



City of
St. Francis

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2021 | VOL. 6, NO. 4

Get Outside this Winter

Don't feel like you need to be stuck inside this winter. Head on out to the sledding hill right here in St. Francis. Seelye Brook Park is located at 4540 229th Avenue NW. There is a porta-potty in the front and a parking lot in the back. Please park in the back parking lot and not on the roads. To access the parking lot, travel east on 229th Avenue NW and take the first right. The parking is in the back, surrounded by pine trees.

St. Francis maintains a full-size hockey rink along with a smaller recreational rink. When the weather cooperates, Public Works staff will create and

maintain the ice for the residents to enjoy. The ice rinks are located at 3948 229th Avenue, across the street from St. Francis Elementary School. The goal every year is to have the warming house open and staffed by Christmas break. Warming House Hours (weather and schedule permitting): Monday-Friday 3:00-9:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Please help keep our city safe and clean. Report any vandalism or trash dumping to Public Works. To report a problem, you can call 763-233-5200 or "submit a request" online.



Message from your Mayor

Fall went by so fast, and the holidays are right around the corner. If you are like me, you have a list of things that need to get done but keep putting off before winter sets in.

As I have mentioned before, the city has contracted WSB, an engineering and consulting firm, to work out a plan for Highway 47. Those talks are still ongoing. The criteria the city has given to WSB for the reconstruction of Highway 47 is threefold:

- 1) Safety
- 2) Access to our existing businesses
- 3) Expansion of our commercial base

The hope is that MnDOT will be open-minded to see how important it is to get this roadway right. Focusing on those points and ultimately being a benefit to the city and residents.

The Bottle Shop has added 2,400

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Visit us on social media!



Planning and Zoning Commission

Are you interested in helping to guide the growth of the City?

Join the Planning Commission!

If you are interested in leading the City through its vision and goals, the Planning Commission may be of interest to you. Commission Members are involved with city planning, guiding City Code and making recommendations on land use and projects to the City Council.

You must be a resident of the City. The Planning Commission meets on the third Wednesday evening of every month, starting at 7:00 p.m. Attendance is extremely important! Terms are for three years following a calendar year, and Commissioners are paid for their time as outlined in the City fee schedule.

Applications are accepted all year. Click on the Commission Application Form under Supporting Documents to apply for an open position on the Planning & Zoning Commission.

For more information or to apply, contact Kate Thunstrom, Community Development Director, at 763-267-6191 or kthunstrom@stfrancismn.org.

Anoka County Community Action Program (ACCAP)

ACCAP Senior Kinship Program

The Senior Kinship Program connects volunteers to seniors living in Anoka County. Volunteers may provide assistance and friendship, companionship and support, transportation to appointments and errands, and participate in activities and outings. ACCAP's Senior Kinship Program strives to help people remain independent in their homes and provide a helping hand to Anoka County senior residents who may be isolated or home-bound. Contact us at 763-783-4745 or www.accap.org/senior-services.



ACCAP Chores & More

The Chores & More program utilizes volunteers and paid independent contractors to assist seniors over the age of 60 in Anoka County. Through this program, we are able to provide housekeeping services (laundry, vacuuming, sweeping floors, cleaning bathroom or kitchen) and chores services (heavy housework, washing windows, and walls; basic home maintenance, yard work: mowing, trimming, snow removal). All services are based upon the availability of volunteers and workers. Contact us at 763-783-4767 or www.accap.org/senior-services.

ACCAP Senior Outreach Program

The Senior Outreach Program is a free, no-cost program that assists seniors 60 years of age and older in Anoka County. Our workers collaborate with seniors and their families/caregivers on a short-term basis to navigate the social and human service systems and work as advocates for the seniors. Through this service, we provide forms assistance, tax referrals, housing navigation assistance, and more! Contact us at 763-783-4741 or www.accap.org/senior-services.

ACCAP Senior Information Line

The Senior Information Line is open to all! Whether you are a potential client, a family member or caregiver, or a partner in our community, our phone line is available to you. We cover several referrals and resources to assist in answering your questions. Let us help by calling us at 763-783-4707.

Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization seeks volunteers

The Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization (URRWMO) has two vacancies for the City of St. Francis. If you would like to join, contact City Clerk Jenni Wida at 763-235-2303 or jwida@stfrancismn.org.

The URRWMO is a joint powers organization including the Cities of St. Francis, Oak Grove, Nowthen, Bethel, and portions of East Bethel. A small corner of Ham Lake also falls within the URRWMO. The WMO Board is made up of representatives from each of these cities.

This organization seeks to maintain the quality of area lakes, rivers, streams, groundwater, and other water resources across municipal boundaries. Resources of particular importance to the URRWMO include the Rum River, Seelye Brook, Ford Brook, Cedar Creek, and numerous ditches that drain to the Rum River. This

stretch of the Rum River is designated as a state Scenic and Recreational Waterway. Lake George and East Twin Lakes, the primary recreation lakes in the watershed, are also of high priority and many smaller lakes and wetlands.

The work of the URRWMO is guided by its ten-year Watershed Management Plan. The plan can be found online at www.urrwmo.org/watershed-management-plans-reports. That work primarily includes water quality and hydrology monitoring, public outreach, and water quality improvement projects. Several essential tasks are completed by the member cities, including permitting and stormwater system maintenance.

For more information, visit our website at www.stfrancismn.org/bc-urrwmo.

St. Francis Recycling

St. Francis recycling continues to improve and grow with our community's continued support. This past year, the recycling program will have hosted five recycling events. These events include three at Lepage and Sons and two at Public Works. These events continue to be welcomed by all who attend. Thank you to all who participate, and please continue to do so! Do you have something and are not sure if it can be recycled? Do you want more items to be accepted at a recycling event? Do you have any questions or concerns about recycling? Let us know! You can call Public Works at 763-233-5200 or email us at sfrecycles@stfrancismn.org.

Household Batteries

We all have them. In this day in age, we all have small electronics that use batteries. It is best to use rechargeable batteries to reduce the number of batteries used overall when you can. Do not throw batteries in the trash! Batteries can be dangerous as they can cause fires! Particularly the lithium-ion batteries found in cell phones. Batteries can be dropped off at Anoka County Hazardous Waste Facility for safe recycling. You can also drop off household batteries in the lobby of Public Works.

Yard Waste

Although St. Francis does not have a compost site, Anoka County has two sites available for county residents. They are open year-round during certain times of the week. You must unload your own yard waste and debug all materials. The locations are listed below. Call the numbers below for any questions. For more information, go to www.AnokaCounty.us/yardwaste

Bunker Hills Compost Site

13285 Hanson Blvd NW, Coon Rapids
763-767-7964

Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Compost Site

7701 Main St, Lino Lakes
651-429-3723

Anoka Household Hazardous Waste Facility

Anoka County has a drop-off facility free for county residents. Proof of residents required. They take paints, cleaners, sharps, batteries, garden products, automotive fluids, and fluorescent bulbs. For more information on hours of operation and accepted materials, go to AnokaCounty.us/HHW

3230 101 Avenue NE, Blaine
763-324-3400

Community Connect Event



Please join the St. Francis Area Schools Community Education Advisory Council for a night of family fun and community engagement

on Thursday, December 16, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Some of the free happenings include Madrigal Singers

caroling, Jazz Band playing holiday songs, holiday activities for preschoolers

through middle schoolers Santa visit, the Athletics & Activities Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, and tours of the newly renovated high school. Fee based activities include food trucks and high school varsity basketball games. Everyone is invited!

The St. Francis High School (SFHS) Activities Department and the Hall of Fame Committee are hosting an induction ceremony and boys and girls basketball doubleheader. At 5:00 p.m., in a ceremony at the Performing Arts Center, the Hall of Fame Committee will induct the 1990 boys basketball team, coaches, and managers, who made it to the state tournament that year. The SFHS girls varsity basketball game begins at 5:30 p.m., and the boys varsity game is at 7:15 p.m. Cost for admission to the games is \$5 for students and Seniors, \$7 for adults.

Schedule of Community Connect Events

Thursday, December 16, 5:00-7:00 p.m., in the St. Francis High School Commons and Bridge Street Room.

- Food trucks, front parking lot 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- Fun holiday activities 5:00-6:00 p.m. for preschool, elementary, and middle school kids
- Live music from the Madrigal Singers and Jazz Band
- Tours of the newly renovated St. Francis High School
- Collecting food and donations for North Anoka County Emergency Foodshelf (NACE)

Holiday Food Drive: FILL THE BUS!

In partnership with the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce, SFHS Activities Department, SFHS Student Council, and St. Francis Area Schools Community Education Advisory Council a holiday food drive is being planned. All proceeds go to the NACE, with donations being distributed to community members in need. Please bring non-perishable food items to the Community Connect Event or drop off at a school site.

- During the week of December 13-17, the community-wide goal is to FILL THE BUS! with food and donations for NACE.
- Drop-off locations at all school sites and various community locations

Winter Salt Alternatives

Ways to Reduce Chloride Pollution

As the snow season draws near, consider this: sodium chloride (NaCl) is the most common form of salt used for de-icing roads and walkways. It is used so much that it has become a water pollutant. Here are ways to reduce chloride pollution, have safer walking areas, and maybe save some money.

- Remove snow during a snowstorm instead of waiting until the end. Start with the first snow and keep up the rest of the winter, especially in shaded walkways.
- Think “anti-icing.” The goal is to break the bond between ice and pavement just where you need it so it can be shoveled or plowed (as opposed to melting everything).
- Treat before a storm to help prevent ice buildup, so less de-icer is needed.
 - Alternatives: Sand – for traction ONLY – safe and effective, but sweep up excess and re-use.
 - Some alternatives can be liquid magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, potassium chloride (all three work better than regular salt in colder temps), calcium magnesium acetate, and potassium acetate.
 - **Do not** apply if ice has already formed in rainy, sleety, blowing conditions or if the snowfall is more than one inch per hour.
 - Concrete may require specialized use or product. Salt, chlorides, and urea-based (“pet-friendly”) options can cause pitting or spalling of concrete surfaces. Check the product label for concrete use.

- After Storms use as little de-icer as possible:
 - The closest salt substitute is potassium acetate, but it is hard to find—ask for it to create consumer demand.
 - Sand is safe for pets and children (sweep up excess).

Remember, regular salt is not effective at temperatures below 15 degrees (F). For colder temps, try sand or pre-treat with liquid magnesium, calcium, or potassium chlorides.

Information provided by Coon Creek Watershed District (763-755-0975 or www.cooncreekwd.org).

RECYCLING

Holiday Lights and Used Cell Phone Collection

Every year St. Francis Public Works collects old, used, broken, or worn-out cell phones and holiday lights for proper recycling. These items are not recycled through your curbside recycling carts. Instead, they are usually thrown in the trash. You may drop off your holiday lights and cell phones at the Police and Public Works Facility during our regular hours, 6:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you have any recycling questions or concerns, please call Public Works at 763-233-5200.

Be fire smart
with electricity in your home.

45,000 There are approximately 45,000 home electrical fires each year.

Half of all home electrical fires involve home wiring or lighting equipment.

Home electrical fire deaths peak between **midnight and 8 a.m.**

Peak months for electrical fire deaths are **November through March.**

Plug only 1 heat-producing appliance (like a coffee maker, space heater or microwave) directly into a wall outlet at a time.

Never use an extension cord with a heat-producing appliance.

Extension cords should only be used temporarily. Have an electrician install additional wall outlets where you need them.



For more information about electrical fire safety, visit usfa.fema.gov and nfpa.org/public-education.

Mayor

Continued from page 1

square feet to the existing building. By the time this newsletter comes out, the construction will be completed. There will be a Grand Opening the week of December 13 through December 18. Grand Opening events will include tastings during the week, daily giveaways, and daily door-busting deals. Stop in and see the wine/beer tasting area and all of the expanded product lines the new bottle shop will have. Remember that the proceeds from the muni go towards keeping the tax levy low and for special projects.

As always, if you have an issue or concern, please bring it to our attention so that we may address it. This helps us to serve you better. Council and staff will do our due diligence to give you an answer to your issue/concern that has been fully vetted.

I wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday season. Please drive carefully to your destinations and, most importantly, enjoy spending time with family and friends.

Regards,
Mayor Feldman

Adopt a Fire Hydrant

If we have a winter like last year, please keep fire hydrants free and clear of snow. How quickly a fire hydrant can be located and accessed in an emergency plays a large part in how fast we can extinguish a fire. Please, if you have a fire hydrant on or near your property, keep it free and clear of snow.



Santa & the Fire Truck

**Thursday, December 9
beginning at 5:30 p.m.**

Santa and the Fire Truck is teaming up with St. Francis Firefighters to walk through neighborhoods to collect food donations for the North Anoka County Emergency Foodshelf (NACE) and hand out candy canes to the children.

For more information, with the St. Francis Fire Department's Facebook page @StFramieMnFire



Kids, tell Santa what the perfect gift would be! Parents, bring your camera.



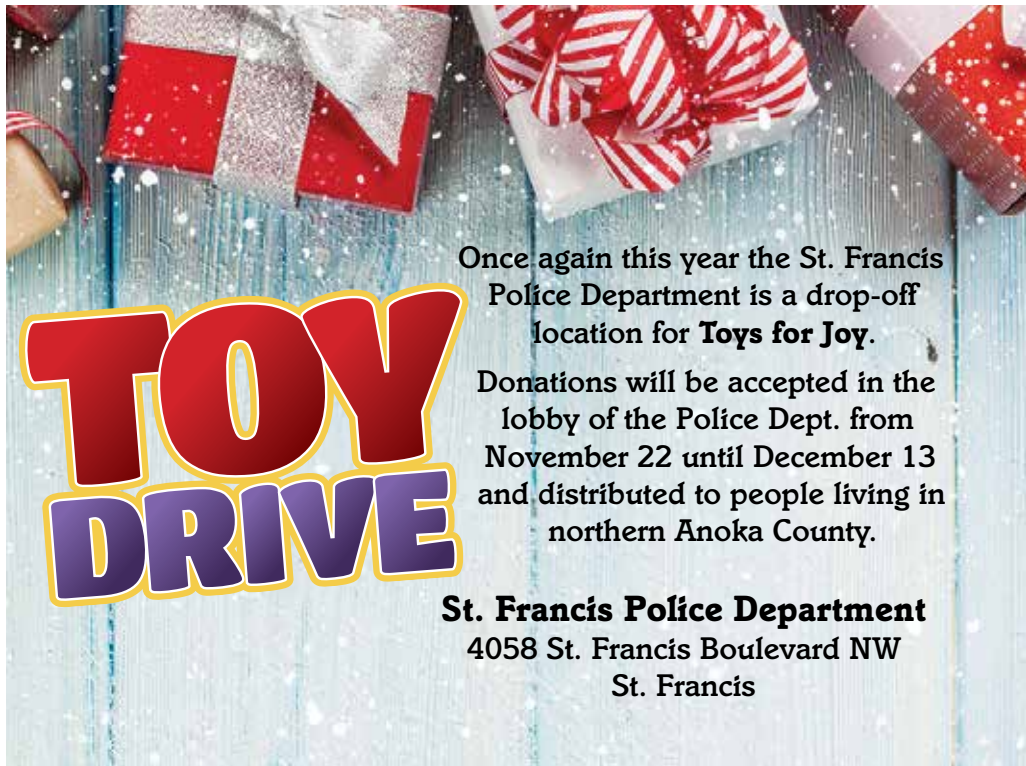
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

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

**St. Francis Police Department
will be a drop-off location for
children in need.**

**Donations will be accepted
until Monday, December 13.**

**The Police Christmas
Committee and Toys for Joy,
helping people living in all of
northern Anoka County.**



**TOY
DRIVE**

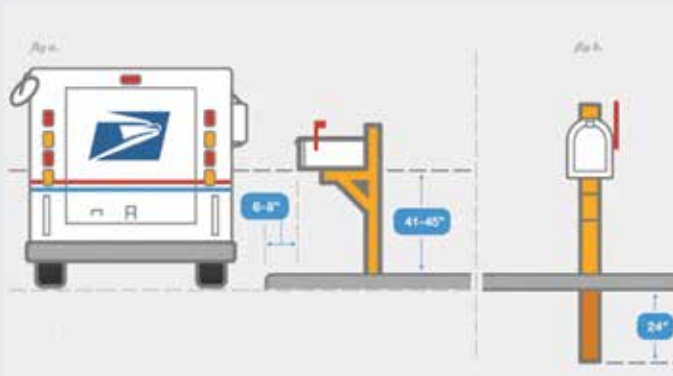
Once again this year the St. Francis Police Department is a drop-off location for **Toys for Joy**.

Donations will be accepted in the lobby of the Police Dept. from November 22 until December 13 and distributed to people living in northern Anoka County.

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

Winter Parking and Snow Removal Reminders!

- Do NOT blow, shovel, or push snow from your driveway into the street. It is illegal, and the City will be issuing code enforcement violations on residents who violate this law (Minnesota Statute 160.2715). Violations are misdemeanors, but civil penalties would also apply if the placement of snow creates a hazard such as a slippery area, frozen rut, or bump that contributes to a motor vehicle or pedestrian crash. The civil liability can extend to both the property owner and the person who placed the snow.
- When shoveling your driveway apron, shovel the snow to the right of your driveway. If you are looking at the street, it will reduce the amount of snow in your driveway when the plow comes by.
- Do NOT park your vehicle in the street. (No parking is allowed on any city street during November through May from 1:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and/or during a snow event. A snow event occurs when a snowfall of two inches or more and ends when the roads have been cleared to full width. Violators will be towed at the owner's expense.)
- Please help keep fire hydrants clear next to your home.
- Do not place your garbage cans in the street. Make sure there is a spot for them at the edge of your driveway.
- Keep the area around and behind your mailbox clear of snow. It allows room for more snow without it piling up. The image below indicates the United States Postal Service requirements for your mailbox. Using these requirements can help reduce the chances of your mailbox being damaged.



What is MS4?

A municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) is a conveyance or system of conveyances (roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, storm drains, etc.) that is also:

- Owned or operated by a public entity (which can include cities, townships, counties, military bases, hospitals, prison complexes, highway departments, universities, sewer districts, etc.)
- Designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater
- Not a combined sewer
- Not part of a publicly owned treatment works

MS4s in Minnesota must satisfy the requirements of the MS4 general permit if they are at least one of the following:

- Located in an urbanized area and used by a population of 1,000 or more
- Owned by a municipality with a population of 10,000 or more
- Have a population of at least 5,000, and the system discharges to specially classified bodies of water.

Minnesota state rule (Minn. R. 7090) establishes criteria and a process for designating future MS4s; see the Stormwater rules page for more information.

The MS4 general permit is designed to reduce the amount of sediment and other pollutants entering state waters from stormwater systems. Entities regulated by the MS4 general permit must develop a stormwater pollution prevention program and adopt best practices. A general permit covers multiple entities with similar operations and types of discharges. Issuing general permits allows for faster and more efficient permitting compared to issuing individual permits.

Information provided by MN Pollution Control Agency, www.pca.state.mn.us/water/municipal-stormwater-ms4

Snowmobile Safety Tips

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



Snowmobile ordinances can be viewed on the City's website, <https://library.municode.com> Chapter 7



St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 655
St. Francis, MN 55070

612-757-6949
chamber@stfrancischamber.org
www.stfrancischamber.org

ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CONTEST

ENTRY FORM & MAP AVAILABLE ONLINE.
Winners will receive
gift cards from local businesses!



Celebrating St. Francis

PIONEER DAYS

SAVE THE DATE

June 10th-12th, 2022

Volunteers Needed



So Here's The Deal...

TAKE A TRIP TO LAS VEGAS - SFACOC STYLE!

St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner

FRIDAY
January 28th
6:00pm
@ THE REFUGE
GOLF CLUB

PLAY CASINO GAMES

Blackjack, Texas Hold 'Em, Let It Ride, Beat the House, Red Dog & many more

CHANCES TO WIN PRIZES

50/50, Silent Auction & Raffles

DINNER & DRINKS

A Buffet Dinner

**SUPPORT THE ST FRANCIS
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Details at www.stfrancischamber.org

St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Members

Ace Solid Waste, Inc.
Advanced Automotive Care, Inc.
Anoka Hennepin Credit Union
Anoka Ramsey Community College
Barna, Guzy & Steffen, LTD
BTO Signs
Casey's General Store
City of St. Francis
Collision 2000
Connexus Energy
County Market
Dairy Queen Orange Julius
Dawn Tschumper American
Family Insurance Agency
E&H Embroidery LLC
ECM Publishers, Inc.
Edward Jones Investments

Elaine M. Mustari, CPA, LLC
Freedom Strategy Group
G and H Auto LLC
Gold Star Kennels
Goodrich Pharmacy
Hakanson Anderson
Hidden Haven Golf Club
Highland Money Management, Inc.
Kwik Trip
Lakeside Cabinets and Woodworking
Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health & Well-Being
LePage & Sons, Inc.
Mansettis Pizza and Pasta
McDonalds
Minuteman Press - Ham Lake
MN CPR LLC

North Anoka County Emergency Foodshelf
Northland Screw Products, Inc.
Northstar Outdoors
Opp Family Chiropractic, P.A.
Patriot Lanes Bar & Grill
RE/MAX Results-Michelle Anderson
Rum River Construction Consultants
Rum River Tree Farm
Sara Sauer, CPA, LLC
St. Francis Area Schools
St. Francis Bottle Shop
St. Francis Collision & Glass
St. Francis Dental Care
St. Francis Fire Department
St. Francis Insurance Agency - Gary Zimmerman Agent
St. Francis Lions Club

St. Francis Physical Therapy
St. Francis True Value Hardware
St. Francis United Methodist Church
St. Francis Veterinary Clinic
Steve's Collision
Subway - St. Francis
T. Bryce Machine, Inc.
TC Networks LLC
The Bridge Church
The Oaks of Lake George
The Ponds Golf Course & Restaurant
The Refuge Golf Club & Restaurant
Trinity Lutheran Church & School
Village Bank
Warmbo LLC



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.

Winter Parking Restrictions

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

St. Francis police officers will issue citations for winter parking violations. The most common complaint when someone receives a ticket is, “I didn’t know.” Please, help spread the word to your friends, family, and neighbors. Also, make sure any overnight guests are informed.

Below is a link to the city ordinance for more information. If you have any questions, contact an on-duty officer through Anoka County Dispatch at 763-427-1212.

<https://library.municode.com, 7-4-3.> - Winter parking

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

KNOW THE FLOW!

www.knowtheflow.us