



City of
St. Francis

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2017 | VOL. 2, NO. 3

Message from your Mayor

Well summer is moving along and I hope all of you are enjoying the weather. The newsletter gives me an opportunity to bring you up-to-date on what the staff and council are working on. We just had our annual “Nite to Unite” on August 1 and the staff did a great job putting it together. There was some miscommunication between the Lions Club, St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce, the St. Francis Ambassador Program and the city, so I will be working with all of them for next year’s event in order to have it take place in one location instead of two.

The new website will be coming online in September and I think you are really going to like it. You will be able to find answers to your questions much easier than before, most of the time within two clicks. There will also be a place to subscribe to alerts and notifications along with Municode so you can check on current building codes before you begin a project and much, much more (stay tuned).

Recently the city has joined with Independent School District 15 (ISD 15) in working with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) in order to get a stop light installed at the intersection of Pederson Drive and State Highway 47. The city started the talks and now with ISD 15 on board, hopefully this will help persuade MnDOT to go ahead with a change that has been long overdue for the safety of our children. We will keep you posted.

Our city planner is working on an ordinance allowing residents to have chickens. As soon as that is done and approved it will be posted on our new website.

Recently the state legislature approved a long awaited bonding bill that would give our city 8.9 million dollars in grant money toward our wastewater treatment facility. As of the printing of this newsletter, the city has not received those funds; however it has been allotted by the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (MPFA) and we should be getting it shortly. Once the city has obtained this grant money, there will be a new rate study done in order to see if any adjustments can be made to these high rates. As I have mentioned to you in past newsletters and at city council meetings, the council, staff and I are looking into everything that is possible in order to get these rates reduced. I wish I could tell you it will be sooner than later but please know that it is a top priority for this council.

I would like to bring up a concern of mine about speeding on residential roads. This has been an ongoing problem on many of our streets and my main concern, as always, is the safety of our children and residents. The St. Francis Police Department recently purchased a radar gun along with a second digital data speed sign from their forfeiture fund. I have always said that “a sign is only as good as the enforcement behind it” and that is what the police department will be doing. So please slow down on these streets. There is a reason the signs are posted and that is to prevent accidents.

One more thing I would like to remind everyone is to check for water leaks from either your toilets, faucets or outside spigots. If you look at your
continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



[SCHOOL BUS SAFETY](#) | [PAGE 2](#)



[FALL RECYCLING](#) | [PAGE 5](#)

[PROPERTY TAX](#) | [PAGE 2](#)

[PUBLIC WORKS REMINDERS](#) | [PAGE 2](#)

[COMPREHENSIVE PLAN](#) | [PAGE 3](#)

[WASTEWATER UPDATE](#) | [PAGE 3](#)

[RAIN BARRELS](#) | [PAGE 4](#)

[PAPER SHREDDING](#) | [PAGE 4](#)

[CHAMBER CURRENTS](#) | [PAGE 7](#)

Visit us on social media!



13 Reasons Why Property Taxes Go Up Or Down From Year To Year

- The market value of a property may change.
- The market value of other properties in your taxing district may change, shifting taxes from one property to another.
- The state general property tax may change.
- The city budget and levy may change.
- The county budget and levy may change.
- The school district's budget and levy may change.
- A special district's budget and levy may change.
- Special assessments may be added to your property tax bill.
- Voters may have approved a school, city, county or special district referendum.
- Federal and state mandates may have changed.
- Aid and revenue from the state and federal governments may have changed.
- The state legislature may have changed the portion of the tax base paid by different types of properties.
- Other state law changes may adjust the tax base.

Citizen Reminders from Your Public Works Staff

Just a friendly reminder to make sure your water softener is operating efficiently. As many of you know, when the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency renewed our wastewater permit in 2015, we were given a chloride limit; this is where we need your assistance. High chloride levels in wastewater come from the backwashing cycle of your home water softener. If the softener is backwashing more than it should, it will cause higher levels of chloride in the waste stream. Please make sure that your softener is set to soften water with 13-14 grains per gallon or 230 Mg/L of hardness. You will use less water, which saves you money and helps the city achieve its chloride limit.

In the last couple of months, our city staff has had to pull lift station pumps more than usual due to plugging. This



can lead to an added expense for the city and potentially the homeowner. Please make sure that you are flushing only human waste and toilet paper. We are finding more disposable wipes and clothing that will not dissolve and will plug pumps. This leads to reduced pumping and more maintenance cost. This problem could potentially cause a backup of wastewater into homes causing an unwanted expense to the homeowner and to the city. With your assistance, we can correct this issue. Thank you.

Bus Stop Safety Please Watch for Children

- With school starting soon, drivers should be aware of children walking to and from the bus stop, as well as getting on and off the school buses.
- Slow down.
- The law requires vehicles to stop at least 20 feet from a school bus that is displaying its flashing lights and the stop arm is out.
- Fines are expected to increase this year for drivers who violate this law, anywhere from \$300 to \$500.
- A recent survey showed that 2,621 bus drivers counted 530 stop arm violations in one day.



St. Francis— Comprehensive Plan Public Meeting October 26

Ever wonder what role you have in shaping the city you live in? Every 10 years St. Francis is required to complete a Comprehensive Plan and submit it to the state. Every resident has the ability to provide input into one of the largest planning documents completed to assist in the development of the Comprehensive Plan. This plan guides city growth, redevelopment, infrastructure and the overall progress of the future of the city. We depend on the input from residents to identify what we are doing well, what we could do better and what you would like to see in the future. The city held one public event and asked for input on a survey. Now we are ready to move it to the next level. Join us for a public meeting to discuss what we have learned so far and continue to provide input into the future of the city.

The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 26 at 4115 Ambassador Boulevard NW, St. Francis. Information is also available at stfrancismn.org.



Wastewater Treatment Facility

As you know, the new wastewater treatment facility went online in April. The city is pleased to announce that the new facility has successfully met all of its required effluent limits. This includes phosphorus and ammonia nitrogen, which the old treatment facility was unable to remove to acceptable levels. Both of those components can cause severe degradation of the receiving waters including rivers, lakes and streams. Phosphorus can lead to unsightly algae blooms, which has a negative effect on fish and other aquatic life. The other component, ammonia nitrogen, is a toxin that is harmful to aquatic species. The facility has also performed really well in removing other pollutants that we are required to remove. The Minnesota Pollution Control Administration will be onsite for final inspection within the coming weeks, to make sure the facility is performing as intended.

So what's left to do? Crews are finishing landscaping around the facility. This includes the site grading and installation of the irrigation system. A neat tidbit on the irrigation system is that the city will use treated effluent for the water supply; this is called reuse water. Reuse water is treated effluent that has been treated to meet a more stringent limit that allows the city to use it for irrigating. The blacktop has been laid around the facility. Electricians are working on a few minor systems. The city is currently still on track for substantial completion in September.

Message from your Mayor continued from page 1

meter and it is running when you are not using any water, then most likely there is a leak somewhere. I gave some advice and hints on this in my first newsletter which was Spring 2017. You can access it on the city's website at stfrancismn.org.

Have a great rest of the summer.

Regards,
Mayor Feldman

Pay Your Utilities Online!

Now you can pay your water bill and view statements online.

No need for checks in the mail.

Visit our website to sign up
www.stfrancismn.org

Homeowner Education for Septic Systems

The Anoka County Extension Service will hold two Homeowner Education for Septic Systems classes at the Bunker Hills Activity Center, 7:00-9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 3 and Monday, March 12, 2018. Extension Service classes and Septic Smart Week are on the KnowTheFlow.us website calendar.



www.knowtheflow.us

Free

St. Francis Shred Event

Paper Shredding Only!

St. Francis Bottle Shop

Saturday, October 14

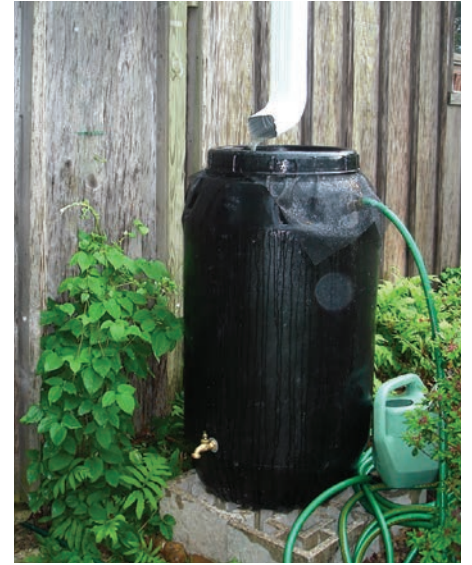
12:00-2:00 p.m.

Residents and local businesses are welcome!

Brought to you by the
City of St. Francis and Shred Right!

Rain Barrel Basics

Winter might not be an ideal time to start thinking about backyard gardening for green thumb enthusiasts, but it is a great time to get a jump start on water conservation efforts by setting up a rain barrel at your home.



A rain barrel is any type of container used to catch water flowing from a downspout. Rain barrels reduce the amount of stormwater runoff by collecting roof runoff and storing the rainwater for future use. By reducing stormwater runoff, we are also reducing the pollution that goes into our waterways.

Why use rain barrels?

- Save money
- Conserve water
- Rainwater is naturally soft
- Improve the health of lawns and gardens
- Stormwater management/erosion control

How does it work?

- Select a location to place your rain barrel, such as under a gutter or drain spout.
- Choose a rain barrel that fits your storage and aesthetic needs. Rain barrels come in a wide array of sizes and colors.
- Use with a soaker hose around trees, shrubs, gardens and plantings or use it to fill up a watering can for potted plants.
- Do not use rain water for human or pet consumption.

When can I use the rain water?

With many cities enforcing watering bans, rain water can be applied anytime and is naturally soft, devoid of minerals, chlorine, fluoride and other chemicals making it great for plants, lawns and gardens. Rain water cannot be used for human or animal consumption.

Source: <http://recycleminnesota.org/2016/02/05/jump-start-your-spring-gardening-efforts>

Note from the St. Francis Fire Department

On Saturday, October 14 the St. Francis Fire Department Relief Association along with the Lions invite you to the Annual French Toast Breakfast. This event is free to the public and will be hosted at the Firehouse located at 3740 Bridge Street NW.



October 9-15 is Fire Prevention week; look for our firefighters in the elementary school teaching fire safety and prevention to our students.

Fall, football and Thanksgiving are just around the corner. Fall is also the busiest time of year for fire departments. This is largely caused by the home heating

season. Please take a minute to read the following tips provided by the National Fire Protection Association in regards to home heating concerns.

Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January and February. Some simple steps can prevent most heating-related fires from happening.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer’s instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

City of St. Francis Fall Recycling Events

September 16 & November 18
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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

Televisions

Up to 18 inches	\$15
19 to 28 inches	\$25
29+ inches	\$35
Console TVs	\$40
Wooden TVs add	\$5

Mattresses/box springs	\$16
Household batteries	\$1.25 per pound

Light Bulbs

Please contact Public Works for pricing inquiries.

Tires (with or without rims)

Motorcycle	\$4
Car	\$8
Truck	\$10
Tractor	\$20

Questions?

Please call Public Works at 763-233-5200 or LePage and Sons at 763-757-7100.

LePage and Sons
23602 University
Avenue NW
Bethel, MN 55055



School Year Safety Tips

The summer is coming to a close and back-to-school time is upon us. The St. Francis Police Department would like to give everyone the following safety tips for the new school year:

- Students that are riding their bikes to school should make sure to use a bike lock.
- Please have your child keep their helmet in their locker.
- When crossing Hwy. 47, please inform your child to use the crosswalk located at Pederson Drive and Hwy. 47 and to make sure traffic is stopped before crossing.
- When at the crosswalk, please encourage your child to push the button to activate the cross-walk flashing lights. This gives motorists a warning that the crosswalk is being used and to yield to all pedestrians.

- For students driving to school, please avoid keeping valuables in their vehicle.
- School buses mean children. Be aware of frequent stops and the flashing stop arms when buses are picking up and dropping off.
- Allow yourself extra time when traveling before and after school to account for the increased amount of traffic that we will encounter with school being back in session.

The safety of our community and our children is very important to us. By following these tips, you will assist the police department in making sure that everyone has a safe and successful school year.

Also, please be aware of the lowered speed limit on Pederson Drive which is now 35 MPH.

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 four-part 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.

The classes will be held on Thursday, November 2 at St. Francis Police Department, 4058 St. Francis Blvd. NW, St. Francis. There are two age groups, kindergartners-2nd grade at 4:30 p.m. and 3rd-5th graders at 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events at the St. Francis Police Department

On Wednesday, October 25 the Police Department will be holding its annual Anti-Bullying Pizza



Party with the Independent School District 15 St. Francis Elementary School poster contest winners.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT REMINDER

The police department will have extra traffic enforcement before and after school, so please obey speed limits and yield to pedestrians in the crosswalks. A traffic citation fine can be in the range of several hundred dollars and may require a court appearance.



CHAMBER CURRENTS

ST. FRANCIS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERS

Ace Solid Waste, Inc.
Advanced Automotive Care
Advanced Roofing & Siding, Inc.
American Family Insurance - Mary Dresch
Anoka Hennepin Credit Union
Anoka Ramsey Community College
Anytime Fitness
Barna, Guzy & Steffen, LTD
Beef 'O' Brady's
Bolton and Menk, Inc.
BTO Signs
Captain's on Long Lake
Casey's General Store
CellOnly
Central Heating & Cooling, LLC
City of St. Francis
Collision 2000
Connexus Energy
County Market
Crown Electric, Inc.
Custom Catering
Dairy Queen/Orange Julius
Destination Academy
Dugout Bar and Grill
ECM Publishers, Inc.
Edward Jones Investments
Elaine M. Mustari, CPA
Farmers Insurance - Vann Rogers Agency, LLC
Freedom Strategy Group
Goldstar Kennels
Goodrich Pharmacy
Hakanson Anderson
Hidden Haven Golf Club
Highland Money Management, Inc.
Insite Contracting, Inc.
Isanti Retail Meats, LLC
ISD 15 - The Courier
Lakeside Cabinets and Woodworking
Mansetti's Pizza & Pasta

McDonald's
Minnesota Star Realty
Minuteman Press - Ham Lake
North Anoka County Emergency Foodshelf
North Anoka Plumbing, Inc.
Northstar Outdoors, Inc.
Nowthen Plumbing
Opp Family Chiropractic, P.A.
Patriot Lanes Bar & Grill
Premier Specialties
Printing Unlimited / Skyline Graphics
Re/Max Results - Larry D. Anderson
Re/Max Results - Michelle Anderson
Revolayer Systems
Rum River Tree Farm
Sara Sauer C.P.A., LLC
St. Francis Bottle Shop
St. Francis Collision & Glass
St. Francis Dental Care, P.A.
St. Francis Fire Department
St. Francis Insurance Agency, Inc.
St. Francis Lions
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 Oaks of Lake George
The Ponds Golf Course & Restaurant
The Refuge Golf Club & Restaurant
Trinity Lutheran Church & School
Village Bank
Virtual Reality Arcade

CHAMBER EVENTS

Monthly Board Meetings

3rd Wednesday each month
11:00 am at the St. Francis
Community Center

Monthly Networking Breakfasts

2nd Wednesday each month
8:00 am at Beef 'O' Brady's

Business

Trick or Treat

October 31
3:00–5:00 pm



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.



*For more information,
or to become a member:*

763-438-5163

www.stfrancischamber.org
chamber@stfrancischamber.org

Thank You to All Pioneer Days Sponsors and Volunteers

Ambassador Level \$1000+

Blaine City Festival
Chops Inc.
City of St. Francis
King's County Market
St. Francis Bottle Shop
St. Francis Lions Club

Pioneer Level \$500+

Barna, Guzy & Steffen, LTD.
Farmer's Insurance – Vann Rogers Agency
Hakanson Anderson
Highland Money Management, Inc.
St. Francis McDonald's

Rum River Level \$250+

Connexus Energy
Minuteman Press – Ham Lake
Re/Max Results – Michelle Anderson
Rensch, Becker, Carlson & Ackerman, DDS, PA
Rum River Tree Farm
St. Francis Physical Therapy
Tidbits of the North Metro Area

Heritage Level \$100+

Dusty's Drain Cleaning
Northland Screw Products, Inc.
Patriot Lanes Bar and Grill
Temperature Specialists, Inc.
Thirty-One Gifts – Jaycie Leistico

Community Pride Level

Casey's General Store
Highland Money Management, Inc.
Mansetti's Pizza & Pasta
NACE Foodshelf
Re/Max Results – Michelle Anderson
St. Francis Bottle Shop
St. Francis Physical Therapy
St. Francis Subway
St. Francis True Value Hardware
Virtual Reality Arcade





23340 Cree Street NW
St. Francis, MN 55070
city@stfrancismn.org
www.stfrancismn.org

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St. Francis, MN
55070

ECRWSS POSTAL PATRON

Events Calendar

- Sept 4:** Labor Day—*City Offices Closed*
- Sept 5:** School begins in Independent School District 15
- Sept 9:** Citywide Garage Sale
- Sept 13:** Buckthorn Removal Workshop, Rum River Library, 6:30 p.m.
- Sept 16:** Recycle Event, LePage and Sons, 9:00 a.m.-Noon
- Oct 3:** Homeowner Education for Septic Systems, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- Oct 6:** SFHS Homecoming Football Game, 7:00 p.m.
- Oct 9:** Columbus Day— *City Offices Closed*
- Oct 14:** St. Francis Shred Event—Paper Only, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
- Oct 26:** Comprehensive Plan Public Meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Oct 31:** St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Business-to-Business Trick or Treat Event, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
- Nov 2:** Eddie Eagle Classes, St. Francis Police Dept., 4:30 & 6:00 p.m.
- Nov 11:** Veterans Day
- Nov 18:** Recycle Event, LePage and Sons, 9:00 a.m.-Noon
- Nov 23-24:** Thanksgiving—*City Offices Closed*

For a full list of events—visit the city's website www.stfrancismn.org



City Council Meetings
1st & 3rd Monday each month
6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Meetings
3rd Wednesday each month
7:00 p.m.

**Independent School District 15
Central Services Center
4115 Ambassador Blvd NW**

Agendas and Minutes Online:
www.stfrancismn.org