Adopt-A-Park

Are you looking for local volunteering opportunities? Would you like to help keep our City’s parks and trails clean and looking beautiful? Then the Adopt-A-Park Program is the right program for you!

The City of St. Francis’ Adopt-A-Park Program encourages volunteers, with the assistance of the Public Works Department, to adopt a park or trail in St. Francis for regular maintenance and cleanup, including picking up litter and planting flowers. The program’s mission is to beautify city parks and promote neighborhood and community involvement. This is a great opportunity for individuals, families, organizations, churches, service clubs, youth groups, schools and businesses to get involved in the community.

Message from your Mayor

Well, it looks like summer may finally be here. I want to take the time to bring you up to date on some of the things happening in our City. At the end of April, the City held a recycle day. I worked along with our staff and I can tell you that in my opinion it was a success. It was a fun day and a lot of items were recycled, which is good for our City.

The Community Development Director and committee are putting together a plan and direction for our City into the future. We call it “St. Francis Forward.” This is being done along with the Met Council in order to plan and prepare our City as far out as the year 2040. You can help by attending meetings that are posted on the City website, or call in to City staff with any ideas that you think might be of benefit to our City going forward.

I want to let everyone know that City Council and I, along with staff, hear you about our water rates and it is a top priority. We are leaving no stone unturned in our effort to get these rates lowered. That is why you elected us!

I also want to let you know that we hear you about getting a stoplight at the intersection of Pederson Drive and CR 47. I, along with City staff, have had a meeting with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and Anoka County to begin the process towards getting that accomplished.

The City Council along with staff have had work sessions to discuss the issue of allowing residents to have chickens on their properties. We are checking on how other cities handle this issue and will be making a decision on this in the near future.

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We are in the process of updating the City website, which will be up and running in August. The new website will offer better research ability for City building codes, ongoing/updated information on road construction projects, subscriptions for email updates, and a lot more. All of this within two clicks of your mouse.

I want to remind everyone of our Pioneer Days coming up on June 9 - 11. I will be there volunteering and hope to see you there enjoying all of the festivities.

Hope you have a great summer.

Regards,
Mayor Feldman

City Council Highlights

City Council meets the first and third Monday of the month. In each issue of the newsletter we will highlight items the Council has addressed over the last three months:

- The city entered into agreements with new Planning and Engineering companies
- Entered into a land lease option agreement with Connexus Energy to allow solar panels at the wastewater treatment facility site
- Authorized staff to contract for new website and include tools to make the site and City Codes more user friendly
- Revisions to the Rental Housing Licensing Registration, including reducing fees
- A City Ordinance was revised to allow Sunday Liquor Sales at the municipal Bottle Shop

Crosswalk Safety Tips - Slow Down

As a pedestrian...

- Although a crosswalk exists at every intersection, whether marked or not, it is still your responsibility to make sure all vehicles have yielded before stepping into a crosswalk and crossing the roadway.
- Whenever approaching a crosswalk you should remove your earbuds, turn off your music, and stop texting or talking on the phone. Be attentive when crossing. Distractions can lead to accidents.
- Make your intention to cross the road known by:
  1. Extending your arm
  2. Illuminating an overhead light
  3. Or extending and waving a crosswalk flag
- Make eye contact with the driver. Never assume a driver sees you.
- Be especially alert for turning vehicles – many vehicle-pedestrian incidents occur with a right-turning vehicle.
- If you are not in a marked crosswalk, as a pedestrian you must yield to all vehicles.

As a driver...

- Drivers must yield the right of way to pedestrians lawfully in, or stopped at a marked crosswalk.
- Stay alert and reduce speed in areas with crosswalks.
- Avoid distractions – using a cell phone, any hand-held device, listening to loud music, reaching for something on the floor, etc. These types of distractions can easily lead to accidents.
- Proactively check for pedestrians. In the same way you use your mirrors to be aware of traffic, check sidewalks and side streets for pedestrians who may be crossing at an upcoming crosswalk.
- Wait until pedestrians have crossed at least one lane past the lane you are in before resuming travel.
- Never pass another vehicle that has stopped or is slowing down at a crosswalk.
- Remember that it is unlawful and unsafe to pass another vehicle on the shoulder, as many pedestrians use the shoulder to walk.
What to do with grass clippings

Here are some tips to put your grass clippings to good use:

1. Give your hedges a helping hand. Grass clippings are not only a great natural fertilizer, but they are also a fantastic defense against weeds. By placing some grass clippings underneath the base of your hedges and bushes it will prevent weeds from growing. It also has the additional benefit of containing water which will be added to the soil when the grass breaks down. For best results, add about an inch and a half of clippings around the base of the hedge avoiding the main stems.

2. Create your own compost. Every compost heap needs a mixture of green and brown material, and grass clippings are an easy and readily available source of green material for you to use. Creating your own compost is the easy, cost effective way to add nutrients to your plants and lawn.

3. Save your vegetables. If you grow your own vegetables you may find that slugs and snails often frequent your crop. One way to remove them without the use of pesticides is to dry out your grass clippings and then add them in thin layers around your vegetables. This may deter those pesky critters from taking a nibble out of your crops, allowing you to enjoy them that much more.

Things NOT to do with grass clippings:

1. Some people are often tempted to burn their garden waste. This is a huge shame as much of it can be naturally recycled to make your garden healthier. It can also create a lot of smoke, which can annoy the neighbors, and it creates carbon dioxide which is added to the atmosphere.

2. People are tempted to throw their grass clippings into their general waste bin. This should always be avoided. When organic material breaks down it creates methane which can ignite in large quantities.

3. Do not allow your grass clippings to go into the city streets while mowing your lawn. It is unlawful and is very harmful to the environment. The distance between your yard and the water’s edge is as close as the nearest storm drain. Keeping grass clippings and leaves out of the street is an important act of protection for our waters.

St. Francis
Recycle Events

June 24 | Sept 16 | Nov 18
9:00 a.m. - Noon
Lepage and Sons
23602 University Ave. NW
Bethel, MN 55005

Items Accepted at NO Charge
- Clothing dropped off at donation box
- Scrap metal
- Automotive batteries
- Cardboard
- Recyclables

Items Accepted For a Fee
- Yard waste, $1 per bag (Compostable)
- Appliances, $10 (No commercial)
- Gas refrigerators, ammonia or Lp, $75+
- Electronics, $4
- TVs
  - Up to 18 inch, $15
  - 19 to 28 inch, $25
  - 29+ inch, $35
- Console TVs, $40
  *Wooden TVs add $5
- Mattresses, $16
- Box springs, $16
- Household batteries, $1.25 lb.

Questions? Public Works: 763-233-5200
No Hazardous Materials Accepted.
Green Myths

Myth #1: Water-efficient toilets don’t work.

First generation low-flow toilets had major performance issues. As technology improved, so did toilet performance. Modern high-efficiency toilets flush like they’re supposed to and can save a lot of water. Look for toilets with the EPA WaterSense label. They’ve met stringent federal standards for water-efficiency AND performance.

Myth #2: Washing dishes by hand saves water and energy.

When it comes to energy & water use, dishwashers just keep getting better and better. New Energy Star-qualified models use half the energy of hand-washing and a fraction of water. Oh, and don’t pre-rinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher. It’s an unnecessary waste of water and energy. Scraping or wiping them first suffices.

Myth #3: Minnesota has plenty of water, so we don’t need to conserve.

Minnesota may be the land of 10,000+ lakes, but our clean, drinkable water supplies are limited. Three out of four state residents rely on groundwater for drinking water. Unlike surface waters like rivers, lakes, and streams, groundwater can take a very long time to recharge. Water conservation is more important now than ever.

For more myths, visit MPCA’s Living Green 365: Green Myths at www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green

Business Recycling Assistance Program

Your business plays an important role in helping keep our air, water and land clean. A robust recycling program says you mean business when it comes to conserving our natural resources and demonstrating your organization’s commitment to your community. Also, recycling more may help your bottom line. For most businesses in Anoka County, it is the law to recycle at least three materials such as paper, glass, plastic, metal and organics including food waste and non-recyclable paper.

Whether you need help becoming compliant with new recycling requirements or want to improve your current recycling efforts, Anoka County has resources to help such as FREE on-site technical assistance through the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce’s Waste Wise program and more.

Anoka County provides grant funding to help reduce waste, design a new or improve an existing recycling program or to start recycling organics. Non-residential entities such as businesses, organizations and churches located in Anoka County are eligible for this grant. The grant will cover items such as recycling containers and bins, equipment purchases, improvements to waste enclosures and educational materials and employee training.

To request a consultant or order labels, call Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions at 763-324-3481. You may also email commercial@co.anoka.mn.us or visit the website at AnokaCounty.us/recycle and select Commercial Recycling.

What’s going on in planning and building?

What a year we have had so far! First, we have had a shift in staff and our building inspector, Phil Dahlheimer, has been promoted to our Building Official. Congratulations to Phil! We’ve also contracted with Metro West Inspection Services to assist with commercial and septic needs. We are launching new software to better handle the daily needs of building permits and inspections. The year started with a light winter, but heavy in new single family home construction.

Since the last newsletter, we have continued to make changes that will benefit the residents and businesses, including adjusting contracts with city engineering and planning services. The City is excited to move forward and be working with Hakanson Anderson as our new Engineers. City Engineers assist in projects and services related to roads, water/sewer, soil and infrastructure. We are also welcoming a new City Planner from Sambatek. City Planners assist the City in codes, zoning and land use needs. As growth comes into the city, they will process applications and guide the city in strategic decisions about how and where growth continues.

Adopt-A-Park...from page 1

Depending upon the volunteer activity, duration and location, a specific minimum schedule will be set up for each volunteer opportunity. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions about the program, please feel free to call the Public Works Department at (763) 233-5200.

Participants in the Adopt-A-Park program will be recognized by the City of St. Francis with a sign near the park entrance that identifies the sponsor. Participants will also be recognized in the City newsletter and at City Council meetings.
Neighborhood Watch

We encourage participation in the community and are looking for people who are willing to be block captains. Block captains are responsible for relaying information to the members on their block, keeping up-to-date information on residents, making special efforts to involve the elderly, working parents and young people. Block captains also serve as liaisons between the neighborhood and the police and will communicate information about meetings and crime incidents to all residents.

We encourage those of you interested in becoming a block leader to visit the city website at stfrancismn.org/neighborhood-watch/ to register online, or register by calling the Community Event Line at 763-267-6195.

Wastewater Treatment Facility

After two years of construction, the new wastewater treatment facility went on line April 10, 2017. All treatment processes are operational and are removing pollutants from the wastewater. This will enable the City of St. Francis to meet permit limits set forth by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) while discharging to the Seelye Brook. Seed sludge was delivered from a neighboring wastewater facility to jump start the buildup of organisms in two aeration basins, which will remove pollutants from the wastewater. With warming temps and the seed sludge, we are starting to create a healthy population of organisms and bacteria that will treat the wastewater.

In years past, the city has received numerous violations from the MPCA due to the fact that the old wastewater treatment facility was incapable of removing phosphorus and ammonia nitrogen to acceptable limits. These two components are very harmful to lakes, rivers and streams. High levels of phosphorus or ammonia nitrogen can cause unsightly algae blooms, which can suffocate fish and other aquatic life. This facility was specifically designed to remove these two pollutants as well as remove other pollutants to acceptable MPCA limits.

With that said, crews are still on schedule for the final completion this fall. Painters are finishing up in the tertiary building and will continue to finish up in other buildings. Dirt crews are in the process of decommissioning the existing pond system that will no longer be in service and will begin to do site grading soon after that.

Crime Prevention Tips for the Home

• Lock windows and doors, including the garage door. Unlocked doors are open invitations to intruders.
• Secure sliding glass doors with commercially available bars or locks, or put a wooden dowel or broom handle in the door track.
• Remove valuables from vehicles and lock vehicle doors.
• Use deadbolt locks on exterior doors.
• Don’t hide a spare key outside such as under a bush or flowerpot.
• Remove obstructions in your yard that could conceal a burglar.
• Don’t put your box for your new TV or other valuable item next to the trash can. It lets everyone know what you have inside your home.
• Leave lights on when leaving or have them on a timer to make it appear someone is home.
• When gone for an extended period of time, have a family member, close neighbor or friend pick up mail, newspapers and remove the trash can from the curb.
• Get to know your neighbors and help one another maintain a crime free neighborhood.

Construction season is in full swing throughout the city and the police would like to remind residents to immediately report any suspicious activity in and around construction areas. Thieves like to target these areas and the police department will be providing extra patrol.

Fireworks

The police understand the desire to show your patriotism through the use of fireworks. Please remember, consumer fireworks may not be used on public property (i.e. parks, roads, alleys, schools, government property, etc.). Purchasers of consumer fireworks must be at least 18 years old. Explosive and aerial fireworks are prohibited for public sale, possession, and use. Prohibited fireworks include firecrackers, bottle rockets, missiles, roman candles, mortars and shells. There are several violations that can be enforced in regards to possessing or displaying unlawful fireworks.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the police department.
Highlighted Events

Bike Rodeo
June 6, 6 - 8 PM
St. Francis Police Department

Bike riding offers fun, freedom and exercise and it’s good for the environment! We want kids and families to ride their bikes as much as possible, and it’s important to be safe while doing so. Any and all ages are welcome to come.

- Safety skills course supervised by police personnel and volunteers.
  (bike helmets are mandatory for the safety skills course.)
- Bicycle inspection for safety
- Bike trail brochures from DNR
- Door prizes!
**Bring a non-perishable food donation and be entered into the door prize drawing**
**Come at 5:30 for pre-registration or by going to stfrancismn.org and filling out the pre-registration form**

Car Seat Clinic
June 8, 3 - 6 PM
St. Francis Police Department

Appointments required: Contact the Community Event Line at 763-267-6195.

Certified child passenger safety technicians will check for recalls and ensure all child restraints are installed by manufacturer specifications.

Each seat check typically takes 30 minutes (per seat, per car) and you will leave confident that you will be able to correctly install the seat and secure your child safely EVERY TIME!

Please bring:
- Your child for proper fitting
- Your car seats and/or boosters
- Your car’s manual (if available)
- Your child restraint device manual
- Your vehicle

National Night Out
August 1, 5:30 - 8:30 PM
22919 St. Francis Blvd
(East side of elementary school)

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. Together, we are making that happen. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community and provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Join the St. Francis Police Department for a night of fun, and a chance to bring the neighborhoods together.

Rum River Streambank Stabilization
Grants Available to Landowners

Landowners on the Rum River have access to funding to address riverbank erosion with a unique method – cedar tree revetments. Anoka Conservation District in partnership with Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District has secured funding from the MN Department of Natural Resources as part of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

Cedar tree revetments are a low cost, but effective, means to address minor bank erosion before it gets worse. It’s not appropriate for major bank erosion, such as on outside bends of the river. The technique involves cable-anchoring cut cedar trees alongside the bank. Their dense branches and naturally rot-resistant wood provide many years of bank armoring. In doing so, they protect property, help improve the river’s water quality and provide fish habitat.

Residents interested in having their riverbank evaluated for a cedar tree revetment should contact Leah Hall at the Anoka Conservation District (763-434-2030 ext. 11; Leah.Hall@anokaswcd.org). Installation of revetments will occur in summer 2017 and continue in 2018. Most projects cost $5,000-$10,000. Landowners must provide 10% of that amount; the remainder is grant-funded.
St. Francis Pioneer Days
June 9th – 11th, 2017

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, June 9
1:00-4:00 pm FREE Nachos at Village Bank, sponsored by Village Bank
5:00 pm Carnival Rides Community Park
5:00 pm Exhibitor Booths & Food Vendors in Community Park
5:00-9:00 pm St. Francis Lions & North Lake Brewing Beverage Garden in Community Park, sponsored by Beef ’O’ Brady’s
5:00-9:00 pm St. Francis Friday Nite Realy—street rods, customs, classics, trucks and motorcycles at St. Francis City Centre Mall
5:00-9:00 pm Live Music by The Fish Tone Rockers in the tent at Community Park, FREE
8:00-midnight Margarita Mary’s Karaoke at St. Francis American Legion (meat raffle at 6:00 pm)
9:00 pm-1:00 am Live music by The Naked Cowboys at Patriot Lanes Bar & Grill (21+)
9:00 pm Movie in Community Park, (bring blankets and chairs) STAR WARS The Force Awakens, sponsored by Cub Scout Pack 511

Saturday, June 10
8:00 am All Day St. Francis Lions Club and North Lake Brewing Softball Tournament in Community Park
8:00 am Life Fitness SK Color Run/Walk, starts at St. Francis High School west parking lot, registration at 7:00 am, presented by St. Francis Lions, sponsored by Life Fitness
9:00 am-6:00 pm Exhibitor Booths in Community Park
10:00 am-12:00 pm Car Wash at St. Francis United Methodist Church, Free Will Donations will go to North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf
10:00 am Carnival rides, games, crafters and food booths in Community Park
10:00 am Petting Zoo and Pony Rides by Tommy’s Zoo and Stables in Community Park
10:00 am Brats & Beverages at St. Francis Fire Station, sponsored by St. Francis Fire Department
11:00 am-9:00pm St. Francis Lions & North Lake Brewing Beverage Garden in Community Park, sponsored by Beef ’O’ Brady’s
11:30 am Bed Races in front of St. Francis True Value Hardware, sponsored by Patriot Lanes Bar & Grill
Noon St. Francis Dairy Queen and Killebrew Root Beer Kids Color Walk, FREE for all kids 12 and under, registration at 11:00 am, FREE Killebrew Root Beer
12:15 pm FREE ice cream given out in front of St. Francis Dental, sponsored by St. Francis Dental
1:00 pm Home Run Derby at ball field in Community Park, sponsored by Boulder Lodge
1:00 pm GRAND PARADE - Emcees - Joe Haag, Community Pride Bank and Heather Buzzell, Heather B Photography; Grand Marshal - Kiana Eide, 2016 Rio Summer Games Gymnastics Olympian
After Parade Bingo, Brats & Beverages at St. Francis Fire Station, sponsored by St. Francis Fire Department
After Parade Horseshoe Tournament at St. Francis American Legion (bring your own partner), sponsored by St. Francis American Legion
2:30 pm & 3:30 pm – The Wonderful World of Woody - Live Music, Singing, Juggling & Magic in the tent at Community Park, FREE
2:30-5:30 pm Face Painting at Community Park, sponsored by Destination Academy

Sunday, June 11
8:00-10:00 am FREE pancake breakfast served at St. Francis United Methodist Church, located at 3914 229th Avenue NW
8:00 am All Day St. Francis Lions Club and Killebrew Root Beer Softball Tournament in Community Park
10:00 am Community Worship Service in Community Park, hosted by United Methodist Church and Living Hope Church
10:00 am-4:00 pm Exhibitor Booths in Community Park
11:00 am-4:00 pm St. Francis Lions & North Lake Brewing Beverage Garden in Community Park, sponsored by Beef ’O’ Brady’s
11:00 am Carnival rides, games, crafters and food booths in Community Park
11:00 am Petting Zoo and Pony Rides by Tommy’s Zoo and Stables in Community Park
11:00 am-4:00 pm Connexus Energy - Electrical Safety Demonstration
12:00 pm Garden Tractor Pull at St. Francis American Legion (registration at 10:00 am), concessions by St. Francis American Legion Auxiliary
1:00 pm Kids Pedal Tractor Pull in Community Park, All Tractors & Equipment Furnished by Kid Power Pedal Tractor Pulls
1:00-4:00 pm Live Music by John & Andy in the tent at Community Park, FREE
2:00 pm $1,000 Coverall Bingo at Patriot Lanes Bar & Grill
6:00 pm FREE hot dogs, games and entertainment for the whole family before the fireworks at Living Hope’s Ministry Center across from St. Francis High School, (inflatable opens 6:00-8:00 pm), sponsored by Living Hope Church
7:00-11:00 pm Live music by Slippery Steve and Scary Gary at St. Francis American Legion
9:00 pm-1:00 am Live music by My Famous Friends at Patriot Lanes Bar & Grill (21+)
10 Minutes after Dark FIREWORKS at St. Francis High School football field, all school rules will be enforced - no tobacco or alcohol on school grounds, sponsored by St. Francis Bottle Shop

For more information and how to get involved, visit stfrancischamber.org or 763-438-5163
Events Calendar

June 6:  Bike Rodeo, St. Francis Police Department  6 p.m.
June 8:  Free Car Seat Clinic, St. Francis Police Department  3 p.m.
June 9:  Movies in the Park, Community Park
June 9-11:  St. Francis Pioneer Days!
June 16:  Movies in the Park, Community Park
June 17:  11th Annual Golf Tournament, Ponds Golf Course  9 a.m.
June 24:  Recycling Event, LePage and Sons  9 a.m.
July 4:  Independence Day – City Offices Closed
July 21:  Movies in the Park, Community Park
Aug 1:  National Night Out, 6 p.m.
Aug 18:  Movies in the Park, Community Park
Sept 4:  Labor Day – City Offices Closed
Sept 13:  Buckthorn Removal Workshop, Rum River Library  6:30 p.m.
Sept 16:  Recycle Event, LePage and Sons  9 a.m.
Every Friday, May 19 - Sept. 8:  Car Show
St. Francis City Centre Mall, 5:00 p.m.

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.

Did you know?

* Your yard only needs an inch of water a week. Make sure to adjust your sprinkling system.
* If you suspect a leak or have high water usage, you may have a leaky toilet. A leaky toilet can waste hundreds of gallons of water a day.

www.knowtheflow.us