



City of St. Francis



Winter
Newsletter
2011

City Hall Phone: 763-753-2630 Fax: 763-753-9881

VISIT THE CITY WEBSITE AT www.stfrancismn.org TO GET THE LATEST UPDATES

City Council Members Phone Numbers

Jerry Tveit, Mayor	763-235-2310
Jeff Sandoval	763-235-2311
Steve Kane	763-235-2312
Chris McClish	763-235-2313
Tim Brown	763-235-2314

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS

23340 Cree Street
St. Francis, MN 55070
City Hall: 763-753-2630
Fax: 763-753-9881
Hours: 7:00am - 5:30pm
Monday -Thursday
(closed Fridays & Holidays)

You are now able to watch the City Council meetings "live" on the city website at:

www.stfrancismn.org

Council meetings are the 1st and 3rd of each month at 6:00pm.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

By now, no doubt, everybody has received their property tax statement for 2012. I know when I opened mine, I saw that my city portion of the tax increased by \$47.14. Since I know that the city council passed a ZERO % tax levy increase, I started asking questions to find out why this has happened. This is what I discovered.

The Minnesota Legislature decided to change the way property taxes were calculated. In the past, homeowners would receive a Homesteaded Credit. The Legislature did away with the credit and replaced it with a Homestead Exclusion. The exclusion excludes a portion of the property value from property taxes. The amount of the exclusion is based upon the value of the property. The more the property is worth, the LOWER the exclusion. That means that the property is assessed a greater portion of the taxes. There is a link to a short video on the City of St. Francis website that explains how the formula works. Nobody from the City knew exactly how the property taxes were going to be affected until the statements were mail out in late October. The levy did not change; the way the homeowners were assessed DID change. Taxes were NOT raised to pay for the new Public Works/Public Safety building.

The Public Works/Public Safety building is coming along nicely. The footings are poured and the walls should be going up soon. The weather has been on our side and that has allowed us to get on the fast track to get things done. I will keep you informed with more updates as they happen. Check out the City's web site for updates and to view the live webcam of the building project.

I also want to let everyone know that the 2012 Mayor's Trail Ride is going to be January 21 and we will be to leaving from the Anoka Co. Fairgrounds. The Mayor's of Andover, Anoka, Nowthen, Oak Grove and Ramsey will also be participating in the ride. The St. Francis portion of the proceeds will go to the St. Francis Ambassadors Program. Please come out and show your support for this worthwhile organization. Call 763-421-7130 for more information.

There are still openings on our Parks, and Planning and Zoning Commissions. Please stop by City Hall and fill out an application, only through your involvement can we make a positive difference in St. Francis. Let yourself be heard.

Jerry Tveit

Mayor of St. Francis

NEW PUBLIC WORKS/POLICE FACILITY

The Ground Breaking of the new Public Works/Police Facility, was Nov. 21, 2011. You can watch for updates, photos and videos as the facility is being constructed on the city website at www.stfrancismn.org



WASTEWATER

Over the last 2 months we have pulled 12 plugged pumps from our lift stations. We are finding the plugging issues are caused by toilets being used as trash receptacles. Please remind your family, friends and neighbors nothing should get “flushed” that isn’t a water based or food based by-product. Toilet paper is the only exception. Some of the objects we are finding include cleaning/disinfecting towels, baby wipes and disposable toilet brushes, these items should not be flushed.

LIQUID ASSETS MN

This program focuses on water infrastructure in Minnesota, and particularly on capital improvement needs due to aging infrastructure. It is based on a national public TV show from a few years ago, but this one focuses specifically on Minnesota cities. This program will be aired on **tpt** MN Channel 2.2 Tue Jan 17th @ 3:00 am, Tue Jan 17th @ 9:00 am, Tue Jan 17th @ 3:00 pm, and Tue Jan 17th @ 9:00 pm. It can also be viewed from **TPT’s** video vault, Visit: www.mnvideovault.org

A REMINDER ABOUT PLOWING, BLOWING AND SHOVELING SNOW ONTO OR ACROSS PUBLIC STREETS

The City of St Francis Police and Public Works Departments would like to remind residents and private snow removal operators that it is against State law to deposit snow onto or across a public street. Snow dumped, plowed, shoveled, blown or otherwise deposited onto or across a public street can lead to dangerous roads, drifting snow, slippery conditions, drainage problems, sight obstructions and can create a hazard for motorists, pedestrians and snowplow operators. Such placement of snow onto or across the public street is a violation of Minnesota Statute 160.27, Subdivision 5 and is punishable as a misdemeanor.

Please keep your children safe by NOT allowing them to play or build forts in snow deposited or piled in the road right of way.

SNOW REMOVAL & WINTER PARKING

A reminder that from November 1 - May 1, on-street parking of vehicles in St. Francis is prohibited between the hours of 1:00am and 11:00am. This ordinance improves the City’s ability to clear streets after an early morning snowfall. As always, no on-street parking is allowed at any time of the day during snow emergencies, when we have a snowfall of 2” or more, until the roads have been plowed to full width. Violators of our parking regulations will be ticketed and/or towed at the owner’s expense. Call our Public Works Director at 763-753-2630 with questions on these regulations.

Our first priority is to clear the main thoroughfares to enable emergency vehicles access into and out of our City. Once they have been cleared, our crews begin clearing less traveled streets and cul-de-sacs. Generally, it takes about eight hours to plow all of our City streets. Plowing begins at 2 a.m. in order to clear our streets prior to morning rush hour. Sanding trucks work almost every day, spreading a mixture of sand and salt to increase traction and promote melting.

SNOW ROUTES/SNOW EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Residents are asked to follow these steps to ensure service: Please remove cars from the street within 24 hours

- Remove emptied refuse containers
- Don’t park in front of your driveway
- Do not blow, push or pile snow onto the roadway
- Use caution and patience with snowplows and their drivers.

The City does not assume liability for damages to obstacles in the road right-of-way (fences, vegetation, irrigation heads, landscaping, etc). If possible, remove these obstacles from the right-of-way or mark them clearly to aid plow drivers.

Mailboxes are repaired or replaced only if the plow makes direct contact (sometimes snow from the plow can dislodge the box from the post or bend a weak post). Make sure your mailbox post is solid and securely fastened to the box.

Often, plow drivers literally “feel” their way along streets because of conditions, and regrettably lawns are cut up. If this happens to you, please report it to City Hall at 763-753-2630 prior to May 1st. Damages are repaired each spring with black dirt and seed.

The City of St. Francis has implemented a policy to assist the snow plow drivers in finding the edge of the pavement. Wooden lathe are distributed to interested residents at City Hall before the first snow plow event. This lathe should be used to mark the edge of the pavement. Pay special attention when staking corners as they are difficult for the snow plow drivers to judge. (Special note: For safety reasons, use only wooden lathe to mark the edge of the pavement, and then only drive them into the ground about 6 inches because of utility lines. The lathe will break off after a couple of plowing operation, but will have served their purpose by helping to establish the curb line. Please do not use metal fence posts. They will be removed by Public Works personnel due to the safety concerns that they represent.)



Police Department

RULES & REGULATIONS FOR CITY STREETS & WINTER PARKING

Abide by the winter parking ordinance. Violators of our parking regulations will be ticketed and/or towed at the owner's expense. For additional information on Rules and Regulations for Streets and Winter Parking, refer to the City Codes.

SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATION

Snowmobile Permits will need to be purchased for \$15.00 ANNUALLY. They are available at the police department Mon.- Fri. 6:00am - 4:30pm. The permit is valid for a one-year period from January to January. Any residents who have obtained a snowmobile permit prior to 2011 will need to apply next year for a new Local Access Sticker for the 2012 year and every following year.



For Rules and Regulations on snowmobiles, refer to the city website at www.stfrancismn.org under City Code, Chapter 7, Section 7-3-6 Recreational Motor Vehicles (including snowmobiles).

BUNKER HILLS COMPOST SITE

Special January 2012 Winter Hours:

Saturday, January 7 and 14: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Sunday, January 8 and 15: Noon – 4:30 pm

The Bunker Hills and Rice Creek Chain of Lakes compost sites will re-open on April 1, 2011, weather permitting.

Fees

There is a \$1.50 charge per Christmas tree. Christmas trees should be free of tinsel, and any ornaments, wire and stands. There is a fee of \$4 per vehicle for debagged leaves, grass clippings and garden waste up to four cubic yards. An additional .50 cents per yard will be charged in excess of four cubic yards. There is a variable fee for tree waste disposal, depending on the size and amount of the material. Residents are asked to keep yard

LOST OR STRAY DOGS

If you find a stray dog or need to report a lost dog, please call the Police Dept. at 911 and also call City Hall at 763-753-2630.



2012 BUDGET

For the 2012 Budget, the following chart shows where the general fund expenditures are spent. Public Safety at 42% covers police and fire protections. General Government at 18% covers council, administration, finance, elections, auditing, assessing, legal, and the city hall building expenditures. Public Works at 15% covers street maintenance and recycling. Transfers at 11% covers the transfers out to capital improvements for future purchases. Culture and Recreation at 10% covers parks.

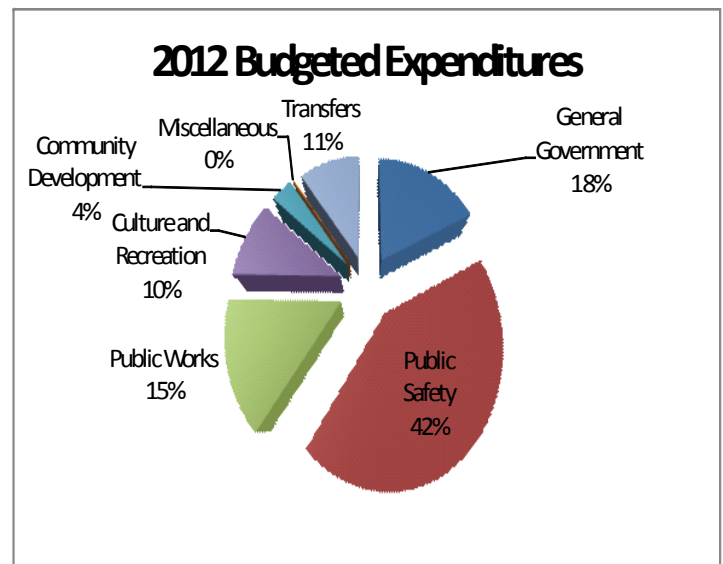
RECENT CITY CODE CHANGES

SIGN CODE

The City has a new sign ordinance in effect as of the beginning of this year. The City had received several complaints about temporary signs being displayed too long. From now on, temporary business signs will require a permit where the duration of time the sign is displayed can be monitored. The goal is to balance the appearance of the community with the needs of the business community as much as possible.

DRIVEWAYS

There have been a few issues around the rural portion of the City regarding illegal driveways. Driveways in the City are required to receive a permit prior to installation. This allows the City to ensure that the driveway location does not interfere with traffic and snowplowing and also ensures that emergency vehicles have proper access. Illegal and substandard driveways cost the tax payers more money on road and ditch maintenance as they lead to erosion of the shoulder into the ditch, block culverts, and compromise the stability of the shoulder.



Welcome our new Building Inspector, Andy Schreder. His email address is: bldginsp@stfrancismn.org

website: www.stfrancismn.org
city@stfrancismn.org

ERCWSSPOSTAL PATRON



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PERMITTED NO. 8
St. Francis, MN
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CITY OF ST. FRANCIS WEBSITE: www.stfrancismn.org

RECYCLE YOUR HOLIDAY LIGHTS

If you came across holiday lights and extension cords that no longer worked this past holiday season, you can now recycle those lights.

There is a drop off box inside city hall for your convenience. This program is being offered through the **Recycling Association of MN Recycle Your Holidays™ program.**

Strings of holiday lights are disassembled and parts such as copper wires and light bulbs are recycled.



THIS IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS

It is distributed to all residents and businesses in the City. Past copies of the City newsletters are available on the website.

As always, feel free to communicate issues that you would like the City Council to observe. Comments may be directed to: city@stfrancismn.org or by calling City Hall at 763-753-2630.

BE INVOLVED AND MAKE YOURSELF HEARD

Check out the City's NEW designed website at:

www.stfrancismn.org

If you have trouble viewing the new website, type in www.stfrancismn.net in your browser and it will re-direct you to the new website. Be sure to save it as a "favorite" so you have easy access to current events going on in the City.

STREET LIGHTS



Notice a street light or pole in need of repair or paint? Is the light out, blinking on and off, or is there damage to the pole or light fixture? We would like to ask residents to get the pole number (it is posted on the pole) and call Connexus Energy's Outdoor Maintenance Customer Service at [763-323-2608](tel:763-323-2608).

Thank you for your cooperation!