



City of  
*St. Francis*

# NEWSLETTER

FALL 2024 | VOL. 8, NO. 3

## The Passing of Mayor Feldman

St. Francis's Mayor, Steve Feldman, passed away on June 26 after a battle with cancer. Steve had a life of hard work and success as a Vietnam Vet and a small business owner. As the Mayor, he worked to listen to and share the voice of our residents in his work with the City. Steve was a leader on the Highway 47 project to ensure safety for those that utilize the highway and its crossings, economic development for our businesses, and encouraged visitors to support our commercial opportunities. Steve worked on major initiatives such as lowering water rates, improving the park system, remodeling the municipal bottle shop, and advocating for safe roads and organized growth. Steve genuinely cared about staff, making St. Francis a great place to live, and will be missed by friends and family.



With the passing of Mayor Feldman, the Council was left with a vacancy to fill. A special meeting was held on August 3, and the City Council appointed Joe Muehlbauer as Mayor. This leaves a vacancy in a councilmember seat. The process to fill a vacancy is identified in State Statute and the City Charter, requiring the city to accept applications for 30 days. Watch the City website at [www.stfrancismn.org](http://www.stfrancismn.org) or meetings for more information on the vacancy.



Thank you to those who came to support the St. Francis Farmers Market! It was a successful first season, and the vendors could feel the community support of the Market. We were looking forward to the future.

## Inside This Issue



FALL ON THE RUM RIVER | PAGE 3



WASTE OIL BIN | PAGE 8

BECOME AN ELECTION JUDGE | PAGE 2

ASSESSOR'S CORNER | PAGE 2

CITY HALL CLOSED | PAGE 3

RECYCLE SMART | PAGE 4

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS | PAGE 5

BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS | PAGE 7

CHAMBER NEWS | PAGE 7

*Visit us on social media!*



## Become an Election Judge

Election judges are temporary, paid employees of local election officials trained to handle all aspects of voting at the polling place. Serving as an election judge is a chance to learn about elections and an excellent community service.

### Time Commitment

#### TRAINING

You must attend a required training that will be roughly two hours long. Classes are online.

#### WORKDAYS

Work days are the Presidential Primary, State Primary, and General Election. A smaller workforce is usually needed for the primary. In some cases, you can ask only to work the general election in November.

#### WORK DAY SCHEDULE

A typical schedule on Election Day is from 6:00 a.m. to around 9:00 p.m. In some cases, you can ask to work a half-day.

#### High school student trainees

16 and 17-year-old students can work as election judge trainees, receive training, and be paid for their work. It's a great way to learn about elections and voting and earn cash simultaneously!

You cannot be asked to work past 10:00 p.m. You will be assigned the same duties as other judges, except for tasks requiring party affiliation. You will need to attend and complete the same training as other judges.

To qualify, you must be 16 or 17 on or before Election Day, be a U.S. citizen in good academic standing at a Minnesota high school (or homeschooled), and get permission from your parents and school.

The City is looking for election judge workers to work the Presidential Primary Election on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, State Primary Tuesday, August 13, 2024, and the General Election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Compensation: Election Judge \$15.00 per hour and Head Election Judges \$15.50 per hour

To become an election judge, stop in at City Hall and fill out an application, contact City Clerk Jenni Wida at 763-235-2303, [jwida@stfrancismn.org](mailto:jwida@stfrancismn.org), or visit our website at [www.stfrancismn.org/cityclerk/page/election-judge-job-description-and-application](http://www.stfrancismn.org/cityclerk/page/election-judge-job-description-and-application)



## Assessor's Corner

### 2023 Property Review update

The City Assessors will continue to work through September on the physical inspections for those properties due for a five-year review in 2023. See the April newsletter or city website Assessor page for the map of areas being reviewed this year. Then October through early January, they will be out reviewing work done on permits for new construction homes, other permitted work, and commercial/industrial properties.

Proposed Taxes 2024 Statements will be mailed out from Anoka County in November. This is a notice showing the preliminary estimate of the property tax amount for 2024. The amount is based on preliminary tax levies submitted by Anoka County, the City of St Francis, the school district your property is in, and other taxing authorities. Dates and times will be listed for upcoming public meetings at each taxing authority, where feedback on the levy amounts may be given. This notice does not include charges for waste management fees, special assessments, or school district referenda approved in the fall. More information about the proposed tax statements can be found online at [www.anokacountymn.gov/281/About-Your-Tax-Statements](http://www.anokacountymn.gov/281/About-Your-Tax-Statements). Please note that the county website may not be updated with 2024 information until November, around the same time the statements go out.

Looking for general information about property taxes, estimated market value, property tax classifications, or other related questions? Visit the Minnesota Department of Revenue Property Tax Information page at [www.revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-information](http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-information).

### Reflective Delineators for the Edge of Your Yard!

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 reflective delineators next to the curb can help the snowplow operators locate the edge during the first or second snowfall.

Delineators are used as a guide for the snowplow operator. When putting in the delineators on your property, do NOT use metal posts so as not to cause injury to others or the plow trucks/machines.

Public Works at 4058 St Francis Boulevard has a set of six delineators available, per address, for pickup during regular business hours, Monday-Thursday, 6:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Pick up by appointment only, call Jen from Public Works at 763-233-5200, as we will keep track of who has gotten them for our records.





City Hall will be closed September 11-14 for training to implement our new Finance, Building Permits, and Business Licensing cloud system. Staff will be on duty and answer phone calls and emails during that week between training. However, the building will not be open to the public.

## Funding Available for Energy Upgrades

Through the Inflation Reduction Act, the federal government has released many new grant and tax credits programs for energy upgrades to your home or business. The upgrades reduce your energy use and will likely save you money on energy bills in the future. Most of these funding programs are available through 2032, and they could provide funding for appliances you will need to replace anyway, such as an oven, clothing dryer, or HVAC unit.

Completing a Home Energy Audit is an easy first step in learning the right improvements for your house. During the audit, the staff will lay out a personalized saving plan for your home and install energy-saving items at no extra cost. The Home Energy Audit program is available to all CenterPoint Energy customers, and you could be eligible for a free visit based on your income.

For more information, please visit the links below online at:

Inflation Reduction Act Funding at <https://tinyurl.com/IRaresources1>

Home Energy Audit at <https://tinyurl.com/cpehomeenergy>

## Fall Season on the Rum River!

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 to the leaves changing 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 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 that you don't need a boat to do so. There are many spots where you can fish from shore just off the paved trails. Watch the river's current, which can be strong and constantly changing. The Rum River has a variety of species to catch, including smallmouth bass, walleye, and northern pike. St. Francis Public Works has booklets with current fishing regulations that can be picked up during regular operating hours. You can also go to the City website and print off our parks brochure to see all the parks and trails the City offers.

St Francis Parks website at [www.stfrancismn.org/parksrec](http://www.stfrancismn.org/parksrec) or the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website at [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us).

**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)



*Know The Flow!*

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

# Wastewater Facility and Chlorides

## 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. To ensure the 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 into 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 is 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 degrade organic waste biologically, 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), the same treatment processes used to produce pure water 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](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-wwprm2-18.pdf).



## Recycle Smart – Do Not Put Bulky Plastics in Your Recycling Cart!

It might be tempting to put that broken hamper in your curbside recycling cart or bring your child's sizeable worn toy to the recycling center... it's plastic, so it's recyclable, right? Actually, that *is not* correct. Curbside programs are set up to sort plastic bottles, cups, and containers #1, #2, and #5.

Large, bulky plastic items like children's toys, kiddie pools, lawn furniture, laundry hampers, plant pots, buckets, and other substantial household items, should not be put in a curbside recycling cart. Drop-off centers don't want them either because they *are not* recyclable.

If undamaged, consider reusing and donating these types of items. If damaged, contact your refuse hauler before throwing away for more details and to see if there is a charge for disposal.

## Stormwater in Rural Areas – It Does Affect You

Stormwater management is essential to prevent erosion of agricultural land and flooding of inhabited urban or rural areas. Both cases can cause severe damage and contamination of the environment if sanitation facilities are flooded. This results in high costs and notably massive suffering for the local communities.

### Stormwater in rural areas

In rural areas, the cumulative impact of countryside living subdivisions, roads, and buildings causes an increase in peak flow rates and the volume of water discharged after storm events. This leads to two key effects, flooding and stream erosion. The main problem in rural areas is impermeable surfaces (e.g., caused by roads and buildings) and overstrained sewer systems. In rural areas and agricultural land, it can lead to erosion. Furthermore, this water could be used for agriculture and drinking water. Besides techniques that can be implemented in rural and urban areas, there are specific tools for rural areas and agricultural land. These include irrigation systems, called spate irrigation, or small-scale precipitation techniques such as micro basins, gully plugs, field trenches, bunds, dams, and rooftop harvesting. All of these techniques use important water sources while reducing peak flows during rainy periods, storing water, and attenuating the power and velocity of floods.

*The following website provided the information, [www.sswm.info/water-nutrient-cycle/wastewater-treatment/hardwares/semi-centralised-wastewater-treatments/stormwater-management](http://www.sswm.info/water-nutrient-cycle/wastewater-treatment/hardwares/semi-centralised-wastewater-treatments/stormwater-management)*

# St. Francis Fire Department News

One of the number one things most people say following a fire at their home or business is, “I didn’t know how fast a fire could move.” Universally, all experts agree that you have just about two minutes to escape a fire before it’s likely too late to get out. Most survivors say they have time to think, “It’s a fire, and it’s time to go. This is real, and I need to go.”

People need to understand that there is no time to save anything but themselves in a house fire in many if not all, situations. Then they wish they knew how to cope with the following things: finding housing, dealing with the insurance company, replacing all their furnishings and clothes, finding a new home, going to work, food, clothing, and dealing with their pets. Those are all things no one thinks about but wishes they had known about following a fire.

Experiencing a fire in your home or business is a devastating and emotional time. Almost without exception, when the fire is out, then it is the beginning of a long recovery process. Please use the following checklist in the event of a fire to assist you in your recovery process.

## After a Fire Checklist

The following checklist serves as a quick reference and guide for you to follow after a fire strikes.

- Contact your local disaster relief service, such as The Red Cross, if you need temporary housing, food, and medicines. The fire department can help connect you with the Red Cross.
- If you are insured, contact your insurance company for detailed instructions on protecting the property, conducting inventory, and contacting fire damage restoration companies. If you are uninsured, try contacting private organizations for aid and assistance. The fire department is not responsible for securing your property. Unfortunately, thefts can and do occur following a fire at your home or business.
- Check with the fire department to ensure your residence is safe to enter. Be watchful of any structural damage caused by the fire.
- The fire department should see that utilities are safe to use or disconnected before leaving the site. **Do not** attempt to reconnect utilities yourself.
- Conduct an inventory of damaged property and items. Only throw away damaged goods after an inventory is made. Taking photos/videos of your property will be helpful in recovering any loss.
- Try to locate valuable documents and records. If



possible, always store essential documents and records in a fire-rated safe.

- If you leave your home, contact local law enforcement to inform them that the site will be unoccupied. Also, contact City Hall about the permit process for demolition and reconstruction.
- Begin saving receipts for any money you spend related to fire loss. The receipts may be needed later by the insurance company to verify losses claimed on income tax.
- Notify your mortgage company of the fire.
- Check with an accountant or the Internal Revenue Service about special benefits for people recovering from fire loss.

# BACK TO SCHOOL

## SAFETY TIPS

- Look for school zone signals and ALWAYS obey the speed limits.
- When entering a school zone, 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, streets, 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 traffic with school back in session.

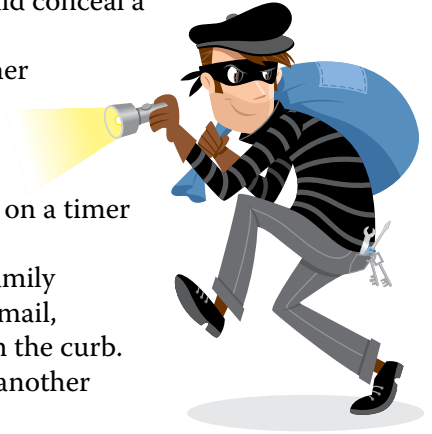
## WALKING TO SCHOOL TIPS

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

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

## Crime Prevention From Home

- Lock windows and doors, including the garage door. Unlocked doors are open invitations to intruders.
- Secure sliding glass doors with commercially available bars or locks or put a wooden dowel or broom handle in the door track.
- Remove valuables from vehicles and lock vehicle doors.
- Use deadbolt locks on exterior doors.
- Don't hide a spare key outside, such as under a bush or flowerpot.
- Remove obstructions in your yard that could conceal a burglar.
- Don't put your box for your new TV or other valuable item next to the trash can. It lets everyone know what you have inside your home.
- Leave lights on when leaving or have them on a timer to make it appear someone is home.
- When gone for an extended time, have a family member, close neighbor, or friend pick up mail, newspapers and remove the trash can from the curb.
- Get to know your neighbors and help one another maintain a crime-free neighborhood.



Whether by phone call, text, mail, or in person, it is probably a scam if someone asks you for cash, gift cards, or wire transfers. Never give your personal and financial information (like your Social Security number, date of birth, or bank account information) to anyone soliciting money for any reason. Government entities will never ask for "cash donations" to collect fees. Please do your research before you give anyone money.

The 2022 Police Department's Annual Report is available now. The report details the goals, achievements, and tasks accomplished by police in the past year and highlights the department's many events and programs to engage the community. Read about these items and more in the Annual Report, which can be found on the City's webpage at [www.cityofstfrancismn.org](http://www.cityofstfrancismn.org).



## Drug Take-Back Event

**Saturday, October 28  
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

The event will take place at the St. Francis Police Department, 4058 St. Francis Boulevard NW.

The St. Francis Police Department has a drop box for safe disposal of prescription drugs available in the lobby during normal lobby hours, Monday-Friday, 6:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Find us on 

Please "like" the St. Francis Police Department Facebook page.



## 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.

### St. Francis City-Wide Garage Sales September 7-9, 2023

The St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce (SFACOC) will host the City-wide garage sales community event, welcoming all residential and businesses to participate.

A map of garage sale locations will be provided on our website. Register your sale and purchase an official sign for a fee of \$10 per sale, and be listed on the map.

### Business Trick or Treat Tuesday, October 31, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Sign up your business to open its doors to hand out treats and/or promotional items to area families during our Business Trick or Treat. A list and map of participants will be available on the Chamber website. This is a free event opportunity.

This is an excellent opportunity to get potential customers through your doors. If your business is not within the St. Francis City area or is outside of the 'usual path,' you are encouraged to come set up at the St. Francis Warming House, located off of Hwy. 47 and 229th Ave, south of the St. Francis Elementary School.

Email chamber@stfrancischamber.org if you have questions about participating.

### Save the Date Friday, January 26, 2024

St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce proudly sponsors the Annual Dinner/Casino Night. This is such a fun night that you will not want to miss it!

### Monthly Board Meetings

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. Check our website at [www.stfrancischamber.org](http://www.stfrancischamber.org) for the location.

The St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce serves the needs of its membership in working toward the common goal of a growing, healthy business environment and community as a whole.

For more information or to become a member, contact us at [www.stfrancischamber.org](http://www.stfrancischamber.org)

### Thank You to All Pioneer Days Sponsors and Volunteers

- City of St. Francis
- King's County Market
- Burro Loco (Tio's)
- Beef O Brady's
- St. Francis True Value Hardware
- Edward Jones Investments
- American Family
- Northland Screw, Inc.
- Anderson Hometown Team- RE/MAX Results
- McDonald's

### Chamber Gives Back

The St. Francis Chamber proudly donated back to the following youth organizations that helped pick up garbage in the park, garbage off of the parade route, and debris from the fireworks during Pioneer Days:

- St. Francis 10U Girls Softball Team
- St. Francis High School Gymnastics Team
- The St. Francis Football via the St. Francis Booster Club

### CURRENT MEMBERS

Ace Waste Management	Mansetti's Pizza & Pasta
Advanced Automotive Care	McDonald's
American Family Ins/ Dawn Tschumper Agency	Meraki Wellness
Anderson Hometown Team RE/MAX Results	Minnco Credit Union
Anoka/Hennepin Credit Union	Minuteman Press
Anoka Ramsey Community College	NACE Foodshelf
Anoka County Commissioner/ Julie Braastad	Northland Screw Products
Barna, Guzy & Steffan	Northstar Outdoors, Inc.
Beef O Brady's Brookside Construction	Open Box Buys
BTO Signs	Opp Family Chiropractic
Burro Loco	Rebel Boutique
Cedar Creek Construction	Rum River Tree Farm
City of St. Francis Collision 2000	St. Francis Area Schools
Connexus Energy	St. Francis Bottle Shop
DeGamba School of Music	St. Francis Collision
DQ Orange Julius	St. Francis Dental
ECM Publishers, Inc	St. Francis Fire Department
Edward Jones Investments	St. Francis Insurance Agency
Elaine Mustari CPA	St. Francis Lawn and Snow
Freedom Strategy Group	St. Francis Lions Club
Future Image Lawn Care	St. Francis Physical Therapy
Hakanson Anderson	St. Francis True Value Hardware
Hidden Have Golf Club	St. Francis United Methodist Church
Highland Money Management	St. Francis Veterinary Clinic
Innovations Plus LLC	Steve's Collision
King's County Market	Subway – St. Francis
Kwik Trip	Tasty Pizza Bar & Bowl
Lakeside Cabinets & Woodworking	The Bridge Church
Lee Carlson Center	The Ponds Golf Course & Restaurant
LePage & Sons	The Refuge Golf Club & Restaurant
	Trinity Lutheran Church
	Village Bank
	Warmbo LLC

## ECRWSS POSTAL PATRON

## Events Calendar

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

### Waste Oil Bin



We now have a waste oil bin for collecting motor oil. There is also collection for coolant and oil filters beside the large bin in separate barrels. Due to staffing and being in a locked-in facility, the oil bin will only be open during recycling events. The oil bin is free and open to the public on September 16 and November 18, 8:00 a.m.-Noon during those events. Cost to recycle oil filters is .50 cents per filter and \$1 per gallon for coolant/antifreeze. Money is collected in the box on the left side of the oil bin. The bin is located at the old Public Works Building at 4020 St. Francis Boulevard NW.

For questions or information, please call 763-233-5200 or email [stfrecycles@stfrancismn.org](mailto:stfrecycles@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 at [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 Joe Muehlbauer 763-235-2314  
Councilmember Sarah Udvig 763-235-2311  
Councilmember Robert Bauer 763-235-2312  
Councilmember Kevin Robinson 763-235-2313  
Councilmember Vacancy