

SPRING 2016 | VOL. 1, NO. 1

Much to Celebrate on Arbor Day

Arbor Day is the celebration of trees and their importance to communities. The first Arbor Day was celebrated April 10, 1872 in the State of Nebraska where more than 1 million trees were planted. In 1970, President Richard Nixon declared Arbor Day a federal holiday and it is observed the last Friday in April each year. Since then, several other countries have adopted similar observances, including Japan, Australia, Korea and Yugoslavia.

Trees positively impact energy used for heating and cooling, reducing costs by as much as 20 to 50 percent. A single 50-foot tree produces enough oxygen to support one person for a year and can absorb as much as 1 ton of carbon dioxide by the time it reaches 40 years.

Message from your Mayor



I would like to draw attention to the great job our Police Department is doing, even though they have been one to two officers short. I would also like to share some statistics for the

City of St. Francis that compares offenses in 2015 to 2014:

- Assaults were down 22%
- Narcotics offenses down by 37%
- D.U.I. down 12%
- Credit card fraud down 35%
- Gas no pay down 41%
- Harassment down 38%
- Theft down 8%

Much of the reason for these offenses going down is because of the proactive programs our officers have put into place. When you see an officer, please thank them for the wonderful job they are doing for our city.



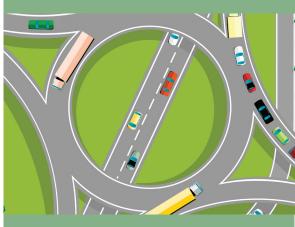
We can all help the officers by reporting any suspicious activity you notice around our community.

John and the crew at the St. Francis Bottle Shop would like to thank all of the citizens for their support. All of the profits go back into the community. Some of the purchases the city has been able to make with these funds are: Fire Pumper, Fire Station Expansion, Fire Tanker, Police Addition, Police Squad Car, Police Speed Sensor, Defibrillators for their Squad Cars, Street Lights and the Fireworks Display during Pioneer Days.

We have learned that the city is eligible for approximately another \$4 million grant for the wastewater treatment plant as long as the state legislature funds the Wastewater Infrastructure Fund (WIF) this session (this is in addition to the \$3 million we received in 2015). The Council sent a letter to Honorable Speaker Daudt asking that the legislature fund the WIF again in 2016, as the legislature has always funded this. I am personally speaking with Honorable Speaker Daudt and Senator Benson regarding this issue. Please write or email them to reiterate the importance of wastewater

continued on page 2

ROUNDABOUT | PAGE 4



CLEAN UP & RECYCLE | PAGE 5



PAGE 2 | ELECTIONS, CRAFT BREWS, PROPERTY TAX

PAGE 3 | ROADS, WATER, GUNS

PAGE 4 | HOME PROJECTS, COMPOST, SEPTIC SYSTEM

PAGE 5 | WATERING BAN

Daylight Savings is March 13

Clocks "spring forward," which means it's time for a seasonal safety check. Change the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. When removing old batteries, place a piece of electrical tape over the ends to help prevent a possible fire, and remember to recycle them when possible.

Mayor...from page 1

infrastructure funding and the dedication of these funds to our community.

Approximately 5,000 cubic yards of concrete has been poured in our wastewater treatment facility, which is about 55% of the total needed. Due to the mild winter, construction has been moving along and is on schedule. Startup of the entire plant is expected in the spring of 2017.

Governor Dayton has also proposed approximately \$210 million in funding for water infrastructure for Minnesota cities. I have sent a letter to Governor Dayton, copying Honorable Speaker Daudt and Senator Benson, in support of his efforts to lessen the impact of water infrastructure projects on Minnesota cities.

I invite you all to "Like" us on Facebook and visit our website to stay up-to-date with current city news.

Your Mayor, Steve Kane skane@stfrancismn.org

QUARTERLY SPOTLIGHT:

Kate Thunstrom, Community Economic Development Director

Kate is our first in-house CEDD, as in the past we have worked with a consulting firm. With this new full-time position, we now have someone to focus on the development of our city 100 percent of the time. She comes to us with 13 years of experience in the Community Development Department for Anoka County and will work with the community, building department and planning needs of the city. Kate holds a B.A. degree from Metropolitan State University in Individualized Social and Community Development. She has worked with construction, economic development, housing and homeless programs, as well as involvement within communities helping citizens and non-profit organizations. In her spare time she enjoys the great outdoors through hiking, running and biking.



The State Primary Election will be held August 9, 2016 and the General Election will be November 8, 2016. The City of St. Francis will hold a primary election for state offices; local offices will be on the ballot only if needed.

The filing period for local offices is May 17, 2016 to May 31, 2016, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. You must file in person at City Hall, 23340 Cree Street NW. The filing fee is \$5.

Local offices open for election are the Office of Mayor and two City Council Member seats. Call Barb Held at 763-235-2302, or email at city@stfrancismn.org with questions.

Election Judges

If you are interested in serving as an election judge in the upcoming Primary and General Elections, please contact Barb Held at 763-235-2302, or email at city@ stfrancismn.org by May 15, 2016. You do not need to be a St. Francis resident to be an election judge. Must be a Minnesota registered voter. Election Judges are compensated.

Local and National Brews Featured



St. Francis Bottle Shop is featuring many local breweries in the Craft Beer section, including Tin Whiskers, Lucid, Indeed, Excelsior, Surly, Schell, Summit, Brau Brothers, Big Wood, and Finnegans. We also have a selection of beers from around the country. If you would like us to carry a certain beer, please let us know at jschmidt@stfrancismn.org or cbuskey@stfrancismn.org. Visit stfrancismn.org/bottle-shop for featured monthly specials!

Wine Wednesday

- 15% off non-sale single bottles
- 20% off non-sale cases

How your Property Tax Dollars are Spent

Did you know that a Median Homeowner (\$133,800 for 2016) pays approximately \$633.63 in city taxes per year, equaling \$52.80 per month?

Monthly Costs to Residents	27.34	
Monthly Costs to Residents General Government	8.44	
Public Safety Streets & Recycling Parks & Trails	3.69	
Parks & Trails Community Development Services, includes transfers.	3.49	
Parks & Italie	4.45	
Parks & Trails	\$52.80	
1000		

Bridge Street Roundabouts

Excavation work on the Kerry Street re-alignment was completed in December. This work consisted of removing unsuitable (swamp) material and replacing with clean sand fill. Utility relocation along the project corridor began in late 2015 and will continue through the spring of 2016. Once warmer weather arrives this spring, crews will be widening Bridge Street on the south side of the existing roadway from just west of Rum River Boulevard to just east of Kerry Street. Full road construction is scheduled to begin on June 6th. Once this

begins, traffic will be "shifted" south on the new temporary pavement so that work can commence on the north side. Rum River Boulevard will be closed to thru traffic at that time. Weekly construction updates will be provided on the Anoka County Highway Department website for this project and all other county-related roadway projects. If you have questions, you can contact Harry Grams, Anoka County Construction Engineering Supervisor, at 763-862-4250.



With spring fast approaching and the Bridge Street roundabout project scheduled to continue, it is time to remind drivers of Work Zone Best Practices. In the last five years, there have been 200,000 work zone related injuries and 4,400 crash related deaths in work zones. Of the deaths, 85 percent were drivers and passengers of the vehicles. That means, 15 percent of the work zone crash related crashes resulted in killing workers or pedestrians in the work zone. This is especially important for the Bridge Street project due to its proximity to the schools in the area.

Work Zone Safety

- Stay alert, minimize distractions
- · Keep your headlights on
- Pay attention to the road
- · Merge into the proper lane
- Don't tailgate
- Obey the posted speed limit
- · Change lanes safely
- Follow instructions from flaggers
- · Expect the unexpected
- Be patient
- Buckle up, slow down, save a life*

*Federal Highway Administration

St. Francis Water is Safe

The water crisis in Flint, Michigan has drawn a great deal of attention and that has sparked some curiosity about the water in St. Francis. There are many factors affecting water in Flint, Michigan, but rest assured drinking water in St. Francis is safe.

The State of Minnesota Department of Health requires the City of St. Francis to sample 20 homes every 3 years for lead and copper levels. Those samples are sent to a certified lab in Duluth, Minnesota where they are analyzed. The City receives a report of lead and copper levels and whether or not any further action needs to be taken. Those results are then sent to each respective home where the water was collected from.

The City of St. Francis adds a water treatment aid to drinking water to prevent corrosion within copper pipes. Fire hydrants are flushed annually to remove any sediment in the lines. The City has not exceeded lead and copper levels.

Visit http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/factsheet/com/leadwatermn.html for more information on the Flint, Michigan water crisis.



Police Department

The St. Francis Police Department currently has an officer training to be an instructor for the "REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM" seminar. These classes will be taught by Officer Jody Black and is sponsored by the National Rifle Association. The seminar is intended for males and females, both young teens and adults. Topics that will be addressed include, "How to minimize risk of victimization", "How to create a personalized safety plan before it is needed", "Personal safety strategies", "Workplace safety", "Technological security", "Travel security" and more.

Gun Safety With Eddie Eagle

The Eddie Eagle class is returning for children who are currently in elementary school. Just as Smokey Bear teaches children not to play with matchbooks, Eddie Eagle teaches them not to play with firearms with a simple, memorable fourpart plan:

If you see a gun: STOP! Don't Touch. Leave the Area. Tell an Adult.

Whether or not a particular family owns firearms, chances are neighbors, friends, and relatives do. Did you know that officials estimate there are over 200 million firearms in the United States? Studies suggest they're kept in approximately half of all households. This makes it likely that children will encounter a firearm at some point, so make sure they're informed.

Both of these courses will be offered by the Police Department in the late spring and will be posted on the City of St. Francis website and electronic billboard with the upcoming dates.





Planning on a home project?

What is on your list of projects this year? Maybe a fence, deck, shed, or possibly a large project such as an addition or basement finish? There are resources available to assist you with building requirements.

Informational Handouts are available at City Hall and online at stfrancismn.org under the Building Department page, and will help guide you through the basics specific to your project type. Since each project is unique, remember that some rules may vary depending on your lot size, location or property zone.

You can review the City Fee Schedule and submit your Building Permit Application online for those projects that require it. Once your permit application is received, the zoning and building departments will review your plans and notify you.

The City of St. Francis' building inspectors, who oversee building projects and ensure your new home construction, residential repair and remodeling projects, meet safety

requirements. They also review building materials, energy, heating and plumbing codes.

St. Francis staff also performs plan review and inspections on both commercial and residential projects for the City of Nowthen. Benefits include increased inspector availability and experience, as well as a reduction in training costs and administrative needs. This joint agreement has been in place for nearly four years and continues to prove valuable as our cities work together in the goal of building and maintaining safe structures for residents and business owners.

As we wrap up a busy 2015 permit cycle, inspectors are preparing for an even more active 2016 construction season. We ask that you submit questions early, stay on top of inspection needs for your project, and be aware that permits are advanced as quickly as possible.

Know your part, be SepticSmart!

Keep it Protected—Get it Inspected!

Have your septic tank inspected and pumped out by a licensed septic tank contractor as needed (on average every three to five years).

Don't Strain your Drain!

Use water efficiently to avoid overtaxing your system. Fix household leaks, run the dishwasher and clothes washer only on full loads, and consider installing high-efficiency fixtures.

Think at the Sink!

Don't pour grease, fats, or harmful chemicals like paints and solvents down your sink. They can clog or harm your system.

Don't Overload the Commode!

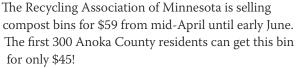
Do not flush non-degradable items such as dental floss, diapers, coffee grounds, or feminine hygiene products.

Shield your Field!

Care for your drainfield by only planting grass, not driving or parking on it, and reducing roof and surface water drainage near the drainfield.

Learn more at www.epa.gov/septicsmart.

Compost Bin Sale



To receive the discounted price, pre-order online before April 15th at RecycleMinnesota.org and enter promo code ANOKA or call 651-641-4589 and mention that you are an Anoka County resident.

Pick up your pre-ordered bin on April 29th at St. Francis Public Works, 4020 St. Francis Blvd NW, or May 20th in Ramsey, 14221 Jaspar St NW.

Visit RecycleMinnesota.org for more details.

Loan Program for Septic Systems & Private Wells

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is offering low interest loans to land owners with septic systems in need of repair/replacement, and private wells that are contaminated, in need of repair or needing to meet set back requirements. These below-market loans help improve water quality by correcting issues caused by non-point source pollution.

Visit www.anokacounty.us/cd or call 763-323-5722 for more information.



Time for Spring Cleanup

Now that spring is here, some yards are showing signs of debris and storage issues. This is a concern the city takes seriously as it can become a health and safety issue for children and pets, as well as contaminating ground and water.

If the city is contacted by a member of the community with a complaint, we will inspect the situation. You will be notified with Administrative Notice that will explain the issue, what needs to be addressed, and a date by which actions must be completed. If you are unable to meet this date, you may be able to request a temporary extension. Working with the city to remedy the situation may prevent unnecessary citations and fees.

A few helpful tips to eliminate those piles are to contact your waste service provider for excess or large items. Many of these companies now offer various types of dumpster bags that are inexpensive and easy to handle. If you have items such as antifreeze, paints or other household products that are corrosive, flammable, combustible or poisonous, check with the Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste Facility. You may also check with large electronic stores to see if they offer recycling programs that accept outdated printers and TVs.

The City of St. Francis has Recycling Day this year on April 30 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. taking a variety of items for free.



Watering Ban

The City of St. Francis will be enforcing an odd-even watering ban. Odd addresses may water on odd days only, and even addresses may water on even days only. You may not sprinkle between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Restrictions begin on May 1st and run through September 30th.

New sod and seed is exempt for 30 days. While you still need to pay for the water you use, no enforcement action will be taken if you notify the Public Works Department at 763-233-5200 prior to sod/seed installation.

St. Francis Recycling Day is April 30

Items Accepted For a Fee

Appliances (no commercial appliances)

Air Conditioner, Dehumidifier, Dishwasher, Garbage Disposal, Humidifier, Microwave, Stove, Water Heater and Trash Compactor, Refrigerator, Washer, Dryer, Freezer, Water Softener, \$10

Gas Refrigerators (Ammonia or LP) Minimum, \$75

Tires

Passenger Tires with Rims, \$3 Semi Tires, \$10

Electronics

Copier, Printer, VCR, DVD, Radio, Fax, Game Console, Cable Box, Pager, Digital Converter, Satellite Receiver, Small Server, MP3,Toaster, Vacuum, Blender, \$4

TV's

Up to 18 inch, \$15 19 to 28 inch, \$25 Console TVs and Oversized TVs, .\$35 All Wooden TVs add, \$5

Household

Mattresses, \$14 Box Springs, \$14 Saturday, April 30th 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Police and Public Works Facility 4020 St. Francis Blvd. NW

Items Accepted at NO Charge

- Tires without rims
- · Leaves and grass clippings free of debris
- Scrap metal
- Free of oil, rubber and plastic parts
- Used bicycles
- Automotive batteries
- House hold batteries
- · Large or small cardboard
- Household recyclables
- Household goods and clothing donations
- Usable, clean and free of tears
- · Paper shredding
- Keyboards and laptops

Volunteers Reserve The Right To Refuse Items. No Hazardous Materials Accepted.

Don't see an item you want to recycle? Call Public Works, 763-233-5200 or visit stfrancismn.org/recycling

Yard Work Safety

- Rake before you mow to prevent flying debris. Never mow in bare feet.
- Turn off mower engine before refueling.
 Don't smoke while pouring gasoline.
- · Never leave your mower unattended.
- Don't use electric mowers on wet grass.
- When using a ladder, check for safe and proper placement. Be aware of any obstructions, overhead wires, electrical, cable, phone and tree branches.
- Ensure tools are off before plugging in.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

Gopher State One Call, 651-454-0002 Toll Free: 1-800-252-1166 www.gopherstateonecall.org

Lawn Damage by a Plow?

If your lawn was damaged by a plow this winter, the city will repair the damage. Call Public Works at 763-233-5200 by May 1.

Funded by Anoka County Board of Commissioners and State SCORE Funds (Select Committee On Recycling and the Environment)



Chamber Currents

A publication of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce, St. Francis, Minnesota

Board of Directors

President

Joe Raus, Premier Specialties

Vice President

Eric Schmoll, American Mortgage & Equity Consultants, Inc.

Co-Treasurer

Kerby Scherer, St. Francis Subway

Co-Treasurer

Brenda Jacobs, St. Francis Dental

Secretary

Shannon Mart, Anoka Hennepin Credit Union

Directors

Joe Buhn, The Refuge Golf Club Dom Kowitz, Verizon/CellOnly Sam Schudi, Pillar Signs & Graphics Lindsey Johnson, St. Francis Physical Therapy

Administrative Assistant

Kristina Dahlin

For more information:

www.stfrancischamber.org chamber@stfrancischamber.org 763-438-5163

Volunteers-We Need You!!

The St. Francis Area Chamber Invites the Community to Get Involved in Pioneer Days, June 3-5, 2016!!

The St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce is looking for businesses, community members, students, booster clubs and church groups to volunteer, participate and contribute to ensure a successful Pioneer Days!



BUSINESS EXPO IN THE PARK

- Held Friday, Saturday, Sunday, June 3-5 in Community Park.
- Businesses, crafters, food vendors, non-profits will have exposure to thousands of people attending St. Francis Pioneer Days!
- New improved park layout.
- LIVE entertainment all three days!



Presented by the St. Francis Area **Chamber of Commerce**

ICIS PIONEER DAYS VOLUNTEER | CONTRIBUTE | PARTICIPATE

BUTTON DESIGN CONTEST



Win a \$100 Visa Card* Submit entry by Monday, March 21

Email to: pd.button@stfrancischamber.org

In person or mail to:

23847 Johnson Street NE, Ste 2 East Bethel, MN 55005

Questions, call 763-753-6614

* Sponsored by David Johnson, Highland Money Management

Businesses, food vendors, crafters and non-profit organizations

VOLUNTEER & CONTRIBUTE

- Donate toward or sponsor an event and promote your business.
- Cleanup is needed all weekend great way to fulfill service hours or give back!
- Give us your ideas!

PARADE

Enter your business or group, etc. to march in the Pioneer Days Parade!



Watch for info and upcoming meetings on Facebook and the chamber website. Click on Pioneer Days.

How to get involved and for more information, visit www.stfrancischamber.org or 763-438-5163

Auction & Prize Donors

We thank the following businesses for their donations to the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce annual dinner. Please patronize these businesses and thank them for their support.

A Little Wellness American Family Insurance Mary Dresch Agency Anoka Hennepin Credit Union

Anoka Ramsey Community

College Beef O' Bradys Bolton & Menk, Inc. Casey's General Store Connexus Energy Gold Star Kennels

Grand Casino Mille Lacs King's County Market Mansettis Pizza and Pasta McDonalds, St. Francis Minnesota Star Realty North Anoka Plumbing Opp Family Chiropractic Premier Specialties St. Francis Bottle Shop St. Francis Dental Care St. Francis Physical

Therapy

St. Francis True Value Hardware Subway – St. Francis The Refuge Golf Club & Restaurant Total Defense, Ramsey Tru-Cut Lawns, Inc Verizon/Cell Only, St. Francis

Pioneer Days Planning Meeting Set for March 9

The 2016 Pioneer Days Planning Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 7 p.m. at the St. Francis location of the Anoka Hennepin Credit Union in their Community Room. Open to All Chamber Members and Guests and the General Public!

Mission Statement

The St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce serves the needs of its membership in working toward the common goal of a growing, healthy business environment and community as a whole.

St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Members

Village Bank

Ace Solid Waste, Inc.

Advanced Automotive Care, Inc.

Air Comfort Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.

American Family Insurance Mary Dresch

Agency

American Mortgage and Equity Consultants,

Annabelle's Photography

Anoka Hennepin Credit Union

Anoka Ramsey Community College

Anytime Fitness

Barna, Guzy & Steffen, LTD

Beef O' Bradys Bolton & Menk, Inc. Captain's on Long Lake Casey's General Store Verizon/ Cell Only

Central Heating & Cooling, LLC

City of St. Francis

Coldwell Banker Burnet – Amy Lazere

Collision 2000 Connexus Energy County Market Crown Electric Custom Catering

Dairy Queen Orange Julius

Daves Heating and Air Conditioning Dennis Philp Construction, Inc.

Dugout Bar and Grill

Dusty's Drain Cleaning & Plumbing

ECM Publishers, Inc.

Edward Jones Investments

Elaine M. Mustari, CPA, LLC

Gerdin Auto & Tire

Gold Star Kennels

Greater Midwest Realty

Hidden Haven Golf Club

Highland Money Management Inc.

Isanti Retail Meats

Joslin & Moore Law Office, P.A.

Lakeside Cabinets and Woodworking

Legal Shield

Mansettis Pizza and Pasta

McDonalds

Minnesota Star Realty

North Anoka Plumbing, Inc.

Northstar Outdoors

Nowthen Plumbing, Inc.

Opp Family Chiropractic, P.A.

Patriot Lanes Bar & Grill

Pillar Signs and Graphics

Pizza Hut

Premier Specialties

Printing Unlimited

ReMax Associates Plus, Larry D. Anderson

Restyle & Consignments, LLP

Rum River Tree Farm

Sara Sauer, C.P.A., LLC

Schroeder's Creekside Stables

St. Francis Bottle Shop

St. Francis Collision & Glass

St. Francis Community for Drug Awareness

St. Francis Dental Care

St. Francis Fire Department

St. Francis Insurance Agency, Inc.

St. Francis Lions Club

St. Francis Physical Therapy

St. Francis True Value Hardware

St. Francis United Methodist Church

St. Francis Veterinary Clinic

Steve's Collision

Subway – Oak Grove

Subway - St. Francis

T & W Adventures

TC Net-Works, Inc.

That Other Thrift Store

The Bridge

The Courier

The Oaks of Lake George

The Ponds Golf Course & Restaurant The Refuge Golf Club & Restaurant

Trinity Lutheran Church & School

Tru-Cut Lawns, Inc

Tyrone Transportation, Inc.

Village Bank

ECRWSS POSTAL PATRON

city@stfrancismn.org www.stfrancismn.org

23340 Cree Street NW St. Francis, MN 55070



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PERMIT NO. 8
St. Francis, MN
55070

Events Calendar

Mar 13:	Daylight Savings 2 a.m.
Mar 18:	EBCS Carnival Pizza Night

East Bethel Community School 5:30 p.m.

Mar 19: **Easter Egg Hunt**, Community Park 10 a.m. SHARP
Mar 19: **SFES Carnival**, St. Francis Elementary School 11 a.m.

Mar 20: **Spring Begins**

25-30: ISD #15 Spring Break

Mar 27: **Easter Sunday**

Apr 9: **Lioness Fashion Show,** American Legion 11 a.m.

Apr 9: **St. Francis High School Prom**

Apr 16: CCCS Carnival, Cedar Creek Community School 11 a.m.

Apr 30: St. Francis Recycling Day,

Police and Public Works Facility 8 a.m.

Apr 30: 4-H Clover Dash, Bunker Hills Regional Park

May 2-6: Well Water Wise Week

May 2-6: **Hydrant Flushing**

May 7: **Pet Clinic,** Fire Station 9 a.m.

May 30: **Memorial Day** – City Offices Closed

June 3-5: **St. Francis Pioneer Days!**

City Council Meetings, 6 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month.

Planning Commission Meetings. 7 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month.

ISD #15 District Office, 4115 Ambassador Blvd NW

Having an Event?



Woodbury Park, 3646 Bridge Street NW, with its brick path, gazebo, fountain and perennial gardens is a great venue for weddings or other special ceremonies.

The Community Center, 23340

Cree Street NW, is a great place to hold your next birthday party, shower, or meeting. This facility holds 62 people and includes a coffee maker, sink, restroom, tables, and chairs.



For a complete list of available facilities, rental rates, or to check availability, contact City Hall at 763-753-2630, or email city@ stfrancismn.org.