

# 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) [www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter](http://www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter)



06/08/16



**MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE)** – *Recently I was asked....* “It seems as if the electrical outages have been few and far between. What’s the deal?”

Well that answer is fairly simple....our electrical system is well maintained, there continues to be substantial investment in improvements and the system is somewhat new - that is if you consider 15 years old to be new!

Prior to the tornado in 1998 the City's electrical system was 95% overhead with about 5% in underground. Overhead cables are exposed to the elements and to squirrels and other vermin. Outages in the mid- to late-1990's were pretty frequent. Here's where the tornado played a huge role.

After the tornado several utility companies came to Saint Peter and helped us rebuild a temporary overhead electrical system; a system that would allow the community to begin the rebuilding process. This rebuild was a temporary solution with the long term solution being a new underground system including a complete rebuild from substation to each property. The new underground rebuild took place from the late fall of 1998 to 2000 which is what we have today.

Our electrical system is very dependable and is measured by three different electric industry standards. Which include:

- System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) – which is the total duration of an electrical interruption for the average customer. Think of it this way, outage begins, City restores, City determines number of customers impacted compared to total customers to determine an average customer outage duration. An example is 50% of customers are

out of power for 10 minutes which equates to the entire customer base being out of power for 5 minutes. This is the most common evaluation tool for a utility company.

- Customer Average Interruption Duration Index (CAIDI) – which is duration off interruptions the average customer experiences during the year. This number tells us how responsive the utility is in resolving issues in the system. Utility managers look at this number to determine how well staff provides service to their customers. In short, this number shows once the power goes out how quickly and efficiently the Utility staff gets you up and running.
- System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI) – is the average number of times a customer can expect to experience an outage during the year. This is called our “probability” number. It is what a customer can expect to experience in the probability of experiencing an outage. This number tells us how well the system has been operating and if there redundancy so that there is a low probability a customer will experience an outage.

So now that you know the evaluation measures - how do we stack up? Last year, the electric system experienced 12 outages, 4 were caused by birds and other animals, 4 were caused by human error such as a contractor hitting an electric cable and 4 were because of faulty equipment or a line failure.

Our SAIDI number was 17.93 minutes. This means our average customer was without power for a total of 18 minutes throughout the calendar year. Or, it means the City supplied dependable power to your property for 525,542 minutes of the year.

Our CAIDI number was 31.34 minutes. This means the average outage lasted 31.34 minutes over our entire system. Again, this tells me that staff was very prompt in responding to an outage

and getting the problem fixed within a very short time frame. Our experienced staff takes pride in restoring and providing great service.

Now that we know our numbers how do we compare to others?

	<b>SAIDI</b>	<b>CAIDI</b>	<b>SAFAI</b>
Saint Peter	18	32	0.57
Xcel (avg) *	96	113	0.84
National (avg) ^	70	87	0.90

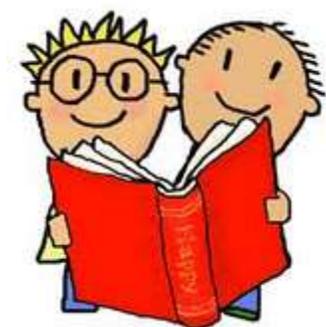
\* Xcel information from the Minnesota Municipal Power Association  
 ^ National information supplied by American Public Power Association

This information comes as no surprise. A committed effort to improve system dependability since the year 2000 has been ongoing with the addition of a new substation at Sunrise Drive and a new distribution system feed from the west into our industrial park. Current staff has also played a large role in the success of system operations with many members having been on staff for over 15 years.

We have continued to make substantial improvement to our system and while those improvements cost money, it is clear that they have an impact on reliability for your home and for our businesses.

In the last couple of months the Council discussed the Electric budget and increases in rates driven by power supply cost increases. Would you be okay with cheaper rates and more outages or time without power? The Council has considered that question. What is the value of reliability? Maybe it depends on what you use the electricity for. Maybe an outage at noon time is fine at my house but if I owned a restaurant it might not be.

As a famous spokesperson said in a motel commercial – “we’ll keep the lights on for you”. It makes me wonder ...



**LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM –**  
 The Saint Peter Public Library is pleased to present the 2016 Summer Reading Program “ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, READ!”

Young people everywhere share a passion for play. This summer, we will explore sports, games and movement through books, activities, art and more! Every child, whether a sports fan or not, is sure to enjoy this summer’s program!

Check out the calendar of free events posted on the library website, or at the library for a full schedule of events. There is something for everyone! Local athletes, movers and shakers will be guest Storytime readers most Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

How does your child participate in the program? Read for 10 days to complete a reading log. Turn it in for a prize. Read 50 days this summer, and you will complete the program! Weekly drawings of completed reading logs will be held for additional prizes!

Children can visit the library to pick up reading logs, play mini-golf in the library, games, story walk, bike helmet fitting and safety, sign up to read with Coco the Therapy Dog and more!

What’s on deck for this summer?

- Happy Pig Day Party
- Big St. Peter Lego Build
- Moo! Story walk
- Half-Pint Horses
- Climb Theatre
- Canvas Art
- Amazing Hoopsters
- Brian the Storyman from England
- Ten Pigs Storywalk
- Reading Marathon
- Battle of the Books
- Family Fort Building
- Game Night

**RELIABLE PUBLIC POWER PROVIDER DESIGNATION**

Recently the Electric Utility of the City of Saint Peter Public Works Department was



designated an RP3 Community. RP3 stands for Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) program which is really a peer-evaluation of a utility’s demonstrated proficiency in reliability, safety, work force development, and system improvement initiatives on a national level. The evaluation looks at sound business practices and recognizes utilities who are industry leaders.

The City’s Electric Utility strives to meet customer expectations for delivery of dependable public power. The goal of the RP3 designation is to provide a utility with an evaluation tool to see how they are operating by comparing national benchmarks to their performance. In meeting this goal the electrical system and staff are evaluated, areas include:

- System Improvements – measures taken to assure electrical system dependability, completing necessary research on possible

system improvements. Operating an effective demand side management program while implementing conservation measures. Balancing electric load requirements with the customer needs.

- Reliability – taking necessary steps and implementing procedures to minimize outages and maintain a high standard of service. Monitoring and protecting infrastructure investments. Working with other public power partners by way of mutual aid agreements and monitoring infrastructure security.
- Safety – how is the utility protecting its employee's and how do those employee's work with the day to maintain the customer has dependable power?
- Workforce Development – what steps are taken to make sure that our work force is educated, a participant in the decision making process and involved within the community and engaged at work.

After evaluation by the peer group, if the Utility meets the criteria of RP3 the second goal is to receive “national recognition” for the excellent service provided. Acknowledgement of this success with our customers, our community leaders, state and federal regulatory agencies, and members of Congress is shared. Saint Peter received the RP3 designation this month at the American Public Power Association Engineering & Operations Technical Conference held in Minneapolis.

Nationally only 219 public power providers met the criteria for RP3. In Minnesota, there are only 9 power providers meeting the national expectations. The Saint Peter Electric Utility is proud to be one of them.

**GARAGE SALE SIGN REMINDER** - It's that time of year again....garage sale season! The season comes with the usual collection of complaints and questions regarding garage sale signs, so here are the important facts to remember:

- No signs may be attached in any manner to a sign post, regulatory sign, street light, tree or any other City or State owned post or facility.
- No signs may be posted on any City owned property including rights-of-way and/or City parks.
- Signs must not impede the sightlines of drivers.
- The person who puts the sign up is responsible for taking the sign down immediately following a garage sale and for removing signs which become tattered or loose.



- Any signs which violate these guidelines will be taken down by City employees and disposed of without notice.

And as you are scouting out locations of garage sales, please remember to pull over to the curb before writing down addresses for sales. Don't stop at a yellow painted curb, don't stop in the middle of traffic lanes, and be aware of and prevent traffic safety issues. Johnson Park, located at the intersection of Broadway Avenue and Washington Avenue, is a particularly dangerous area for vehicles and pedestrians alike when drivers stop or slow down for a look at the garage sale signs. Thanks for your cooperation!

**RECREATIONAL FIRES** - As the temps get warmer more residents become interested in spending time outdoors during the evening hours and for many of



you that means having recreational fires on private property. But before you put match to firewood please note that fires are only allowed if they comply with the City's

guidelines:

- There must be a fireproof fire ring separating the fire from the surrounding area.
- The fire ring cannot be larger than 36 inches in diameter.
- Only dry kindling wood can be burned in the fire ring. This prohibits the use of wood cut or designed for construction or from construction, including furniture, wood with any finish or foreign substance on it, twigs, leaves, green (wet) wood and anything other than wood cut from trees. (And to prevent the spread of Emerald Ash borer, please only use wood from this area. Transporting wood from other areas could spread the bug and harm our trees.)
- The wood must be entirely within the fire ring.
- Flames cannot be allowed to reach higher than three (3) feet.
- There must be a garden hose connected to a water source within reach of the fire.
- The fire must be tended at all times.
- The fire must be for recreation only.
- The fire cannot be deemed careless in any manner due to strong winds or other circumstances and if the fire is found to be careless in nature, violators will be prosecuted.

By following these guidelines, you and your guests should be able to safely enjoy a recreational fire. This information is also available on the City's website (<http://www.saintpetermn.gov/recreational->

[fire-standards](#)) should you need it at a later date. And remember.....in the event of a fire emergency, please dial 911.

## ONE TEXT OR CALL COULD **WRECK** IT ALL

**SPEAK UP, PUT THE PHONE DOWN -** A young mother of two, killed while on a bike ride with her kids. A teenager who was starting the first day of

her senior year in high school, crashes and dies while sending a text. These are examples of how distracted driving has changed Minnesota lives in recent years. Throughout the year the Saint Peter Police Department works with other law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Minnesota to conduct extra enforcement on Minnesota roads in an effort to reduce distracted driving, drunk driving and other dangerous behaviors.

The Police Department encourages anyone riding with a distracted driver to speak up and tell them to put the phone down. The result of distracted driving can be devastating as it contributes to one in four crashes, 64 deaths and 234 serious injuries each year in Minnesota.

"We all must do our part to change the behaviors of drivers wanting to text and drive," said Saint Peter Officer Jon Hughes. "Speak up, tell your friends and loved ones to put the phone down before it's too late."

In 2014 in Minnesota distracted driving caused 47 deaths, 7,369 injuries, and 16,900 crashes. But it's not just a Minnesota problem. Nationwide statistics show:

- Drivers in their 20's make up 27% of the distracted drivers in fatal crashes. - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
- During daylight hours, approximately 666,000 drivers are using cell phones or electronic devices while driving. - National Occupant Protection Use Survey
- Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. - Virginia Tech Transportation Institute
- 25% of teens respond to a text message once or more every time they drive. - University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute
- Reaching for a phone, dialing or texting increases the risk of getting into a crash by three times. - Virginia Tech Transportation Institute

In Minnesota, it is illegal for drivers to read, compose or send texts and emails, and access the

web while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic. **That includes sitting at a stoplight or stop sign.** It is also illegal for drivers with only a permit or provisional driver's license to use a cell phone while driving, except for emergencies to call 911.

If you injure or kill someone because of texting and driving, you can face a felony charge of criminal vehicular operation or homicide.

The Saint Peter Police Department underscores that driver distractions is not specific to a cell phone. It can also include reaching for items, fiddling with radio/music/vehicle controls, eating/drinking, dealing with rowdy passengers, grooming and more.

"At 55 miles per hour, texting and driving is like traveling the length of a football field without looking up," said Officer Hughes. "Make the right choice before you get behind the wheel and put the phone down."

Drivers are encouraged to make the right choices:

- Cell phones — Put the phone down, turn it off or place it out of reach.
- Music and other controls — Pre-program radio stations and arrange music in an easy-to-access spot. Adjust mirrors and ventilation before traveling.
- Navigation — Map out the destination and enter the GPS route in advance.
- Eating and drinking — Avoid messy foods and secure drinks.
- Children — Teach children the importance of good behavior in a vehicle and model proper driving behavior.
- Passengers — Speak up to stop drivers from distracted driving behavior and offer to help with anything that takes the driver's attention off the road.

Distracted driving education is a component of Minnesota's core traffic safety initiative, Toward Zero Deaths (TZD). A primary vision of the TZD program is to create a safe driving culture in Minnesota in which motorists support a goal of zero road fatalities by practicing and promoting safe and smart driving behavior. TZD focuses on the application of four strategic areas to reduce crashes - education, enforcement, engineering and emergency trauma response.

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council on May 23, 2016 included...adoption of a resolution of support for the Solace Project; authorization for execution of a pre-development



services contract with Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership for Traverse Green Subdivision development; acceptance of a proposal from Wells Federal Bank for sale of \$365,000 in equipment certificates; approval of City assistance requests for BluesFest and the Fourth of July community events; and approval of two new Tree Worker license applications.

The next City Council meeting is June 13, 2016 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 507-934-0663. Copies of the Council packet are also available on the City's website at [www.saintpetermn.gov/city](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city).

#### **ROUTE BUS FARES –**

Discounted fares on the ROUTE bus for students ages 5 to 17 begin May 31st and end August 19<sup>th</sup>. Students in that age group may ride the



ROUTE bus for a \$1.00 cash fare instead of the normal fare of \$1.75. The ROUTE bus deviates up to two blocks from the path between scheduled stops to pick up or drop off passengers. This means that passengers may be picked up and dropped off at stops that are not on the schedule such as Jefferson Fields, the swimming pool or Gault Park.

A passenger wishing to be picked up at a location other than a scheduled stop simply needs to call 934-6070 and request the ROUTE bus pick up at their location. Once on the bus the passenger should tell the Driver where he or she wishes to go, if it is not already a scheduled stop.

The City hopes the discounted fare will assist parents with their transportation needs over the summer and also encourage those who do not already use public transit to give it a try.

Please call Transit Coordinator Wayne Albers at 934-0668 with any questions concerning how the transit system can best serve your needs.

**RIVER'S EDGE HOSPITAL RECEIVES AWARDS -** The Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) on May 20 honored innovative programs and outstanding leaders in health care at its 32nd annual awards ceremony.

River's Edge Hospital and Clinic received awards for "Best Minnesota Hospital Workplace" and "Patient Safety Improvement".

Seventeen awards were given for extraordinary achievement in categories ranging from advocacy on behalf of hospitals and volunteerism to innovation and improvement in patient care and patient safety.

"Each day, all across the state, Minnesota's hospitals and health systems are working to strengthen the health of our communities," said MHA President and CEO Lawrence Massa. "Our exceptional care teams set the bar high for patient care and for meeting the needs of their communities. Thanks to their expertise, diligence and commitment to excellence, Minnesota's hospitals continue to be among the best in the nation."

Congratulations to officials and staff at River's Edge Hospital and Clinic!

**LAWN MOWING REMINDERS –** How many times have you mowed your lawn already this spring? Once, twice, more? As residents get into the weekly mowing routine, please remember the following.



First of all.....the need to keep up with mowing. The City has already begun to receive complaints from neighbors about unsightly lawns all over the community. Weeds and grass longer than six inches in height are prohibited by the City Code and if property owners don't take care of their yards, the property own may receive a notice to comply or, in some cases, a citation. If the property owner still doesn't comply, the City will mow the property and provide the property owner with a very expensive bill.

Secondly.....it is illegal to mow lawn clippings into the street. If someone inadvertently (or on purpose) spreads lawn clippings into the street, it is up to the property owner to make sure the clippings are swept up and properly disposed of. This is easily avoided by simply turning the mower the other direction as you near the curb line.

Finally, residents are encouraged to leave the lawn clippings on their lawns or, if you absolutely can't bring yourself to do so, bag the clippings and dispose of the materials at the yard waste compost site at the corner of North Swift/St. Julien Street. Clippings that wind up in the street eventually find their way into the storm sewer system and travel, untreated, to the Minnesota River. This increases the phosphorus level in the river and endangers wildlife and plant life. For more information about this topic, please visit [www.cleanwatermn.org](http://www.cleanwatermn.org).

**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).

Monday	June 6	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	June 6	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	June 13	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Monday	June 20	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	June 20	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday	June 22	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	June 23	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	June 24	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	June 27	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	June 28	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Monday	July 4		LEGAL HOLIDAY – 4TH OF JULY – City offices closed
Tuesday	July 5	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Thursday	July 7	5:30 p.m.	Planning Commission
Monday	July 11	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	July 12	6:00 p.m.	Library Board Meeting
Monday	July 18	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	July 18	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Friday	July 22	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	July 25	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	July 26	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	July 27	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	July 28	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority