



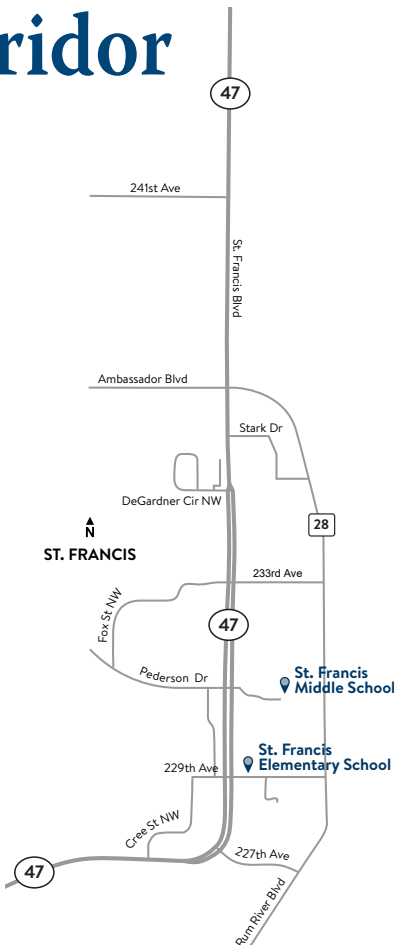
City of  
**St. Francis**

# NEWSLETTER

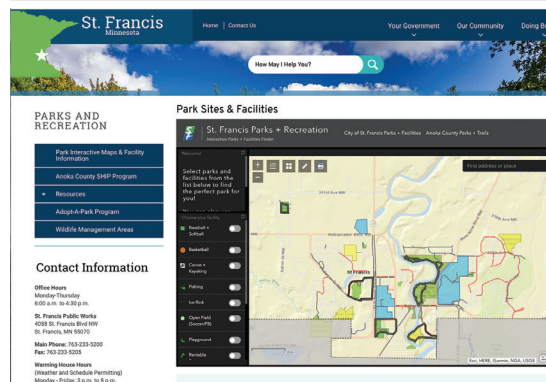
SPRING 2019 | VOL. 4, NO. 1

## Highway 47 Corridor Improvements

Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), in partnership with Anoka County and the city of St. Francis is making improvements to Highway 47. There are several initiatives taking place as part of this improvement process. Immediate solutions include message signs and increasing pedestrian warning and speed signs for better visibility. Mid-term solutions will include a temporary traffic signal at Pederson Drive and community listening sessions to seek ideas and feedback from those that are impacted by choices made to Highway 47. The community will continue to see changes in signage and ongoing education to support traffic and pedestrian safety efforts. All of these efforts will work toward a long term goal of improving the Highway 47 corridor with a road reconfiguration that addresses safety, speed, traffic, pedestrian and bicycle safety goals. The MnDOT website is a great tool for updates, resources and information for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. Sign up on their website to receive updates and information about the Highway 47 improvement plan at, [www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/Highway47stfrancis/index.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/Highway47stfrancis/index.html).



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE



[PARKS INTERACTIVE MAP | PAGE 2](#)



[BIKE RODEO | PAGE 3](#)

## Message from your Mayor

This is our spring newsletter and after going through that severe cold spell, I know it's hard to think of spring. But the days are getting longer and there is light at the end of the tunnel.

As always I will bring you up-to-date on what staff and council have been doing. After a year of multiple meetings and discussions, the council has chosen North Metro Animal Care and Control (formerly Dover Kennel Animal and Impound Services) as our animal control officer. On the city website at [www.stfrancismn.org](http://www.stfrancismn.org), hold your cursor on Your Government then Police, under Regulations and Enforcement click Animal Control for

more details.

Kwik Trip has submitted an application for a building permit to construct their facility this spring on the corner of 233rd Avenue and Highway 47.

Walker Methodist and Roers Investments have decided not to proceed with their assisted living facility next to Casey's. However, the original assisted living project by The Ponds has brought in a new partner Mosaic Management based in Salem, Oregon. Mosaic is a full-service company in the senior housing industry since 2009. They will be submitting an extension to the Planning and Zoning

*Continued on page 2*

[RESERVE A PARK/FACILITY | PAGE 3](#)

[PET CLINIC | PAGE 4](#)

[POLICE RESERVE UNIT | PAGE 4](#)

[FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS | PAGE 5](#)

[WELL WATER WISE WEEK | PAGE 6](#)

[CRIME PREVENTION TIPS | PAGE 7](#)

[EVENTS CALENDAR | PAGE 8](#)

Visit us on social media!



# Parks & Rec Unveils New Interactive Map

Check out the new interactive mapping tool for parks and trails on the city’s website at [www.stfrancismn.org/parksrec/page/park-sites-facilities](http://www.stfrancismn.org/parksrec/page/park-sites-facilities)

If you’re planning a local biking/hiking day trip, you can zoom into the specific area or loop that you are interested in and print that portion of the map right from the convenience of your home.

You can also choose to download and print our new parks map that encompasses the entire city’s park system as well as any loops, trails or sidewalk connections to ensure you can find your way back to your starting point. We will be placing these printable brochures in new kiosks that will be installed at key park locations this season.

This was all made available through the SHIP Safe Routes to Parks grant the city received from Anoka County. The Statewide Health Improvement Partnership, or SHIP, is a partnership aimed at

“creating healthier communities across Minnesota by expanding opportunities for active living, healthy eating and tobacco-free living.” With the help of the SHIP grant, we created our new interactive mapping system, purchased a new drinking fountain for Community

Park and will be installing new kiosks for brochures at some of our key locations around the city. For more information on the SHIP program, visit: [www.anokacounty.us/3489/Community-Active-Living](http://www.anokacounty.us/3489/Community-Active-Living)

## Mayor

*Continued from page 1*

Commission and are looking to construct this summer. The facility will have approximately 81 to 90 rooms and other amenities.

Approximately 124 acres is for sale from Ambassador Boulevard north to 241st Avenue on Highway 47. The intention of the property owner is for the land to be developed into residential lots and some light to medium commercial sites.

The first meeting with MnDOT, county and state to address the safety issues along the Highway 47 corridor was held on January 30. It resulted in many ideas being discussed. As you have seen, there have been some temporary measures already put into place. MnDOT usually takes five years to implement permanent changes, but because of the recent accident on November 20, 2018 and the increased traffic, MnDOT will be doing the permanent changes within three years.

This is a big change for MnDOT, in their policy it shows that they see the same urgency we do: “Highway 47 must be made safer through our city limits.” If you want to keep up-to-date on what is happening, go to our city website and hold your cursor over Our Community. A window will pop up and in the lower left corner is a link directing you to the MnDOT website and information.

I am happy to say that we have 900 residents who have signed up for Nixle, our text messaging alert system. It’s a service you can sign up for by texting the word FRANCIS, non-case sensitive, to 888777. (It’s free to sign up, but depending on your plan data rates may apply.) Put in your zip code and you are good to go, it’s that easy. This is the city’s way to keep you informed on traffic accidents, road closings, school closings and severe weather along with other important notifications. You can also sign up and customize your notifications on the city website by scrolling down to the bottom of the Home Page and clicking on Subscribe Here.

I want to let everyone know that the city water hardness is 13-14 grains, so set your softener accordingly. This way you will use less salt and you will be putting less chloride into our system.

Staff and council, through multiple meetings and discussions, have sent the city of Oak Grove a proposal for The Ponds residents to connect to our wastewater treatment facility. This will add 222 rate users to our system and begin the goal of local regionalization. The more users we have will help to lower the rates.

Drive carefully, keep warm and remember spring is coming!

Regards,  
Mayor Feldman



# Park and Facility Use Reservations

Spring is finally here and with that brings outdoor recreation opportunities within our city parks. Are you in charge of organizing your family's reunion and need a large outdoor space to accommodate them? Do you have a sports team that needs a baseball/softball field to rent for the summer? Are you thinking about getting married this year? We have many parks with different amenities to meet your needs.

For example, the city's Community Park has a large picnic shelter with many picnic tables, flushable toilets available with your rental and other amenities nearby. We also have two baseball/softball fields that come with bases or if you prefer, you can bring your own to utilize. We have a warming house that has been used in the past for club meetings and garage sales. The rental also includes a parking lot. In our Woodbury Park, the gazebo is a beautiful setting for an intimate wedding with blooming flowers all around it and a beautiful flowing fountain nearby to set the perfect atmosphere for your special day. St Francis has many options for your next event.

Starting this year, we have moved all park and facility use reservations to our Public Works Department.



Community Park

**Reserve a Facility**  
 For questions about outdoor spaces and/or to make reservations, please call 763-233-5200.  
 To reserve the Community Center, you'll want to contact City Hall at 763-753-2630.

 **Like** 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 Police Department sponsored  
**3rd Annual**  
**BIKE**  
**RODEO**  
**Thursday, May 30**  
**5:00-7:00 p.m.**



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

- Safety skills course supervised by police personnel and volunteers.
- Bike helmets are mandatory for the safety skills course.
- Bicycle inspection for safety
- Bike trail brochures from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- St. Francis Fire Department
- Hot dogs, chips and refreshments
- Allina Ambulance - conducting helmet checks for proper fit (helmets will be available for purchase)
- St. Francis Baptist Church Praise Pantry - Bring a non-perishable food donation and you will receive an additional door prize drawing chance.

**All ages are welcome!**  
**Door Prizes!**

## Winning With Cops

Winning With Cops aids developmentally disabled children and adults in overcoming life's obstacles through exercise, team sports and positive interaction activities.

Join the St. Francis Police Department for movie night on Friday, March 22, 6:00-8:30 p.m. at the department. Please RSVP to 763-753-1264 by Friday, March 15.

## Volunteer Police Reserve Unit

The St. Francis Police Reserve Unit is a volunteer organization committed to assisting the police department and the St. Francis community with a wide variety of tasks and assignments. New reservists are schooled through the Anoka County Police Reserve Academy. Training includes police skills, tactics and other duties. The unit has been in existence for approximately 40 years.

The reserve unit is made up of men and women who volunteer their time and effort to help make St. Francis a safe and enjoyable community in which to live, work and play.

The Police Reserve Unit is currently looking for adult volunteers 18 years of age or older. It is an excellent opportunity for people pursuing law enforcement as a career and for any citizen interested in volunteering for the police department. If you would like a fun, challenging and rewarding way to give back to your community, become a reserve officer. All training, uniforms and equipment is provided by the St. Francis Police Department.

### Minimum requirements

- Successfully complete the Reserve Officer Field Training Program
- Work at least 8 hours per month as assigned
- Attend meetings, unless excused
- Attend mandatory training sessions and other mandatory assignments as ordered by the police reserve coordinator(s) and/or the chief of police, unless excused

### Minimum qualifications

- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Must have a high school diploma or GED
- Acceptable, valid Minnesota driver's license
- Demonstrated ability to communicate orally and in writing
- Working knowledge of English, spelling, grammar, punctuation and a vocabulary so as to write legible and comprehensive reports
- Ability to maintain a positive image to the public
- Must be in good physical and mental health
- Must display a strong desire and commitment of volunteer service to public safety

For more information or to schedule or coordinate events utilizing the St. Francis Police Reserve Officers please, contact Reserve Captain Richard Johnson at 763-235-2307 or email [rjohnson@stfrancismn.org](mailto:rjohnson@stfrancismn.org).

## National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

**Saturday, April 27**

National Take-Back Day is a safe, convenient and responsible way to dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs.



There are two drop-off locations in St. Francis:

- Goodrich Pharmacy (inside County Market), 23122 St. Francis Blvd. NW, will be taking medications Saturday, April 27, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- St. Francis Police Department, 4058 St. Francis Blvd. NW, has a permanent drop box available in the lobby during normal lobby hours, Monday-Friday, 6:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., for safe disposal of prescription drugs.



## Severe Weather Awareness Week

**April 8-12**

Minnesota in partnership with the National Weather Service and local governments will conduct Severe Weather Awareness Week.

Two statewide tornado drills will happen Thursday, April 11. The first is at 1:45 p.m. and allows businesses and schools to practice their emergency plans. The second drill is at 6:45 p.m. and will allow families to practice their plans.

## CITY OF ST. FRANCIS PET CLINIC

**Saturday, May 4  
9:00 a.m.-Noon**

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





## St. Francis Fire Department News

With spring just around the corner, it will signal the start of grass fire season for the fire department. In 2018 the fire department responded to seven grass/wildland fires over the spring season. Most of these were attributed to preventable causes, such as unattended recreational fires, fireworks and discarded cigarettes. As the snow begins to melt, please be sure that you remain aware of the environmental conditions, and always use caution with recreational fires, fireworks and other combustible items. As a reminder the rules for recreational fires within the city of St. Francis include the following:

**Size** — No fire shall be more than three (3) feet in diameter and three (3) feet in height.

**Location** — Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible materials.

**Materials** — Only clean wood (no paints, primers, solvents or finishes). The burning of garbage, furniture, construction materials or leaves is prohibited.

**Extinguishment** — A means of extinguishment must be present. Buckets, shovels, garden hose or fire extinguisher is sufficient.

**Attendance** — Your recreational fire must be attended by a competent person over the age of 18 at all times. Fires must also be extinguished before leaving them unattended.

**Hours** — Recreational fires are allowed between the hours of 6:00 p.m.-6:00 a.m.



On Sunday, March 10, we change our clocks and spring ahead one hour. We know it's silly, and more importantly we all lose a precious hour of sleep, but all is not lost. The St. Francis Fire Department would like to remind you it is a great time to check your smoke detectors when you change clocks in the spring and fall. Functioning smoke detectors in your home may be the single most important life-saving tool for you and your family in the event of a fire.

Please check the tips on this page brought to you by the National Fire Protection Association.

## Smoke Alarms at Home

Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

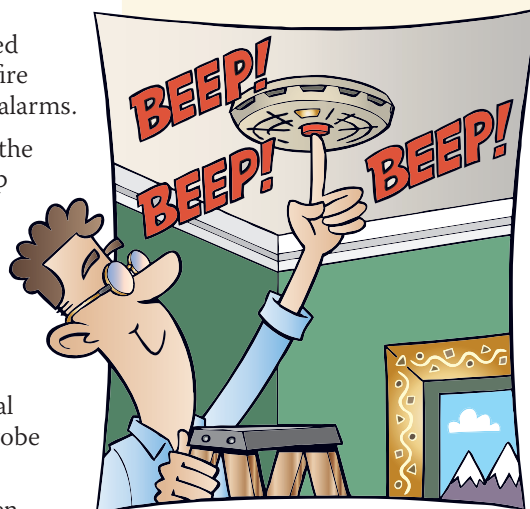
### SAFETY TIPS

- ◆ Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- ◆ Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- ◆ It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- ◆ Test all smoke alarms at least once a month.
- ◆ Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- ◆ Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
- ◆ Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.
- ◆ A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- ◆ People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- ◆ Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.



### FACTS

- ◆ A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.
- ◆ Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- ◆ Roughly three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.



### NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

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

[nfpa.org/education](http://nfpa.org/education) ©NFPA 2018

# Capturing Rainwater and Preventing Runoff

When it rains, water can't soak into impervious surfaces such as rooftops, driveways and roads. Instead, it runs off into streets and storm sewers creating stormwater. From our streets to our streams, stormwater picks up nutrients, dirt, salt, fertilizers, pesticides, oil, bacteria and garbage.

Reducing runoff is critical to minimizing the impact our yards and gardens have on the surrounding lakes and streams. Rain will soak into the ground where there are gardens and other vegetation. You can also capture rainwater for use in your yard. Either way, stormwater is reduced and our lakes and rivers stay clean.

## *Rain gardens and native plants: beautiful solutions to water pollution*

A rain garden is a popular landscaping choice that prevents water pollution by allowing stormwater to soak into the ground before it runs off. Rain gardens and native plants also:

- Prevent erosion by holding soil in place with their deep roots.
- Attract birds and butterflies.



- Require little watering and maintenance once established.

## *Rain Barrels*

Another way to reduce runoff is to capture some of it with rain barrels. A rain barrel is for collecting rain coming off your roof.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. *Minnesota Stormwater Manual. Capturing rainwater and preventing runoff.* Retrieved from [https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php?title=Capturing\\_rainwater\\_and\\_preventing\\_runoff](https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php?title=Capturing_rainwater_and_preventing_runoff)

## Wastewater 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. In order to ensure continued operation of a point-of-entry ion exchange softener, it must be periodically regenerated with high salt brine that contains chloride. This brine eventually drains to a municipal wastewater system. The cumulative loading from all the point-of-entry softeners in the sewershed contributes significantly to the high chloride concentrations in the wastewater plant discharge.

### *Where in Minnesota is chloride in wastewater a problem?*

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

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

## Well Water Wise (3W) Week

May 6-10

The Anoka County Community Health and Environmental Services Department, in cooperation with 15 municipalities and county agencies, is sponsoring the 20th annual Well Water Wise (3W) week promotion May 6-10 to encourage residents to check the safety of their private well water. For information on private well testing, visit the Anoka County Environmental Services Well Water Testing webpage at [www.anokacounty.us/2009/Well-Water-Testing](http://www.anokacounty.us/2009/Well-Water-Testing) or call 763-324-4260.

County residents may pick up a well water test kit at St. Francis City Hall, 23340 Cree Street NW or from Environmental Services, Suite 600 of the Anoka County Government Center, 2100 3rd Avenue in Anoka. Water samples can be submitted to the county's Environmental Services Unit for analysis every Monday, 8:00 a.m.-4:15 p.m. and Tuesday, 8:00 a.m.-noon.

During 3W week, samples can be submitted Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m.-4:15 p.m. and Friday, before noon. The well water testing kit includes details about water collection and submission. A \$30 laboratory fee will be charged for coliform bacteria and nitrate-nitrogen analysis.

Simply looking at the appearance of private well water is not a reliable indicator of whether it is safe to drink. An annual coliform bacteria test is a good way to ensure that your drinking water continues to be free of bacteria.

The testing of private wells used for drinking water is the responsibility of individual owners. There are an estimated 25,000 private wells in service throughout Anoka County. Only a small percentage of them are tested annually. For more information about well water testing, call the Environmental Services Unit at 763-324-4260.



# Crime Prevention Tips For The Home

Neighborhood Watch Association suggests that homeowners looking to burglarproof their homes take a three-fold approach: deter, detect, delay. Here are ten essential crime prevention tips to help your home be a less desirable target for burglary:

## Tip 1: Case the joint.

Walk around your home with the eyes of a burglar. Look for weaknesses—sliding doors that could be jimmied off the track, glass that could be broken to gain entry, window unit air conditioners that could be easily removed, and so forth. A committed burglar can usually find a way into a house, but you can make it more difficult for them, and this starts with knowing your property and potential entry points for a break-in. Take a walk around the outside as well and note what pricey items are in view, tempting would-be burglars.

## Tip 2: Lock the door.

It may seem obvious, but the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that more than 40 percent of burglaries do not include forced entry—meaning people are leaving doors and windows unlocked. Install deadbolts on all doors; double cylinders are best, since they require a key on both sides of the door and it prevents burglars from breaking a pane of glass, reaching around and unlocking the door. (Check your area's fire code first; some places do not allow double cylinder locks because they can trap inhabitants inside in the event of a fire.) Remember to lock the door leading from the garage to the house, even if the garage door is down, (it is easy to manipulate).

## Tip 3: Don't hide a key.

Give a spare key to a neighbor instead. If your closest neighbor lives ten miles away and you absolutely must leave a spare key outside, put it in a combination lockbox.

## Tip 4: Do not label your keys or mailbox.

If you lose your key and it has your address written on it, well—you do the math. It is easy to become a target. Also, do not write your last name on your mailbox. It is easy to look you up, find your phone numbers, maybe even your workplace, and begin to track your movements in preparation to enter the home when you are not around.

## Tip 5: Secure windows and sliding doors.

Many sliding doors can be popped off the frame, even when locked. Prevent this by placing a strong steel bar or two-by-four in the back groove, which prevents the door from sliding along the groove and opening. You can do the same with windows: Install a nail in the frame to prevent the window from opening more than a few inches.

## Tip 6: Be modest.

Prevent your home from being a target by tucking away expensive items. Keep both the car and bike in the garage. **Check to make sure your garage is closed every night.** After purchasing a new piece of expensive electronic equipment, dispose of the box directly instead of leaving it next to your trash can—which lets would-be burglars know you have something shiny and new that could bring in great cash on the black market. While you are at it, consider keeping expensive jewelry and your mattress full of cash somewhere safer, like a safe deposit box.

## Tip 7: Create the illusion you are always home.

The majority of burglaries take place when people are not home, particularly during the day, while the victims are at work. Deter burglars by creating the impression that you are always home: Leave on lights, the radio or the television. If you are going on vacation for a while, do not advertise your absence. Arrange for someone to pick up the mail, newspapers, mow the lawn, shovel the snow and set out trashcans regularly.

## Tip 8: Secure the area surrounding your house.

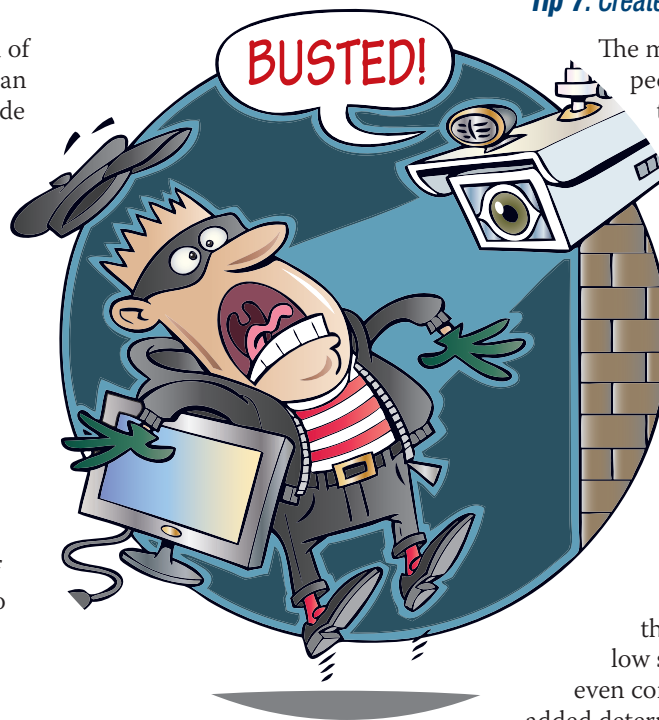
Secure the yard: Trim bushes and trees to discourage burglars from using them as hiding places. Avoid planting low shrubs in front of windows; you may even consider planting thorny shrubs for an added deterrent. Be sure to add lighting outside your home.

## Tip 9: Get to know the neighbors.

Tight-knit communities suffer fewer burglaries because people look out for each other and strangers stick out. If your neighborhood does not already have a Neighborhood Watch Program, consider starting one.

## Tip 10: Install an alarm system—or at least a sign.

Alarm systems are available at a number of price points, but an effective one should include sensors at entry points, motion detectors inside the house, and a loud outdoor alarm that alerts the entire neighborhood when someone has forced entry. If you do not want to go all-out, fake out would-be burglars by sticking a home security system sign in your yard. The threat of an alarm may be enough to keep them from trying.







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

- March 10** Daylight Savings Begins
- March 22** Winning with Cops movie night at St. Francis Police Department, 6:00-8:30 p.m.
- April 6** St. Francis Lions Club Easter Bingo at St. Francis American Legion, 6:30 p.m.
- April 11** Severe Weather Awareness –Sirens will sound at 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.
- April 27** National Drug Take Back Day at St. Francis Police Department and Goodrich Pharmacy, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- May 4** Pet Clinic at St. Francis Police Department, 9:00 a.m.-Noon
- May 8** Property Tax Refund Preparation for Seniors at Community Center, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- May 27** Memorial Day – City Offices Closed
- May 30** 3rd Annual Bike Rodeo at St. Francis Police Department, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- June 7-9** Pioneer Days

For a full list of events—visit the city’s website [www.stfrancismn.org](http://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](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

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

