



City of
St. Francis

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2019 | VOL. 4, NO. 2

City Council Decides to Upgrade All Water Meters

The St. Francis City Council has elected to replace all old water meters with new meter technology. The new metering system will provide semi-real time information for water use, improving your ability to use water wisely and to help improve customer service. The new system will create alerts for city staff to help in identifying leaks or other problems.

Through a formal bid process, the City has contracted with Ferguson Waterworks to complete this installation. At the time of this publication, we do not have a start date or project timeline established other than all new meters must be installed prior to January 1, 2020.

What to look for:

- Announcements will be posted on the City website at www.stfrancismn.org.
- A US mailed letter to all residents currently on our water system with directions on how to schedule your replacement meter change-out. This information will have contact information for any questions you may have.
- There are no direct costs for the replacement, but you are required to have your water meter replaced.
- All telephone numbers and contact information will be provided in your letter.
- We need you to set up an appointment. All appointment scheduling will be handled by Ferguson Waterworks.

Message from your Mayor

Can you believe it's August and fall is right around the corner? Where did summer go? For me, fall is a great time of the year with colors changing and temperatures a little cooler to enjoy being outdoors.

By the time this newsletter comes out, Night to Unite organized by the St. Francis Police Department, Lion's Club and Area Chamber of Commerce will have taken place at Community Park on August 6. It was a very good turnout, the weather cooperated and there were a lot of activities and food for everyone. If you missed it this year make sure to make it next year. Also, Kwik Trip will have opened and I am sure everyone has noticed the construction process going on over the last few months. I have to say it was pretty impressive how it all came together for the opening date on August 15 at 5:00 a.m.

The Meadows Townhome project that was in litigation has finally come back to the City. I am happy to say the City's

Economic Development Authority (EDA) has sold 42 lots to Joshua Markum Builders. The consensus of the EDA, staff and council is that this is a reputable builder who will fit in with our long-term development plans.

Meridian Behavioral Health has submitted a building permit. This project has been a long time in the making, over ten years. The facility will house 64 patients. Admission is voluntary for adults only and it is not government run. It is a secured facility with onsite 24-7 staffing. They also have other locations throughout the Midwest.

The assisted living project by The Ponds is still viable under the partnership and supervision of Mosaic Management, Inc. They are a professional senior housing management company out of Salem, Oregon formed in 2009. This will be their first project in our state.

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Visit us on social media!



City Code Updates

Three city codes have been updated. Code changes work toward meeting community needs and addressing the highest concerns we hear from residents. Codes are reviewed and updated when Council agrees a current code is not meeting the greater benefit of the community as a whole. Codes are reviewed when we see a large number of complaints regarding a single issue or a request for change from a number of unrelated parties. Current updates include the following:

Rental Housing Licensing – this program now includes provisions for behavior and conduct requiring the property to address ongoing complaints. Nuisance and disruptive properties within a neighborhood may now lose their rental license. Additionally all licensing matters will be processed through City Council.

Outdoor Storage – for vehicles, trucks and recreational items, codes were clarified to identify residential districts and parking. If a property is within a residential district, it is unlawful to park a vehicle in the yard except on an approved parking surface. This is to address the number one complaint by residents.

Accessory Structures – for residents within the urban service area, the size of an accessory structure has increased from 200 to 250 square feet. If the property within the area has at least a half-acre of buildable land, it may be permitted to have an accessory structure up to 500 square feet. Code clarifications were also addressed regarding general standards and conditions.

Did You Know?

It is the Property Owner's duty to cut grass and weeds from their property line, including the boulevard of such property to the middle of the street?

**City Code: 7-2-6
Regulation of grass, weeds
and trees**

C. Duty of Property Owners to Cut Grass and Weeds and Maintain Trees and Shrubs.

1. Every owner of property abutting on any street shall cause the grass and weeds to be cut from the line of such property nearest to such street to the center of such street. If the grass or weeds in such a place attain a height in excess of six (6) inches it shall be prima facie evidence of a failure to comply with this Subdivision.



Mayor

Continued from page 1

By now everyone has seen the new stoplight at the intersection of Pederson Drive and Highway 47. MnDOT will be having two more meetings as they get closer to finalizing the plans to improve the corridor. The corridor runs from the police/public works building north to Ambassador Boulevard NW. The next public hearing is on Thursday, September 19, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 22940 St. Francis Boulevard NW. I urge you to attend because your input will be helpful to MnDOT in finalizing the design to make Highway 47 traffic flow smoother and above all, safer through our city. There will also be one more meeting for businesses and notification of that meeting will be sent out as the date gets closer. For more information go to the city website and hold your cursor on "Our Community." When the window comes up, there is a link to the MnDOT website in the lower left corner.

As always I want to remind you that the only way we can serve you better is if you bring your concern or issue to us. We will look into it with the full due diligence it deserves and give you an honest answer. It may or may not be the answer you want to hear, but I can assure you it will have been fully researched.

Please drive carefully as school gets back in session and always look out for pedestrians in crosswalks.

Have a safe and happy Labor Day weekend and most of all, enjoy all of your outdoor activities!

Regards,
Mayor Feldman

Get ready for winter weather with Smart Salting training opportunities

Wednesday, September 11

Smart Salting for Parking Lots and Sidewalks at Blaine City Hall
smartsalting-parkinglots.eventbrite.com

Thursday, September 19

Smart Salting for Parking Lots and Sidewalks at Springbrook Nature Center, Fridley, email ddoering@cooncreekwd.org

Friday, September 27

Smart Salting for Property Managers, SBM Fire Station #3, Blaine
www.eventbrite.com/e/smart-salting-for-property-managers-tickets-62733276920



Welcome to the community

A new Kwik Trip store opened off Highway 47 and 233rd Avenue NW on August 15. The new store occupies a space that had been a gas station in the 1980-90s. The store brings to the City additional choices for fuel, food and employment opportunities. For information on the history of Kwik Trip, rewards program and employment opportunities, visit their website at www.kwiktrip.com.

St. Francis Parks and Recreation

As sad as it is to hear, summer is coming to an end. School shopping is nearing its end and summer vacations are wrapping up. As we look forward to cooler weather, no bugs and school starting again, we can always look forward to the changing of the colors. St. Francis has many opportunities to see the changing of fall colors. We are fortunate to have the Rum River that flows through the heart of the City. Many people take advantage of calmer waters and enjoy the day kayaking or canoeing on the river. You can launch your canoe or kayak from Rum River North County Park. Don't have a kayak or canoe? Rum River North County Park and Dellwood River Park have paved trails that run along the river where you can enjoy the scenery or cast out a fishing line.

Fall can be a great time to go fishing on the river. The great thing about fishing on a river is you don't need a boat to do so. There are many spots you can fish from shore that are just off the paved trails. Be sure to watch the current as it can be strong and always changing. The Rum River has a variety of species to catch including smallmouth bass, walleye and northern pike. St. Francis Public Works has current fishing regulations booklets to pick up during normal operating



Message from Public Works

Lath Snowplow Guides

When there is a blanket of fresh snow on the ground, it can be difficult for snowplow operators to see the curbs or the edge of the road. Putting wooden lath next to the curb can help the snowplow operators locate the edge during the first or second snowfall. Lath is used as a guide for the snowplow operator, not as a protector along your property. When putting in stakes at your property, do NOT use metal posts. The stakes need to be of a break-away design, so as not to cause injury to others. The Public Works Department, 4058 St. Francis Boulevard NW and City Hall, 23340 Cree Street NW have wooden lath available for pickup during normal business hours.

hours. You can also go to the city website and print off our parks brochure to see all the parks and trails the city has to offer.

Visit the St Francis Parks webpage at www.stfrancismn.org/parksrec or the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website at www.dnr.state.mn.us.

Highway 47 St. Francis Planning Study

Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), in collaboration with the city of St. Francis, Anoka County, and St. Francis Area Schools, is studying potential improvements to Highway 47 between Cree Street NW and Ambassador Boulevard NW in the City of St. Francis. The four-lane divided highway currently has safety and movement issues and is in need of long-term improvements.

MnDOT hosted an initial public open house and listening session in April as a first step in determining alternatives to address pedestrian, bicycle and motorist safety and movement, as well as the role this corridor plays in the future of the City of St. Francis. MnDOT is hosting another public open house on Thursday, September 19, 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in St. Francis. At this meeting, the project team will share more about the study and collect feedback from the public on initial concepts.

If you are not able to make it to the meeting, a virtual open house will be available on MnDOT's website and can be another way for you to share feedback to MnDOT on the initial concepts. For more details, visit the Highway 47 St. Francis planning study website at mndot.gov/metro/projects/Highway47stfrancis.



Fall Recycling

September 21

or

November 16

9:00 a.m.-Noon

Lepage & Sons Recycling Event
23602 University Avenue Ext NW
Bethel, MN



October 26

8:00 a.m.-Noon

**Leaf, Paper Shred,
Cardboard Event**

4020 St. Francis Boulevard NW
St. Francis

Recycle Smart: The Dos and Don'ts of Recycling Curbside

A lot of us want to recycle more at home. Most people will throw any questionable item in the recycle bin and consider it recycled. Unfortunately, that does not guarantee the item will be recycled. Your curbside recycling cart can take lots of recyclables, but not everything. Here are some common mistakes and tips for recycling at home.

Styrofoam should not be placed in your curbside cart!

Any kind of Styrofoam is not recyclable curbside. However, in Anoka County, the Coon Rapids Recycling Center accepts block or rigid Styrofoam packaging. The center is located at 1831 111th Avenue NW, Coon Rapids, south of Highway 10, off Hanson Boulevard NW.



Don't crush your aluminum cans!

When recycling aluminum cans in your curbside cart, do not crush them. When they go to a sorting facility, the machines have a hard time detecting the cans since they are not in their original shape. If you're taking only aluminum cans to a metal recycling facility, then it is acceptable to have the cans crushed.

Don't put your recycling in a plastic bag!

When recyclables are put in plastic bags, the bags get caught in the sorting machines and stop the whole sorting process. Instead, collect your clean/dry/white or clear plastic bags separately and bring them to your local County Market or large retailer!

Any questions call St. Francis Public Works at 763-233-5200. Also, be sure to stop by Public Works to pick up a recycling guide or download the Anoka County Recycling App on your phone!

Publication funded by the Anoka County Board of Commissioners and State SCORE (Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment) funds.

New Adopt-a-Drain Program is Taking the Metro by Storm!

*Emily Johnson, Anoka Conservation District
Britta Dornfeld, Coon Creek Watershed District*

There's a new program in the seven-county metro area that's taking the streets by storm. Since its official launch in May of 2019, over 4,000 residents have joined the movement to adopt a storm drain, making it the largest community engagement program of its type in the entire United States!

Storm drains are common on urban and suburban streets but are often overlooked. We pay little attention to where all that water goes when it rains and instead rely on storm drains to do their job. Quietly and efficiently, they carry water runoff from streets and other hard surfaces through pipes underground, sometimes flowing directly to local streams, lakes, and wetlands. Anything picked up by that storm water is carried with it, dumping pollution into our water! Even organic debris, such as fallen leaves and grass clippings, can be pollutants because they add artificially large amounts of nutrients that can cause increased algae growth.

So, what can we do about it?

The Adopt-a-Drain program is one local answer to preventing pollution from getting into our waters and is so easy you can get involved right away! The commitment is completely voluntary and only takes a few minutes every month. To learn more, see the program's collective impact and sign up, visit www.Adopt-a-Drain.org. Are you ready to adopt your drain and join the movement?



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.

For Drivers

- ▶ Be on the lookout for school zone signals and ALWAYS obey the speed limit.
- ▶ 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 you will encounter with school back in session.

Back-to-School Safety Tips

Bus Stop Safety

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ A recent survey showed that 2,621 bus drivers counted 530 stop arm violations in one day.

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 make sure traffic is stopped before crossing.
- ▶ When at the crosswalk, please encourage your child to push the crosswalk button.
- ▶ For students driving to school, please avoid keeping valuables in their vehicle.

The police department will have extra traffic enforcement before and after school, so please obey speed limits and yield to pedestrians in the crosswalks.

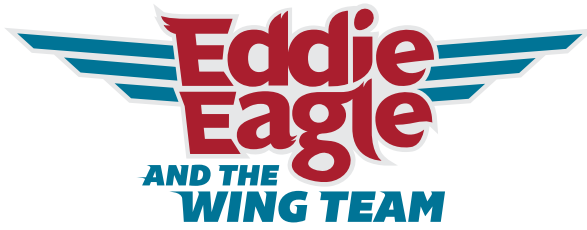


During National Fire Prevention Week October 6-12, St. Francis Fire Department firefighters will visit area elementary schools to teach students about fire safety and prevention.

For more tips about fire prevention and what to do in case of a fire, visit the National Fire Protection Association at www.nfpa.org.

Remember to check your smoke alarms when you change your clocks for Daylight Savings Time on November 3.

Gun Safety with



Tuesday, November 19 | 6:00-7:00 p.m.

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 are kept in approximately half of all households. This makes it likely that children will encounter a firearm at some point, so make sure they are informed.

The class will be held on Tuesday, November 19 at the St. Francis Police Department, 4058 St. Francis Boulevard NW, St. Francis. The class will run from 6:00 until 7:00 p.m. and is for children in kindergarten through 6th grade.



Fire Safety Checklist for Homeowners and Renters

If there is a fire, you may have less than 3 minutes to get out of your home. Talk about what you should do to be safe. Make sure everyone in your home knows what to do if there is a fire.

Put a check in front of each statement that is true for your home.

Smoke Alarms

- Smoke alarms are on every level of the home.
- Smoke alarms are inside and outside sleeping areas.
- Smoke alarms are tested each month.
- Smoke alarm batteries are changed as needed.
- Smoke alarms are less than ten years old.

Cooking Safety

- The cooking area has no items that can burn.
- People stay in the kitchen when they are frying, grilling, boiling or broiling food.
- Pot handles are always turned toward the back of the stove.

Escape Plan

- There is a fire escape plan that shows two ways out of every room.
- Everyone knows where the safe meeting place is outside the home.
- Everyone living in the house practices the escape plan two times a year.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- Carbon monoxide alarms are located on each level of the home.
- Carbon monoxide alarms are less than seven years old.

Electrical and Appliance Safety

- All electrical cords are in good condition and not broken or cut.
- People clean the dryer of lint after every use.
- All plug outlets are safe and do not feel warm to the touch. (If they are warm, call the landlord or an electrician.)

Candle Safety

- Candles are in sturdy fire-proof containers that won't be tipped over.
- Adults blowout all candles when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Candles are kept out of reach from children and pets.

Learn more about fire prevention at www.usfa.fema.gov

St. Francis Fire Department's

French Toast Breakfast and Open House

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 12**

**8:00 a.m. to Noon
St. Francis Fire
Department**

3740 Bridge Street,
across from Subway

Free-will donations accepted

**Contact the
St. Francis Fire
Department
at 763-753-2334 for
more information.**



Visit the Updated Go Anoka County Website

The Go Anoka County website, www.goanokacounty.org, recently underwent a facelift! Go Anoka County is an online resource to identify opportunities for individuals in Anoka County to engage in healthy eating, physical activity, and tobacco-free living.

There is a wealth of resources available on the site, including parks and rec information for the county and all cities, food shelf and community meal times/locations, tips and support for promoting breastfeeding, information about reducing tobacco-use, and much more! The site also features information about our SHIP work and successes in Anoka County. We encourage everyone to use this site as a go-to resource and share it widely with the community.



Be a savvy Internet user and follow these consumer pips to avoid scams:

Consider your safety first when buying protects on line.

- Beware of Internet payment services that are accessed through a link or in the body of an email. Links can be masked to retrieve personal information and logos and trademarks can be faked.
- Don't be rushed. If someone really wants to do business with you, they will wait.
- Be wary of wiring money to a party that you do not know.
- Cashier's checks are *not* the same as cash. Just because the money appears to be available in your account does not mean that the check has cleared and is legitimate.
- Always be wary of someone who wants to pay more than you are asking or who wants to sell you an item at an unbelievably low price.



St. Francis Police

Department Facebook page

The St. Francis Police Department provides information regarding local events, safety tips and press releases for major incidents. You can also send us your questions through private messages and tips on any recent crimes that have taken place.

St. Francis Curfew Laws

Juveniles must abide by city curfew laws, weekdays Sunday through Thursday and weekends Friday and Saturday.

- Juveniles under 12 years of age must be home by 9:00 p.m. on weekdays and 10:00 p.m. on weekends.
- Juveniles 12 to 14 years of age must be home by 10:00 p.m. on weekdays and 11:00 p.m. on weekends.
- Juveniles 15 to 17 years of age must be home by 11:00 p.m. on weekdays and midnight on weekends.

Exceptions to the curfew laws apply when the juvenile is attending, going to or returning from school, church or community sponsored athletic, musical or social activities.



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!
Gopher State One Call
 Local: 651-454-0002
 Toll Free: 1-800-252-1166
www.gopherstateonecall.org

Chlorides in Wastewater

Public Works staff would like to remind residents to make sure their water softeners are operating efficiently. As many of you know, when the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency renewed the City's wastewater permit in 2015, we were given a chloride limit; this is where we need your assistance. The main cause of high chlorides in wastewater is from water softeners. When a water softener goes into regeneration mode, the salt water (chlorides) used to regenerate the softener is discharged into the City's wastewater system. High chloride levels can have a negative effect on the ecosystem of streams, rivers and lakes. The drinking water in St. Francis is around 13 grains per gallon. Adjusting your softeners accordingly, will help in keeping chloride levels down.



Want to know more about groundwater?

View the groundwater education video created in collaboration with the Anoka County Water Resource Outreach Collaborative.

View and share the completed video Our Groundwater Connection at <https://youtu.be/gxENTkMmyEE>



23340 Cree Street NW
St. Francis, MN 55070

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 8 St.
Francis, MN 55070

ECRWSS POSTAL PATRON

Events Calendar

- Every Friday now through September 6**
Car Show, St. Francis City Centre Mall, 5:00 p.m.
- September 2** Labor Day – *City Offices Closed*
- September 3-4** School starts for St. Francis Area Schools
- September 7** Citywide Garage Sale begins at 9:00 a.m.
- September 19** MnDOT Open House on Highway 47 at First Baptist Church, 4:30-7:30 pm
- September 21** Recycling event, LePage and Sons, 9:00 a.m.-Noon
- October 12** French Toast Breakfast & Open House at St. Francis Fire Department, 8:00 a.m.-Noon
- October 14** Columbus Day – *City Offices Closed*
- October 23** Anti-Bullying Day
- October 26** **FREE** paper shredding, leaf drop-off and cardboard event at Public Works Facility, 8:00 a.m.-Noon
- October 31** Business to Business Trick or Treat
- November 11** Veterans Day – *City Offices Closed*
- November 16** Recycling event, LePage and Sons, 9:00 a.m.-Noon
- November 19** Gun Safety with Eddie Eagle at St. Francis Police Department, see page 6
- November 28** Thanksgiving Day – *City Offices Closed*

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

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