

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



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BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY – With all the detours and construction going on in Saint Peter, it is especially important for parents to work with their children to ensure their safety as they make their way back to the classroom. It's also a good time for a safety refresher for 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 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.
- 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!

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!

PARKING REGULATIONS - The new school year means that students have returned and the rental units are filled for the school year. One of the most common questions posed to the Community Development Department has to do with off-street parking within residentially zoned districts.

The Zoning Code regulates parking in Saint Peter. Section 24-529 required that all drives accessing a public roadway must be surfaced with asphalt, concrete or similar hard, durable material such as pervious paving blocks.

Secondly, that section of Code states that, "Within residential districts, no required off-street parking shall be located within any required front yard except as may be provided within the private driveway serving a residential structure".

The Community Development Department will monitor the parking situation and will notify residents of noted violations over the next few weeks. For questions on these regulations, please contact the Community Development Department at 934-0661.

TREE WATERING BAGS – Have you wondered what these bags are that have been placed around some young trees on City property? They are tree watering bags.

The bags wrap around young trees and are then filled with 20 gallons of



water. The water is slowly released around the tree in a period of 6-8 hours and it allows the water to get to the tree roots without evaporating on the ground.

More bags will be used in City parks and on boulevards to help the young trees planted this year and in recent years grow strong and deep root systems which will help them continue to grow during periods of hot weather.

For questions on this watering system, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

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

- **PART-TIME PUBLIC ACCESS PRODUCTION ASSISTANT** in the Recreation and Leisure Services Department. Position will assist with two-camera taping operation of City Council and School Board meetings on Monday evenings. 5-10 hours per month. **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Must be 16 years of age and have experience using video recording equipment and/or computer editing equipment. **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS;** knowledge of and experience using the following equipment: TV monitors, portable VCR with power supply, audio/video digital mixer, audio mixer, camcorder and tripod, remote control camera, personal computer, auto programmer, VHS VCR's and a VHS editing system. Starting wage \$8.17 per hour. Applicants are required to complete City application form available in

the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 26, 2014. Faxed, emailed, and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EEO

- **PART-TIME PAYROLL CLERK** - in the Finance Department. 20 hours per week. **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** High School Diploma or equivalent; One year payroll experience or Associates degree in Accounting; Demonstrated experience working with the public; Demonstrated experience working with benefits provided to employees; Knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel software. **DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Previous municipal accounting experience; Knowledge of fund accounting principles, practices, and terminology; 2 or more years' experience working with employee benefits. Starting wage \$12.00 per hour. Applicants are required to complete City application form available in the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street or by calling (507)934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 19, 2014. Faxed, emailed, and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EEO

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	September 3	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	September 8	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 9	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	September 15	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session
Monday	September 15	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday	September 22	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Wednesday	September 24	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	September 25	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	September 26	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	September 29	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session

Tuesday

September 30

5:30 p.m.

Heritage Preservation Commission