

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



11/24/15

Happy Thanksgiving from the City Council and City staff!



This Thanksgiving, as you travel to your holiday festivities, please remember to buckle up and drive safely!

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council on November 23, 2015 included public hearings and subsequent actions to approve assessment of unpaid utility bill, miscellaneous and improvement project charges; authorization for an interfund loan to finance City costs associated with development of a new housing subdivision; approval for a six month extension of the cable television franchise agreement with Consolidated Communications; approval of several new business license applications; and a closed session to discuss land purchase negotiations and union contract negotiations with the Police, Communications Technicians, Streets, Utilities and Parks unions.



HOLIDAY CLOSURES – All non-emergency City offices, including the Library, will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th.

There will be no transit service on Thanksgiving Day, but normal hours will resume on Friday.

The Community Center will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, but will be open regular hours on Friday.

The Library will reopen for Saturday hours.

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND OPEN GYM HOURS – The Community Center gym is available for open gym on Friday, November 27th from 1:30–5 p.m., Saturday, November 28th from noon–4 p.m., and Sunday, November 29th from noon–4 p.m. Open gym is a free program offered by the City.

Monthly calendars for scheduled Open Gym at the Community Center can be found on-line at www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation or picked up at up at the Community Center. The Recreation Hotline, 934-0070, also lists open gym hours.



The next City Council meeting is December 14th 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 www.saintpetermn.gov/city.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS – City crews have been hard at work along Minnesota Avenue in the central business district and in Minnesota Square Park where the holiday lighting display will soon light up the dark and dreary winter nights.



The work involves approximately 16,500 lights in the park; over 60 hours of labor to put the decorations up and another 60+ to take them down; 4-7 crew members all doing something different; anywhere from 11-25 days of work depending on the weather; 44 light fixtures on street light poles; 20 snowflake fixtures in the medians; one arch at the Highway 169 intersection with West Grace Street and one at West Park Row; Sentence to Serve crews lighting the downtown tree trunks; and a brand new design on the Minnesota Square Pavilion this year thanks to the creativity of the Parks crew!



BUILDING PERMIT COSTS

- Questions arise from time to time as to how building permit charges and fees in Saint Peter compare to other communities within the area. Some are of the

opinion that Saint Peter building permits are too high and out of line with our neighbors.

Earlier this fall, the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership undertook an analysis of Saint Peter building permits fees and compared them to other communities in the general vicinity of Saint Peter. The analysis showed the following:

<u>COMMUNITY</u>	<u>PERMIT FEES</u>
Jordan	\$13,298.16
New Prague	\$11,796.69
Belle Plaine	\$11,699.98
Le Sueur	\$9,844.96
Montgomery	\$6,009.00
SAINT PETER	\$5,415.29
Cleveland	\$4,526.45
Eagle Lake	\$3,335.42
Le Center	\$2,176.69
North Mankato	\$1,611.13

There are generally two components of the building permit fee. The first expense is to pay for review of construction plans and the on-site inspections undertaken during construction. The second component includes charges to access the existing water, sewer and electrical infrastructure financed by the existing utility customers.

The reported data suggests that Saint Peter building permit fees charged for the construction of a new, single-family home valued at \$150,000 compare favorably to the others in our area.

LEAF COLLECTION RECAP

– By the time most residents read this article, the City’s curbside leaf collection will have been completed with a little help from our friends in North Mankato. Over 80 truckloads of leaves were collected which is about 1,200 cubic yards of materials and is more than has been collected in recent years. The increase may be due to more people participating in the program or the fact that trees planted since the tornado are maturing and producing more leaves. These materials are being composted at the City’s new compost site.



Special thanks to the City of North Mankato for lending their leaf collection equipment this week when the City’s equipment experienced mechanical problems.

COUNCIL RECEPTION

– The public is invited to attend a reception for incoming and outgoing Councilmembers on Monday, December 7th from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center. This reception is an opportunity to welcome newly-elected Councilmembers and to express appreciation to Councilmembers whose terms are ending. Refreshments will be served and we hope you can join us!

CHRISTMAS LIGHT RECYCLING PROGRAM

- Have you replaced your old Christmas light strings with new LED lights? The City has a program to help you recycle the old lights. Collection bins are located in the entryway of City Hall (227 South Front Street) and in the lobby of the Community Center (600 South Fifth Street). Lights will be accepted until January 15, 2016 and the program is free.



And check with the City’s Finance Department (934-0664) if buying new LED lights as rebate funds are available for a limited time!

TREE PRUNING

- City crews will be pruning boulevard trees mainly in the areas south of Broadway during the winter months. Property owners are reminded to



remove Christmas lights from all boulevard trees when the holidays are over so the lights aren't damaged by this work. For more information, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

FREE MAGNET ERROR – City residents may have received a free informational magnet in the mail on November 23rd. These magnets, which are done by an independent company with no affiliation to the City of Saint Peter, contained an incorrect phone number for City Hall. The general phone number for the City is 934-4840. The number listed on the magnet, 934-0668, is for the City's transit office only. Direct dial numbers for all City departments are provided on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/directory-city-offices>.

RENTAL PROPERTY REGISTRATION - It is that time of year again! Time to renew rental property registrations. Property owners with last names beginning with A-L will need to complete the rental application and return it to the Building Department at City Hall by December 31st and the inspection must be completed by March 31st.

Cost of the rental license is \$44 per unit. A late fee of \$36 will be added if the application and payment is received after December 31st and/or the inspection is not completed by March 31st.

Rental application forms are available on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/sites/default/files/images/RentalApplication.pdf> and can be printed out and returned to the Building Department with the payment or staff can mail an application to you. For an application, or for those with questions, please contact the Building Department at 934-0662.

LIBRARY PROGRAM – The Public Library is offering a free craft program at the Library for teens and adults. The program is, "Make Monograms: Learn to create three modern takes on the monogram: a stamp, a sequined letter for accessories, and a charm for jewelry". Class will be held in the Library meeting room on Thursday, December 3rd at 6:30 p.m. No registration is necessary. Please call the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-0667 for more information.

SNOW PREPARATIONS – It's not too early to be planning for heavy snowfalls this winter, and residents who haven't signed up for Nixle but would like to be notified of snow emergency declarations should sign up now. Nixle is a free community notification system and it's easy to do.

Just visit www.nixle.com and follow the prompts to create an account for City notices. You can choose whether you wish to have notices sent by e-mail, by text, or both!

If you don't have an off-street parking space available to you, make arrangements now to find a spot to park your vehicle before snow emergency declarations are in place.

Property owners with sidewalks are also reminded of the City regulations that require sidewalks, including handicap ramps at intersections, to be cleared of all snow and ice within 24 hours after a snowfall. The walkway must be cleared the entire width and be kept clear of blowback and drifting snow. Property owners who don't clear their walks may face hefty fees from the City when City crews are dispatched to do the job. Minimum charge? \$75!

And for all those who plow snow for a living, please remember that it is illegal to plow the snow out into the street or onto the City owned boulevard. This creates a danger for the public and sight line issues for other drivers.

So get started on your winter preparations now and don't wait for the first snowflakes to make plans!

UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS - Come and enjoy treats and music at the holiday open houses at the Library (601 South Washington Avenue) on Thursday, December 10th from 2-4:00 p.m. and from 6-8:00 p.m. The afternoon event will feature sweet treats, hot beverages, and live music by the St. Peter High School Madrigal Singers. The evening event will be a special family open house for the holidays where children can make holiday crafts and decorate cookies.

Join in "The Great Candy Cane Hunt" on Saturday, December 5th at the Community Center (600 South Fifth Street). Over 7,500 candy canes will be hidden throughout the building. Families can pick their own "hunt" time at either 9:00 am, 9:30 am, 10:00 am or 10:30 am and participants are asked to meet in the gym just before your scheduled start time. All children must be accompanied by an adult and this event is free!

If you wish to participate in the hunt please enter through Door B. (Door numbers are located above each of the outside doors to the building.) This event is sponsored by the Recreation Department.



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	November 25	12:20 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday-Friday	November 26- November 27		LEGAL HOLIDAY - THANKSGIVING City Offices Closed
Monday	November 30	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Thursday	December 3	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	December 7	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	December 7	4pm – 5 pm	City Council Reception
Monday	December 7	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session
Monday	December 14	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	December 21	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	December 24		CHRISTMAS EVE – City offices closing at noon
Friday	December 25		CHRISTMAS DAY - LEGAL HOLIDAY – City Offices Closed
Friday	January 1st		NEW YEAR'S DAY – City offices closed



***PLEASE NOTE – Holiday schedules in November and December may impact regular meeting dates and times. If unsure of the meeting date/time for the advisory board or commission meeting you are interested in, please contact the City Administrator's Office at 934-0663.