



City of
St. Francis

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2021 | VOL. 6, NO. 3

Aquifers and Drought

With hardly any rain this year, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has requested that municipalities reduce the amount of water being used. For some cities like Minneapolis or St. Cloud, that water comes from the Mississippi River. For a vast majority of towns and cities in Minnesota, that water comes from the fourteen different aquifers throughout the state.

In St. Francis, we get water from two aquifers that other cities use as well. When Mother Nature cooperates most years, the water table in those aquifers remains stable or decreases slightly. When we experience drought like this year, the water table will start to drop. Aquifers depend on precipitation to recharge or refill, and if more water is pumped from a well than is supplied by precipitation, restrictions are implemented to protect the water source.

If this drought continues to worsen, the Governor and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources could issue even more restrictive regulations. One of those measures could be a complete watering ban to include no irrigation, car washes, or watering your flowers or shrubs. Conserving today, ensures enough water for tomorrow!

Message from your Mayor

I can't remember a past summer as hot as this one. I am looking forward to Fall, with temps in the low to mid-seventies and no humidity.

By now you have received the letter from our public works department about the new water restrictions. I want to explain why the City had to do this and tell you that the City follows those same restrictions.

Whether you are on city water or well water, the source is the same, and that is the Aquifers. These Aquifers are replenished by snowmelt and, of course, rainfall. As you know, from last winter and this summer both have been in very short supply. If we don't take this seriously and work together, eventually, the City may have to go to a complete watering ban as other cities have already done. Public Works tell me that it would take five weeks of steady rainfall to get back to where we were before. If you have any questions, you can call Public Works at 763-233-5200.

I also want to tell you about the expansion of our St. Francis Bottle Shop. The one thing the Bottle Shop building has always lacked is storage space. This is important because more storage will allow the City to purchase in bulk which in turn gets the pricing to be more competitive. Another positive effect with more space is the ability to expand the product line to appeal to our resident's varying tastes.

It took over twenty-plus years to get liquor sold on Sunday in off-sale stores, but I don't believe it will take that long to see it sold in grocery stores. My reasoning is that big stores like Hy-Vee and others are pushing for it.

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Visit us on social media!



Leaves on the water, don't do it!

Yes, fall is back. Crisp days and nights, pumpkin spice, and those brightly colored leaves on the trees, but they lose their appeal once they're on the ground, becoming tedious yard work.

Wherever leaves fall, they decompose and restock the soil with nutrients and organic matter. But if there is no soil to land on, leaves and decomposing bits wash down the street and into storm drains. From there, they go directly into lakes and rivers, where the nutrients feed unwanted algae growth next summer.

Here are some dos and don'ts for dealing with autumn leaves:

Don't Blow It Off

Don't just blow leaves off the yard. Blowing them into the street clogs storm drains and causes flooding when it rains.

Curbside Yard Waste

Leaves are not garbage. If your city offers a yard waste collection service, use it. Leaves that are thrown in the garbage go to a landfill. Yard waste collection goes to composting.

Do Clean the Street

Regardless if you rake or blow the leaves and debris, please clean off the curb, street, and any covering the nearest storm drain. Leaves, grass, and dirt feed algae and turn lakes and rivers green.

Don't Burn Leaves

Burning leaves releases large amounts of air pollution. These pollutants can cause breathing problems for sensitive groups and lead to long-term health effects for all of us.

Replace your gasoline landscaping equipment with electric equipment.

The MPCA offers grants to professional landscape companies to switch from your old, 2-cycle gasoline, VOC emitting landscaping equipment to electric-powered equipment. These emissions impact employee health and the air quality in the populated communities the equipment serves.

Information provided by Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP).



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 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 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 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 is costly. It would involve microfiltration and reverse osmosis (RO), 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

Free Head Start Preschool & Early Head Start programs

The Anoka/Washington County Head Start-Early Head Start program is accepting applications for the 2021-2022 program year. Programs are free for eligible families with children from birth to age five and pregnant women. The program provides education, nutrition, mental health, school readiness, 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.



Smart Recycling: Good job St. Francis

Every year the recycling program grows here in St. Francis and it's because of you! You are using the recycling carts in the parks. You are recycling at home and in your local businesses. You are also participating at the recycling events provided throughout the year. So, thank you and let's keep up the good work! Here are a few reminders to help you recycle more and recycle better.



No Plastic Bags
(drop off only)

No Plastic Bags!

We may sound like a broken record, but it's true, curbside recyclables and plastic bags do not go together. At the very most, you can use the plastic bag to carry your recycling to your cart but then throw the bag in the trash if it is wet. You can also recycle clean, dry

plastic bags at your local grocery stores. Plastic bags do not go in your curbside recycling cart!



No Food

Food Soiled Recycling CANNOT be recycled!

It's a good habit to empty all liquids and rinse off any food particles before you recycle anything. Sometimes it's just not possible to get the recycling clean e.g. tin foil with embedded food particles, so unfortunately it needs to be thrown in the trash. When in doubt, throw it out!

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No Batteries or
Electronics

Batteries...No Go!

Batteries can be recycled but not in your curbside recycling cart. Batteries need to be brought to the Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste Facility or a recycling event that accepts them. If they are thrown in with your recyclables, this can cause

damage to equipment at the recycling sorting facility. Lithium batteries are especially dangerous as they can cause fires. Go to AnokaCounty.us/HHW for additional information.



Free Stuff!

Public Works has small recycle totes you can use to carry out your small recyclables. These are especially good for residents living in apartments.

Free Organics kit and bags! St. Francis has started a free organics drop-off program this year and it's totally free! You can pick up your

free starter kit and extra bags at Public Works. Already collecting organics? Our organics drop-off site is located at Community Park, in the main parking lot next to the trash bin.

Feel free to reach out with any questions or suggestions! Call 763-233-5200 or email sfrecycles@stfrancismn.org.

Publication funded by the Anoka County Board of Commissioners and State

SCORE (Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment) Funds.

Pumping Reminders

The City will be sending out septic pump reminder postcards to residents with septic systems in the spring of 2022. Septic tanks should be pumped out no less than once every three years.

Pumping the septic tank removes waste solids, fats, and oils that can build up and eventually reach and clog the drain field. A clogged drain field can cause waste to back up to the surface or into a home and require expensive repairs or replacement, not to mention posing a threat to human health and the environment.

More than 530,000 homes and businesses in Minnesota use a septic system to treat waste from toilets and sinks. Most of them are working great, but they all require maintenance to protect human health and the environment, including groundwater and surface waters like lakes and rivers.

Septic pumpers should send a copy of the maintenance record to City Hall, so the information is updated in your

property record.

For more information, visit www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/celebrate-poop-pumping-reminders and www.epa.gov/septic

SepticSmart Week 2021: September 20-24, 2021

Each year, EPA holds SepticSmart Week with outreach activities to encourage homeowners and communities to care for and maintain their septic systems. This annual event focuses on educating homeowners and communities on the proper care and maintenance of their septic systems. Residents can take advantage of SepticSmart Week to schedule their next septic system service.

Visit www.epa.gov/septic/septicsmart-week for information and care tips.





Gun Safety with Eddie Eagle

**September 16
5:30-7:00 p.m.**

The Eddie Eagle class is returning for children who are currently in elementary school. Just as Smokey Bear teaches children not to play with matchbooks, Eddie Eagle teaches them not to play with firearms with a simple, memorable four-part plan: if you see a gun stop, don't touch, leave the area and tell an adult

Whether or not a particular family owns firearms, chances are neighbors, friends and relatives do. Make sure children are firearm wise.

The class will be held at the St. Francis Police Department, 4058 St. Francis Blvd. NW, St. Francis. The class is for kindergartners through sixth-graders. Please call 763-753-1264 to register.



Car Seat Clinic

**September 30
4:00-7:00 p.m.**

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

Call to register at
763-235-2323

Annual Report Now Available

The St. Francis Police Department annual report for 2020 is available now. The report details police's goals, achievements, and tasks in the past year and highlights the many events and programs the department uses to engage the community. Read about these items and more in the 2020 Police Department Annual report, which can be found on the city webpage at cityofstfrancismn.org.

Back-to-School Safety Tips

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

Tips for drivers

- Be on the lookout for school zone signals and ALWAYS obey the speed limits.
- When entering a school zone, be sure to slow down and obey all traffic laws.
- Always stop for school buses that are loading or unloading children.
- Watch out for school crossing guards and obey their signals.
- Be aware of and watch out for children near schools, bus stops, sidewalks, in the streets, in school parking lots, etc.
- Never text while driving.
- Avoid using a cell phone, unless it is completely hands-free.
- Allow yourself extra time when traveling before and after school to account for the increased amount of traffic that we will encounter with school being back in session.
- The police department will have extra traffic enforcement before and after school, so please obey speed limits and yield to pedestrians in the crosswalks.

Tips for students walking to school

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



The St. Francis Police Department recently hosted their first Police Citizens' Academy

Six graduates of the academy were exposed to various topics, such as the use of force, drug testing, traffic enforcement, and role-playing. The academy is an opportunity to increase communication with participants and reduce



misunderstandings regarding police operations. Staff enjoyed the chance to meet and share their training and experiences with those who live in our community. We appreciate those who attended and look forward to meeting more members of our community at future academies!

Construction season is in full swing throughout the City, and the police would like to remind residents to report any suspicious activity in and around construction areas immediately. Thieves like to target these areas, and the police department will be providing extra patrol.

Find us on

Please "like" the St. Francis Police Department Facebook page. The page provides information on local events, safety tips, and press releases for significant incidents. Send questions and tips on any recent crimes through private Messages.

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 television or other valuable items 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 period, 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.

Mayor

Continued from page 1

So, it is in the best interest of the City to establish our bottle shop as a destination place where you can go for a good variety as well as reasonable prices. Proceeds from the muni go to offset tax levy increases and special projects within the community.

During the construction, the hours of the Bottle Shop are: Monday through Thursday Noon-8:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. and closed on Sunday.

I want to remind you that if you have an issue or concern, please bring it to our attention so we can address it. That helps us to serve you better. We will look into it with the full and honest due diligence you deserve. You may not get the answer you want to hear, but you can be confident it has been given a full amount of attention.

As always, stay safe and enjoy the Fall colors.

Regards,
Mayor Feldman

Recycling Dates to Remember!

Lepage and Sons Events
September 18 and November 20
8:00 a.m.-Noon
23602 University Avenue NW
Bethel, MN 55005

Free Paper Shredding and Leaf Drop-off
October 30
8:00 a.m.-Noon
4020 St. Francis Boulevard NW
St. Francis MN 55070

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

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

Fire Prevention Week is October 3-9

We hope to be in the schools this year, teaching community youth about Fire Prevention and Safety. Additionally, we anticipate to be able to have the French Toast Breakfast and Open House once again. Follow us on Facebook for more information on our events coming this fall.



STAY

focused on the food

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of fires in the kitchen.

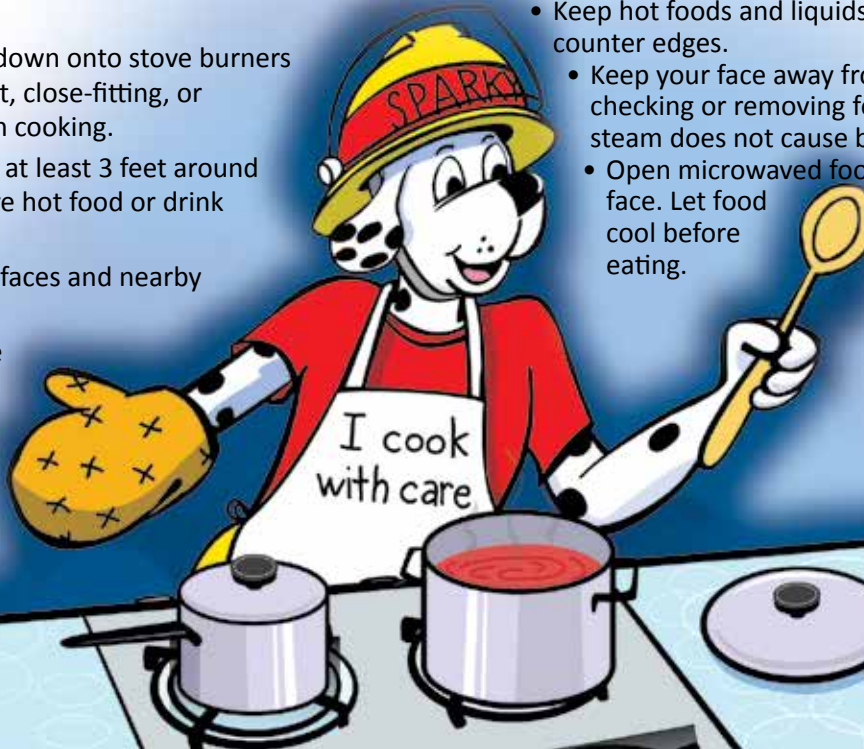
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. Turn off the burner if you leave the kitchen- even for a short period of time.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly and stay in the home.
- Use a time to remind you that you are cooking, or carry around a wooden spoon as a reminder.
- If you are sleepy, have consumed alcohol, or have taken medicine that makes you drowsy, don't cook. Place a delivery order!

KEEP

cooking areas clear

Clear away clutter and give cooking appliances space to lessen the chances of a kitchen fire.

- Keep anything that can catch fire- oven mittens, wooden utensils, food wrappers, towels, curtains away from the stovetop.
- Loose clothing can hang down onto stove burners and catch fire. Wear short, close-fitting, or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking.
- Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- Keep pets off cooking surfaces and nearby countertops.
- Clean up food and grease from burners and the stovetop.



On November 7, we will "fall back" an hour with our clocks.



It is a great time to check the batteries on all of your smoke and CO detectors. Smoke and CO detectors save lives every day!

PUT

a lid on it

You can take simple steps to keep a small kitchen fire from getting out of control.

- Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner. Leave the pan covered until its cool.
- Never discharge a portable fire extinguisher into a grease fire because it will spread the fire.
- In case of an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed until the oven is cool. After the fire, have the oven serviced before using it again.
- If you have a microwave oven fire, turn the appliance off immediately and keep the oven door closed. Have the microwave oven serviced before using it again.

PREVENT

scalds and burns

Hot liquids and steam from the stove or oven can cause devastating injuries.

- Turn pot handles away from the stove's edge.
 - Keep hot foods and liquids away from table and counter edges.
 - Keep your face away from the oven door when checking or removing food so that the heat or steam does not cause burns.
 - Open microwaved food slowly, away from your face. Let food cool before eating.
- Keep appliance cords coiled and away from counter edges.



St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 655
St. Francis, MN 55070

763-438-5163
chamber@stfrancischamber.org
www.stfrancischamber.org

Thank You St. Francis for a Great Summer!

We are thankful to have been able to celebrate Community Day and Night to Unite, and we were fortunate to be able to host the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus.

We're excited for St. Francis City Wide Garage Sales coming September 9-11 and our Annual Dinner on January 28.



Current St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Members

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Ace Solid Waste, Inc. | Elaine M. Mustari, CPA, LLC | North Anoka County Emergency | St. Francis Physical Therapy |
| Advanced Automotive Care, Inc. | Freedom Strategy Group | Foodshelf | St. Francis True Value Hardware |
| Anoka Hennepin Credit Union | G and H Auto LLC | Northland Screw Products, Inc. | St. Francis United Methodist Church |
| Anoka Ramsey Community College | Gold Star Kennels | Northstar Outdoors | St. Francis Veterinary Clinic |
| Barna, Guzy & Steffen, LTD | Goodrich Pharmacy | Opp Family Chiropractic, P.A. | Steve's Collision |
| BTO Signs | Hakanson Anderson | Patriot Lanes Bar & Grill | Subway – St. Francis |
| Casey's General Store | Hidden Haven Golf Club | RE/MAX Results~Michelle Anderson | T. Bryce Machine, Inc. |
| City of St. Francis | Highland Money Management, Inc. | Rum River Construction Consultants | TC Networks LLC |
| Collision 2000 | Kwik Trip | Rum River Tree Farm | The Bridge Church |
| Connexus Energy | Lakeside Cabinets and Woodworking | Sara Sauer, CPA, LLC | The Oaks of Lake George |
| County Market | Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health & Well-Being | St. Francis Area Schools | The Ponds Golf Course & Restaurant |
| Dairy Queen Orange Julius | LePage & Sons, Inc. | St. Francis Bottle Shop | The Refuge Golf Club & Restaurant |
| Dawn Tschumper American Family Insurance Agency | Mansettis Pizza and Pasta | St. Francis Collision & Glass | Trinity Lutheran Church & School |
| E&H Embroidery LLC | McDonalds | St. Francis Dental Care | Village Bank |
| ECM Publishers, Inc. | Minuteman Press – Ham Lake | St. Francis Fire Department | Warmbo LLC |
| Edward Jones Investments | MN CPR LLC | St. Francis Insurance Agency – Gary Zimmerman Agent | |
| | | St. Francis Lions Club | |



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 during COVID-19 restrictions.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

ST. FRANCIS PARK SYSTEM PLAN

Help us plan for the future of the St. Francis Park System! We are interested in your ideas for improvements to the existing recreation areas, trails, playgrounds, facilities, and natural areas as we plan for future investments.



Participate in our
online survey!
<https://polco.us/s/vx6t>



The survey will be open through September 30th.

KNOW THE FLOW!

www.knowtheflow.us

City Council Meetings

First and third Monday each month at 6:00 p.m.
(If a holiday, the meeting will be Tuesday.)

Planning Commission Meetings

Third Wednesday each month at 7:00 p.m.
Meetings are held at

St. Francis Area Schools District Office
4115 Ambassador Boulevard NW

Agendas and minutes online: www.stfrancismn.org

City Hall Location

23340 Cree Street NW
St. Francis, MN 55070

Hours Monday-Thursday 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Contact Us city@stfrancismn.org 763-753-2630
Website www.stfrancismn.org

City Council

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