



City of
St. Francis

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020 | VOL. 5, NO. 3



On August 4, St. Francis Fire and Police Departments interacted with residents during Night to Unite neighborhood get-togethers.

Message from your Mayor

It's been a hot and humid summer as I write this report, but fall is right around the corner. Hopefully temperatures will cool down a little bit.

I want to bring attention to our small businesses of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act. One of the purposes of this Act is to provide financial assistance to small businesses with interruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The applications were mailed out on August 6. They had to be delivered to City Hall or postmarked no later than August 20. The Economic Development Authority (EDA) will review them starting August 24 through Thursday, September 10. The applications will be approved at the EDA meeting on Monday, September 14. If you still have any questions submit them to kthunstrom@stfrancismn.org and allow up to three days for a response.

Also an important date coming up is the General Election on Tuesday, November 3. Early voting at City Hall will begin on:

- Tuesday, October 27 through Thursday, October 29
7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

- Saturday October 31
10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Monday, November 2
7:00 am-5:00 p.m.

There is also absentee voting and in person voting at designated polling locations.

The following are supporting documents can be found on the City's website at www.stfrancismn.org:

- 2020 mail absentee ballot application
- 2020 election dates to remember
- Polling locations for St. Francis changed

Type "Elections" in the search bar, when the page comes up click on City Clerk/ Elections Liaison.

Life is different today and the old normal has been replaced with the new normal. I can't emphasize enough to do social distancing and/or wear a mask. Let's all stay safe in our daily lives and by working together we will get past this unusual and difficult time.

Regards,
Mayor Feldman

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Visit us on social media!



Local Offices on November 3 Ballot

Mayor (2 Year Term)
Steven Feldman

Two Council Members (4 Year Term)
Robert Bauer
Joseph L. Muehlbauer

Vote before election day

Absentee voting will begin in St. Francis Monday, September 21 and run through Monday, November 2, 2020. St. Francis residents are able to vote absentee by coming into city hall during regular business hours Monday-Thursday, 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Saturday, October 31, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Polling locations for both Precinct 1 and Precinct 2 will vote at the St. Francis Area Schools District Office located at 4115 Ambassador Blvd. NW on Tuesday, November 3. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Other Ways to Vote

Some people may be apprehensive to vote in-person in the November 3 general election due to COVID-19 concerns. There are several alternatives to voting in-person and the Minnesota Secretary of State (MSS) website the answers. Below is a quick overview of alternative voting, for a more in depth description, visit www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote.



Alternative voting options

- **Vote early (absentee)**

In Minnesota, you can vote early with an absentee ballot starting 46 days before Election Day. You can request an [absentee ballot online](#). Read about other options and more information about absentee voting at the links below.

- **Vote early by mail**

To vote by mail, apply to have an absentee ballot mailed to you. You do not need to be registered to apply. If you have already applied for a General Election ballot, it will be mailed to you as soon as ballots become available.

- **Vote early in person**

You can vote in person at your county election office. In addition to your county election office, some cities and towns offer in-person absentee voting. Check with your city clerk's office for more information.

- **Vote from military or abroad**

If you are serving in the military or living abroad you can request a ballot

to be sent you wherever you are in the world. If you are not returning to Minnesota you can only vote for federal offices.

Who are eligible?

- Military members serving outside their home precinct.
- Citizens living abroad temporarily or indefinitely.
- Spouses and dependents of military members are also eligible.
- Military members include Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, Commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, and Commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

- **Track your absentee ballot**

Voters can track their absentee ballots through the Minnesota Secretary of State website. <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/AbsenteeBallotStatus.aspx>

Information retrieved from the Minnesota Secretary of State website, www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting



Drug take back box available

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and police department lobby closure the drug box was made available to residents during National Prescription Drug Take Back Day in April. With special procedures in place, several residents took advantage of the opportunity to dispose of their unwanted prescription medications. The police department felt it was important to continue to provide a way for residents to dispose of unwanted medications despite the lobby closure due to pandemic. The lobby was re-opened in May and the drug box is again available Monday through Friday during office hours.

Door-to-Door Visits Begin Nationwide for 2020 Census

Census Takers to Follow Up With About 56 Million Households

AUG. 11, 2020 — This week, the U.S. Census Bureau began following up with households nationwide that have not yet responded to the 2020 Census. Based on the current self-response rate of 63.3%, the Census Bureau estimates it will need to visit about 56 million addresses to collect responses in person. Up to 500,000 census takers across the country will go door to door to assist people in responding to the 2020 Census.

Census takers began following up with households on July 16 in a **limited number of areas** and added additional areas each week thereafter. Starting August 9, all remaining offices began following up with households nationwide. Census takers have completed training on **social distancing and safety protocols**, will follow local public health guidelines, and will be required to wear a face mask when conducting follow-up visits.

“America has answered the call and most households responded to the census online, by phone or by mail,” said Census Bureau Director Dr. Steven Dillingham. “To ensure a complete and accurate count, we must now go door to door to count all of the households we have not heard back from. During this phase, you can still self-respond online (at 2020census.gov), by phone (at 844-330-2020), or by mailing your completed questionnaire.”

The Nonresponse Follow up (NRFU) operation is the final stage of conducting the once-a-decade population count of everyone living in the United States. Households can still respond now by responding online at 2020census.gov, by phone at 844-330-2020, or by completing and mailing back the paper questionnaire they received. Households can respond online or by phone in one of 13 languages and find assistance in many more. Those that respond will not need to be visited to obtain their census response.

What Households Can Expect

In most cases, census workers will make up to six attempts at each housing unit address to count possible residents. This includes leaving notification of

the attempted visit on the door. The notification will include reminder information on how to respond online, by paper or by phone. In addition, census workers may try to reach the household by phone to conduct the interview.

Census takers will go to great lengths to ensure that no one is missed in the census. After exhausting their efforts to do an in-person interview with a resident of an occupied housing unit, they will seek out proxy sources — a neighbor, a rental agent, a building manager or some other knowledgeable person familiar with the housing unit — to obtain as much basic information about the occupants as they can.

Census takers are hired from local communities. All census takers speak English, and many are bilingual. If a census taker does not speak the householder’s language, the household may request a return visit from a census taker who does. Census takers will also have materials on hand to help identify the household’s language.



How to Identify Census Takers

Census takers can be easily identified by a valid government ID badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date on the badge. To confirm a census taker’s identity, the public may contact their **regional census center** to speak with a Census Bureau representative.

The Census Bureau Will Follow Up With Some Households by Phone

In order to minimize the need to send census takers to households in person, the Census Bureau is training census takers to follow up with households by phone. Using information provided to the Census Bureau and third-party purchased data, the Census Bureau has a strong contact list for both landlines and cellphones assigned to houses on the Census Bureau’s address list. These phone calls will enable the Census Bureau to have maximum flexibility for conducting field operations, and is one more method that census takers can use to reach non-responding households. Phone calls will be used on an as-needed basis and when in-person contact attempts have not resulted in an interview. If a voicemail is available, the census taker will leave a message asking the household to call one of the Census Bureau’s call centers.

Census Response Representatives to Visit Low-Responding Areas

The Mobile Questionnaire Assistance (MQA) program will continue through September 30. This is a separate activity from census takers going door to door. MQA representatives are in open, public places in the lowest-responding areas of the nation to encourage people to respond to the 2020 Census. These locations are where people naturally visit when leaving home and can be used to help increase self-response rates. MQA is part of the Census Bureau’s final push to encourage people to complete the 2020 Census.

About the 2020 Census

The U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years. The goal of the 2020 Census is to count everyone who lives in the United States on April 1, 2020 (Census Day). Census statistics are used to determine the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives and inform how billions of dollars in federal funds will be allocated by state, local and federal lawmakers annually for the next 10 years.

For more information, visit 2020census.gov.

News from the St. Francis Fire Department

Fire Prevention week is October 4-10 — during this time firefighters would normally be spending time in our schools providing fire safety education to elementary school aged children. During this unprecedented time we are currently developing plans to still deliver this valuable education to the youth of the community while still following Centers for Disease Control and Minnesota Department of Health guidelines. Whether that be through a virtual setting or in-person we are committed to engaging our youth in coordination with St. Francis Area Schools.

The French Toast Breakfast and Fire Prevention Open House is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 10. Due to the current COVID-19 situation we are unsure if we will be able to host this event this year. Please follow the St. Francis Fire Department on Facebook for up-to-date details in the coming weeks.

Daylight savings time is Sunday, November 1. Please be sure to check your smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector batteries when you change your clocks!

Food Vendors

Do you own or operate a food truck? Do you know someone who operates a food truck? The City of St. Francis is looking for operators interested in partnering at the Bottle Shop location and for special events. The City is looking to schedule a variety of options for its residents in 2021 at the intersection of Highway 47 and 233rd Avenue. The City may also be looking for participants for special events and ribbon cuttings throughout the year. The City will partner with the provider to advertise their attendance and products. If you can commit to an evening or a weekend contact City Hall at 763-753-2630.



Carbon Monoxide Safety

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide (CO).

- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Choose a CO alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter the home.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use outside.



HOME HEATING EQUIPMENT

Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in. When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation. Never use your oven to heat your home.

FACTS

- A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.
- In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 80,100 non-fire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of nine calls per hour.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

www.nfpa.org/education ©NFPA 2017

Chlorides in wastewater

Why do municipal wastewater plants have chloride in their discharge?

The answer starts with water hardness. People soften their water to make soaps lather more and prevent calcium buildup on appliances and fixtures. Point-of-entry ion exchange water softeners are widely used to treat water hardness in Minnesota. In order to ensure continued operation of a point-of-entry ion exchange softener, it must be periodically regenerated with high salt brine that contains chloride. This brine eventually drains to a municipal wastewater system. The cumulative loading from all the point-of-entry softeners in the sewershed contributes significantly to the high chloride concentrations in the wastewater plant discharge.

Where in Minnesota is chloride in wastewater a problem?

Chloride in wastewater discharge appears to be a problem in about 100 Minnesota communities, most of them in southern and western areas of the state. Chloride flows into wastewater treatment facilities from homes and businesses that use water softeners. Treatment facilities are designed to remove particles, like grit and sand, and to biologically degrade organic waste, such as food and human waste. Once chloride is dissolved in water, it cannot be removed by settling, or biologically degraded by standard treatment processes. The technology to remove chloride is available, but is costly. It would involve microfiltration and reverse osmosis (RO), which are the same treatment processes used to produce pure water used in laboratories.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Alternatives for addressing chloride in wastewater effluent. MPCA analyzes treatment options for salty parameters. Retrieved from www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-wwprm2-18.pdf

Enhancing Stormwater Management in Minnesota

Stormwater management has evolved substantially during the past 20 years. Historically, the goal was to move water off the landscape quickly and reduce flooding concerns. Now we are focusing on keeping the raindrop where it falls and mimicking natural hydrology in order to minimize the amount of pollution reaching our lakes, rivers and streams, and to recharge our ground waters. In order to successfully do so, standards are needed to create consistency in design and performance.

In response to this need, and advanced by a diverse group of partners, the Minnesota Legislature allocated funds to “develop performance standards, design standards or other tools to enable and promote the implementation of low impact development and other stormwater management techniques.” (Minnesota Statutes 2009, section 115.03, subdivision 5c).

Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) represents the next generation of stormwater management and contains three main elements that address current challenges:

- A higher clean water performance goal for new development and redevelopment that will provide enhanced protection for Minnesota’s water resources.
- New modeling methods and credit calculations that will standardize the use of a range of “innovative” structural and nonstructural stormwater techniques.
- A credits system and ordinance package that will allow for increased flexibility and a streamlined approach to regulatory programs for developers and communities.

The development of Minimal Impact Design Standards is based on low impact development (LID) — an approach to storm water management that mimics a site’s natural hydrology as the landscape is developed. Using the low impact development approach, storm water is managed on site and the rate and volume of predevelopment storm water reaching receiving waters is unchanged. The calculation of predevelopment hydrology is based on native soil and vegetation. (Minnesota Statutes 2009, section 115.03, subdivision 5c).

Minnesota Pollution Control. *Enhancing stormwater management in Minnesota.* Retrieved from www.pca.state.mn.us/water/enhancing-stormwater-management-minnesota

Way to go – recyclers!



Know The Flow!

www.knowtheflow.us



St. Francis Police Department's Community Resource Officer Notes

During the last few months, St. Francis Police Department Community Resource Officer Hearn has been focusing on City Ordinance Chapter 10-16-15 (outdoor storage) while also keeping an eye out for other violations. He identified 19 City ordinance violations. Officer Hearn was able to contact 15 property owners and resolve 10 of the 19 violations without involving City Hall. Four of the 19 ordinance violations were rental-housing violations.

Officer Hearn has made 65 traffic stops, issued 34 citations in the second quarter. He provides regular patrols through city neighborhoods and has assisted other officers in 150 calls.

Outreach plays a large role in creating and maintaining positive relationships between the police department and the

community. Officer Hearn has organized the Citizen's Academy, members assisted in planning the first-ever Bike Safety Rally and Parade. Officer Hearn's task was to acquire local business sponsors for the rally and asking for their time or a donation. The academy will also help plan Night to Unite and Winning with Cops events.

Officer Hearn has taken an active role in maintaining the department's social media. Follow the St. Francis Police Department on Facebook to find out about events during the national pandemic.

While events were limited due to the national pandemic the St. Francis Police Department got creative. On June 25 the police department held its first-ever Bike Safety Rally and Parade.

Upcoming St. Francis Police Department Events

Gun Safety with Eddie Eagle is on hold

The Eddie Eagle class for children who are currently in elementary school has put on hold due to the pandemic and will be determined once restrictions allow. Eddie Eagle teaches children not to play with firearms with a simple, memorable four-part plan: if you see a gun stop, don't touch, leave the area and tell an adult

Whether or not a particular family owns firearms, chances are neighbors, friends and relatives do. Make sure children are firearm wise.

Once a date is determined the class will be held at the St. Francis Police Department, 4058 St. Francis Blvd. NW, St. Francis. The class is for kindergartners through 6th graders.

October 21 is National Anti-Bullying Day – Unity Day

Community events were limited due to the national pandemic but the St. Francis Police Department got creative. On June 25 the department held its first-ever Bike Safety Rally and Parade.



Back-to-School Safety Tips

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.

Tips for drivers

- Be on the lookout for school zone signals and ALWAYS obey the speed limits.
- When entering a school zone, be sure to slow down and obey all traffic laws.
- Always stop for school buses that are loading or unloading children.
- Watch out for school crossing guards and obey their signals.
- Be aware of and watch out for children near schools, bus stops, sidewalks, in the streets, in school parking lots, etc.
- Never text while driving.
- Avoid using a cell phone, unless it is completely hands-free.
- 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 police department will have extra traffic enforcement before and after school, so please obey speed limits and yield to pedestrians in the crosswalks.

Tips for students walking to school

- Students that are riding their bikes to school should make sure to use a bike lock.
- When crossing Highway 47, please inform your child to use the crosswalk located at Pederson Drive and Highway 47 and to make sure traffic is stopped before crossing.
- When at the crosswalk, please encourage your child to push the crosswalk button.
- Students driving to school, should avoid keeping valuables in their vehicle.





St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 655
St. Francis, MN 55070

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

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.

Chamber Members

Ace Solid Waste, Inc.
Advanced Automotive Care, Inc.
American Family Insurance
– Dawn Tschumper Agency
Anoka Hennepin Credit Union
Anoka-Ramsey Community College
Barna, Guzy & Steffen, LTD
BTO Signs
Casey's General Store
City of St. Francis
Collision 2000
Connexus Energy
King's County Market
Crown Electric Inc.
Dairy Queen Orange Julius
Destination Academy, LLC
ECM Publishers, Inc.
Edward Jones Investments
Elaine M. Mustari, CPA, LLC
Freedom Strategy Group
Gold Star Kennels
Goodrich Pharmacy
Hakanson Anderson
Healthy Hangout

Hidden Haven Golf Club
Highland Money Management, Inc.
Kwik Trip
Lakeside Cabinets and Woodworking
Lee Carlson Center for
Mental Health & Well-Being
Mansetti's Pizza & Pasta
McDonald's
Minuteman Press – Ham Lake
North Anoka County Emergency
Foodshelf
Northland Screw Products, Inc.
Northstar Outdoors
Opp Family Chiropractic, P.A.
Patriot Lanes Bar & Grill
Premier Specialties
RE/MAX Results
– Michelle Anderson
Re/Max Associates Plus
– Larry D. Anderson
Rum River Construction Consultants
Rum River Tree Farm
Sara Sauer, CPA, LLC
St. Francis Area Schools

St. Francis Bottle Shop
St. Francis Collision & Glass
St. Francis Dental Care
St. Francis Fire Department
St. Francis Insurance Agency, Inc.
– Gary Zimmerman
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 – St. Francis
T. Bryce & Associates, Inc.
TC Net-Works, Inc.
The Bridge Church
The Oaks of Lake George
The Ponds Golf Course & Restaurant
The Refuge Golf Club & Restaurant
TJ Associates – Advanced Graphic
Solutions
Trinity Lutheran Church & School
Village Bank
Virtual Reality Arcade Corp

We support and encourage you to shop all of our local businesses.



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St. Francis, MN 55070

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ECRWSS POSTAL PATRON

Events Calendar

Visit the City's website www.stfrancismn.org for calendar updates during COVID-19 restrictions.

Recycling Events

October 24

NEW!

Fall Recycling Event

8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Event will include paper shredding and leaf drop-off! This is a replacement of Spring recycle event.

4020 St. Francis Blvd. NW
St. Francis, MN



September 19

LePage & Sons Recycling Event
8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

November 21

LePage & Sons Recycling Event
8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

LePage & Sons
23602 University Ave., Ext. NW
Bethel, MN

City Council Meetings

First and third Monday each month at 6:00 p.m.
(If a holiday, the meeting will be Tuesday.)

Planning Commission Meetings

Third Wednesday each month at 7:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at
St. Francis Area Schools District Office
4115 Ambassador Boulevard NW

Agendas and minutes online: www.stfrancismn.org

City Hall Location

23340 Cree Street NW
St. Francis, MN 55070

Hours	Monday-Thursday	7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Contact Us	City@stfrancismn.org	763-753-2630
Website	www.stfrancismn.org	

City Council

Mayor Steve Feldman	763-235-2310
Councilmember Sarah Udvig	763-235-2311
Councilmember Robert Bauer	763-235-2312
Councilmember Kevin Robinson	763-235-2313
Councilmember Joe Muehlbauer	763-235-2314

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

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Local: 651-454-0002
Toll Free: 1-800-252-1166
www.gopherstateonecall.org

