

# 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](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov) or visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter](http://www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter)



09/04/2013



**MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE – I am not sure...**

Which is the start of the new year? Is it the start of school and the Gusties coming back to town or is it

the traditional January 1st New Year?

I think the former impacts me more as I still have two sons now in the middle/high school. One reason that this impacts me more than January 1st is that we all start driving in different directions. More kids are walking and riding bikes and scooters to school, and my vigilance about driving safely, not just for me but for all of them, needs to bump up a notch.

Maybe the same holds true for you too? As the new school year is in place, let's take extra time to drive safely, not just for you but for the crossing guards at North.... for the kids crossing Broadway....and for the bikes that are zipping in and out of the sidewalks and streets in our community. Let's give them a little extra space and time.

Will you jump up a notch with me? It makes me wonder....

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of August 26, 2013 included concurrence with the Hospital Commission recommendation to hire George Rohrich as the new Hospital CEO; approval for modification to the revolving loan terms for Greg and Neysa Schettler (dba Hunter Hardwood); authorization for submission of a transit grant application to the State of Minnesota for funding for 2014; approval for the unbudgeted purchase of two replacement meter reading vehicles; establishment of a micro-loan program for handicap accessibility improvements to properties in the central business

district; and approval of new business license applications.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, September 9th 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. A copy of the City Council packet is also available before each meeting on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city-council-minutes-agendas-packets>.



**END-OF-SUMMER DWI ENFORCEMENT** - Even with all of the media publicity surrounding the extra drunk driving enforcement by state-wide law enforcement, the Officers of the Saint Peter Police Department arrested 11 drunk drivers during a nationwide end-of-summer DWI enforcement effort that occurred between August 16<sup>th</sup>-September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Around 400 law enforcement agencies across Minnesota participated in the State's effort conducted by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) Office of Traffic Safety.

"It's always beneficial to the safety of everyone when you can take 11 drivers off the roads so they don't hurt themselves or others," says Officer Jay Link. "However, the many arrests from this campaign prove that people are still making poor choices and taking unnecessary risks that can be prevented by simply planning ahead for a sober ride."

The extra enforcement period is now over, but Saint Peter Officers will remain diligent in

enforcement of drunk driving laws. So remember.....designate a sober driver and if you have been drinking, don't drive!



### BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

— School is back in session which makes this a good time to review some back to school safety tips for parents, children and drivers. 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.
- 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.

If you live close enough that your child will be walking or biking to school, limit the dangers with these tips:

- 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.
- Teach your children to lock up their bikes when they get to their destination, including when they get home. A lot of bikes are 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.

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!

### SEPTEMBER IS "PREPAREDNESS MONTH"

– Did you know that September is national "Preparedness Month"? Is your emergency preparedness kit up-to-date? Here are recommendations for supplies to include in a basic emergency preparedness kit:

- Water - one gallon per person per day, for drinking and sanitation
- Non-perishable food - at least a three-day supply
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and extra batteries
- NOAA weather radio with tone alert and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First Aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Filter mask or cotton t-shirt, to help filter the air



- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener if kit contains canned food
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Important family documents
- Items for unique family needs such as daily prescription medication, infant formula or diapers
- Items for family pets, such as food, extra water and any medications.

For further information, please contact Nicollet County Emergency Management, 501 South Minnesota Avenue, St. Peter, Minnesota 56082, (507) 934-0412, or go to: [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

**FLU SAFE PROGRAM** – Rivers' Edge Hospital and Clinic has been recognized by the Minnesota Department of Health for being "Flu Safe". REHC had 98% of their staff vaccinated against influenza for the 2012-2013 flu season.

Flu vaccines will be available in the very near future and River's Edge Hospital and Clinic is a great local source for flu shots or the flu mist for the whole family. Keep your family protected this flu season and get vaccinated!



### PAWS WALK – SAVE THE DATE!

– The annual Providing Animals With Shelter (P.A.W.S.) walk is just around the corner and it's not too early to start collecting donations for the October 12<sup>th</sup> walk.

PAWS provides funds to house and provide medical care to lost or abandoned animals and over the years many, many cats and dogs and the occasional rabbit have been helped by PAWS. Funding is also used to spay/neuter animals before they are put up for adoption and all money raised goes directly to impounded animals.

The walk is a trick or treat walk and participants (animals and humans alike) are encouraged, but not required, to dress in costumes. There are stops along the route where participants who have raised at least \$20 for PAWS can trick or treat for some great giveaways provided by walk sponsors. Then it's back to the Mill Pond for a costume contest and prizes for the top fundraisers.

Sign-up forms are available at City Hall, the Police Department and at Kind Veterinary Clinic. The walk begins at 10:00 a.m. on the 12<sup>th</sup> and will be held rain or shine.

You don't have to have a pet to participate in the walk and volunteers are still needed to help man the trick or treat stops. For more information, please contact Janet at the Police Department at 931-1550.

**SAINT PETER PUBLIC ACCESS (SPPA) TELEVISION –**

The City's public access television channels provide a means for individuals or community groups to communicate their information, activities or point of view to a wide audience. Public Access is free, non-commercial television playing a variety of programs: governmental, informational, entertaining, or educational.

SPPA has two channels on the Saint Peter cable system:

- Channel 7 is the cable channel for local programs including City Council and School Board meetings. Over 80 hours of programming a week are scheduled. Individuals or organizations can submit DVDs or videotapes to be played on this channel. Material must be appropriate for all ages and submitted with a cablecast release. The release form gives the City permission to play a private group or individual's program. Cablecast release forms are available on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov.sppa> or forms can be requested by e-mail at [sppa@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:sppa@saintpetermn.gov) or by calling 934-0667.
- Channel 8 is the Community Bulletin Board, where community residents and organizations may post announcements about local events. Bulletin board items may be submitted by e-mailing [sppa@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:sppa@saintpetermn.gov), faxing the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-1204, or mailing or dropping off a flyer at the Recreation Department in the Community

Center, 600 South Fifth Street. This is a free service but no commercial or political advertising is allowed.

For more information on public access, please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-0667.

**DROUGHT AND TREE HEALTH –** Although drought conditions eased somewhat in southern Minnesota during the spring and early part of the summer, the lack of rain in recent weeks has once again started to impact the City's urban forest.

Saint Peter residents may have begun to notice several trees that seem to be dropping leaves, or which have never leafed out at the crown of the tree. This is a sign of drought in trees and it happens in even the oldest trees.

To keep your trees healthy during this hot summer, follow these watering tips:

- Water trees when rainfall amounts are under an inch a week.
- Water slowly without runoff. Use low-flow or soaker hoses instead of sprinklers.
- Water to the ends of the branch tips, since most tree roots are within the first foot of soil. During watering, move the hose around within the drip line of the tree.
- Don't depend on irrigation systems to give trees the water they need.
- After watering the soil should be moist 6-8" deep throughout the drip line.
- Place 2-4" of wood mulch under the drip line of the tree to help retain moisture in the soil. Avoid volcano mulching, where piles are formed against the base of the trunk.

**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).

Wednesday	September 4	5:30 p.m.	Rescheduled Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	September 9	5:00 p.m.	Human Rights Commission
Monday	September 9	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 10	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Tuesday	September 10	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	September 16	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	September 16	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Tuesday	September 17		CITY OFFICES CLOSED UNTIL 1:30 P.M. for Staff training
Monday	September 23	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	September 24	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	September 25	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	September 26	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	September 27	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	September 30	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop