

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



04/15/2015

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 13-17, 2015. Each day of the week focuses on different weather-related hazards as follows:

- Monday – alerts and warnings
- Tuesday – severe weather, lightning and hail
- Wednesday – flooding
- Thursday – tornadoes (with statewide tornado drills)
- Friday – extreme heat



More information on these topics is available on the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website at

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-awareness-week-program.aspx>.



Two statewide tornado drills will occur on Thursday, April 16th (1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m.) and the Police Department will be testing emergency sirens at each of those times. During the test, outdoor warning sirens and NOAA weather radios will both sound in a simulated tornado warning. The first drill is intended for institutions and businesses. The evening drill is intended for second shift workers and families.

As we enter into the severe weather time of the year, it is important to remember the terms that are used when advisories are issued:

* Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm **"WATCH"** - means that conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes or severe thunderstorms. When a watch is issued for Nicollet County, pay close attention to the weather and make sure that everyone in your family knows the correct action to take if the weather gets worse.

* Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm **"WARNING"** - means a tornado or severe thunderstorm has been reported or is indicated by weather radar. Warning information includes the tornado or storm's location, direction and speed. If the warning is issued for Nicollet County **TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY.**



* Warning sirens are tested year round on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. to assure that the sirens will work in the event of an actual emergency. If you hear the steady tone of a siren at any other time, it means that severe weather has been sighted in our area and you should take shelter immediately.



* There is no all clear siren, so take a battery powered radio with you to the shelter so you can monitor when it is safe to emerge.

* When the sirens sound, please don't call the City or the Police Department to ask why the sirens are going off. Emergency personnel will be busy tracking the storm and dealing with emergency calls while other City employees will be directed to emergency shelters. Take shelter immediately and save your questions for later!

* If the sirens sound, don't stand outside looking for the storm. Don't climb on your roof to get a better viewpoint and don't drive around trying to track the storms. Some storms move so quickly and are so unpredictable you might not have time to get to your shelter before the storm strikes or changes direction. Leave the storm spotting and tracking to the professionals.

* Identify your storm shelter now....before you need it. When people change residences, identifying a storm shelter is not something that usually is discussed before moving in, but it's important to think about exactly where you will go in the event of a storm warning and discuss it with your family. If you live in a mobile home community, make sure the storm shelter is accessible, clear of debris and stored materials and unlocked so that you can get in it in the event of an actual emergency.

* If you are traveling in bad weather take note of the county you are in so you can take action in a severe storm warning. If you don't know you are in Fillmore or Brown or Jackson County and a warning is issued over the radio for that county, you won't know to take shelter!

If you would like more information about severe storms preparedness please call the Saint Peter Police Department (931-1550) or Denise Wright at Nicollet County Emergency Management (934-7874). Additional information is also available through the State of Minnesota Division of Homeland Security website at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-awareness-week-program.aspx>. The severe weather information contained in today's Hot Sheet includes information from the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security website.



CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of April 13, 2015 included modifications to revolving loan terms for Mary's Flowers, St. Peter Community Childcare and Tanis Brothers; approval of a short term lease with Marv Kottke for the 430 Ritt Street property; approval of an amendment to the lease with T-Mobile for their equipment on the City's water tower; approval for limited City assistance for a Safe Bar Initiative Fun Run being organized by Patrick's On Third; authorization for purchase of asphalt and quartzite stone for street maintenance work; and approval of updated standards for public improvements.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, April 27th 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 934-0663. Copies of the Council packet are also available on the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov/city.

MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) - *What a mess....* March and April tend to be the messiest months of all. They tend to be muddy, wet, snowy or rainy and brown and just



messy. One of the issues we struggle with is when to open your parks...opening the ball fields for play and the restrooms for restrooming and the tennis courts for

tennis.

Our policy on opening the parks is May 1st for lots of good reasons including that sometimes in March and April we get those last few days of freeze or snow and it creates a big mess that can cause damage to buildings with running water. Sometimes the things we put up, like nets and rope for lines and other things, don't do well with wet and heavy spring snows. One game or practice on a field that is not ready to go can cause field problems for months into the season. But if we get a good long range forecast related to warmer temps, sometimes we are open a bit in advance of May 1st.

Each year is a bit different so keep a watchful eye on the HOT SHEET and our Facebook page for more information. We have such great parks and by working together we can keep them enjoyable and useable for all.

Will you use our great parks this year? It makes me wonder.....

*******LAST MINUTE NOTICE....the warmer weather this week with the same predicted for next week has led to the decision to open the City's parks early. All City parks facilities, including Riverside campground, will officially open for the season on Friday, April 17th!**

SPRING YARD WASTE COLLECTION - The City will be collecting brush, garden waste, and grass clippings at curbside the week of May 4th. Please note – leaves will not be picked up but can be taken to the yard waste drop-off site.

Brush and garden waste must be separated and placed parallel and adjacent to the curb (do not put it on the street or in bags) by 7:00 A.M. Monday, May 4th. Brush and tree trimmings should be less than 8' in length.

It takes more than one day to pick everything up in town, but the City will only go through an area once and yard waste that is not out by 7:00 A.M. Monday, May 4th, will not be picked up, but can be taken to the brush drop-off site. There will be no alley pick up.

Please help us serve you better by not placing brush and grass clippings by trees, posts, utility pedestals or boxes, etc. and please do not park in front of the yard waste until pick-up is complete. Also, please do not put animal waste (dog, cat, rabbit, etc.) in soft yard waste piles as it will NOT be picked up.

The brush and soft yard waste drop-off sites located across the street from the Department of Public Works facility, 405 West St. Julien Street, at the southwest intersection of West St. Julien and Swift Streets, are open year around for the convenience of City utility customers in dropping off brush and soft yard waste. A separate bunker is now provided for dropping off fill (rocks, dirt, etc.).

FREE woodchips and sifted compost material, when available, will be at the site for City utility customers to pick up. The material is free to City utility customers, but you will have to bring your own shovels, bags or containers. Please refrain from placing foreign material in this area.

These services are provided and funded by the Environmental Service fee on City utility bills.

Again, remember that when the City crews start the spring brush, garden waste and grass collection, **LEAVES WILL NOT BE PICKED UP!**

Please call the Department of Public Works at 934-0670 if you have any questions.

ADOPT A PARK PROGRAM - Have you or a group you belong to ever thought about contributing back

to the community? How about joining the City's "Adopt a Park" program? Three parks (shown below) are currently available for adoption and these parks would be well suited to adoption by larger groups because of the acreage involved.

The program asks adopters to clean the park a couple of times a year. Bags, safety vests, and other equipment is provided by the City and all you have to do is commit to making the clean-up days. For more information on this program, please contact the Public Works Department at 507-934-0670.

Dog Park - 5 acres established in June, 2012



Traverse des Sioux Park - 380 acres established in March, 1981



Riverside Park Extension - 80 acres established in January, 1978



BUILDING BETTER NEIGHBORHOODS - The City of Saint Peter has successfully developed the Nicollet Meadows and Washington Terrace subdivisions using the Building Better Neighborhood (BBN) program developed by the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund. The developments were intended to provide entry level home ownership opportunities for area families. Between the two developments, over 163 single family homes and 88 rental units were constructed and occupied.

One of the benefits of using the BBN standards is that the economic benefit to the community is typically higher in a BBN neighborhood than in traditionally developed neighborhoods. Modest lot sizes, narrower streets, alley accessed garages and the effective provision of utility services allow for higher estimated market values per acre when compared to other subdivision developments.

The table below compares the estimated market values per acre of six Saint Peter neighborhoods. With the exception of Windsor Pond (slab on grade/narrow lots), Washington Terrace provided a greater per acre valuation than the Lampert, Standard Lumber, Pine Pointe and Union Street neighborhoods. Future Hot Sheet articles will focus on the utility billings per acre and the property taxes generated per acre in the BBN type neighborhoods.

<u>NEIGHBORHOOD</u>	<u>ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE/ACRE</u>
Windsor Pond	\$976,251
Washington Terrace	\$727,739
Lampert Addition	\$653,966
Standard Lumber	\$627,874
Union Street	\$565,119
Pine Point	\$437,472



SPEAK UP, PUT THE PHONE DOWN - A young mother of two, killed while on a bike ride with her kids. A teenager who was starting the first day of

her senior year in high school, crashes and dies while sending a text. These are examples of how distracted driving has changed Minnesota lives in recent years. Starting April 13th, the Saint Peter Police Department will conduct extra enforcement on Minnesota roads in an effort to reduce distracted driving.

As part of the campaign, the Police Department is encouraging anyone riding with a distracted driver to speak up and tell them to put the phone down.

The result of distracted driving can be devastating as it contributes to one in four crashes, 64 deaths and 234 serious injuries each year in Minnesota.

“We all must do our part to change the behaviors of drivers wanting to text and drive,” said Saint Peter Officer Jon Hughes. “Speak up, tell your friends and loved ones to put the phone down before it’s too late.”

In 2014 in Minnesota distracted driving caused 47 deaths, 7,369 injuries, and 16,900 crashes. But it’s not just a Minnesota problem. Nationwide statistics show:

- Drivers in their 20’s make up 27% of the distracted drivers in fatal crashes. - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
- During daylight hours, approximately 666,000 drivers are using cell phones or electronic devices while driving. - National Occupant Protection Use Survey
- Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. - Virginia Tech Transportation Institute
- 25% of teens respond to a text message once or more every time they drive. - University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute
- Reaching for a phone, dialing or texting increases the risk of getting into a crash by three times. - Virginia Tech Transportation Institute

In Minnesota, it is illegal for drivers to read, compose or send texts and emails, and access the web while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic.

That includes sitting at a stoplight or stop sign.

It is also illegal for drivers with only a permit or provisional driver’s license to use a cell phone while driving, except for emergencies to call 911.

If you injure or kill someone because of texting and driving, you can face a felony charge of criminal vehicular operation or homicide.

The Saint Peter Police Department underscores that driver distractions is not specific to a cell phone. It can also include reaching for items, fiddling with radio/music/vehicle controls, eating/drinking, dealing with rowdy passengers, grooming and more.

“At 55 miles per hour, texting and driving is like traveling the length of a football field without looking up,” said Officer Hughes.

“Make the right choice before you get behind the wheel and put the phone down.”

Drivers are encouraged to make the right choices:



- Cell phones — Put the phone down, turn it off or place it out of reach.
- Music and other controls — Pre-program radio stations and arrange music in an easy-to-access spot. Adjust mirrors and ventilation before traveling.
- Navigation — Map out the destination and enter the GPS route in advance.
- Eating and drinking — Avoid messy foods and secure drinks.
- Children — Teach children the importance of good behavior in a vehicle and model proper driving behavior.
- Passengers — Speak up to stop drivers from distracted driving behavior and offer to help with anything that takes the driver's attention off the road.

Distracted driving education is a component of Minnesota's core traffic safety initiative, Toward Zero Deaths (TZD). A primary vision of the TZD program is to create a safe driving culture in Minnesota in which motorists support a goal of zero road fatalities by practicing and promoting safe and smart driving behavior. TZD focuses on the application of four strategic areas to reduce crashes - education, enforcement, engineering and emergency trauma response.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK APRIL 12-18, 2015 - First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support.

There are many reasons to celebrate the Saint Peter Public Library. Did you know that the library subscribes to over 125 magazines and newspapers with many of them also available on-line through a library program called Zinio? On-line access is also available 24/7 to eBooks with your library card. Families can attend story time or bring story time home in a bag that contains books, activity ideas, hands-on manipulatives and more all centered on a theme. Have you checked out the great selection of audio books and movies? For legal questions and issues ask about the Electronic Law Library. Or feel free to pick up a book or donate one to the on-going used book sale to help support library programming. Use one of our many public internet computers.

And if you don't find the book you want, just ask one of the staff members for assistance.

So, why not visit the library this week and celebrate this great community resource. The Saint Peter Public Library is located at 601 South

Washington Avenue. Hours are 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Fridays and from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm on Saturdays. For more information on the Library, visit the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov or call the Library at 934-7420.

OPEN GYM - The monthly calendar for scheduled open gym at the Community Center is available online at www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation or copies may be picked up at up at the Recreation and Leisure Services Department. The Recreation Hotline, 934-0070, also lists open gym hours.

HELP WANTED – The City is now accepting applications for the following positions:

- **ASSISTANT LEAD LIBRARIAN** - in the Recreation and Leisure Services Department. Minimum qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent; Ability to operate a PC and use internet and related programs; Ability to use on-line cataloging system; and experience working with the public. **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Bachelor's degree in Education, Media or Library Sciences or equivalent; three or more years of public library experience in patron service related or youth related position; advanced education in library operations, media resources or related field; and demonstrated ability to provide children's programming and services. Beginning wage \$15.59 per hour. Applicants are required to complete a City application form available in the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1-5:00 p.m. or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 pm on Friday, April 17, 2015. Faxed, emailed, and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EEO
- **RECEPTIONIST/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK** - in the Building Department. Minimum qualifications: High School Diploma or equivalent; Knowledge of office procedures and practices; Knowledge of use of office machines exemplified by personal computer; Experience with MS Word or Excel; One year experience in any position that provides direct contact with and service to customers. **Desired qualifications:** Two plus years of experience working in an office setting with similar duties; Advanced training in office skills exemplified by a certificate or AAS degree in office procedures or Administrative Assistant through an accredited post-secondary educational institution; Advanced use and knowledge of MS

Word and Excel software exemplified by certification through an accredited post-secondary educational institution; Experience with a municipal accounting system; Knowledge of Use tax laws; Two or more years' experience working directly with municipal accounting, principles, practices and terminology; and Post-secondary education in Accounting or related field. \$12.00-\$13.35 per hour plus benefits including insurance and retirement. Applicants are required to complete a City application form available in the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be returned no later than 5:00 pm, April 23, 2015. INTERVIEWS FOR THIS POSITION WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 28TH-29TH. Faxed, emailed and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EOE

• **WATER RESOURCES SUPERINTENDENT -**

The City of Saint Peter, Minnesota, is currently accepting applications for the position of: Water Resources Superintendent in the Department of Public Works. Essential job functions include planning, coordinating, directing, and monitoring operation of Water Utility, Wastewater Utility, and Stormwater Utility; plan and supervise construction, operation, and maintenance of water wells, water distribution system, and water treatment facilities; plan and supervise construction of lift stations, wastewater collection system, and wastewater treatment facilities; plan and supervise construction of stormwater collection system, stormwater structures and treatment facilities; set priorities to deal with emergencies and unanticipated costs; coordinate activities with other divisions, departments, and organizations; assist with planning, design, and construction of joint projects; evaluate the need and prepare specifications for materials and equipment; maintain operating records; prepare bid specifications for service, equipment, and materials; prepare reports as requested; assist in presentation of annual budgets; set priorities. Minimum qualifications include high school diploma and satisfactory completion of technical school program for water and/or wastewater operators and eight years of responsible experience in operation of Class A, B, or C systems facility or similar industrial

facility or 64 semester credits college courses related to chemical, civil, environmental, mechanical, or sanitary engineering or in business or public administration and six years' experience as a licensed water or wastewater operator; possession of a State of Minnesota Class B Water Supply System Operator Certificate within six months of date of employment with City; State of Minnesota Class B Wastewater Treatment Facility Operator Certificate within six months of date of employment with City; possession of State of Minnesota Type IV Waste Disposal Certification within six months of date of employment with City; possession of a valid State of Minnesota Class D driver's license within one month. Desirable qualifications: knowledge of methods, materials, and tools use in construction, operation, and maintenance of water wells, distribution, and treatment systems, wastewater collection and treatment systems, stormwater collection systems, detention, and treatment; principles, practices, equipment, and chemicals used in testing water, wastewater, and stormwater; knowledge of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system; knowledge of applicable regulatory codes; ability to read and interpret engineering plans and specifications; knowledge of OSHA regulations and safety policy; knowledge of computer operations; knowledge of laboratory certification procedures; B.S. degree in engineering, public administration or related field. NOTICE: The successful candidate must complete and pass a pre-employment physical and drug test and is subject to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return to duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing required by federal regulations. Starting salary \$35.00 per hour. Applicants are required to complete a City of Saint Peter application form available in the City Administrator's Office, 227 South Front Street, Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082-2538 or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 1, 2015. Interviews to be conducted Thursday, May 14, 2015. Faxed, e-mailed, or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EOE

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 April 20 5:30 p.m. City Council Workshop

Monday	April 20	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	April 23	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	April 24	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	April 27	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	April 28	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	April 29	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Monday	May 4	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	May 4	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session
Thursday	May 7	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	May 11	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	May 12	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Friday	May 15		POLICE OFFICER MEMORIAL DAY
Monday	May 18	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	May 18	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Friday	May 22	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitor's Bureau
Monday	May 25		MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY – CITY OFFICES CLOSED
Tuesday	May 26	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	May 26	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	May 27	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	May 28	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority