

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 or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



09/11/2013



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE – Video blog...

I bet some of you have never hear that term before and I bet others are rolling their eyes thinking how old school

that is! Anyway, I want you to know that I do a 7-9 minute video about every other week talking about some of the things going on at the City (projects and other things) that also covers a bit of the discussion that takes place at Council workshops. This video is done right from the desk in my office and is posted on our website at www.saintpetermn.gov and on the City's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CityofSaintPeter>). I have been doing it for a year and a half or so and I think it provides an additional way for you to know more about what is going on with your City. The graphics are not too fancy and the production value is not that high (think of it like a web cam interview on Fox Sports or ESPN, and you will get the general idea). But I hope it provides an additional, easier to use way to know a bit more. Right now it's called "State of the City". If you have a few minutes please check it out and let me know what you think. Will you click on it? It makes me wonder....

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of September 9, 2013 included adoption of the 2014 preliminary tax levy; approval for closeout of a 2009 fund account; award of the bid for Part 1 of the Washington Avenue Link Improvement Project, authorization for receipt of bids for Part 2 of the Washington Avenue Link Improvement Project; authorization for issuance of a request for proposals for development of the tax forfeited portion of Welco West Subdivision; authorization for execution of a

contract with the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association for safety program services; and approval of a request by the St. Peter Ambassador's for City assistance for the Oktoberfest event.

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will take place on Monday, September 23rd in the Governors' Room of the Community Center. Copies of the City Council meeting packet are available online at the City's website (www.saintpetermn.gov). For more information on City Council meetings, please contact the City Administrator's office at 934-0663.

LIGHT POLE MAINTENANCE - The City has hired a contractor to seal all eighty (80) concrete light poles in the downtown area. This work has begun and will continue through the next two weeks. Temporary "no parking" will be put in place when the contractor is working on a pole, but just in the immediate area of the work. Work will consist of pressure washing each pole and then sealing the concrete.

In addition to this work, crews will be sand blasting and painting all fourteen of the thirty-five foot (35') light poles on South Front Street from Broadway Avenue to Mulberry Street.

Drivers are asked to use caution in and around this work and staff thanks everyone for their patience during this process.

Anyone with questions on this work is asked to contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.



ABSENTEE VOTING – Absentee ballots for all voters within School District #508 are now available from the Nicollet County Auditor/Treasurer's office at 501 South Minnesota Avenue. This election includes

City Council and School Board positions.

You can vote by absentee ballot if you are unable to vote in person on Election Day (November 5, 2013) because you are:

- away from home
- ill or disabled
- an election judge serving in a precinct other than your own
- unable to go to the polling place due to a religious observance or belief; or
- the Governor has declared a state of emergency that makes it difficult for voters to go to the polls.

To obtain an absentee ballot, you must first complete an Absentee Ballot Application and return it to the County Auditor. Your ballot will be sent to you as soon as ballots are available or you may deliver it in person and, if ballots are available, vote at that time. The ballot application is available on the Secretary of State's website, or from the County Auditor/Treasurer.

If you have loved ones serving in the military, college students studying abroad, or someone else who is temporarily living abroad, the Secretary of State's office has also set up a special website to help military and overseas voters vote by absentee ballot. That site is <https://minnesota.overseasvotefoundation.org/overseas/home.htm>.

For more information on absentee voting, or the upcoming general election, please contact the City Administrator's office at 934-0663.

CITY OFFICE CLOSURE – All non-emergency City offices will be closed on Tuesday, September 17th until 1:30 p.m. City staff will be participating in a semi-annual training session at that time.

Regular office hours will resume at 1:30 p.m.

LAND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY – The City of Saint Peter is accepting proposals for development of a 12.78 acre parcel of tax forfeited land in the Welco West Subdivision. Interested developers may obtain a copy of the Request For Proposals documents from the City Administrator's office or by calling (507)934-0663. Deadline for submission of proposals is October 1st.

RENTAL INSPECTIONS – It's that time of year....the time to think about renewing rental licenses. During even years (2014) last names beginning with A-L need rental applications completed, fees paid and properties inspected. The rental application must be received by December 31st of this year and the rental inspection completed by March 31, 2014.

Rental applications are available on the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov, and can then be printed out and returned to the Building Department at City Hall along with the required fee.

Questions about rental licensing? Please call the Building Department at (507)934-0662.



END-OF-SUMMER DWI ENFORCEMENT - Even with all of the media publicity surrounding the extra state-wide drunk driving 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 16th-September 2nd. 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 Officers 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 is 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.

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 12th 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 help 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 12th 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. And if anyone would like to make a donation to PAWS either as part of the walk or just out of the kindness of your heart, please feel free to do so....checks can be made out to P.A.W.S. and sent to the Police Department at 207 South Front Street. For more information, please contact Janet at the Police Department at 931-1550.

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.

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
Tuesday	October 1	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	October 7	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	October 7	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	October 14	5:00 p.m.	Human Rights Commission
Monday	October 14	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	October 21	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session
Monday	October 21	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	October 24	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	October 25	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	October 28	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	October 29	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	October 30	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Monday	November 4	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	November 4	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop Session
Tuesday	November 5		ELECTION DAY