



City of
St. Francis

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024 | VOL. 9, NO. 2

Embracing change—St. Francis and Bethel agree to shared fire protection

In the realm of emergency services, collaboration and efficiency are paramount—every second counts when it comes to saving lives and protecting communities. Recently, a significant development has taken place in our local service delivery: the contractual agreement of two fire departments. This union represents a consolidation of resources and a commitment to enhanced service delivery and community safety.

The merger of fire departments is not uncommon, but it always carries a weight of significance. It marks a shift in the landscape of emergency response and reflects a proactive approach to meeting the evolving needs of the community. Such mergers often arise from a variety of factors, including financial considerations, operational efficiencies, and the desire to provide better services to residents.

Facing the flames alone: the decline of part-time/paid-on-call firefighters in Minnesota

In Minnesota, as in many other parts of the United States, volunteer/paid-on-call/part-time firefighters have long been the backbone of firefighting services. These dedicated individuals have bravely served their communities, often sacrificing their time, energy, and safety to protect lives and property. However, in recent years, Minnesota has witnessed a troubling trend: the decline of part-time/paid-on-call firefighters. This decline poses significant challenges to communities and underscores the need for urgent action to address the issue.

This was one of the primary reasons St. Francis and Bethel have contractually agreed to join together to provide fire protection to both communities.

Streamlining resources

One of the primary benefits of merging fire departments is the streamlining of resources. Rather than two separate entities duplicating efforts and expenses, a single, unified department can optimize its personnel, equipment, and funds allocation. This consolidation allows for a more strategic deployment of resources, ensuring that every dollar spent translates into maximum impact on the ground.

St. Francis and Bethel can operate more efficiently by



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Visit us on social media!



Property Assessor 2024 annual review

State law requires assessors to visit and physically inspect each property every five years. This year, starting in May, the assessors, Erik Skogquist or Chris Larson, will visit and review all properties in the area outlined in the map below.



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

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

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

Thank you in advance for your cooperation during this year's assessment review. If you have any questions, call City Assessor Erik Skogquist at 763-412-1966 Ext. 0 or email him at mnsassessorerik@gmail.com

Shared fire protection *Continued from page 1*

eliminating redundancies and consolidating administrative functions. This efficiency translates into improved response times, better-equipped firefighters, and enhanced overall effectiveness in handling emergencies. Such optimization is invaluable in an era where resources are often stretched thin.

Community engagement

The current contractual agreement with St. Francis and Bethel is for a three-year period. As part of this process, the cities received a grant for a study to create a full Joint Powers Agreement for a long-term partnership. This summer, the community will have opportunities to take part in the decision-making process by providing feedback on our local fire protection services. Please watch the City of St. Francis website for information in the coming months on ways you can participate.

The merger of two fire departments represents a significant step forward in the ongoing evolution of emergency services. A unified department can achieve greater efficiency, effectiveness, and community engagement by combining resources, expertise, and efforts. While the process may present challenges, the benefits far outweigh the obstacles.

As fire departments across the globe continue to adapt to the changing landscape of emergency response, mergers will likely remain an essential strategy for improving service delivery and enhancing public safety. By embracing unity and collaboration, firefighters can better fulfill their noble mission of protecting lives and property, ensuring that communities remain safe and resilient in the face of adversity.



Relax—it's easy to pay online



- It's simple, safe, and secure to do electronically.
- If City Hall is not open? Conveniently pay online 24/7.
- Save postage and avoid mailing your payment - pay online instead.
- Make a payment using your credit/debit card or electronic check.
- Make a payment 24/7 at www.stfrancismn.org/utlbill

St. Francis Police Department sponsored

BIKE

8th Annual

RODEO

**Thursday,
June 6
5:00
until
7:00 p.m.**



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

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

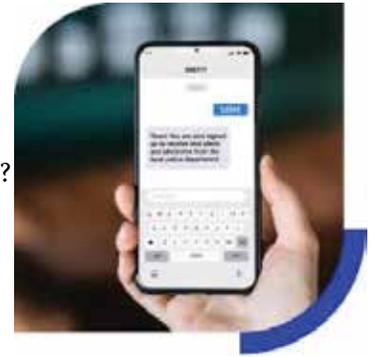
**All
ages are
welcome!**

**All are welcome to join the
City staff for the National Night Out
party in the park,
Tuesday, August 6, 5:00-7:30 p.m.**
For more information follow the
Police Department's Facebook page at
www.facebook.com/STFrancisPD

**Mark your calendar for our ice cream social,
Thursday, August 22, 4:00-6:00 p.m.**
Follow us on Facebook for more information,
www.facebook.com/STFrancisPD

Nixle: Community Notification System

Did you know that the City of St. Francis participates in a Community Notification System designed to deliver critical and timely information to residents in our area using the latest technology? Nixle notifications instantly deliver trustworthy and important neighborhood-level public safety and community event notifications to users who have signed up for the service. Notices may include road closures and unsafe situations due to fire sent during active situations.



- Sign up today by using this link at www.everbridge.com/products/nixle.
- Select "Resident sign-up and login."
This sign-in will allow you, the user, to determine the type of messages you want to receive and how you want them delivered.
For immediate and emergency notifications only, text 55070 to 888777.
Text notifications do not include community events or notifications outside of local emergencies.

Pet waste—did you know?

Stormwater (rain or melting snow) in your yard or on a sidewalk/trail can pick up pet waste that pet owners leave on the ground and deposit it directly and/or via a storm sewer system into nearby streams, lakes, and rivers. Pet waste in bodies of water can make people and animals sick, promote weed and algae growth, and damage the ecosystem's health in and around the water. Pet waste is a leading source of nutrient and bacteria pollution in urban streams and waterways.

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

- Bring a bag, or if available, utilize a pet waste station. For your convenience, there are new Pet Waste Stations at some of our parks, which include Community Park;
- Please clean it up;
- Dispose of it properly (toilet or trash).

City Ordinance: 10-82-12. - Illicit Discharge.

E. Pet Waste. Owners or custodians of pets shall remove and properly dispose of feces on City owned property.
Retrieved from www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-01/bmp-pet-waste-management.pdf.

St. Francis Bottle Shop APP

Download
our new
phone app!



There, you can view our live inventory and pricing, order online for curbside pickup, and see any currently scheduled tastings! Use the QR Code to download.

Recycling Dates to Remember!

NO—garbage/furniture/paper shredding at these events!

**July 20 | September 21
November 16**
8 a.m.-Noon

All events are on a Saturday and located at St. Francis Public Works
4020 St Francis Blvd NW

For more information about these events, call 763-233-5200.



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

Gopher State One Call

Local: 651-454-0002

Toll Free: 1-800-252-1166

www.gopherstateonecall.org



Yard waste and grass clippings

Although grass or yard waste can seem natural and harmless, excess grass clippings and yard waste threaten our waters' health. Once they are in the water, they begin to decay and then release nutrients that contribute to the green stuff or algae (toxic algae blooms) you see on the surface of the water. An excess of algae will use up the oxygen in the water, suffocating any aquatic species living in the water. This can also be very toxic to your pets.

Refrain from dumping or mowing leaves, grass clippings, etc., into the street, storm drains, and stormwater ponds near your home. Please make sure your lawn care services are also aware of this law. The City will incur costs to clean up any illegal dumping, which could potentially raise your stormwater fees and result in a citation for illegal dumping.



City Code/Summary: 10-93-12. – Illicit Discharge.

No person shall throw, deposit, place, leave, maintain, or keep nor permit to be thrown, placed, left, maintained or kept, any refuse, rubbish, garbage, leaves, grass or any other discarded or abandoned objects, articles, accumulations, or pollutants, in or upon any street, alley, sidewalk, storm drain, inlet, catch basin conduit or drainage structure, business place, or upon any public or private plot of land in the City, so that the same might enter a public water, except in containers, recycling bags, or other lawfully established waste disposal facility.

If you see anyone violating this City Code, please contact the Public Works Department at 763-233-5200 to report them.

Thank you for your cooperation. Keeping grass and yard waste out of the streets and stormwater ponds is essential to protecting our waters.

Now accepting applications for the 2024-25 program year!

The Anoka/Washington County Head Start-Early Head Start program is accepting applications for the 2024-2025 program year. Programs are free for eligible families with children from birth to age five and pregnant women. Our Head Start center-based preschool option offers students a 6.5-hour day, four days per week.

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



Did you know—irrigation systems? How much should I water my lawn?

Q: How often and how long should I irrigate my lawn?

A: Generally, your lawn needs roughly one inch of water per week (minus any rainfall). This means ½ inch of water on each day you water if you irrigate your lawn twice weekly. Each zone on your system should run approximately 15-30 minutes each.

Q: What time of day is the best for irrigation?

A: Before 10:00 a.m., preferably between 4:00 and 8:00 a.m. This time frame allows more water to be absorbed into the ground. If you water during the middle of the day, most of the water will evaporate and/or be blown away.

Q: How much water does a sprinkler system use?

A: The average water usage in a residential sprinkler system is between 12 and 30 gallons per minute, depending on the type and size of the sprinkler head.

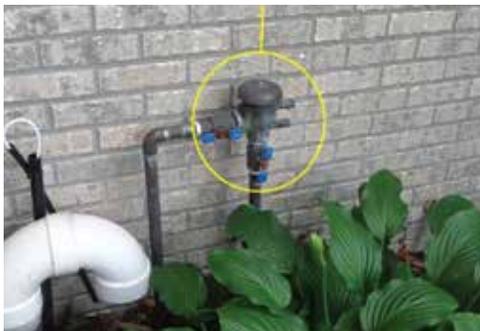
For example, if you watered twice a week:

15 gallons/min/per zone	450 gallons	3,600 gallons
x 30 min/day/per zone	x 8 zones	x 8 days/month
= 450 gallons	= 3,600 gallons/day	= 28,800 gallons/month

Backflow prevention devices required

The State of Minnesota now requires residents to have a backflow prevention device installed on their irrigation systems. Residents who have an irrigation system should test the backflow prevention device annually.

The 2015 Minnesota Plumbing Code 603.4.2 requires that all testable backflow devices be tested upon installation and at least annually after that by a certified backflow assembly tester. Test results should be turned in to the City of St. Francis within 30 days of testing a backflow device. Records will be stored with your property file information.



Pressure vacuum breaker



This is not an approved backflow prevention device.

What is a backflow device, and why do we need one installed?

A backflow prevention device protects potable water supplies (wells and drinking water) from contamination or pollution caused by backflow, which is caused by a sudden drop in pressure in the distribution system. In water supply systems, water is normally maintained at a significant pressure to enable water to flow from the tap, shower, or other fixture.

Residential water softeners and chlorides

In areas with high hardness in the water supply, residential water softeners that use salt are common. Hardness measures the calcium and magnesium carbonate concentration in water. Most water softeners use chloride ions to replace the calcium and magnesium ions. The chloride from this salt is delivered to the environment either through discharge to a septic system or by delivery to a waste water treatment plant.

Septic systems are more prevalent in the rural areas outside the Twin Cities Metro Area (TCMA) urban core. The chloride from septic systems enters the shallow groundwater or local streams through subsurface flow. Chloride loading from any home water softener depends on many variables and is specific to the homeowner’s water chemistry, water use, hardness preferences, and softener efficiency. Estimates of the amount of salt discharged from residential water softeners in the TCMA are not available at this time. However, where the primary source of household water is hard and not softened by municipal water utilities, residential water softeners are the primary source of chloride for wastewater treatment plants.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Chloride Management Plan 02/2016. Retrieved from www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-iw11-06ff.pdf

2023 Consumer Consumption Report

The 2023 Consumer Consumption Report is now available at www.stfrancismn.org/publicworks/page/annual-water-reports

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



Grilling

SAFETY TIPS

As outdoor cooking becomes increasingly popular, our communities need to be aware of the potential fire risks associated with grilling, barbecues, and other outdoor culinary activities. Residential fires caused by outdoor cooking accidents can have devastating consequences, but we can significantly reduce the risk with simple precautions and awareness. This community guide aims to provide essential tips for preventing residential fires when cooking outdoors.

- 1. Safe location for grilling:**
 - Always place your grill or outdoor cooking equipment in a well-ventilated, open area away from the house, trees, and other flammable structures.
 - Keep a safe distance from decks, overhanging branches, and combustible materials.
- 2. Regular maintenance of equipment:**
 - Inspect your grilling equipment regularly for gas leaks, blocked tubes, or other malfunctions.
 - Clean the grill grates and grease traps to prevent the buildup of flammable materials.
- 3. Proper fuel handling:**
 - If using a charcoal grill, store charcoal in a cool, dry place away from the grill and other heat sources.
 - Check propane tanks for leaks and ensure they are securely connected to gas grills.
- 4. Never leave unattended:**
 - Never leave a hot grill unattended, as this is a common cause of outdoor fires.
 - Keep children and pets away from the grilling area, establishing a safe zone to prevent accidents.
- 5. Flammable materials awareness:**
 - Keep flammable materials such as paper towels, dishcloths, and wooden utensils away from the cooking area.
- Be cautious with loose clothing, and tie back long hair to prevent accidental contact with flames.
- 6. Safe ignition practices:**
 - Use proper ignition methods, such as long-reach lighters or grill ignition systems, to avoid flare-ups.
 - Never use gasoline or other accelerants to start or enhance the fire, as this can lead to uncontrollable flames.
- 7. Have a fire extinguisher handy:**
 - Keep a fire extinguisher nearby and ensure everyone in the household knows how to use it.
 - Be familiar with the type of fire extinguisher suitable for outdoor cooking fires (Class B) and check its expiration date regularly.
- 8. Follow manufacturer guidelines:**
 - Adhere to the manufacturer's guidelines for your grilling equipment, including assembly, use, and maintenance.
 - Read and follow the instructions in the owner's manual for safe and proper operation.
- 9. Plan for emergencies:**
 - Have an emergency plan in place, including knowing the location of the nearest water source, having a hose or bucket of water nearby, and having a phone ready to call emergency services if needed.

By adopting these fire safety practices, we can enjoy the pleasures of outdoor cooking while minimizing the risk of residential fires. A well-informed community is safer; together, we can ensure that our outdoor culinary experiences are enjoyable, memorable, and, most importantly, safe. Let's cook responsibly and create a fire-safe environment for everyone to enjoy.



St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Presents

Pioneer Days in the Park

May 31-June 2, 2024



BUTTON EVENT

FREE and reduced cost with a Pioneer Day button

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY

- 2:00-4:00 p.m. FREE Ice Cream Treats (Village Bank)
- 5:00 p.m.-Dusk Classic Car Show (County Market)
- 5:00-9:00 p.m. Carnival Midway (Community Park)
Food Trucks (over 15 different food options!) **BUTTON EVENT**
St. Francis Lions Beer Garden Tent
Vendors **BUTTON EVENT**
Petting Zoo by Jonah's Ark
- 5:00-6:00 p.m. Kids Color Run with Root Beer Floats (register online) **BUTTON EVENT**
- 7:00-11:00 p.m. Zakk Grandahl Band (Tasty Pizza)
- 6:00-8:00 p.m. Kids Gunny Sack Races (Ages 5-15) (Community Park) **BUTTON EVENT**
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. Kids Glow in the Park Party - Party Patrol DJ (Community Park) **BUTTON EVENT**
- 7:30 p.m. St. Francis High School Graduation (St. Francis High School)



Grand Day Parade
Saturday,
June 1
NOON

SATURDAY

- 8:00 a.m. St. Francis Lions Club Softball Tournament sponsored by Killebrew Root Beer (Community Park)
- 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Carnival Midway (Community Park)
Food Trucks **BUTTON EVENT**
Vendors **BUTTON EVENT**
Petting Zoo by Jonah's Ark
- 12:00-1:00 p.m. Pioneer Days Grand Day Parade (Starting at 235th Ave NW & ends at St. Francis High School)
- 2:00 p.m. Slippery Steve & Scary Gary (Tasty Pizza)
- 2:30 p.m. Miss St. Francis Ambassador Coronation under the tent (Community Park) **BUTTON EVENT**
- 3:00-8:00 p.m. Corn Hole Tournament (Community Park)
- 5:00-9:00 p.m. St. Francis Lions Beer Garden Tent (Community Park)
- 5:30 p.m. MASON DIXON LINE with Opening Act Pretty Twisted featuring Maddy Braun (Tasty Pizza)
- 10:00 p.m. FIREWORKS (10 Minutes after dusk at St. Francis High School)

SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. St. Francis Lions Club Softball Tournament sponsored by Killebrew Root Beer (Community Park)
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Carnival Rides, Food Trucks, Vendors (Community Park) **BUTTON EVENT**
- 10:00 a.m. Community Worship Service in the tent by Living Hope Community Church (Community Park)
- 11:00 a.m. Community Choir Program in tent (Community Park)
- 12:00 p.m. Kiddie Parade (check-in/line up starts at 11:30) Pre-register available online **BUTTON EVENT**
- 12:00 p.m. DeGamba Summer Recital under the tent (Community Park)
- 12-4 p.m. Petting Zoo by Jonah's Ark
- 1:00 p.m. MEGA BINGO at Tasty Pizza
- 2:00 p.m. The Jolly Pops! FREE Kids Music Concert (Community Park)
- 3:00 p.m. "Make it Okay" Mental Health Awareness in the tent (Community Park)

FIREWORKS
Dusk Saturday,
June 1
St. Francis
High School



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 for calendar updates.

Connect with us survey!

The City is requesting residents to complete a short survey on our communication. Our priority is to provide timely, credible, and transparent information to our residents and those who follow our news and events. To do that, the City needs to know who we are reaching, how you receive your information, and what you want to know. We need to understand we are using the most effective tools to reach our residents. The results will be public in the fall. The survey will be open until August 15. Scan the QR code to get started.

Or visit www.stfrancismn.org/administration/webform/communication-survey.



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.
Friday 7:00-11:00 a.m.

Contact Us city@stfrancismn.org 763-753-2630
Website 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 Crystal Kreklow 763-235-2310

Know The Flow!

www.knowtheflow.us

