



City of  
*St. Francis*

# NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2023 | VOL. 8, NO. 2

## St. Francis Farmers Market

Mark your calendars! The City of St. Francis is hosting a Farmers Market every Wednesday this summer in Community Park! The market will take place from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. from June 7 to September 13. Stop in to get your vegetables for the week, purchase custom canned goods and crafts, and enjoy the community feel.

We are still open to vendor applications for the season. The vendor fee is \$100 for the season or \$10 per day. We are also still looking for volunteers to assist with set up, greetings, and tear down. Contact Colette Baumgardner at 763.235.2301 or [cbaumgardner@stfrancismn.org](mailto:cbaumgardner@stfrancismn.org) for details.



## Inside This Issue



STORMWATER

| PAGE 4

## Message from your Mayor

I began writing this mayor's message in April and can only hope that summer will finally be here by the time it's published. It sure has been some up-and-down weather we have been facing, but one thing about being a Minnesotan is that we really enjoy good weather.

I am going to keep this brief as there are a lot of projects going through the process that have yet to be permitted. As I mentioned in other newsletters, as soon as they become ready to put shovels in the ground, I will make you aware of them.

First of all, I want to mention how I, the council, and the staff are excited about the St. Francis Farmer's Market. It will take place in the west parking lot of our Community Park. Every Wednesday, 3:00-7:00 p.m., is expected to run from June 7 to mid-September. Fresh produce, local crafts, and friendly faces await you at the market. Come out and support your local community, where you'll find something for everyone.

The city is looking for volunteers to help with the planning, coordination, and setup. If you are interested, please contact our Community Development Director, Colette Baumgardner, either at [cbaumgardner@stfrancismn.org](mailto:cbaumgardner@stfrancismn.org) or call her at 763-235-2301.

Secondly, I want to remind everyone about Pioneer Days beginning in June. It's been a while since we have had it in full swing, so get out there and enjoy all of the wonderful activities.

Finally, I want to let you know about a recycling event on Saturday, July 15, 8:00 a.m.-Noon, located at St. Francis Public Works, 4020 St. Francis Blvd. NW.

I hope all of you enjoy the summer, and above all, please keep safe.

*Regards, Mayor Feldman*



BIKE RODEO

| PAGE 4

CITY ASSESSOR | PAGE 2

PARK COMMISSIONER | PAGE 3

SEPTIC TANK PUMPING | PAGE 3

RECYCLING DATES | PAGE 3

LOCAL WATERS | PAGE 5

STROKE AWARENESS | PAGE 6

PIONEER DAYS SCHEDULE | PAGE 7

*Visit us on social media!*



## Become a Park Commission Member!

Do you want to help the City make essential decisions on our parks, new or old? Do you have ideas and suggestions that would benefit our park and recreational facilities? The Parks Commission may be the answer for you!

The City Council's purpose is to provide a high quality of life for City residents by protecting natural resources, safeguarding historic sites, and developing and maintaining park and recreational facilities for public enjoyment.

The City is looking for St. Francis residents to serve on the Parks Commission. All appointments shall be made by the City Council—a five-member commission with two-year terms. The Park Commission shall meet quarterly in February, May, August, and November each year.

If you have any questions or are interested in participating on the Parks Commission, you can request an application from our Public Works Department at 763-233-5200. The application is also available online at [www.stfrancismn.org/administration/page/commission-and-council-vacancy-application](http://www.stfrancismn.org/administration/page/commission-and-council-vacancy-application).

## From the City Assessor

### Property visits and the 2023 review area

State law requires Assessors to physically visit and review each property within the city once every five years. This year, starting in May, the Assessors, Erik Skogquist or Chris Larson, will be visiting and reviewing all properties in the area outlined below:

If your property is in the review area, here's what you can expect:

- The Assessor will come to the property and knock or ring the doorbell. If an adult is present, an inside review may be requested depending on the last time a full review was done. The Assessor will also walk around the outside of all buildings (if accessible) to verify exterior characteristics.
- If no one is there when the Assessor stops by, they will leave a door hanger with instructions if there are questions.
- Characteristics of the property that affect market value are age, square footage, quality of construction, condition, basement finish, recent remodeling, location, etc.
- The Assessor will be wearing an official identification badge and carrying business cards.

In addition to the five-year review area outlined above, the Assessors will visit new construction, permit, and remodeling work in all city areas.

Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation during this year's assessment review.



## The City of St. Francis Wastewater Treatment Facility Earns Recognition from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for Operational Excellence

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) recognizes the St. Francis Wastewater Facility for outstanding operations. To receive this recognition, facilities must consistently comply with monitoring, operations, and maintenance requirements; submit accurate, on-time reports to the MPCA; and employ staff certified by the MPCA in wastewater operations.

“The people who safeguard this outstanding treatment facility are committed to protecting and preserving water quality in a state that deeply values its natural resources,” Nicole Blasing Municipal Division director at MPCA. “The MPCA recognizes their considerable efforts and deeply appreciates their service to their community.”

Recognizing facilities this year has even more significance as the MPCA celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act established the basic framework for regulating pollution in waters by creating water quality standards to protect drinking water and to maintain a healthy aquatic community for animal and recreational uses. Thanks to these standards, treatment facilities were developed to clean water before it is returned to a river or stream.

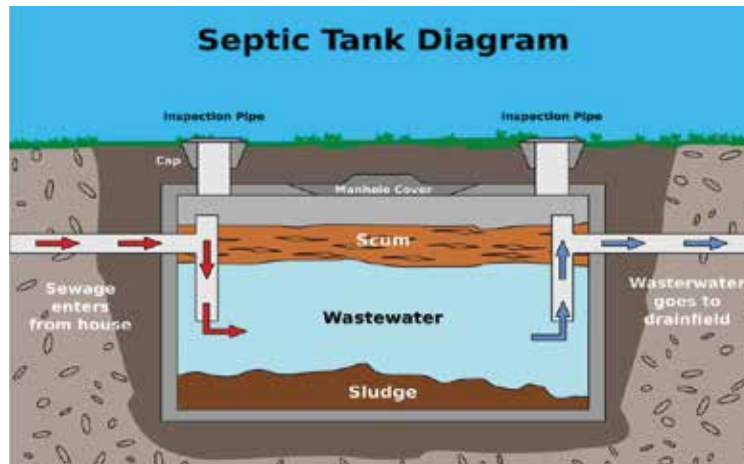
Minnesota has approximately 1,600 municipal and industrial wastewater treatment facilities with 248 qualifying for the recognition of the outstanding operation.



## Septic Tank Pumping Reminder

All septic system property owners are required to maintain their septic systems. A septic tank that has not been properly maintained can cause a costly repair or septic failure, such as backups in your basement and drainfield failure.

Minnesota State Statute and St. Francis City Code recognize the importance of septic system maintenance and require septic tanks to be pumped at least once every three years by a licensed septic tank maintainer. Prior to conducting the work, the maintainer must pull a \$20 pumping permit with the City and



return it when complete. The spring and summer are the recommended times to pump your septic tank.

For a list of professionals currently licensed by the state to conduct this work, please reference the following link from the MPCA, <https://webapp.pca.state.mn.us/ssts/business-search>.

Anoka County offers a well/septic loan program to property owners of systems in need of repair or replacement. Please visit <https://anokacountymn.gov/2023/well-septic-loans> or call 763-324-4605 for eligibility and application requirements.

For more information, contact the Community Development Department at 763-753-2630.

## Pet Waste— Did You Know?

During rainfall, pet waste left on lawns, parks, beaches, trails, and sidewalks washes into storm drains. These wastes and pathogens (bacteria, parasites, and viruses) flow directly into streams, lakes, and the ocean, where they can harm human health and the environment.

As pet wastes decompose, they demand a high level of oxygen from water, and this demand can kill fish and plant life by reducing the amount of dissolved oxygen available to them. In addition to beach closures, this contamination can make people sick with sore throats, intestinal problems, rashes, nausea, and eye and ear infections.

Do YOUR part to keep our Parks and Waters clean. Pick up after your pet! It's as easy as 1-2-3.

1. Bring a bag
2. Please clean it up
3. Dispose of it properly (toilet or trash)

The article was retrieved at [https://cfpub.epa.gov/npstbx/files/tbsd\\_pet\\_waste.pdf](https://cfpub.epa.gov/npstbx/files/tbsd_pet_waste.pdf)



## The City of St. Francis Charter Commission Members

The City of St. Francis is looking for residents interested in participating in the governance of their community by serving on the Charter Commission. The City of St. Francis operates as a Home Rule Charter City. A Home Rule Charter is similar to a local constitution, which studies the local charter and government to propose amendments to the City Charter.

Terms of the Charter Commission are four years in length as established by Minnesota Statutes 410.05 subd.2. Meetings are held on an as-needed basis; however, state law requires at least one meeting per year. If you are interested in participating on the Charter Commission, visit our website at [www.stfrancismn.org/bc-cc](http://www.stfrancismn.org/bc-cc) for an application.

### Recycling Dates to Remember!

Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - Noon  
July 15 or September 16  
or November 18



**No Trash, No Furniture  
at these Events**

All events are located  
at Public Works  
4020 St Francis Blvd. NW  
763-233-5200

# Stormwater

## Simple Steps for Better Water Quality!

You can make simple changes to reduce stormwater pollution and improve the quality of your local lake or river by following these tips:

- Fertilize established lawns with phosphorous-free fertilizer, and do not overspray fertilizer into the street.
- Rake leaves and sweep grass clippings away from curbs. Clean curbs mean clean water. Do not mow grass clippings or leaves onto the road. It is illegal.
- When you wash your car or truck, direct water onto your lawn to soak up soap.
- Find attractive alternatives to large, impervious driveways and sidewalks.
- Direct your home's gutters onto your lawn. Water that does not reach the curb cannot carry pollutants to lakes and streams.



According to the 1996 National Water Quality Inventory, stormwater runoff is a leading source of water pollution and can harm surface waters such as lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands. Typical pollutants in stormwater runoff include pesticides, fertilizers, oils, metals, pathogens, salt, sediment, litter, and other debris. These pollutants are transported via stormwater, including construction projects, industries, and urbanized areas.

Managing stormwater runoff from urbanized areas is very important for restoring or protecting surface waters. Urbanized areas are associated with activities that contribute pollutants to stormwater runoff, such as applying anti/deicing compounds, vehicle fueling, spills, landscaping, and lawn maintenance, and applying pesticides and fertilizers. Additionally, urbanized areas are characterized by numerous impervious surfaces, such as streets, driveways, rooftops, parking lots, and sidewalks. Stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces travels faster and in larger quantities, damaging rivers, streams, and wetlands; destroying aquatic habitats; and elevating pollutant levels reaching surface waters. Impervious surfaces also inhibit infiltration and subsequent groundwater recharge. Local public entities that own or operate a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) in urbanized areas play a crucial role in preventing or reducing the negative impacts stormwater runoff may have on Minnesota's valuable water resources.

*Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. For more information, please visit the MPCA Stormwater Program website at [www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/stormwater-permits](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/stormwater-permits)*



St. Francis Police Department sponsored

# BIKE

# RODEO

**Tuesday, June 8**  
5:00-7:00 p.m.



**St. Francis Police Department**  
4058 St. Francis Blvd. NW, St. Francis

- A chance to win one of 4 bikes
- A chance to win a tie-die Bike Safety T-Shirt
- Free hot dogs, chips & water
- Free giveaway bags
- Safety tips
- Fire trucks & squad cars
- Drive the bike course - (helmets required)

**All ages are welcome!**



All are welcome to join the City staff for a party in the park, Tuesday, August 1, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

For more information follow the Police Department's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/STFrancisPD](http://www.facebook.com/STFrancisPD)



Mark your calendar for our ice cream social, Thursday, August 17, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Follow us on Facebook for more information, [www.facebook.com/STFrancisPD](http://www.facebook.com/STFrancisPD)



## Local Waters Offer Opportunities

Our community has an abundance of local waters offering recreational opportunities. Within a few minutes drive you'll find a state-designated scenic and recreational river, bigger lakes, small hidden waters only reachable with a canoe, and more. Each offers something a little different: quiet paddling, water sports, a public beach, waterfowl hunting, or fishing. The trick is finding the spot that matches your dream "day off."

Amongst our local waters, here are some top picks sorted by activity:

- Fishing** Rum River & Lake George.
- Swimming** East Twin Lake has a nice smaller beach, and Lake George has a large beach. There is a park entry fee.
- Water sports** Lake George offers the most significant open water area.
- Hunting** Cedar Creek Conservation Area is located along the Rum River and accessed from County Road 9.
- Quiet Paddling** The Rum River. See the Rum River State water trail maps on the DNR website.
- Bird Watching** Rum River North or Central County Parks offer many trails along the Rum River.
- Winter Fun** The Anoka County Chapter of Pheasants Forever hosts an annual "Pheasants on Ice" at Lake George in February.

Before leaving home, you can learn more about a lake online. A favorite information source is the MN DNR's LakeFinder website at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind). You'll find public accesses, fisheries data, lake depth maps, water clarity, and more here.

Local waters are managed partly by the state and partly by locals. At the local level, our Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization (URRWMO) focuses on water quality. It is a collaboration of six communities (Bethel, East Bethel, Nowthen, Oak Grove, St. Francis, and Ham Lake) in the same watershed. It's built on the understanding that no one community can



manage the water that freely flows among communities. Their work includes water monitoring, shoreline stabilizations, stormwater treatment, and more. They work extensively with residents who would like to take action on their own property that will benefit area public waters. Information about the URRWMO is at [www.urrwmo.org](http://www.urrwmo.org) or contact Jamie Schurbon at 763-434-2030 ext. 210.

## ST. FRANCIS BOTTLE SHOP

### Weekly discount days:

- Military Monday - Save 10% for being in the Military.
- Senior Discount Tuesday – Save 10% by letting us know you are a senior.
- Wine Wednesday - Save 15% on non-sale wine or 20% if you buy it by the case.
- Check out our online ordering webpage at [www.stfrancisbottleshop.com](http://www.stfrancisbottleshop.com) for up-to-date inventory for those of you looking for a hard-to-get item.



### Upcoming community fundraisers:

- Support the Troops in the month of July—donated items are sent to troops across seas. The money donated goes towards buying supplies for the soldiers, and items such as socks, batteries, and deodorant are greatly appreciated.
- Firefighter Fundraiser in August—money is raised to help our local Fire Department purchase equipment. Last year this was our best fundraiser, and we hope to beat those numbers this year.

## Now Accepting Applications for the 2023-2024 year!



The Anoka/Washington County Head Start-Early Head Start program is accepting applications for the 2023-2024 program year. Programs are free for eligible families with children from birth to age five and pregnant women. Our Head Start center-based preschool option offers students a 6.5-hour day, four days per week.

Anoka/Washington County's Head Start-Early Head Start program provides education, nutrition, mental health, school readiness and parent engagement services to children and families from income-eligible households. Our approach is to provide a high-quality educational curriculum while connecting families with growth and learning opportunities. To learn more or apply, visit our website at [www.accap.org/head-start/enrollment-4](http://www.accap.org/head-start/enrollment-4) or call our enrollment hotline at 763-783-4314.

# Water Pollutant – Chloride

## Chloride

Minnesota's growing salty water problem threatens its freshwater fish and other aquatic life. Chloride from de-icing salt and water softener salt gets into lakes and streams, and groundwater supplies drinking water. It takes only one teaspoon of salt to pollute five gallons of water permanently, and once in the water, there is no feasible way to remove the chloride.

## Sources

When snow and ice melt, the salt we spread on icy roads, parking lots, and sidewalks flows into storm drains and our lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. Approximately 365,000 tons of road salt is applied in the Twin Cities metro area annually. A study by the University of Minnesota found that about 78 percent of salt used in the Twin Cities for winter maintenance is transported to groundwater or remains in the local lakes and wetlands. In the Twin Cities and other communities across Minnesota, local partners are addressing this problem by using sand and different strategies to keep winter roads safe while using less salt for de-icing.

People soften their water to make water heaters operate more efficiently, prevent hard water spots on dishes, and make soaps lather more. In most communities, salty brine from water softeners drains to municipal wastewater treatment plants not designed to remove salt from wastewater. The salt passes through to a lake or stream.

## Human health and environmental concerns

- **Drinking water** — Salt has contaminated groundwater in some areas of the state, and 75 percent of Minnesotans rely on groundwater for drinking water. Excess salt can affect the taste and healthfulness of drinking water.

Twenty-seven percent (20 percent) of monitoring wells in the Twin Cities metro area's shallow aquifers had chloride concentrations that exceeded EPA drinking water guidelines, and 30 percent of Twin Cities wells had chloride concentrations that exceeded the water quality standard.

- **Fish and aquatic bugs** — High amounts of chloride are toxic to fish, aquatic bugs, and amphibians. Chloride can negatively affect the fish and insect community structure, diversity, and productivity, even at lower levels.
- **Plants** — Road salt splash can kill plants and trees along the roadside, and plants that take up salty water through their roots can also suffer. Chloride in streams, lakes, and wetlands harms aquatic vegetation and can change the plant community structure.

- **Soil** — Salt-laden soil can lose its ability to retain water and store nutrients and be more prone to erosion and sediment runoff (which also harms water quality).
- **Pets** — Salt can sicken pets who consume it, lick it off their paws, or drink salty snow melt/runoff, and it can also irritate their paw pads.
- **Wildlife** — Some birds, like finches and house sparrows, can die from ingesting deicing salt. Some salt-sensitive species are particularly at risk.
- **Infrastructure** — Chloride corrodes road surfaces and bridges and damages reinforcing rods, increasing maintenance and repair costs.

*Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Water Pollutant. Chloride. Retrieved from [www.pca.state.mn.us/pollutants-and-contaminants/chloride](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/pollutants-and-contaminants/chloride)*

## Stroke Awareness

The signs and symptoms of a stroke often develop quickly. However, they can develop over hours or even days, such as when a transient ischemic attack (TIA) turns into a stroke.

The type of symptoms depends on the type of stroke and the affected area of the brain.

Signs of a TIA or stroke may include:

- Sudden numbness or weakness, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion or trouble speaking or understanding speech
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, or loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause

The FAST test can help you remember what to do if you think someone may be having a stroke:

- **F—Face:** Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?
- **A—Arms:** Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?
- **S—Speech:** Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is their speech slurred or strange?
- **T—Time:** If you observe any of these signs, call 9-1-1 immediately. Early treatment is essential.

If you think you or someone else is having a TIA or stroke, don't drive to the hospital or let someone else drive you. Call an ambulance so medical personnel can begin life-saving treatment on the way to the emergency room. During a stroke, every minute counts.

# St. Francis Pioneer Days

Friday, June 2 – Sunday, June 4



presented by the  
St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce



## Community Park

22825 St Francis Blvd NW  
St. Francis, MN

### Medallion Hunt

Medallion Hunt begins Monday, May 29, with clues posted on the Chamber website and Facebook page.

### Senior Walk

Order a customized flag with a picture of your graduating senior that will be placed in Community Park. After Pioneer Days, you can take the flag as a memento and use it as décor at a future graduation party, <https://innovationsplusllc.com/product/st-francis-class-of-2023-garden-flags>.

### St. Francis Got Talent Show

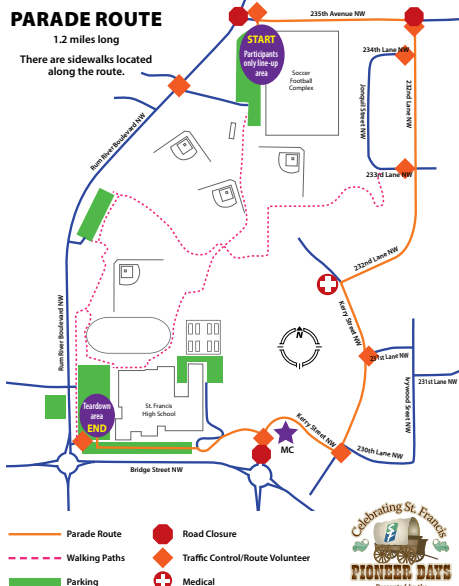
Show off your talent on Saturday night! All family-friendly acts are welcome, including singing, dancing, joke telling, karate demo, gymnastics, or whatever you are good at. To enter, submit a video to [chamber@stfrancischamber.org](mailto:chamber@stfrancischamber.org) or via Facebook Messenger.

### Get Involved

**Volunteers are needed all weekend! It's a great way to fulfill service hours and give back to your community.**

Personal and Business Donations are being accepted to make these Pioneer Days the best ever. If you would like to make a monetary donation or help sponsor an event, go to [www.stfrancischamber.org/pioneer-days](http://www.stfrancischamber.org/pioneer-days).

Schedule subject to change. Find the complete schedule with updates and all other Pioneer Days information visit, [stfrancischamber.org/pioneer-days](http://stfrancischamber.org/pioneer-days).



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Friday, June 2

- 2:00-4:00 pm **Free ice cream treats** at Village Bank

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- 5:00-9:00 pm **Carnival rides, games, crafters, exhibitors, business vendors, and food booths** in Community Park

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- 5:00-9:00 pm **Petting Zoo and Pony Rides** by Joah's Ark in Community Park

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- 5:00-9:00 pm **St. Francis Lions Club Beverage Garden** in Community Park

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- 5:00-9:00 pm **Car Show** for cars 1990 and older at County Market

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- 5:30-7:30 pm **Live Music** at Tasty Pizza Bar and Bowl by **Storm Front**

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- 7:00-9:00 pm **Live DJ** by Party Patrol DJs, tent at Community Park, FREE

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- 8:00-11:30 pm **Live Music** at Tasty Pizza Bar and Bowl by **Mason Dixon Line**

### Saturday, June 3

- 8:00 am **St. Francis Lions Club Softball Tournament** in Community Park, sponsored by Killebrew Root beer

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- 10:00 am-9:00 pm **Carnival rides, games, crafters, exhibitors, business vendors, and food booths** in Community Park

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- 10:00 am-9:00 pm **Petting Zoo and Pony Rides** by Joah's Ark in Community Park

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- 12:00-2:00 pm **GRAND PARADE** - starting at 235th Avenue NW and ending at High School

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- 2:30 pm **Miss St. Francis Ambassador Coronation** at Community Park

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- 3:30-4:30 pm **University of Minnesota Raptor Center Show** at Community Park

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- 4:30-8:30 pm **University of Minnesota Raptor Center Meet-and-Greet Booth** at the Community Park

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- 5:00-9:00 pm **St. Francis Lions Club Beverage Garden** in Community Park

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- 7:00-9:30 pm **Community TALENT SHOW** at Community Park

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- 8:00 pm **Live Music** Tasty's Pioneer Days Jam at Tasty Pizza Bar and Bowl

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- 10 Minutes after Dusk **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

### Sunday, June 4

- 9:00 am **St. Francis Lions Club Softball Tournament** in Community Park, sponsored by Killebrew Root beer

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- 10:00 am-11:00 am **Community Worship Service** in Community Park, sponsored by Living Hope Church

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- 10:00 am-4:00 pm **Carnival rides, games, crafters, exhibitors, business vendors, and food booths** in Community Park

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- 1:00 pm **Mega Bingo** at Tasty Pizza Bar and Bowl

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- 1:00-4:00 pm **Live Music** by **Dan Geiger**, tent at Community Park, FREE!

For more information and how to get involved, visit [www.stfrancischamber.org](http://www.stfrancischamber.org) or call 763-438-5163





23340 Cree Street NW  
St. Francis, MN 55070

PRESORTED  
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St. Francis, MN  
55070

## ECRWSS POSTAL PATRON

### Events Calendar

Visit the City's website [www.stfrancismn.org](http://www.stfrancismn.org) for calendar updates.

### 2022 Consumer Consumption Report

The 2022 Consumer Consumption Report is now available at [www.stfrancismn.org/publicworks/page/annual-water-reports](http://www.stfrancismn.org/publicworks/page/annual-water-reports).

Please contact Public Works at 763-235-2300 if you have questions about St. Francis' drinking water. You can also ask for information about how you can participate in decisions that may affect water quality.

### 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](http://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](mailto:city@stfrancismn.org) 763-753-2630  
Website [www.stfrancismn.org](http://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!**

Gopher State One Call  
Local: 651-454-0002  
Toll Free: 1-800-252-1166  
[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)

