



City of  
*St. Francis*

# NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2020 | VOL. 5, NO. 4

## Important COVID-19 Update

With the volatile nature of COVID-19, the City urges all residents to check the City's website for any updates or changes in processing related issues and business. COVID-19 protocols could impact the way the City handles routine business. Updates will be available on the City's website at [www.stfrancismn.org](http://www.stfrancismn.org). Police, Fire, Water, and Sewer services will always be available. But services, such as paying utility bills, building permits, and other administrative functions will be available but may be subject to change on how they are processed. These transactions could potentially be made online, by telephone, or via the City Hall drop box. Please refer to the City's website, [www.stfrancismn.org](http://www.stfrancismn.org), for updates or contact staff before stopping by City Hall. Thank you for your patience during this difficult time.

## Message from your Mayor

The month of October was the snowiest since 1991. I didn't think I was going to get my leaves picked up before winter and then we got that nice break in the weather for two weeks. Too bad it couldn't last long, but that's Minnesota a little tease before winter sets in (LOL).

I'm really glad that the elections are over and no more commercials, at least for a couple of years. I want to thank all of the election officials and city staff for their hard work in making sure that your vote was processed properly. Also, thank you to all who came out and voted using that precious right we have as citizens.

The city had a variety of food trucks at the Community Park and liquor muni this year and we are planning to do a lot more next summer, so stay tuned.

The City Council is waiting for an in-person meeting with the Commissioner of MnDOT to come up with a workable redesign of Highway 47. The following is the recommendation that the city council and staff will present to the commissioner:

Install a roundabout at 229th; keep the existing stoplight at Pederson Drive; install a new stoplight at 233rd Avenue; install a roundabout at Ambassador Boulevard. Have one lane going north and one lane going south with a well-lighted median and longer turn lanes. Make the southbound and northbound lanes the same height at 227th Avenue. Lower the traffic speed permanently, throughout the city limits, whether school is in session or not.

The hope is that this meeting will produce a plan to make Highway 47 safer and a long-term benefit to the city.

Despite COVID-19, our city is seeing continuous growth in the new construction of single-family homes. St. Francis has affordable lot prices

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*Visit us on social media!*



## Assessor's Corner

### 2020 Property Review update

The City assessors have finished visiting residential properties that were due for a five-year review. During the next few months, they will continue reviewing commercial, industrial and apartment properties, work done on issued permits, and new construction homes.

Proposed 2021 Property Tax Statements will be mailed from Anoka County during November. Statements will show the preliminary estimate of property tax due for 2021. The estimate is based on county, city, and school district levies and other taxing authorities. There will be a list of dates and times for upcoming public meetings for each of the taxing authorities is included and where objections to the levy amounts may be expressed. The notice does not include waste management fees, special assessments, or school district referenda approved in the fall.

More information about property tax statements can be found online at [www.anokacounty.us/273/Records-Taxation-Assessment](http://www.anokacounty.us/273/Records-Taxation-Assessment)

Looking for information about how assessed value is determined, homestead classification, or property taxes? Visit the Minnesota Department of Revenue Property Tax Fact Sheets online at [www.revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-fact-sheets](http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-fact-sheets)

## Zoning Code Update

Contracted City Planner Beth Richmond has been working with the City Council and staff to update Chapter 10 - Zoning of the City Code. The section outlines how special land use permits are processed and what general performance and lot standards are for accessory buildings, signs, fences, and parking. Additionally, this Chapter discusses what uses are permitted or require a land use permit with the different zoning districts. The update includes the combination and elimination of some zoning districts. Several new topics are being addressed in the updated code such as, food trucks, mother-in-law units, and short-term rentals. The public is invited to review and comment on the updated code. The can be found of the city's website under the Community Development Department, 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Code Update.

## Winter activities

As winter arrives, people tend to find themselves stuck inside wishing for warmer days. While it can be more enjoyable to do activities when it is warm outside, there are plenty of activities to do in the winter. When the snow arrives in Minnesota, the city of St. Francis sledding hill will offer hours of entertainment and fun. As it can be a pretty fast hill, use it at your own risk. The sledding hill is located at Seelye Brooke Park, 4540 229th Avenue NW.

When the weather allows, the city also creates and maintains an ice skating and a hockey rink. The ice rinks are not cooled so they rely on cold weather and snow to have them up and running. Warming house hours, weather and schedule permitting, are Monday-Friday 3:00-9:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.



If the weather isn't too brutal, community members are invited to take a winter stroll on the city's plowed trails. No need to be stuck inside this winter. Put some warm layers on and venture outside. For more information on the locations of the parks and trails, visit Parks and Recreation on the city website at [www.stfrancismn.org/parksrec](http://www.stfrancismn.org/parksrec).



## Recycling in St. Francis

Well, 2020 has been a very interesting year, and one we'll not soon forget. The recycling world continues to be a challenge around the United States as the market for recyclable material changes weekly. The market is strong in Minnesota as more businesses are using recycled materials and finding new ways to recycle. The city of St. Francis provides recycling opportunities for residents and is always looking for ways to improve the program.

Earlier this year, recycling events were put on hold due to the pandemic. We eventually started back up in the late summer and provided four recycling events. The three smaller events held at LePage and Sons were a big hit. The number of vehicles that drove through with items was more than double of last year. The large event held at Public Works was lighter attended than previous years but still a big success.

As we wrap up this year's events, there are a couple of things to share. First of all, thank you to all who participated in these events and continued to make them a success. Also, thank you to those who provide constructional criticism and ideas to help us grow the program. Second, thank you to those who continued to recycle at home and in the parks. With your participation, we will continue to have a successful recycling program.

As organics recycling grows, the interest around it grows. The city is looking to start an organic drop off program before the end of the year. Be sure to watch for an informational flyer in the mail with details.

The city will continue to collect holiday lights, cords, and used cell phones in the Public Works lobby year-round. If you have a recycling question or an idea, be sure to let us know at [sfrecycles@stfrancismn.org](mailto:sfrecycles@stfrancismn.org) or by calling Public Works at 763-233-5200.

## RECYCLING – Holiday lights and cell phone collection

Every year St. Francis Public Works collects old, broken, or worn-out cell phones and holiday lights for proper recycling at a local facility. These items cannot be recycled through curbside recycling and are usually thrown in the trash. Drop off old holiday lights and cell phones at the Police and Public Works Facility during normal business hours Monday through Friday, from 6:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. If you have any recycling questions or concerns, please call Public Works at 763-233-5200.



## Santa & the Fire Truck

**Thursday,  
December 10**

**This year will look very different than years past as the fire department implementing a no contact food donation collection for North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf (NACE).**

**For more information, follow St. Francis Fire Department's Facebook page @StFramieMnFire**



## TOY DRIVE

The St. Francis Police Department is a drop-off location for Toys for Joy donations. Donations will be accepted in the lobby until December 13 and distributed to people living in northern Anoka County.

**St. Francis Police Department**  
4058 St. Francis Boulevard NW  
St. Francis





## Accessory heater warning

Last winter the fire department responded to a couple of incidents involving accessory heating-related structure fires. It is not uncommon during colder months, but it does serve as an important reminder to use caution while utilizing accessory heating devices.



Space heater used in a garage.



Woodburning stove not properly maintained.

Follow these safety guidelines when using alternative heat sources from FEMA on this page.

## Heating Fire Safety

Follow these heating tips to help maintain a fire-safe home this winter.



### Space Heater

- Keep anything that can burn, such as bedding, clothing and curtains, at least 3 feet away from the heater.
- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Plug portable heaters directly into outlets and never into an extension cord or power strip.
- Only use portable heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.



### Fireplace

- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks jumping out.
- Do not burn paper in your fireplace.
- Put the fire out **before** you go to sleep or leave your home.
- Put ashes in a metal container with a lid, outside, at least 3 feet from your home.



### Wood Stove

- Make sure your wood stove is 3 feet from anything that can burn.
- Do not burn paper in your wood stove.
- Put the fire out **before** you go to sleep or leave your home.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional.



### Furnace

- Have your furnace inspected each year.
- Keep anything that can burn away from the furnace.



### Kerosene Heater

- Only use kerosene heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.
- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Refuel your **cooled** heater outside.

For more information and free resources, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach).

U.S. Fire Administration



FEMA

## Can you find the fire hydrant?

If you have a fire hydrant on or near your property, please take the time to clear the snow away. It will save firefighters precious time in accessing the water needed to fight a fire. Yes, the photo on the right shows a hydrant in St. Francis!

If you require assistance in clearing out a fire hydrant, please call the fire station at 763-753-2334, and we will send someone out to help as quickly as possible.



## Mayor

Continued from page 1

and lower than average median home pricing, compared to other neighboring cities, this gives homebuyers a lot more for their hard-earned dollars.

The holidays are soon approaching, so please drive carefully to your destinations. Social distance or wear masks (when necessary) but above all, keep safe and enjoy time with your families.

Regards,  
Mayor Feldman

## Free high-quality Head Start Preschool & Early Head Start programs

The Anoka/Washington County Head Start-Early Head Start program enrolls students year-round!

The program is free for eligible families with children from birth to five and pregnant women.

To learn more, visit our website at [www.accap.org/head-start/enrollment-4](http://www.accap.org/head-start/enrollment-4) or call 763-783-4314.



## Chloride management strategies

### Winter maintenance

Community members can reduce salt use by:

- Shoveling before salt application
- Using salt at appropriate temperatures and the correct application rate – a maximum of 4 pounds for 1,000 square feet.
- Sweeping and reusing salt and sand on dry pavement

### Water softening

Households and organizations with timer-based softeners can consider upgrading to demand-based units

Households can reduce water softening salt use by:

- Softening hot and indoor lines only
- Having their softener setting checked by a professional to maximize efficient salt use
- Not using a softener if the drinking water hardness is below 7 grains per gallon. Currently, the City of St. Francis has a hardness level of 13-14 grains per gallon.

*Water Resource Center. Chloride in Communities & Watersheds. Advancing science-based solutions for freshwater management. Retrieved from [www.wrc.umn.edu/sites/wrc.umn.edu/files/umnwatershedbmps\\_final.pdf](http://www.wrc.umn.edu/sites/wrc.umn.edu/files/umnwatershedbmps_final.pdf)*

## Did you know that Minnesota has a Stormwater Manual?

The Minnesota Stormwater Manual:

- Serves as a valuable resource for professional stormwater managers
- Welcomes newcomers to the stormwater field
- Provides practical stormwater management practices
- Receives regular review and edits
- Exists due to the continuing efforts of the Stormwater Steering Committee

Whether you're new to stormwater or you've been working in the field for years, you'll find the Minnesota Stormwater Manual wiki has what you're looking for. It offers quick ways to search for information, provide feedback to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and update the contents. You will find the latest in stormwater management, including best management practices, models, and regulations.

You can find the Minnesota Stormwater Manual here at [https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/Main\\_Page](https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/Main_Page)

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Enhancing stormwater management in Minnesota. Retrieved from: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/minnesotas-stormwater-manual>

To report a street light out, contact Connexus Energy at [www.connexusenergy.com/outage-center/outdoor-light-repair-request](http://www.connexusenergy.com/outage-center/outdoor-light-repair-request)

## Know The Flow!

[www.knowtheflow.us](http://www.knowtheflow.us)



## Winter parking restrictions

The City of St. Francis will have winter parking restrictions in place from November 1 until May 1. During this time, there is no parking on city streets from 1:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Also, if there are snow accumulations of more than two inches, there is no on-street parking until the roads have been plowed from curb to curb.

Officers will issue citations for any winter parking violation. The most common complaint when someone does receive a ticket is, "I didn't know." Please help spread the word to your friends, family, and neighbors. Plus, make sure any overnight guests are informed as well.

For more information see City Ordinance 7-4-3 Winter Parking under City Code at [www.stfrancismn.org](http://www.stfrancismn.org). If you have any questions, contact an on-duty police officer through Anoka County Dispatch at 763-427-1212.



## Winter driving tips

- Always buckle your seat belt!
- Brake properly to avoid skidding. If driving on snow or ice, start slowly and brake gently. Begin braking extra early when approaching an intersection.
- If you start to slide, ease off the gas pedal or brakes. Steer into the direction of the skid until you regain traction, then straighten your vehicle. If you have anti-lock brakes, apply steady pressure.
- In fog, drive with headlights set on dim or use fog lights.
- In rain, fog, snow, or sleet, stay within the limits of your vision. If it is too difficult to see, pull off the road and stop. Turn on hazard blinkers.
- Decrease speed and increase following distance on hazardous roads. Your speed should adjust for conditions without becoming an impediment to traffic flow.

Visit <http://hsem.dps.mn.gov> for the winter safety checklist.



## Snowmobile safety

- Don't drink alcohol and ride.
- Pay attention to the weather and check trail conditions.
- Don't ride alone.
- Slow down, obey all trail signs and cross roadways with extreme caution.
- Stay to the right on trails.
- Stay on designated snowmobile trails to avoid violating trespassing laws.
- Obtain a permit from the police department if riding in a permit zone.
- Obey all state laws and local ordinances. Snowmobile ordinances can be viewed on the City of St. Francis website under Chapter 7 of the City Code.



## Package theft deterrents

The holidays are fast approaching and packages will be delivered to more homes than ever before. Millions of Americans have packages stolen from their homes each year. There are several ways to protect yourself from criminal activity and they are:

- If you know you will not be home during the delivery of a package, have it delivered to your workplace.
- Place insurance on the item being delivered.
- If you're going away for the holidays, place your package delivery on hold.
- Require a signature on delivery.
- Install a security camera. Security cameras can deter a thief and act as a tool for law enforcement if theft occurs.
- Check with vendors and delivery services for other security options.





## 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.

**Due to the unpredictable future of the COVID situation we must unfortunately cancel our Annual Dinner event.**

**Watch our website, [stfrancischamber.org](http://stfrancischamber.org), for further fun coming your way.**

*Wishing our community a season of peace and joy!*

## Chamber Members

Ace Solid Waste, Inc.  
Advanced Automotive Care, Inc.  
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  
Dairy Queen Orange Julius  
Dawn Tschumper American Family Insurance  
ECM Publishers, Inc.  
Edward Jones Investments  
Elaine M. Mustari, CPA, LLC  
Freedom Strategy Group  
G and H Auto LLC  
Gold Star Kennels

Goodrich Pharmacy  
Hakanson Anderson  
Hidden Haven Golf Club  
Highland Money Management, Inc.  
Kwik Trip  
Lakeside Cabinets and Woodworking  
Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health & Well-Being  
Mansettis Pizza and Pasta  
McDonald's Minuteman Press – Ham Lake  
North Anoka County Emergency Foodshelf  
North Central Insurance Agency  
Northland Screw Products, Inc.  
Northstar Outdoors  
Opp Family Chiropractic, P.A.  
Patriot Lanes Bar & Grill  
RE/MAX Results Michelle Anderson  
Rum River Construction Consultants

Rum River Tree Farm  
Sara Sauer, CPA, LLC  
St. Francis Area Schools  
St. Francis Collision & Glass  
St. Francis Dental Care  
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  
Trinity Lutheran Church & School  
Village Bank

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



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

Visit the City's website [www.stfrancismn.org](http://www.stfrancismn.org) for calendar updates during COVID-19 restrictions.



### 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

<b>Hours</b>	Monday-Thursday	7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
<b>Contact Us</b>	<a href="mailto:City@stfrancismn.org">City@stfrancismn.org</a>	763-753-2630
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.stfrancismn.org">www.stfrancismn.org</a>	

### City Council

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