

# 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](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov). [www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter](http://www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter)



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**MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE - Hello..**

**knock...knock...knock.** Are you out there? We need your help. I need your help. As the City moves into a new

year there are tons of things that we hope you will want to know and a number of things you should know about.

Let's talk about the HOT SHEET for a few lines. The HOT SHEET is emailed out, it is broadcast faxed, it is re-sent by people at Gustavus and at the Chamber, and many businesses lay them out in break rooms. You can pick it up on tables at the Community Center and Library and it is a standard on the City's website.

The HOT SHEET is one of the cornerstones of our information provision to the community. I want to know what you think about it. Is it a good way to communicate with you? Is it?

Do you have a better idea of how we can communicate with you? Maybe you want to see more things about the City on SPPA (public access). Maybe you want to see "shorts" on "You Tube". Maybe you like us on FACEBOOK and want more there on my video blog.

We are going to move to having workshop packet information available on our web site in 2013. Is that something you will really use or is it just another task that cost us time and resources?

Maybe you want to see more legal notice type things in the newspaper? Maybe every month with your utility bill you want to see more information about activities of the Council and less about community events?

I would love to know what you think. What can we do to let you know what's going on with your city?

Here is another idea... invite us to come talk at your club or organization meeting or get together.

How can we communicate City information to you in a way that works for you???

It makes me wonder....

**LIBRARY PROGRAM** - In an effort to better serve the area's senior population, the Saint Peter Library is continuing a community outreach program called *Page Peddler*. The primary goal of the *Page Peddler* program is to bring library resources to people who may not be able to come to the library on their own. These people may reside in assisted living or other senior housing facilities or be a patient at the local hospital.

The Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation and Nicollet County Bank provided funds for the purchase of book carts and print materials of various

genres. Residents may browse and borrow from a variety of genres including but not limited to mysteries, romances, and westerns which are distributed at eight different venues in town. Patron donations of newer materials also supplement these initial collections.

These mini-collections, with both regular and large print fiction and nonfiction materials, are rotated from one site to another every few months.

Residents can rekindle their interest in reading which could spark conversation with others about books they have read as well as hear what others are reading. Conversations with residents and staff may result in recommendations and suggestions of new authors and materials to be added to each collection.

Staff at each of these sites is in charge of a checkout procedure which is appropriate for their



setting and situation. The *Page Peddler* materials are for residents and staff at each facility, but visitors are also encouraged to check out and return them.

If some of the books have not been returned to the book carts or the book shelves at rotation time or if someone is still reading a book, staff at the site notifies Library staff when the materials are ready to be picked up and brought to a new location.

If more resources can be secured, non-print materials such as books on cassette and CD as well as music CDs and DVDs could also become part of each traveling collection. Some media equipment might also be made available as part of this program.

Beginning sometime in January 2013, bookmobile service may be offered on a trial basis to some sites which would bring a variety of new materials to these residents.

If you would like more information about the *Page Peddler* program, please contact the Library at 934-7420.

**A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE** – Sometimes it's difficult to see things from a different perspective. Take for instance heavy snows. Those of us who have to get up and drive through the fresh snow to get to work on time, are most likely relieved when we hear the rumble of the snowplows coming down our streets. We know that means we can easily make our way to work (even if it means more shoveling at the end of the driveway!).



But have you ever thought about it from a different perspective? Here's one that was submitted by a City employee....

"Heather has a friend who has twins that are home schooled. They were standing at the window the other day when a snow plow came by...instead of getting excited like an adult who realizes that they are making the roads safer, the kids got very upset and yelled...'Go away snow plow. Stop taking OUR snow!' " ☺

How's that for a different point of view?

**ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT** – We've had our first taste of a winter storm and are getting warmed up for the bigger snows yet to come. Now that your shovel is broken in, why not consider "adopting" your neighborhood fire hydrant?

As the snow begins to deepen, you can help out the Fire Department by keeping the area around

the hydrant shoveled out as shown in the picture. In the event of a fire, this will save valuable time for the Firefighters who respond to save your house or the life of someone in your family.



So, remember.....each time it snows, take a few extra

minutes and shovel out the corner fire hydrant. The Saint Peter Volunteer Fire Department thanks you for your help!

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE RATE CHANGES** -

Environmental service rates fund the protection of the environment by providing for the operations of refuse and recycling collection throughout the community; operation of a yard waste drop off site; operation of a compost site; curb-side yard waste and leaf pick up; Christmas tree pick up; maintenance of the City's urban forest; maintenance of the downtown medians and urns; and garbage pickup downtown and in City parks.

Based on Staff and Council discussions over the past two years, changes are being made that will include charging those utility customers that are not currently charged for services they have access to, use, or benefit from. Multi-family units and businesses that do not currently pay for the services will now help pay for all of the services listed above. Businesses and residents all benefit from the services provided.

Businesses and rental housing owners will see new charges on utility bills of \$8.63 per month for single businesses and \$2.16 per unit for rentals with five or fewer units. Landlords with more than five rental units will see an added charge of \$21.58 on their bills and industrial and institutional customers will now be charged \$25.89 monthly. These changes will start February 1, 2013.

Customers who already pay for these services will see new line items on the bill, but the overall charge for services will not increase.

Please contact the Finance Department (934-0664) for more information on these changes, or if you have questions about what category your property is included in.

**PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CHARITY SCAMS** – Before you make an end of the year donation to a charity, make sure you protect yourself from a possible scam. Police Chief Peters offers the following suggestions to residents:

- Request written information. Ask for the name of the organization, its' mission, plans for achieving its' objectives, and how much of

every dollar collected is used for charitable purposes.

- Call the beneficiary/organization. Find out whether they are aware of the solicitation and have authorized the use of their name.
- Find out how your donation will be distributed. How much will go to the program you want to support and how much will cover the charity's administrative costs?
- If this is a professional fund-raiser, ask them how much money they keep.
- Refuse high-pressure appeals. Legitimate fund-raisers won't push you to give on the spot.
- Consider the cost. When buying merchandise or tickets for special events, or when receiving free goods in exchange for giving, remember

that these items cost money and are generally paid for out of the contributions.

- Avoid cash gifts because they can be lost or stolen. For security and tax record purposes, it is best to pay by check. Make your check payable to the beneficiary, NOT the solicitor.

To check on a charity in Minnesota, call the Minnesota Charities Review Council at 1-800-733-4483 or the Minnesota Attorney General's Office Charity Division at 1-800-657-3787.

**CALENDAR**

Monday	January 7	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	January 7	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	January 8	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Tuesday	January 8	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	January 14	5:00 p.m.	Human Rights Commission
Monday	January 14	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	January 21		MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. LEGAL HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Tuesday	January 22	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	January 22	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	January 24	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	January 25	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	January 28	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	January 29	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	January 30	12:00 noon	Hospital and Nursing Home Commission