

CITY OF SAINT PETER HOT SHEET



All the City news you need to know and a little bit more.
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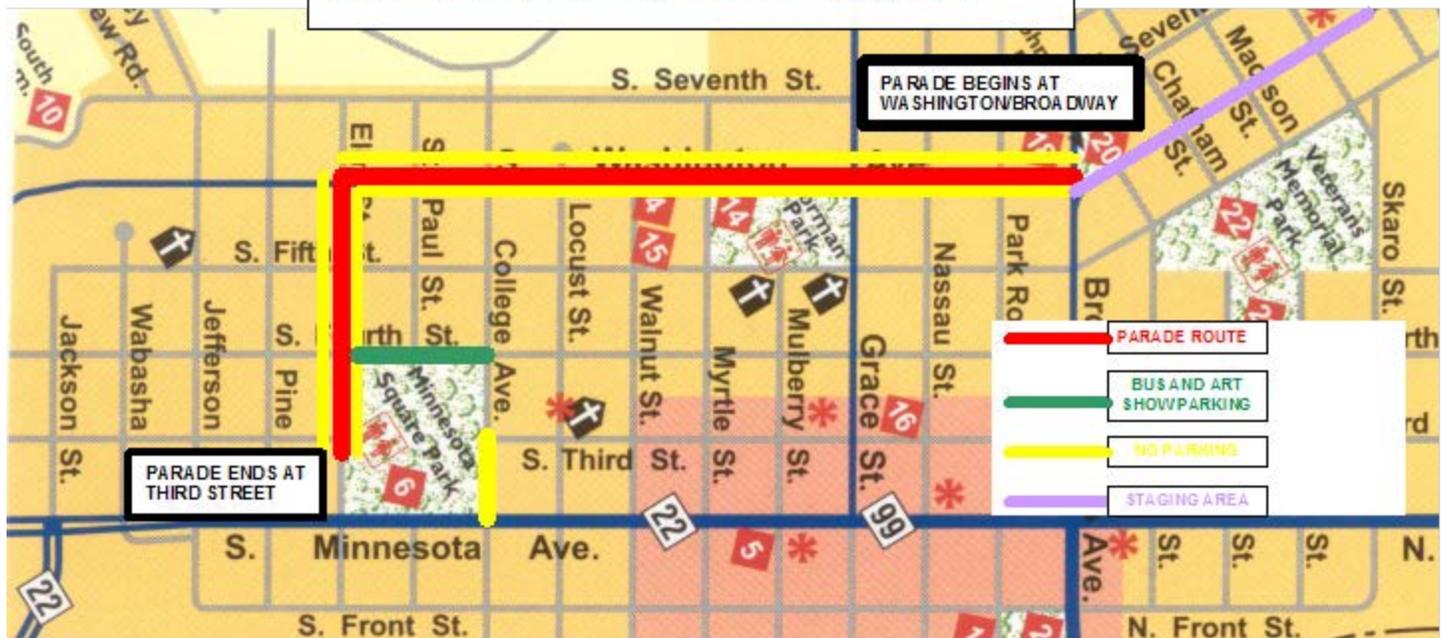


The following information is a publication of the City of Saint Peter, City Administrator's Office, 934-0663, 227 South Front Street. To request an email subscription to this newsletter, or for more information, please contact us at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



06/26/19

ST. PETER 4TH OF JULY PARADE



FOURTH OF JULY FESTIVITIES

– Saint Peter's annual Independence Day celebration, **which is organized entirely by the Chamber of Commerce**

(not the City), will take place on...you guessed it...the Fourth of July! Activities begin with a parade down South Washington Avenue at 10:00 a.m. (see above map) followed by a picnic, entertainment and other activities in Minnesota Square Park before closing out the evening with fireworks at the Nicollet County Fairgrounds at approximately 10:00 p.m. For more information on the activities, please contact the Chamber of Commerce at 507-934-3400.

ARE YOU A PARADE SQUATTER? – Are you one of those folks who can't resist staking out your prime spot for the Fourth of July parade several days or

even a week or more in advance? If so, then you are a parade squatter! Maybe the photo shown here is a little extreme, but sometimes it seems as if people start squatting earlier every year!

Saint Peter isn't the only area community that struggles with parade squatters and some have

gone so far as to prohibit this practice along their parade routes. But we would like to avoid being the parade police, so, before everyone lines up to cordon off

their spot or "save" it with blankets staked to the ground or chairs tied to each other, let's take a



moment to review the rules of the game that we hope everyone will abide by.

- The parade takes place in a residential neighborhood with mostly privately owned property. Although the boulevard is public property, the private property owners are responsible for maintaining the grass and they will most likely need to mow before the parade. Staking your spot too early won't allow them to care for the lawn and they may remove whatever you left so they can maintain the lawn.
- Staking blankets or tarps to the ground will cause the grass underneath to become brown or yellow...even if the tarp is only down for a day or so. And "staking" something into the ground is dangerous especially in the boulevard where lots of utility lines and pipes are buried. This goes for those who put up tents and stake them to the ground also.
- Ever put down a chair or really nice blanket and come back on parade day with it nowhere in sight? That's the risk you take of staking out your spot too early. Not everyone is honest and lots of stuff goes missing.
- Anything placed in Gorman Park will almost surely be moved before the event. City crews work very hard to get the city looking spiffy for the Fourth when over 10,000 people come to town for the various events. Public Works crews will mow the parks a day or two in advance, set up bleachers in Gorman Park and generally work in all the areas where folks want to stake their claim. To prevent damage to our mowing equipment and injuries to our employees, anything left on the boulevard in any of the City's parks earlier than the night before the parade may be removed.
- Weather in July can include strong storms and if those storms come before the parade, a lot of the materials left to save a spot can end up blocks away or in people's back yards. Keep that in mind when saving your spot.
- And then there is after the parade.....everyone is expected to clean up after themselves and when you leave, we ask that you take all of your personal belongings home with you. Unfortunately not everyone abides by this rule and the parade route is sometimes littered with broken chairs and other debris that just didn't make the trip home with the owner. The property owners who live along the parade route are gracious hosts during the event and we don't want them to have to clean up after parade watchers. With that in mind, we hope everyone continues to be a good guest.

So, as tempting as it may be to save a spot days in advance, we ask that everyone be courteous to those who live along the parade route and limit saving your spot to the day before. That also allows those who are coming from out of town to have the same opportunity for a prime viewing spot as those who live nearby and everyone can enjoy the parade!

DOGS AND THE FOURTH: Dog owners are reminded that with the exception of certified service animals, dogs and other pets are not allowed in Minnesota Square Park at any time and should be left at home during the Fourth of July festivities in the park. People with animals will be asked to leave the park and/or may be cited. So please leave Fido at home where he will probably be happier anyway!



FOURTH OF JULY CLOSURES – The list below shows closures of City offices related to the Fourth of July:

- All non-emergency City offices will be closed on July 4th
- Community Center – closed July 4th
- Transit – closed July 4th
- Library – closed July 4th

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS - Fireworks and celebrations seem to go together, especially during the Fourth of July. Firework celebrations can result in serious burns and eye injuries or even death. Before your family celebrates this year, make sure everyone knows about fireworks safety.

If not handled properly, fireworks can cause burns and eye injuries in children and adults. The best thing you can do to protect your child is not to use any fireworks at home - period. Attend public fireworks displays and leave the pyrotechnics to the professionals. Here are some tips that might save someone you love from injury or worse....

- Children should never play with fireworks. Things like firecrackers, rockets, and sparklers are just too dangerous. If you give your child a sparkler, make sure your child keeps it outside and away from their face, clothing, and hair. Sparklers can



reach 1,800° Fahrenheit (982° Celsius) - hot enough to melt gold.

- Buy only legal fireworks and store them in a cool, dry place. Legal fireworks have a label with the manufacturer's name and directions; illegal ones are usually, but not always, unlabeled. Illegal fireworks usually go by the names M-80, M100, blockbuster, or quarter pounder. These explosives were banned in 1966, but still account for many fireworks injuries.
- Never try to make your own fireworks.
- Always use fireworks outside and have a bucket of water and a hose or a fire extinguisher nearby in case of accidents.
- Steer clear of others - fireworks have been known to backfire or shoot off in the wrong direction. Never throw or point fireworks at someone, even in jest.
- Don't hold fireworks in your hand or have any part of your body over them while lighting. Wear some sort of eye protection, and avoid carrying fireworks in your pocket - the friction could set them off.
- Point fireworks away from homes, and keep away from brush, leaves, and flammable substances. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that local fire departments respond to more than 50,000 fires caused by fireworks each year.
- Light one firework at a time (not in glass or metal containers), and **never** relight a dud.
- Don't allow your child to pick up pieces of fireworks after an event. Some may still be ignited and can explode at any time.
- Soak all fireworks in a bucket of water before throwing them in the trash can.
- Think about your pet. Animals have sensitive ears and can be extremely frightened or stressed on the Fourth of July. Keep your pet indoors to reduce the risk that the pet will run loose or get injured.

If someone is injured by fireworks, immediately go to a doctor or hospital. If an eye injury occurs, don't touch or rub it, as this may cause even more damage. Also, don't flush the eye out with water or attempt to put any ointment on it. Instead, cut out the bottom of a paper cup, place it around the eye, and immediately seek medical attention - your eyesight may depend on it.

If it's a burn, remove clothing from the burned area and run cool, not cold, water over the burn (do not use ice). Call your doctor immediately.

Even if you have legal fireworks, **NO FIREWORKS ARE ALLOWED ON PUBLIC PROPERTY** including parks, streets, alleys,

government property or school property and to purchase fireworks, a person has to be at least 18 years of age. The penalty is pretty stiff for violations of fireworks regulations and could lead to imprisonment for anywhere from 90-365 days and/or payment of a fine of \$700-\$3,000, (depending on the amount of fireworks involved). For more information on the laws regarding fireworks and "what's legal, what's not", please visit the State Fire Marshal website at www.fire.state.mn.us/fireworksinfo.html or call the Police Department at 931-1550. You can also check out this safety video from the State Fire Marshal...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmT8Q-h5kvc&list=UUtlLz5GmDkDHIAaVIPLYRnQ&feature=share>

Fireworks are meant to be enjoyed, but you'll enjoy them much more knowing your family is safe. Take extra precautions this Fourth of July and your holiday will be a blast!

MOSQUITO SPRAYING - City staff will be spraying for mosquitoes at Minnesota Square Park before 6:00 a.m. on July 4th in preparation for Fourth of July activities. The spray is a contact type pesticide used to control adult mosquitoes and is safe for use around recreational and residential areas such as athletic fields, parks, and campsites.



Questions about mosquito spraying? Please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – This is the third in a series of "Makes Me Wonder" columns reviewing the City Council's "Items Of Vital Importance"

list....

Proactive housing solutions... this is a big one on the list of Issues of Vital Importance. Frankly, it is far too long to talk about here but I am happy to discuss this at almost any event.

Housing is such a big issue and the City has a done a tone of things to help to build affordable housing for rental and ownership including developing subdivisions like Nicollet Meadows, Washington Terrace and Traverse Green, to sponsoring Central Square Apartments, Park Row Crossing and now an effort to get funds for a rehab program.

This are all important ways to help keep our housing stock strong, help businesses have more employees that live locally and help our community grow at a steady manageable pace. I know not everyone believes the City should be involved in such things as housing, but without some involvement nothing would happen.

So...just like all things it's important to find the right balance. I see the biggest issues as three-fold. We need to continue to develop housing for working families at that price that will put rents in the \$800-\$1,100 range for families of four. We need to see new single family housing in the less than \$225,000 range. We need larger lot development that would allow for houses in the \$260,000 and up range. We also need housing rehab projects which is vital to keeping our older homes safe and water tight.

All of this is easy to talk about but very hard to do, so watch the City as we move forward in all of these areas. On some of them we are doing great, some not so much, and others we're still looking for ways to help the private sector do their share.

Proactive housing solutions... It makes me wonder.....



BIG NEWS FROM RIVER'S EDGE HOSPITAL! - River's Edge Hospital has been designated as an Orthopaedic Center of Excellence by DNV-GL Healthcare. Orthopaedic Center of Excellence designation affirms an organization's excellence in the provision of diagnostic

services, surgical services, and therapies related to orthopedic care.

"This designation assures our community that we have the ability to provide consistent, high quality orthopedic care." says George Rohrich, CEO, River's Edge Hospital. "The community can be confident that we have the right equipment, personnel and training to maintain our orthopedic service line at peak performance. Achieving this designation validates all the effort we have put into orthopedic services and to ensuring the health and safety of our patients."

The DNV-GL Healthcare Orthopaedic Center of Excellence designation is obtained by achieving certification in at least three (3) orthopedic service line programs based on requirements set forth by DNV-GL Healthcare, and informed by the guidelines of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

River's Edge received certifications in hip and knee replacement, shoulder surgery, and spine surgery. River's Edge Hospital is the third hospital in the U.S. and the first hospital in Minnesota to receive this certification.

"This additional Certification of Excellence in Spine and Shoulder surgery reflects the ongoing pursuit of high quality treatment and care for the orthopedic patient. River's Edge Hospital and Clinic and The Orthopaedic & Fracture Clinic have a common goal of providing the best orthopedic care in the region; this only amplifies the previous designations of excellence already awarded (knee and hip surgery). The community and region need to know that such a high quality center exists for their benefit and that we continue to strive for such quality on all that we do for our patients," said Andrew Meyers, CEO, The Orthopaedic & Fracture Clinic.

"Achieving designation shows a commitment to excellence," says Patrick Horine, CEO of DNV GL Healthcare. "It helps demonstrate to your community that you are performing at the highest level."

DNV GL is a world-leading certification body that helps businesses assure the performance of their organizations, products, people, facilities and supply chains through certification, verification, assessment, and training services.

Within healthcare, DNV GL helps its customers achieve excellence by improving quality and patient safety through hospital accreditation, disease-specific certifications and quality-management training.

The DNV GL operates in more than 100 countries. Its' 16,000 professionals are dedicated to helping customers make the world safer, smarter and greener.

For more information about DNV GL Healthcare, visit <https://www.dnvgl.us/assurance/healthcare>.



SPEEDING ENFORCEMENT - Are you one of those who just "can't drive 55"? If you are, it just might cost you.

Speeding endangers everyone on the road. We all know the frustrations of modern life and juggling a busy schedule, but speed limits are put in place to

protect all road users. Faster doesn't mean safer.

The Saint Peter Police Department will join with other state-wide enforcement agencies to provide extra patrols June 18th through July 21st

specifically focusing on those driving above the posted speed limits!

So, obey the posted speed limits, buckle up and let's all work #TowardZeroDeaths.

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on June 10, 2019 included authorization for purchase of an additional computer network switch by River's Edge Hospital; approval for City assistance for the Fourth of July event; approval for temporary closure of the west one-half of the 100 block of West Park Row on July 27th for an event at Arrow Ace Hardware; approval of a Peddler Permit; and a closed session to discuss a possible land transaction as authorized under Minnesota State Statutes.

The next regular City Council meeting will be Monday, June 24th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.



SMMPA NEWS BRIEFS– The following news briefs are reprinted from “Current”, a Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) publication. The City of Saint Peter is a member of SMMPA.

- **Safety Award** - New Prague Utilities Commission, Owatonna Public Utilities and the City of Saint Peter were among the 113 utilities across the country that received the Safety Award of Excellence from the American Public Power Association for safe operating practices in 2018. The award recognizes utilities with the lowest 2018 safety-incidence rate within their groups, determined by worker-hours of exposure. The incidence rate is based on the number of work-related reportable injuries or illnesses and the number of worker-hours, as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
- **Meeting the Energy-Savings Goal** - SMMPA member utilities met the Minnesota Energy-Savings Goal of saving energy equivalent to 1.5 percent of retail electric sales in 2018, just as

they have every year since the goal took effect in 2010. SMMPA reimbursed members \$4.4 million in 2018 for customer rebates on energy-saving products that reduce customer's bills by more than \$6.1 million annually over the life of the products. Those products lowered annual usage in 2018 by 54,117 megawatt hours – enough to power about 7,403 average Minnesota homes.

- **Reducing Our Carbon Footprint** – Since 2005, SMMPA has developed energy-efficiency programs, improved operating efficiency of generation, installed emission controls, and diversified its generation portfolio, mainly with renewable resources. Collectively, these efforts have reduced carbon-dioxide emissions by 5.5 million tons – the same impact as removing nearly 1.2 million passenger cars from the road or planting 6.5 million acres of trees. SMMPA recently updated the “Our Commitment To Sustainability: Reducing Our Carbon Footprint” brochure, available in the Sustainability section of SMMPA's website, to reflect additional reductions made in 2018.

To learn more about SMMPA, or any of its 18 member utilities, please visit www.smmpa.com.

HELP WANTED – The City of Saint Peter is now accepting applications for the following part-time position:

- **PART-TIME LIBRARY CIRCULATION CLERK** in the Recreation and Leisure Services Department. Minimum qualifications: Experience working with public in customer service setting. Desired qualifications: Experience in provision of library services; ability to operate a PC and use internet and related programs including on-line cataloging system. Up to 19 hours per week (M-F mainly daytime hours with some evenings and Saturdays). \$11.36/hour. Applicants are required to complete City application form available from the City Administrator's office at 227 South Front Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1-5:00 p.m. or by calling (507) 934-0663. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator's office by 5:00 pm July 19, 2019. Faxed, late, and/or emailed applications will not be accepted. AA/EEO

CITY MEETING CALENDAR – For questions on meeting dates/times, please contact the City Administrator’s Office at 934-0663. Full calendar available at www.saintpetermn.gov.

Wednesday	June 26	12:30 p.m.		Hospital Commission
Thursday	June 27	12:00 noon		Economic Development Authority
Friday	June 28	8:00 a.m.		Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	July 1	3:30 p.m.		Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	July 1	5:30 p.m.		City Council Workshop
Thursday	July 4			FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Monday	July 8	7:00 p.m.		City Council Meeting
Thursday	July 11	5:30 p.m.		Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	July 15	5:30 p.m.		City Council Workshop
Monday	July 15	7:00 p.m.		Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday	July 22	7:00 p.m.		City Council Meeting
Wednesday	July 24	12:30 p.m.		Hospital Commission
Thursday	July 25	12:00 noon		Economic Development Authority
Friday	July 26	8:00 a.m.		Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	July 29	3:00 p.m.		City Council Goal Session
Tuesday	July 30	5:30 p.m.		Heritage Preservation Commission
Tuesday- Tuesday	July 30 August 13	8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.		CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FILING PERIOD