

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



09/25/2013

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of September 23, 2013 included a public hearing and subsequent action to expand the gateway overlay district regulations to additional properties; authorization for David Drown Associates to provide for competitive sale of General Obligation Municipal State Aid bonds; approval for modifications to the Public Works Administrative Secretary job description; and a closed session to discuss real estate acquisition negotiations related to the Washington Avenue Link Improvement Project and future park land.

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will take place on Monday, October 14th 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.

EDA MEETING CANCELLATION – The regular Economic Development Authority (EDA) meeting scheduled for September 26th has been cancelled. The next regular meeting will take place on October 24th. For more information on EDA meetings, please contact the Community Development Department at 934-0661.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – *As the wind blows...* In a few weeks we will start our annual curbside leaf collection in the community. (Info is included

later in this Hot sheet.)

As part of that collection we take those leaves out to our compost area and turn them, with other

materials, into compost that we then bring back to the Swift Street collection area for use on lawns and gardens by Saint Peter residents.

You might also remember we had to change our processing site from the old wastewater treatment ponds to a new site in Le Sueur County near Kasota. That project is moving right along as well so you should see no change in the service you receive from us.

If you are the sort of person who wants to do their own thing with leaves, here is a website that might offer some ideas and suggestions to help...

<http://www.finegardening.com/how-to/articles/improve-soil-rake-less.aspx>

While I am likely to continue to have the City do my composting, I bet there are a few of you who would like to give it a try on your own. There are lots of other websites that can give you tips about how and what to do.

Is the pick up and composting we do something you feel is a service we should continue to provide? It makes me wonder...

CITY VEHICLE

SALE - Looking for a used car? The City is now offering for sale four, white Ford Crown Victoria



vehicles. These ex-squad cars are model years 2000 (2), 2003, and 2004. The cars are on display west of City Hall (227 South Front Street) in the old Library lot. Cars are being sold through the State of Minnesota Department of Administration online auction at www.minnbid.org. Inspections of the vehicles can be scheduled through Community Service Officer (CSO) Thompson at the Police Department (931-1550).

COLD WEATHER RULE NOTICE - The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule stipulates that from October 15th through April 15th, a utility cannot disconnect a residential utility customer for nonpayment if **all** of the following four requirements are met:

- The account is current for the billing period immediately prior to October 15th.
- The electric disconnection would affect the customer's primary heat source.
- The customer's household income is less than 185% of the Federal poverty level, as documented by the customer to the electric utility; and
- The customer has filed a "declaration of inability to pay" form with the electric utility.

The City of Saint Peter adheres to these regulations and a lot of customers who are behind on their bills have been coming in to try and avoid being shut off before the deadline.

That doesn't mean that customers can go all winter without paying and use unlimited amounts of electricity. During the cold weather period October 15th to April 15th, the City installs limiting meters rather than disconnecting service for a customer whose account has become delinquent. The limiting meter allows customers to run their furnace, refrigerator and approximately one or two lights. If they try to use any other electricity, the meter switches off and they must go outside and reset it. This allows us to limit the electricity use without violating the law.

Customers who have limited service must pay all past due amounts plus a reconnection charge of \$70 prior to reconnection. The charge for reconnection on weekends and after 3:30 pm on weekdays is over \$300.

Can't make a payment? Customers with a delinquent account may request a payment arrangement. The payment arrangement will include paying the current month's bill and the arrears on a payment schedule limited to six (6) months. If payment is not made on the date agreed to by the customer and the current utility bill is not paid by the fifteenth of each month, service will be immediately disconnected or a limiting meter will be installed.

Some of those who need helping paying utility bills may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. For complete qualifications and application information, customers should contact the local county social services office or Community Action Council.

The following organizations may also be able to provide assistance:

Nicollet County Social Services	931-6800
Minnesota Valley Action Council	934-5224
Salvation Army Heatshare	345-7840

If you need help paying your utility bill, don't wait until you get shut off for non-payment. Call the Finance Department (934-0664) and let City staff help find a solution.

RATE INCREASES – The City Council has approved rate increases for water and wastewater services used as of August 1, 2013. Wastewater rates increased 10% across the board. Residential 5/8" domestic water meter monthly base charges increased \$.25, the first 1,000 gallons is still at \$1.00, 2,000 – 10,000 gallons increased to \$5.20 per 1,000 gallons, and over 10,000 gallons increased to \$5.50 per 1,000 gallons. For information on other meter sizes or for questions regarding utility rates, please contact the Finance Department at 934-0664.

ANIMALS SEEKING HOMES – The City is looking for forever homes for a couple of dogs, an adult female cat named Maple (\$50) and two kittens named Periwinkle and Cheeto (\$50



each). All of these animals are very friendly and available for adoption. Hitchcock is a male Miniature Pincher that was found in Kasota. He is available for adoption for \$155. Buster is a 4 year old neutered Boxer mix currently in a foster home and available for immediate adoption.



The fees include the spay or neuter surgery and first shots. If you can provide

a forever home for any of the pound animals, please contact CSO Thompson at the Police Department (931-1550) or Alaina at Kind Veterinary Clinic (931-4700) during regular business hours.



BUILDING DEPARTMENT PROCESS - How does the Building Department interact with a project? What does the Department do? To answer those questions it might be handy to follow a project from start to finish and use a recently issued building permit as an example. It just so happens that the permit is for an addition to the home of City

Administrator Prafke. Mr. Prafke has authorized the use of information regarding his building permit for this Hot Sheet article. Here is the process that he is following for construction in Saint Peter....

After the Prafke's selected a contractor, the contractor brought the plans to the Building Department where the first step was a review by the Community Development Department. Community Development looks at the site plan for any zoning issues (i.e. is the lot zoned for residential use.....what is the lot size....is there enough green space.....does it meet set back requirements... are there any other buildings on the lot and if so what is the location?) Once the plan passes Community Development review, it moves on to Public Works.

The Public Works Department looks at all utility issues including how the sewer, water, and electric services are connected to the building. After the plan is approved by Public Works, it's back to the Building Department.

This is where the Building Official's fun begins. The Building Official (Dean Busse) looks at the structural plans for issues such as framing, header sizes, floor and roof trusses, energy compliance, plumbing and mechanical. If everything is up to Code, a permit is issued and construction can begin.

More information on the Prafke project and the City's inspection services will be provided in an upcoming issue of the Hot Sheet.

AIR CONDITIONING REBATE - The City is now offering a new \$35 rebate for air conditioners (AC) and air source heat pumps (ASHP) tune-ups. To perform at optimum efficiency, air conditioners and air source heat pumps need to be maintained properly. A tune-up provides an opportunity for a licensed HVAC technician to professionally evaluate the cooling system and ensure that it operates efficiently. Here is a summary of the program:

- Qualifying units are required to be 5.5 tons or less (no window or mini-split units)
- This program is available for tune-ups performed during the cooling season of April 1st through September 30th.
- Customers are eligible for one tune-up per cooling unit every five years.
- All of the services listed in the "Services Checklist" shown on the rebate form are required.

For more information or to obtain a rebate form, please contact the Finance Department at 934-0664.

THE NEW PHONE BOOKS ARE HERE.....THE NEW PHONE BOOKS ARE HERE.....! – Do you remember that line from an old Steve Martin movie (The Jerk) where he is super excited about the delivery of the new phone books? That day he became somebody because his name was in the phone book!

Even if you don't remember his excitement or the movie, please remember that when the new phone books are delivered to Saint Peter residents (which will happen in the next few months), we hope you will get equally excited and remember that the old books are completely recyclable and should be put in your recycle curbie with the rest of the paper, plastic and glass.

Those who wish to opt-out of receiving the new Yellow Book directory should do so at www.yellowpagesoptout.com.



FALL YARD WASTE COLLECTION - The City will be collecting brush and garden waste such as tomato plants, flowers, etc. at curbside the week of September 30th. Brush and garden waste must be placed parallel and adjacent to the curb by 7:00 a.m. on Monday, September 30th. Brush or garden waste will not be collected after the week of September 30th.

LEAF AND GRASS CLIPPINGS COLLECTION - Leaves and grass clippings will be collected from properties located north of Broadway Avenue starting at 7:00 a.m.



on Monday, October 21st and for properties located south of Broadway Avenue beginning at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, November 4th. Collection dates for the areas north and south of Broadway are rotated each year. Leaves must be placed parallel and adjacent to the curb (do not put it on the street or in bags).

Collection is done using a vacuum truck with another person walking behind using a hose to collect the leaves and grass clippings. For this reason, please do not include animal wastes with the leaves, as the person using the hose gets covered with a fine dust of whatever is in the leaves and we want to keep City employees safe.

The collection process is quite lengthy (it took five weeks for the whole town in 2012) which sometimes results in the collection process having

to start before all the leaves have fallen. Once the vacuum truck has moved through an area, a street sweeper also makes a pass to make sure the streets are cleaned before the snow comes.

If you live on a corner lot it is possible that one side will be picked up before the other as the trucks run north to south and then east to west to be more efficient in the collection process. (Suggestion: Place all leaves on the north-south street if you want all your leaves picked up at the same time.)

The truck will only go through an area once; so if your yard waste is not out by the dates and times mentioned above it will not be picked up, but can be taken to the drop-off site.

To help us serve you better, please do not park in front of the yard waste until pick-up is complete.

YARD WASTE DROP-OFF SITE - The brush and soft yard waste drop-off sites located across the street from the Department of Public Works facility, 405 West St. Julien Street, at the southwest intersection of St. Julien and Swift Streets, are open year around for the convenience of City residents to drop off brush and soft yard waste. This service is provided and funded by the environmental services fee on City utility bills.

TREE TRIMMING NOTICE - During the upcoming months, City staff will be trimming boulevard trees throughout the community. This is done for vehicle and pedestrian safety, and to maintain a healthy urban forest. City regulations require boulevard trees to be trimmed to a minimum height of 8 feet above sidewalks and 14 feet above the street. For questions about tree trimming, please contact the Department of Public Works at 934-0670.

PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS - Zinio is a company that provides downloadable magazines. The Traverse des Sioux Regional System, which includes the Saint Peter Public Library, has purchased 63 magazine subscriptions for patrons to download free to personal PCs, laptops, or mobile devices! When an issue is downloaded, it may be kept on the device as long as the owner wishes (no returns

necessary), and there is no limit to the number of patrons who can check out the current issue at any time. However, those who wish to always have the current issue of a magazine as soon as it is available will need to periodically check the TdS Zinio website to download it: <https://www.rbdigital.com/traversedesiouxmn/service/zinio>.

THIRD FLOOR YOUTH CENTER - The Third Floor Youth Center has been open to youth since December 1997. Over the years it has changed locations, ages served, days/times open, and how it operates. But whether The Third Floor Youth Center was located on the third floor of the old Central Community Center before the tornado, the Armory, a downtown storefront, the lower level of the Community Center, or the current location at North Intermediate School, the name has stuck – The Third Floor. Kids and parents alike know what The Third Floor is and it’s about kids, fun, and a safe place to be.

The Recreation Department is happy to announce that this fall The Third Floor Youth Center will be open to all 3-6th grade youth in Saint Peter on Monday, September 30th and will be open weekdays after school until 5 p.m. Although North Intermediate School is packed to overflowing, the youth center will be located on the stage of the gymnasium. Staff and volunteers have made the new space appealing and welcoming to youth with assistance from Gustavus Adolphus College. More than a dozen work-study students will be working with the center. Volunteers from GAC organizations also get involved on a regular basis.

There is no charge to attend the youth center. The only requirement is that parents complete a registration form for their children. Forms are available at school offices.

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

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 25	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	September 26	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority CANCELLED
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
Tuesday	October 8	5:30 p.m.	Library Board
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