

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



11/28/2012

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of November 26, 2012 included presentation of an award from the American Water Works Association to Water Utilities Superintendent Moulton; final acceptance of the Greenhill Reservoir Rehabilitation Project; authorization for use of Hallett's Pond for the Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge on February 2nd; acceptance of the proposal from Color Dynamics for painting the outdoor pool in Spring 2013; authorization for the unbudgeted purchase of a replacement water heater for the Community Center from Ryan Plumbing; and acceptance of the proposal from Insituform Technologies for the first phase of the North Interceptor Sewer Project.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, December 10th 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 agenda and Council packet are also available on the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov/city.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE

– A couple nice phone calls...
My two oldest boys are both in college at St. Cloud State. Over the last couple of weeks we have had great talks.

If you are a parent of older kids you will appreciate the sometimes rare opportunity I have had where they have really, really talked about the future. How at times they think they have no idea and then something happens and it feels, at least for a bit, that they now have the next few steps in their lives figured out. They have talked with confidence about what they want, but also a balance of knowledge that they don't have it all figured out.

It was fun to hear what they said, how they said it and what they based their predictions on. They also talk about what they have done and how it impacts their thoughts about the future. How history has impacted them.

We do that same thing many times in the City. We take a look at our history and project what we think will happen in the future. Most of the time I think that is a good thing to do and it makes sense. But sometimes, in the right situation, we need to break from our path, break some new ground, and try something that is outside of the box.

We see that with our growing children all the time. We are sure and they are sure that they will play the trumpet. They even start playing it and then all of sudden; they try the drums and, wow, are they good at the drums! Maybe they are an accounting major in college because they always liked math and did well in high school and then one day they call and say, "I just had this great experience and I know that I want to go into marketing not accounting."

The key sometimes is that new experience or some mind shaking thought or realization that pushes them in a different direction. It's sometimes the same for cities. Sometimes we bump into something or we see something a bit differently than we did yesterday and it sends us on a new trajectory....a trajectory that is not on that old trend line. I think that we are about to have some more of those experiences.

In the near future the City and the School are going to be having whole board workshops. We now meet in committee, which has been great and allowed for creative space and planning on a number of cooperative ventures that I think have been good for the entire community, but I think this joint all members included workshop will yield even more.

These workshops will be part learning from each other and part doing and part brainstorming. I hope that we will have a few of those new experiences that will help us look at the work differently than we did before. A few of those “Ah Ha” moments that can lead to making things better for our community.

This is one of the ways it happens, but it still makes me wonder....

UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS - Come and enjoy treats and music at the holiday open house at the Library (601 South Washington Avenue) on Wednesday, December 5th from 2:00–4:00 pm. Visitors will also enjoy special music by St. Peter High School students at 2:30 pm. Please join us!

Join in “The Great Candy Cane Hunt” on Saturday, December 1st at the Community Center (600 South Fifth Street). Hundreds of 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. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

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.

HOLIDAY LIGHTING FACTS – Here are some fun facts about the City’s holiday lighting efforts:

- Minnesota Square Park is brightly lit with an approximately 19,000 LED lights on the trees and pavilion.
- The downtown area is lit with over 3,500 LED bulb lights on the fixtures attached to the street lights and in the median.

City staff hopes everyone enjoys the light display!

CURB SIDE LEAF COLLECTION REPORT - This fall the Public Works crew worked hard to get all of the leaves picked up throughout the community. The numbers were up a little from last year.....south of Broadway Avenue resulted in 28 loads or 504 cubic yards of materials being collected. North of Broadway had 36 loads or 648 cubic yards collected. This material is taken to the City’s compost site where it is put into rows and occasionally turned with a compost turner and left to break down. When the composting process is completed, the materials are brought back to the brush drop off site on North Swift Street for residents to use at no charge.

TREE PRUNING - During the upcoming months, the City will be pruning boulevard trees south of

Broadway Avenue. This is done for vehicle and pedestrian safety, and to maintain a healthy urban forest. The City Code requires boulevard trees to be pruned to a minimum height of 8 feet above sidewalks and 14 feet above the street.

Should you have any questions, please call the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

SNOW EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION – It’s not too early to be planning for heavy snowfalls this winter, and residents who would like to be notified of snow emergency declarations should sign up now for the Nixle community notification system. It’s a free service and easy to do.



Go to www.nixle.com and follow the prompts to create an account for City notices. You can choose whether you wish to have notices sent by e-mail, by text, or both!

And if you don’t have an off-street parking space available to you, make arrangements now to find a spot to park your vehicle before snow emergency declarations are in place. Don’t wait for the first snowflakes to plan for the winter!

HOLIDAY

CANCELLATIONS/CLOSURES – All non-emergency City offices, including the public library, will be closed for the Christmas holiday on Monday-Tuesday (December 24-25th) and on again on New Year’s Day (January 1st).



The City Council has also taken action to cancel the December 24th regular meeting and the December 31st workshop session.

DRINKING WATER FLUORIDE LEVELS - Last year the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) proposed an adjustment to the recommend optimal fluoride level in drinking water for dental health. The proposed recommendation was a single national fluoride level of 0.7 parts per million (ppm) for community public water supplies. If approved, this would replace an optimal fluoride range of 0.7 to 1.2 ppm, which was used by the State of Minnesota when it developed its fluoridation laws.

To promote public health through the prevention of tooth decay, Minnesota currently requires municipal water supplies to maintain an average distribution system fluoride concentration of 1.2 ppm while remaining between 0.9 ppm and 1.5 ppm. That requirement remains in effect. The


newly proposed HHS optimal level of 0.7 ppm was subject to a 30-day public comment period with a final recommendation expected at the beginning of 2012. Once the HHS recommendations are finalized, MDH will investigate changes in policies and/or laws that will continue to promote and protect the dental health of all Minnesotans.

The City of Saint Peter currently treats its water by adding fluoride to ground water sources where a level of 1.0 ppm is maintained which keeps the City in compliance with MDH standards. This level of treatment meets state and federal guidelines.

2011 HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD WINNER – St. Peter Choral Society Director Sara McKay has been named the recipient of the 2011 Human Rights Award by the Saint Peter Human Rights Commission.

Mrs. McKay was honored by the members of the Commission for her work to ensure that the facilities for practice and performances of the Choral Society are accessible for all performers and audience members regardless of any physical limitations.

Commission Chairperson Michelle Twait, along with several other members of the Commission, presented the award to Mrs. McKay at the November 13th City Council meeting.

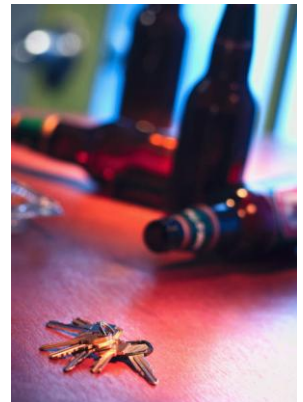
 **LED HOLIDAY LIGHTING REBATE** - The City is once again offering rebates for LED holiday lights. The rebate amounts range from \$3 for strings or decorations with up to 99 LED bulbs, \$6 for 100-199 LED bulbs, \$9 for 200-299 LED bulbs, or \$12 for strings with 300 or more LED bulbs. All LED holiday lights and decorations qualify for a rebate.

Coupons are available in stores and at the Finance Department in City Hall. Rebate requests must be submitted to the Finance Department by December 31, 2012 to qualify.

TOWARDS ZERO DEATHS CAMPAIGN - The Saint Peter Police Department will conduct a DWI enforcement campaign this holiday season as part of a statewide and nationwide “*Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*” effort. The campaign is being coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety. Eleven area law enforcement agencies, including the State Patrol, will be participating in this crack down on drunk driving.

As holiday celebrations get underway, the public is encouraged to do three things to increase safety on the roads...

- Plan for a safe ride – designate a sober driver, use a cab or public transportation, or stay at the location of the celebration. Let family/friends know you are available to offer a safe ride home.
- Buckle up – the best defense against a drunk driver!
- Report drunk driving – call 911 when witnessing impaired driving behavior. Be prepared to provide a location of the vehicle, license plate number and the observed dangerous behavior.



And remember.....drive sober....or get pulled over!

CALENDAR

Wednesday	November 28	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	November 29	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	November 30	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	December 3	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	December 3	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	December 10	5:00 p.m.	Human Rights Commission
Monday	December 10	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	December 17	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop

Monday	December 17	7:00 p.m.		Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday- Tuesday	December 24 - December 25			CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY–CITY OFFICES CLOSED
Thursday	December 27	12:00 noon		Economic Development Authority
Friday	December 28	8:00 a.m.		Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Tuesday	January 1			NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Monday	January 7	5:30 p.m.		City Council Workshop
Tuesday	January 8	5:30 p.m.		Planning and Zoning Commission