

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



12/01/15

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.

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.



CHRISTMAS TREE CURBSIDE COLLECTION

- Here's a bit of advance notice about the collection of Christmas trees after the holidays. City crews will collect real Christmas trees curbside on January 4th and 5th. The trees are chipped and used for composting.

Residents need to have all decorations removed from the trees and then place them curbside (not in the street). Trees should NOT be in bags.

No artificial trees, garlands or wreaths will be accepted.

And for those who need or want to dispose of their tree before this time, real trees may be taken to the City's compost site located at the southwest corner of the West St. Julien/North Swift Street intersection.

HOT SHEET HIATUS – The last Hot Sheet for 2015 will be published December 9th as we take a winter break. But new issues will be published again starting in January, 2016.

If you are not already receiving an email subscription and would like to get these free weekly City newsletters, please contact us at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov.

CITY COUNCIL RECEPTION – The public is invited to join the City Council for a reception to recognize outgoing Mayor Tim Strand and to welcome back Councilmember-elect Jerry Pfeifer. The event takes place from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 7th in the Governors' Room of the Community Center. Light refreshments will be served.

The reception will be followed at 5:30 p.m. by the regular City Council workshop session.

WARMING HOUSE/SKATING RINKS

– Got the itch to play a pick-up game of hockey or lace on your figure skates? Watch the City's Facebook page, website, and future Hot Sheets for more information on the opening of the City's skating



rinks and warming house located at Veteran's Memorial Park.

And oh yea....pray for colder weather too!

SIDEWALK CLEARANCE REMINDERS –

Yesterday's snowfall totals didn't even come close to the predictions, but there was still accumulation that make walking on sidewalks difficult. Property owners are reminded of the need to clear the entire width of sidewalks within 24 hours of a snowfall.



As tempting as it may be to wait for the warmer weather that is predicted, we have already received some complaints about uncleared walkways and encourage everyone to comply with the clearance regulations. Remember it's expensive to have City crews do the work for you with a minimum charge of \$75!

ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT – Do you know that when fire is discovered it might only take a few minutes before an entire structure can be engulfed? Have you ever thought about what happens if the Fire



Department is called to your home in the dead of winter and they have to waste those precious minutes digging out your corner fire hydrant before they can start fighting the flames?

Each of us can help out by keeping the fire hydrants in our neighborhoods shoveled out as winter dumps more and more snow on us. Starting now makes the job much easier and allows for easy clearance each time it snows.

So, whether you live on a corner lot or a couple houses away from the closest fire hydrant, why not pitch in and help out the St. Peter Firefighters by adopting your local hydrant! Thank you.

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.

LEAF COLLECTION RECAP (UPDATED)–

The City's curbside leaf collection has 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.

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), the entryway of the Public Works Department (405 West St. Julien 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.



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.

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.

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	4 pm – 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 
Monday	January 4th	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	January 4th	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session
Thursday	January 7th	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	January 11th	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	January 12th	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	January 18th		MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY – LEGAL HOLIDAY City Offices Closed
Tuesday	January 19th	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Friday	January 22nd	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	January 25th	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	January 26th	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	January 27th	12:20 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	January 28th	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority

***PLEASE NOTE – Holiday schedules in December and January 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.