



City of
St. Francis

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022 | VOL. 7, NO. 3



Animal Control change

Effective July 18, 2022, St. Francis began the animal control contract with On Line Retrievers. If you have a lost dog and believe it was picked up by animal control, On Line Retrievers will post impounded dogs on their Facebook page <https://bit.ly/3OgZvO5>.

Please share the page so we can help families reconnect with lost pets.



To speak with someone at On Line Retrievers regarding a possible impounded dog, they can also be reached by calling 320-492-5865.

If you have lost a dog and believe it may have been impounded prior to this change, contact The Canine Country Club at 651-373-0566.

St. Francis also requires dogs to be licensed within the city (Ordinance 8-3-1 C). You can stop at St. Francis Police Department with proof of your dog's rabies vaccination and purchase a license. The cost depends on how long you buy a dog license for, anywhere from one to three years and \$5 to \$15, respectively. Purchasing a license also allows us to have contact information if your dog is found wandering around and picked up by officers.

Message from your Mayor

The summer sure went by fast, and now we are into the fall. Cooler temperatures are nice, but I would have liked summer to go on a little bit longer.

The City has a new community development director. Her name is Colette Baumgardner, and we welcome her as she will play an important part in how our City grows going forward.

In case you didn't know, On Line Retrievers is the new animal control service for our City.

On Line Retrievers has been providing animal control services for the past 12 years and serves several communities, including

Mille Lacs County, Isanti County, and townships in Sherburne County. They operate a facility located in Ogilvie, Minn., approximately 31 miles north of St. Francis. They are currently licensed by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health and hold a commercial general liability insurance certificate.

I want to let everyone know about the new City online bill payment service. On the city website, at the bottom of the page, you will see a tab labeled "Online Bill Pay" click on it to set up your account to pay online. It's new and improved.

Here is information about

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Visit us on social media!



Watershed Management Organization has a vacancy available in St. Francis

The Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization (URRWMO) has one vacancy for the City of St. Francis. If you want 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 into the Rum River. This stretch of the Rum River is designated a state Scenic and Recreational Waterway. Lake George and East Twin Lakes, the primary recreation lakes in the watershed, are also of high priority, in addition to many smaller lakes and wetlands.

The work of the URRWMO is guided by its 10-year Watershed Management Plan. That work includes water quality and hydrology monitoring, public outreach, and water quality improvement projects. The member cities complete several important tasks, including permitting and stormwater system maintenance.

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

Siwek Park

St. Francis' newest park is being constructed. The park's physical address is 3550 237th Avenue NW, St. Francis, MN 55070.

Siwek Park/Construction Updates can be found in the City of St. Francis Spotlight on the City's homepage or at www.stfrancismn.org/parksrec/page/siwek-park.



Planning and Zoning Commission

Is seeking members

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 land use and project recommendations to the City Council.

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

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

For more information or to submit an application, contact Kate Thunstrom, City Administrator, at 763-267-6191 or kthunstrom@stfrancismn.org.



FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND RECYCLING EVENT

Sponsored by Anoka County at a City of St. Francis location

When: Saturday, October 30, 8:00 a.m. - Noon

Saturday, October 1, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Where: St. Francis Public Works, 4020 St. Francis Blvd NW

Questions: Call Anoka County at 763-324-3400

A FREE, convenient way to dispose of household chemicals and other products that shouldn't go in the trash.

UPCOMING ST. FRANCIS RECYCLING EVENTS

Saturday, September 17 & November 19

St. Francis Public Works
4020 St. Francis Blvd NW



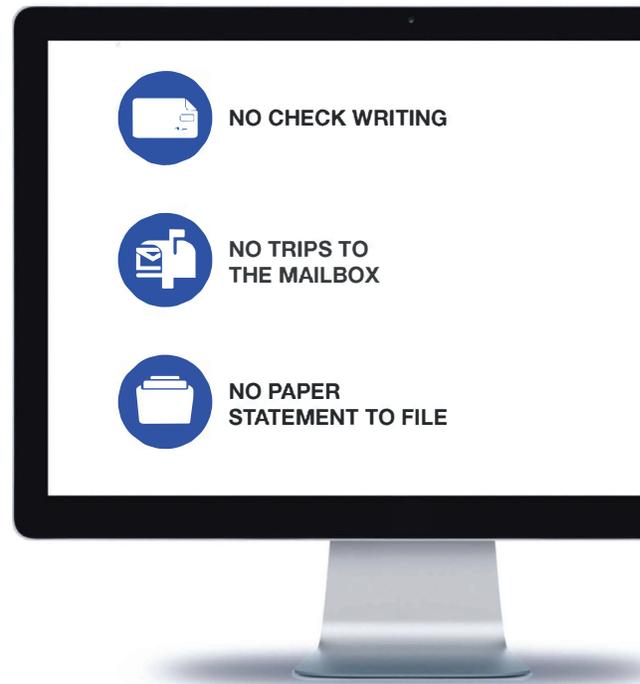


New & Improved Water Bill Pay Service

Less Paperwork and Easier Online Payments

We have implemented an exciting new service that will allow you to:

- Let your bills pay themselves - enroll in AutoPay
- Access and pay your bills electronically, at your convenience
- Make a payment online, by phone or by text with credit/debit card or e-check
- Pay by Text - sign up to get text notifications about your bill and have the option to pay through text
- A nominal convenience fee is applied to transactions (except eCheck)



Online Billing and Payment – Easy as 1-2-3

Go to: www.stfrancismn.org

- 1 Go to the payment portal and locate your bill.
- 2 Enter your payment information. Review and submit your payment.
- 3 Receive an email confirmation of your payment amount and payment date.



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St. Francis Fire Department News



In August, the fire department will be taking delivery of a new fire engine. Engine 1 is a custom-built E-One fire engine, and this will be replacing Engine 2, which is 22 years old. We would like to thank the community for their ongoing support of the St. Francis Fire Department.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK October 9-15

As Fire Prevention Week approaches (October 9-15), the St. Francis Fire Department reminds residents that “Fire won’t wait. Plan your escape.”

The St. Francis Fire Department wants to share these key home fire escape planning tips:

- Make sure your plan meets the needs of all your family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows open easily.
- Have an outside meeting place a safe distance from your home where everyone should meet.
- Practice your home fire drill at least twice a year with everyone in the household, including guests. Practice at least once during the day and at night.

Message from St. Francis Public Works

When a blanket of fresh snow is on the ground, it can be difficult for snowplow operators to see the curbs or the edge of the road. Putting a wooden lathe next to the curb can help the snowplow operators locate the border during the first or second snowfall. A lathe is used as a guide for the snowplow operator, not as a protector along your property. When putting in stakes at your property, do NOT use metal posts. The stakes need to be of a breakaway design so as not to cause injury to others. City Hall, 23340 Cree Street NW, and Public Works, 4058 St Francis Boulevard NW, have wooden lathes available for pickup during regular business hours.



**OPEN HOUSE
&
FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST**

ST FRANCIS FIRE DEPARTMENT
3740 BRIDGE STREET
BREAKFAST PROVIDED BY:
ST FRANCIS LIONS CLUB



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15 • 8 A.M.-NOON

The advertisement features a background image of the St. Francis Fire Department building with blue garage doors. The text is overlaid on a red and white background. A small image of french toast and the Lions Club logo are included at the bottom.



Check out the brand-new recycling and garbage receptacles at St. Francis' Seeyle Brook and Deer Creek 2nd parks.

From the Street to the Streams

Blowing leaves from your yard to the street, which is also called illicit discharge, causes plugged storm drains and can potentially cause a water backup when it rains. Although leaves seem natural and harmless, excess leaves also threaten the health of our waters. Leaves in the gutter of the street in front of your house are on the fast track to our lakes and rivers. When it rains, leaves are washed into storm drains and directly into the nearest body of water. Once they are in the water, they begin to decay, then release nutrients that contribute to the green stuff or algae you see on the water's surface. An excess of algae can make recreation unpleasant. Also, excess algae will use up the oxygen in the water, which in turn suffocates fish and other aquatic species in the water.

Some watershed-friendly alternatives to blowing leaves into the street:

- Compost leaves for a nutrient-rich fertilizer for your gardens.
- Mulch leaves with a mower and leave directly on the yard.
- Use chopped-up leaves as winter mulch for your plants or gardens.
- Drop off leaves at the Anoka County Compost, call for hours and prices at 763-767-7964; their address is 13285 Hanson Boulevard NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448.

The distance between your yard and the water's edge is as close as the nearest storm drain. Keeping leaves out of the street is important to protecting our waters.



Salt Smarter, Not Harder!

Water softener salt can pollute our water.

Up to 65% of chloride in wastewater facilities comes from water softeners.

- Water softeners treat hard water by trading hard mineral ions with sodium & potassium ions. When full of hard minerals, the tank is rinsed with saltwater to reset or "regenerate" the system. **Regeneration water that drains to a septic system or wastewater treatment plant eventually reaches groundwater or a river.**
- **Check your water's hardness** with a water test kit (paper strips that change color), which can be purchased online for <\$10. You may recoup that cost by using less salt.
- **Adjust your softener's settings to match your hardness number.** This ensures that your softener doesn't use excess salt. See your owner's manual for specific directions.
- The age of your softener and iron in the water also impact your water softener settings.

Using more than one 40lb bag of salt a month?

Time to check your water softener settings!

Help keep our water resources clean (and save some \$)!

Minnesota Statewide Chloride Management Plan

Reducing chloride at the source is needed throughout the state of Minnesota, not only to restore already impacted waters but also to protect all water resources. Chloride is persistent in the environment and is difficult to remove once it is there. This also means that chloride will accumulate in the environment over time. There are multiple sources to consider, various options to reduce chloride, and a large geographical area to address. The primary purpose of this plan is to provide guidance, resources, and information to individuals and organizations, assisting with the critical decisions of what, how, and when to manage chloride.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has partnered with local partners, other state agencies, and experts across the state to create a plan for effectively managing salt use to protect our water resources in a responsible and strategic approach. Solutions were developed collaboratively to find a balance between clean water and salt use. The Statewide Chloride Management Plan (CMP) incorporates water quality conditions, sources of chloride, salt reduction strategies, protection strategies, water quality monitoring recommendations, and measurement and tracking of results.

This plan aims to provide information and strategies to assist local partners in reducing salt at the source while providing safe and desirable conditions for the public. There are several sources of chloride impacting the state's water resources, including salt applied to roads, parking lots, and sidewalks for winter maintenance, water softener brine discharges to municipal wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) and septic systems, industrial discharges, agricultural fertilizers, land application of manure, WWTP sludge, and dust suppressants.

A key challenge in reducing salt usage is balancing the need for public safety with the growing expectation for clear, dry roads, parking lots, trails, and sidewalks throughout the mix, severity, and duration of winter conditions. Notable efforts have already been made by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and many cities, counties, and others to improve winter maintenance while reducing salt usage.

Another key challenge is educating the public on proper water softening practices. There is no requirement to soften your water; it is a personal decision that can affect your home and the environment. Certain commercial or residential appliances require or operate more

effectively with softened water; however, the specific degree of softening can often be calibrated to individual preferences. Additionally, some municipalities offer centralized hardness reduction at the drinking water facility prior to distribution, supporting higher efficient residential and commercial softening processes and reducing salt use. Older residential softening units may be less efficient than newer models, and these factors often lead to more chloride usage than is necessary to meet specific needs and tastes.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Minnesota Statewide Chloride Management Plan. Retrieved from www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-s1-94.pdf

Mayor

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registering for voting and where to vote in the General Election on Tuesday, November 8:

You may register and vote in Minnesota if you:

- Will be at least 18 years old on election day.
- Are a citizen of the United States.
- Will have resided in Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding election day.
- Maintain residence at the address given on the registration form.
- Are not under court-ordered guardianship in which the court order revokes my right to vote.
- Have not been found by a court to be legally incompetent to vote.
- Have been convicted of a felony, but pledge, the felony sentence has expired (been completed) or have been discharged from the sentence, and have read and understand this statement, that giving false information is a felony punishable by not more than five years imprisonment or a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

Voting in the General Election will be at the following sites. The polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

St. Francis Precinct -1 & 2

St. Francis Area Schools District Office
4115 Ambassador Blvd. NW
St. Francis, MN 55070

St. Francis Precinct 3 – (Mail Ballots)

I know I have said this before, but if you need information pertaining to an issue or concern you have, please contact City Hall. You will not find the answers to your questions on social media. If you do not get a hold of someone right away, then leave a message, and that person will get back to you promptly.

I hope you had a great summer. Enjoy the fall colors and cooler weather.

Regards,

Mayor Feldman

**KNOW
THE FLOW!**
www.knowtheflow.us





Back to School Safety Driving Tips

While Driving

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

Walking to School

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

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

Gun Safety with Eddie Eagle

Watch the St. Francis Police Department Facebook page for dates and times

The Eddie Eagle class is returning for elementary school children. 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
- Tell an adult

Whether or not a particular family owns firearms, chances are neighbors, friends, and relatives do. Did you know that officials estimate there are over 200 million firearms in the United States? Studies suggest they are kept in approximately half of all households. This makes it likely that children will encounter a firearm at some point, so ensure they are informed.

The class will be for Kindergartners- 6th graders. Once the course is announced on Facebook, please call 763-753-1264 to register.

The class will be held at the St. Francis Police Department, 4058 St. Francis Boulevard NW, St. Francis.



Scam Alert!

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

Police Department Annual Report

The police department annual report for 2021 is available now. The report details the goals, achievements, and tasks accomplished by police in the past year and highlights the department's many events and programs to engage the community. Read about these items and more in the 2021 Police Department Annual report, which can be found on the city webpage at www.stfrancismn.org.

Construction season is in full swing throughout the City, and the police department would like to remind residents to report any suspicious activity in and around construction areas immediately.

The police department could provide extra patrols. Please call 763-753-1264.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

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



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.



Don't Forget to Vote

General Election on Tuesday, November 8

Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. You can also absentee vote at City Hall from Monday, September 26 until Monday, November 7, and Saturday, November 5, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Find out more information on elections by visiting our website at www.stfrancismn.org/cityclerk.

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