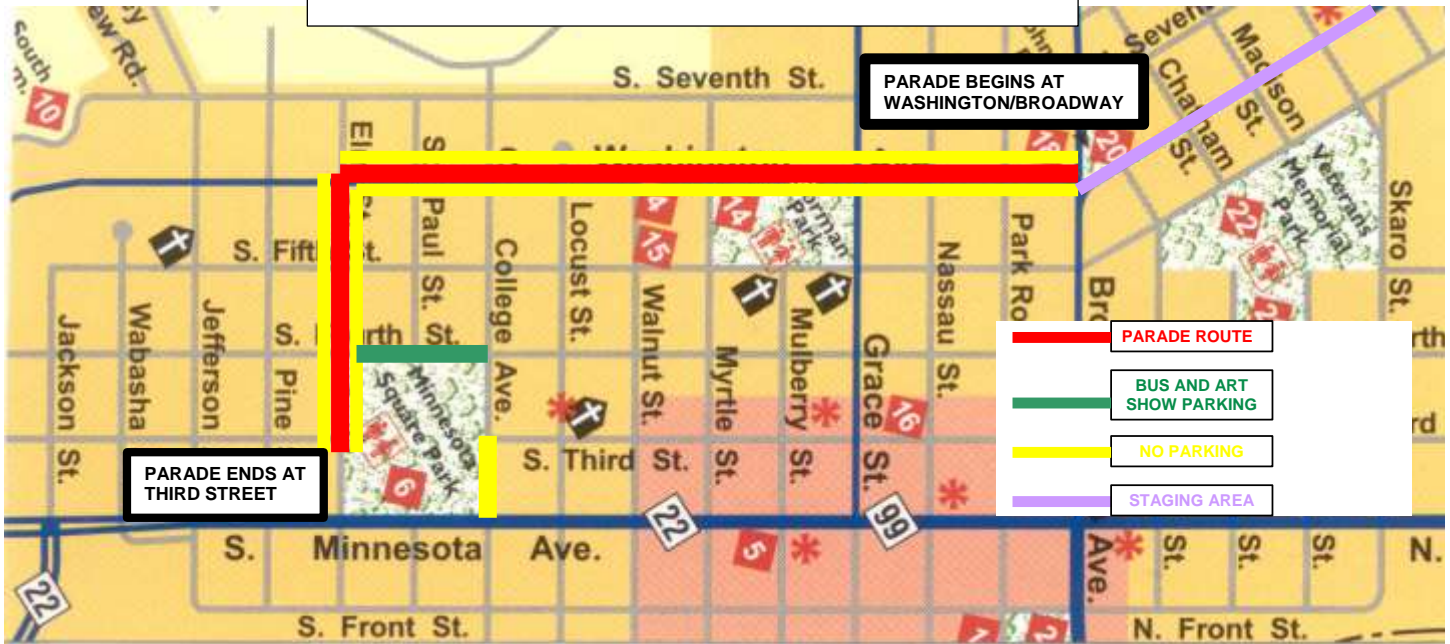


The following information is a publication of the City of Saint Peter, City Administrator's Office, 934-0663, 227 South Front Street. Please contact us at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



06/29/16

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!
- The regular Council workshop that would have taken place on Monday, July 4th will be held on Tuesday, July 5th in the Library meeting room at 5:30 p.m.

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.

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>

- 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.
- 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!



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – A new trail being blazed... and the trail will be welcomed by many and not so welcomed by a few. The

City Council directed staff and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to review the opportunity to complete a trail around Hallett's Pond. This idea was originally discussed in the Council approved Hallett's Pond Plan from 2000.

Part of that process included work and review by the Park and Recreation Advisory Board. This volunteer Board is made up of community members who worked with staff to identify the exact route and some amenities that will be provided or enhanced as a part of the project. The original plan from 2000 gave some direction as to the type of trail and amenities. Their recommendation went to the City Council on June 27th and it was approved. Work is expected to start in July.

The trail will be a great addition to our community and will allow people access to this unique place located within a close walk or bike ride for so many. No use of privately owned land is contemplated as a part of this project and once you take a walk I bet you will want to be a regular visitor. Once it is constructed and as you use this new trail, please help the community by staying on the trail, picking up after yourself and others, and making sure not to throw anything into the Pond.

We are excited about what this will bring to the community and know that use, amenities and the area will continue to evolve over time. Have you been down to the Pond before? It makes me wonder.....

***Note...on June 27th the City Council formally approved construction of the first phase of this trail at Hallett's Pond. The first phase will consist of a gravel trail on land owned by the City. Construction of the trail will necessitate some tree removal in the area, but the design will "meander" in an effort to save as many trees as possible. In the photo below, the solid bright yellow line is the proposed trail location with Shopko in the bottom right corner and the City's wastewater treatment plant in the upper left corner. A larger copy of the photo is available as part of the City Council packet from June 27th which is available on the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov.*



TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE – On Thursday June 30th the City's Water Utility will be replacing a fire hydrant at 922 North 5th Street between Sumner Street and Saint Julien Street. North Fifth Street

between Sumner and Saint Julien will be closed from 9:00-3:00 PM. Limited access will be provided to property owners along this street of North Fifth Street.

Water test shutdowns are being done in advance of the project to identify the properties that will be without water on June 30th. These properties will be contacted, most likely via door hangers, to provide information about the water shutdown. If you didn't receive a notice, live in the neighborhood, and are without water that day, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670. Staff recommends that residents who may be shut off that day prepare in advance to ensure they have an adequate supply of water. Although the work is expected to be completed by 3:00 p.m., unforeseen conditions may be discovered causing the work to take longer.

Please note that the project may be rescheduled if it rains on June 30th.

EDA MEETING CHANGE – The regular Economic Development Authority meeting that would normally have taken place on July 28th has been rescheduled for Wednesday, July 27th at 12:00 noon. The meeting will be held in the Library Meeting Room. For more information on EDA meetings, please contact the Community Development Department at 934-0661.



Traverse Green Subdivision
HOME OWNERSHIP IS WITHIN YOUR REACH

- Build equity and your future
- Bare lots and speculative homes for sale
- Lot prices as low as \$21,000*
- Special financing available for qualified households

The advertisement features a photograph of a modern, two-story house with a light-colored exterior and a dark roof.

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 **TONIGHT!!!!** (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? Want to know when you can buy one of the lots (July 13th)? Find out more about this new and exciting home ownership opportunity at

<http://www.saintpetermn.gov/traverse-green-subdivision>.



BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACK PROJECT – Join the Saint Peter community in making a donation to the Back to School Backpack Project! This project collects school supplies for students that might otherwise go without and the program has been around for several years. In 2015 the project assisted over 500 students and those numbers keep climbing.

The Project places collection barrels at area businesses and the City of Saint Peter is proud to have one located in the front lobby of City Hall at 227 South Front Street! Notebooks, rulers, backpacks, pencils, pens, erasers, and more are all accepted in this community effort that will help our future generations be prepared and equipped to learn. Donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday during regular business hours...or feel free to leave your donation at the Police Department (207 South Front Street) if you can't make it down during business hours.

Won't you help in this worthwhile cause? Donations are currently being accepted so please make your donation today at City Hall and help us help future generations!

CAMPAIGN SIGN ETIQUETTE – State law allows temporary campaign signs to be up beginning June

24th – November 18th and some folks have already put their signs out. As a reminder, and one that will be repeated several more times before the November election becomes part of history, please follow these rules for campaign signs....

- Campaign signs, like other signs, are not allowed anywhere on public property. This includes City, County and State owned rights-of-way, structures in the City-owned boulevard and City parks. The rules of thumb we follow to determine what is City owned boulevard (or right-of-way) are as follows:
 - If a public sidewalk exists, signs may be placed behind the sidewalk; or
 - If no sidewalk exists, it is safe to assume that a sign placed twenty feet (20') behind the curb line will be on private property.
- Signs can only be put on private property with permission of the private property owner. When asking private property owners to place signs, candidates are encouraged to review the rules with the property owner. Oftentimes signs are initially placed correctly, only to have helpful home owners move the signs closer to the curb line in violation of the regulations or to move the sign when mowing and not return it to the legal location. (If you are one of those homeowners, please note that your attempts to promote your candidate may actually get that candidate in trouble!)
- Signs must not obstruct sightlines for drivers.
- Signs cannot be attached to City light poles, street signs, traffic control devices like stop signs, trees, shrubs, rocks, fences or other City owned structures like utility boxes.

With all that being said, if you are a candidate for election, please remember that there are additional State regulations you must follow to have a legal campaign sign. Those regulations also stipulate what signs can and can't say. More information on that should have been provided to candidates when they filed for office.

If you have campaign materials on your vehicle (bumper stickers) or person (buttons), please



remember that these materials are not allowed in the parking lots or buildings of City polling places. The Nicollet County Government Center property is currently an absentee polling place and as such, no campaign materials are allowed anywhere on the property, including the parking lot. That rule also applies on Election Day at the National Guard Armory and the Saint Peter Community Center which will be polling places for City voters.

Voters will need to remove any visible campaign materials from their person before entering the polling place and anyone with a bumper sticker or other materials visible on their vehicle will not be allowed to park in the parking lot of the polling place.

For more information on campaign signs or election regulations, please contact the City Administrator's Office (934-0663).

VOTER PRE-REGISTRATION – Not registered to vote? Want to save time on Election Day? Voters have until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 19th to pre-register for the August primary election. And it's not too early to think about pre-registering for the November 8th general election!

The simplest way to pre-register is online at the Secretary of State's site: <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationStep1.aspx>. You'll need some specific personal identification information, but if you don't have it, you can still print out the form and mail in a paper application.

Voters need to register (or re-register) if they have never voted before or have changed residences since the last time they voted.

And if you don't pre-register before the deadline, you can still register at the polls on Election Day. It will just take a little bit longer to vote that day (maybe a lot longer in November), but we'll have lots of Election Judges waiting to help you through the process. Unregistered voters will need to provide proof of residence and a list of the documents that are accepted for that purpose as outlined in State Statute is available on the City's website at:

http://www.saintpetermn.gov/ACCEPTED_PROOF_OF_RESIDENCE.pdf.

For questions related to voter registration, please contact the City Administrator's Office at 934-0720 or by email at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov.

ABSENTEE VOTING – Absentee voting for the August 9th State primary election 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 27, 2016

included annexation of a parcel of land located at the southwest corner of the Gardner Road/West Broadway Avenue intersection; final acceptance of the Gardner Road watermain project; acceptance of the 2015 audit of the City's finances; and approval of the design and authorization for construction of the first phase of a trail to be built on City owned land around Hallett's Pond.

The next City Council meeting is June 11, 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>.

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	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
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
Thursday	August 4	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
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
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