

# CITY OF SAINT PETER HOT SHEET



All the City news you need to know and a little bit more!  
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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](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov) [www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter](http://www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter)



08/20/2014



**PLAN FOR SOBER RIDE** – Life has no rewind and if you are going to drink and drive, please plan on a sober ride home. As summer winds down, don't wind up a statistic because of poor choices

with drinking and driving. The Labor Day holiday is approaching and the Saint Peter Police Department is planning a Labor Day DWI mobilization to keep Saint Peter roads safe. The stepped-up statewide and nationwide DWI enforcement effort runs August 16th to September 1st and extra patrols will be on Saint Peter roads to combat drunk driving.

Many motorists are making safer choices as education, laws and enforcement have positively influenced behaviors over the last several decades. This is evidenced by the fact that only 30% of traffic deaths in Minnesota were alcohol related last year compared to about 60% in the 1960's.

But that doesn't mean that the hard work to prevent drunken driving ends. 25,719 motorists were arrested for DWI in Minnesota during 2013 with 115 arrests occurring in Nicollet County. In the last three years (2011–2013), there were 310 impaired-related traffic deaths in Minnesota and 95 were killed in 2013 alone. In Nicollet County during the last three years, there were 2 impaired-related traffic deaths with 1 fatality just last year.

"The number of alcohol-related crashes and fatalities, as well as DWI arrests, is a call to action for all of us to plan ahead for a sober ride," said Saint Peter Officer Jay Link. "Life has no rewind, and we need to educate and enforce as long as motorists think the tragedies of drinking and driving won't happen to them."

So use these tips to prevent drunk driving:

- Plan for a safe ride – designate a sober driver, use a cab/public transportation or stay at the location of the celebration.

- Offer to be a designated driver, or be available to pick up a loved one anytime, anywhere.
- Buckle up – the best defense against a drunk driver.
- Report drunk driving – call 911 when witnessing impaired driving behavior. Be prepared to provide location, license plate number and observed dangerous behavior.

**LABOR DAY CLOSURES** - The following closures will occur over the Labor Day holiday:

- All non-emergency City offices, including the Library, will be closed on Monday, September 1st in recognition of the Labor Day holiday.



- The Community Center will be closed Labor Day weekend (Saturday, August 30th - Monday, September 1st). Regular (non-summer) Community Center hours start Tuesday, September 2nd. Regular building hours are Monday through Friday: 6 a.m. – 10 p.m., Saturday: 8 a.m.–8 p.m., and Sundays 12 noon–8 p.m.
- Transit buses will not be in service on Labor Day.
- The City Council workshop session that would normally be scheduled for Monday, September 1st, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, September 2nd at 5:30 p.m. in the Library meeting room. The agenda for the workshop session is available on the City's website ([www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov)) the Friday before the meeting.
- The Planning Commission meeting that would have taken place on September 2nd is being rescheduled for Wednesday, September 3rd. Planning and Zoning Commission meeting agendas are available on the City's website

([www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov)). For more information on Planning Commission meetings, please contact the Community Development Department at 934-0661.

**SUNRISE DRIVE CLOSURE** - Beginning Monday, August 25th, the portion of Sunrise Drive from the entrance to the Pheasants Ridge health care facility to the entrance to the Nicollet County Public Works facility will be closed as part of the Washington Avenue Link Project. The roadway is closed to facilitate the construction of a new entrance to the Summit Park Mobile Home Community. For more information on this project, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

**ROAD CLOSURES** – The following road closures will impact travel through Saint Peter in the upcoming days/weeks:

- Wednesday, August 20th – The new portion of North Washington Avenue from the St. Julien Street intersection to Highway 22 will be closed so the contractor can place the final lift of asphalt. The portion between St. Julien and Howard Street will re-open on Thursday, August 20. The remaining will be open sometime early next week. Lambert Subdivision will use detour on Woodland Street to Church Street until Thursday, August 21st.
- Thursday, August 21st Delaney Street between Summit Park and North Fifth Street will be CLOSED until Friday, August 22nd so the contract can place the final lift of asphalt. Summit Park will use detour access onto Highway 22/Dodd Avenue until Friday, August 22nd.
- Early next week North Fifth Street access to Hwy 22/Dodd Avenue will be barricaded CLOSED. This access will be permanently closed by mid-September. North Fifth Street residents will be able to use Delaney Street to access North Washington Avenue.

**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!

#### 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.



**DETOUR CHANGES** - Most people already know that the detour of Highway 169 traffic onto Broadway Avenue in Saint Peter has begun and there have been a lot of near misses at the intersections at Sunrise and

Washington.

MnDOT has reviewed the concerns expressed by so many St. Peter residents and have issued a press release about changes that occurred on August 13th. Here is an excerpt from that press release...

*“Motorists are advised to watch for additional stop situations on the Highway 169 detour between St. Peter and Le Sueur beginning later today (Aug. 13) and to expect additional delays as MnDOT makes adjustments to improve safety along the route.*

*The detour, which includes Broadway Avenue in St. Peter, Nicollet County Road 20 and Sibley County Road 8, was the concern of many local citizens and the site of a fatal crash yesterday.*

*MnDOT officials have reviewed the detour and will be changing a number of intersections today including:*

- *Broadway and Washington – restore 4-way stop*
- *Broadway and Sunrise – restore 4-way stop*
- *Broadway/County Road 5 and Nicollet County Road 20 – restore stop signs at County Road 20; Broadway traffic does not stop*
- *County Road 20 and County Road 15 – Closure for County Road 15 at County Road 20*
- *County Road 20 and Highway 22 – create 4-way stop with additional signing and rumble strips*
- *County Road 20 north of St. Peter – place message boards alerting traffic of hidden entrances with 45 mph speed advisory*

*Speeding was a significant concern with the initial detour. Additional signing and law enforcement will be added and the additional stop signs will also slow traffic in town.*

*The detour is expected to be removed by September 2 and was installed to allow the contractor to accelerate the project to complete by this fall.”*

These changes are great, but it does not eliminate the need for every driver to use extreme caution in and around the detour area. Stay within the posted speed limits, remember to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk, and be alert to new directional and regulatory signage along the detour route.



Stay safe Saint Peter!

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of August 11th included authorizing creation of a part-time Payroll Clerk position in the Finance Department; approval for submission of two grant applications to the State of Minnesota for funding a portion of the operation and capital purchase budget of the Transit system in 2015; and acceptance of a proposal for sanitary sewer work on the interceptor sewer.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, August 25th 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](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city).

**GUARDS DO GOOD!** We all know the good the National Guard does in Minnesota and around the world, but they also are spreading their good work right here in our own community.



On Saturday, August 9th the TREEmendous playground in Gorman Park was covered with camouflage as a portion of the unit from G Company 134BSB Army National Guard took time during their drill weekend to do

some community service. The Soldiers wanted to find a way to thank the Saint Peter community for the support we have given them and their families in the last year.

The soldiers started weeding, removing landscape fabric and staining and



another group of the Soldier volunteers will complete the spruce up project in September. Thanks to the men and women of G Company for donating their time to the Saint Peter community!

**WOWBRARY!** - The Saint Peter Public Library is excited to offer patrons a great new way to learn about and enjoy the new acquisitions of books, movies, and music as well as to keep informed about Library activities and special events.

Through this free offering called Wowbrary, Library patrons can:

- Sign up to receive weekly emails that detail the newest items available at the Saint Peter Public Library
- Find out whether an item they are interested in is checked out or not
- Place a hold on items of interest
- Do it all from the convenience of their home, work, or school computer.

Residents will be amazed to see how many great new titles the Library has acquired which can be reserved and borrowed for free with just a library card!

Please go to [www.wowbrary.org](http://www.wowbrary.org) to sign up and learn more.

**OUTDOOR POOL NEWS** - Please note the change in schedule at the outdoor pool for Thursday and Friday, August 21-22. The main pool/pit will be closed both days from 1–4:15 p.m. and re-open

from 4:30–8:15 p.m. for a special open swim. With many pool staff involved in fall sports at high school or college, we are not able to open during the afternoon hours on those two days.

On Saturday/Sunday, August 23-24 and Saturday/Sunday Aug. 30-31 the pool will be open regular hours.

**The pool will close for the season at the end of the day on Sunday, August 31st.**

For more pool information, swim lesson cancellations and pool closings, please call the pool at 934-3951, or the Recreation Hotline at 934-0070. Pool rates, hours, and policy information is available at the Recreation office, on the City's website ([www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov)), or at the pool. Please call (934-0667) or email ([jenh@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:jenh@saintpetermn.gov)) the Recreation office with any questions.

**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](http://www.saintpetermn.gov).

Friday	August 22	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Tuesday	August 26	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	August 27	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	August 28	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Monday	September 1		LABOR DAY HOLIDAY – City Offices Closed
Tuesday	September 2	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session
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