

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



08/19/15



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – COMMENTS AND MORE.... A couple weeks back....Someone asked that we write about stormwater detention basins and more

specifically, asked about mowing them while questioning the need to mow them.

That is a great question. I have got to say that it is an issue staff and the Council have, but not for a couple of years. It might be a great topic for us to discuss again. All of our detention basins are not treated in the same manner although most have some mowing component.

It generally falls into categories like this: If the basin is next to a housing development we tend to mow a major portion of the banks to keep it looking good. In areas where no housing is around our maintenance is a bit more minimalistic.

The question also included an idea to plant milkweed on the bank, to create additional Monarch Butterfly habitat opportunities. We are participating with the Hospital on the Monarch Project and in the future will have more milkweeds in specific areas. (As you may know Monarch's love milkweed and Monarchs are running out of habitat.) Frankly, I had not thought about that project in stormwater areas and instead we have been focusing on our nurseries.

A good topic to discuss and maybe it is time for us to think a bit differently about what the stormwater detention ponds should look like, where they are located and what amount of resources we spend on upkeep. Should stormwater basins be mowed or left to be a bit wilder? It makes me wonder.....

POUND ANIMALS LOOKING FOR HOMES – The Saint Peter animal pound has several dogs, cats, and kittens looking for wonderful forever homes. If you

have room in your heart and home for a new pet, please check out these beauties:



- Super Girl, Gravy, and ChuChu are 6 week old sisters. (photos on the left) They will be available for adoption on August 23th. Adoption fee of \$140 includes spay and all initial vaccinations.
- The mother cat, Chili (bottom left photo) is also in need of a loving forever home.
- Carmel Corn is a 1 year old Torti (top right) with beautiful



markings. She was found on Front Street in Saint. Peter. She is very friendly and playful.

- Gallagher is a 6 month old male gray Tabby domestic short hair. (Second from top on the right).
- Panda...named for obvious reasons, is a 7 year old female. (Guess which one she is?!) She is also declawed.
- Samson is a 1 year old male.

He's so cuddly that he had to have his picture taken behind bars because when he's out of his kennel he's too busy cuddling to pose for the camera. (Bottom right in the photos).

Adoption fee for all adult cats is \$30, which includes spay/neuter and vaccinations. All animals have current vaccinations and have been spayed/neutered before adoption. For more information on these animals, please contact CSO Thompson at the Police Department (931-1550) or Alaina at Kind Veterinary Clinic (931-4700) during regular business hours.



BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY – Schools starts in just a couple of weeks for Saint Peter students. That makes it a great time to review back to school safety tips drivers and pedestrians alike.

This information is a compilation of materials put out by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association.

If your child is going to ride the bus to school you probably already know that buses are safer than cars. However, that doesn't mean the bus won't pose a danger for your child. To help prevent injuries involving school buses, here are some tips to pass on to your children:

- Have a safe place to wait for your bus, away from traffic and the street.
- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk ten giant steps away. Remember that the bus driver can see you best when you are back away from the bus.
- Use the handrail to enter and exit the bus. Backpacks are heavy and can throw a child off balance when climbing steps. Using the handrail provides an extra measure of safety.
- Be aware of street traffic around you. Drivers must follow certain rules concerning school buses, however, not everyone does and it's better to wait until you see cars come to a complete stop before you try and cross the street.
- Only cross the street at corners in the crosswalk.

Not all children will be bused to school and if your child lives close enough to walk or bike to school, here's some tips to help limit their danger:

- Instruct your child to follow traffic signals and

CHILD SAFETY TIP
 Before departing with children/ grandchildren/kids to any event, take a second, pull out your cell phone and take individual pictures of each child. That way, if the unthinkable happens and a child gets lost, you have a picture of how they are dressed and what they looked like that day.

The photo can then be immediately sent to police to aid in locating the child. Seconds can be precious in this scenario, so take a second, make it a habit and take a picture!

instructions from the crossing guard and never cross the street against the light.

- Know your child's route to and from school and the time it takes. Ask them to not deviate from the established path or timeline. If your child rides a bike to school or home, practice the route before the start of school and know where any crossing guards or help might be.
- Instruct your child to walk their bike through intersections.
- Instruct the child to walk with a buddy.
- Outfit your child with reflective material to make them more visible to traffic. Putting this material on their backpacks is also helpful. Remember that once daylight savings changes in the fall it might be dark in the mornings when they go to school or when they are coming home.
- Teach your children to lock up their bikes when they get to their destination, including when they get home. Bikes are often stolen from yards and unlocked garages.
- Get your child in the habit of



always wearing a helmet when they get on their bike. Make yourself an example by wearing your helmet too.

- Ride with your child! Parents can always use the extra exercise, and a bicycle ride creates an opportunity for parent-child involvement and good quality conversation time.
- Have a safety contingency plan...just in case! Does your

child know a certain neighbor whose home can be considered a "safe house" in the event of a bike or safety issue? Could your youngster carry a walkie-talkie or, if an older child, a cell phone (even if it's only for emergencies)? Parents should provide their kids with "what if" scenarios they can think through...just in case the unthinkable happens. When it comes to your child's well-being, there is no such thing as being over-prepared.

As the driver of a vehicle, whether you are taking a child to school or not, it's important to be even more alert and aware because once school begins there will be significantly more traffic in and around school zones. Here are some tips to help everyone be safer:

- Wear your seat belt! Seat belts are the best form of protection in the



event of a crash. And everyone needs to be buckled up properly. That means older kids in seat belts, younger kids in booster seats and little kids in child safety seats. And you, the driver? Set an example for your children and remember to buckle up yourself.

- Remember that in Minnesota it's illegal to pass a school bus with flashing red lights. And don't think you can get away with violating this rule just because there aren't any Police Officer's around! Bus drivers can and will pass on the license number of a driver violating this rule to the Police!



- Reduce your speed in a school zone. Legal speed limits in these areas will be posted, but you can make it even safer by slowing down even further.
- Be alert for children who might dart out between parked cars. Remember they are smaller than most vehicles and you might not see them until it is too late. And parents, teach your child to always cross at the crosswalk so that this situation doesn't happen.

That's a lot of things to think about, but parents and children also need to be aware of personal safety. Here are a few more tips to keep your child safe:

- Never label or print your child's name on the outside of backpacks, lunches or clothing. Doing so will make it possible for criminals to learn your child's name and trick them.
- Establish a "SECRET CODE WORD" with your child. Explain to your kids never to go with anyone that does not know the "code word" regardless of the circumstances.
- Explain to your children to:
 - Never talk to strangers.
 - Never get in a car with strangers.
 - Never let a stranger into their home.
 - Never let a stranger touch them.
- Never allow your child to play in a dimly lit or unsupervised place.
- Remind your child to play and walk in a group. There is safety in numbers.
- Take a current photo of your child. Should the child go missing, having a current photo will help the Police.

This is just a sampling of ideas that you can use to keep your children safe as they go back to school. Talking to your children before school starts, and giving them gentle reminders throughout

the year is a good start to ensuring everyone has a safe and enjoyable school year!

OPTIMAL FLUORIDE CONCENTRATION - In April, federal health officials changed the recommended amount of fluoride in drinking water for the first time since 1962. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is now recommending as the optimal fluoride concentration 0.7 parts per million (ppm) instead of the previous range of 0.7 to 1.2 ppm.

According to a press release by the HHS, the change in the recommendation was made because Americans now have access to more sources of fluoride, such as toothpaste and mouthwash, than they did when water fluoridation was first introduced in the United States. As a result many Americans are getting too much fluoride, with the result being increased cases of fluorosis. Dental fluorosis is a cosmetic condition in which the effects can range from barely noticeable white spots in mild forms to staining and pitting in more severe forms.

The 1962 recommendation was given as a range because the recommendation varied by region of the country based on climate, with warmer areas having lower requirements because it was assumed that people in warmer climates drank more water than those in colder climates. This assumption turned out to not be true, and so the new recommendation is the same for all areas of the country.

The HHS, along with the American Dental Association, believes that the new recommended level will maintain the protective decay benefits of water fluoridation and reduce the occurrence of fluorosis.

So, what does this mean for Saint Peter? The natural occurring fluoride level in our area ranges is 0.4 ppm. We have been adding fluoride to bring the level to 1.2 ppm in accordance with state law. It is expected that the state will lower the required level, but the rule-making process will take several months and perhaps as much as a year. Meanwhile, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has set up a system to allow cities to request a variance to the current rules to allow a reduction in fluoridation while the new rules are still being finalized.

The City of Saint Peter applied for and received the variance. In June, we turned our fluoride pumping equipment down to meet the 0.7 ppm level.

For more information on this topic, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

OUTDOOR POOL – Enjoy these last days of summer before the outdoor pool closes for the season at the end of the day on Saturday, August 22nd!

FALL ACTIVITIES AND CLASSES - The seasonal joint brochure between the City of Saint Peter Recreation and Leisure Services Department and School District 508 Community and Family Education has been mailed. If you don't get a brochure, extras are available at the Community Center or Library.

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

- **PART-TIME BUILDING SUPERVISOR** at the Saint Peter Community Center. Minimum qualifications include: High school diploma or

equivalent. CPR and First Aid training or ability to be certified within six months of employment. Experience working with the public. Desirable qualifications include: Experience in building maintenance functions. Current CPR and First Aid Certification. \$9.50 per hour. Applicants must complete a City of Saint Peter available from the City Administrator's Office at 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. on Thursday August 20, 2015. Faxed, emailed or late applications will not be accepted. Interviews will be conducted the week of August 24, 2015. 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	August 24	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	August 25	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	August 26	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	August 27	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	August 28	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	August 31	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Thursday	September 3	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	September 7		LABOR DAY HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Tuesday	September 8	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Tuesday	September 8	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session
Monday	September 14	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 15	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	September 21	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	September 21	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	September 24	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	September 25	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	September 28	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 29	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission

Thursday

October 1

5:30 p.m.

Planning and Zoning Commission