



Newsletter

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS | FALL 2025 | VOL. 10, NO. 3



Message from your Mayor

Thank you to the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce for putting together a very successful Pioneer Days 2025. All reports indicate it was one of the largest events ever and was widely enjoyed by everyone.

Looking forward to the 60th Pioneer Days celebration next year!

Updates since the last newsletter include:

The sale of the former City Hall on Cree Street (West of Kwik Trip) to Rum River Consultants. Ongoing discussion with the State of Minnesota and Anoka County about temporary traffic control plans on Hwy. 47 until permanent reconstruction in hopefully, 2028-29. Continued grant work to obtain funds to assist with ice rink/warming house remodel in Community Park, slated for Fall 2026. Lastly, the developer of the property east of the Library (across from Casey's) has faced several setbacks but has been in contact and has every intention to pursue construction in the near future.

Budget discussions are underway for the 2026 budget, and your participation is critical. The reality is that we are once again facing difficult increases that require explanation, but the details are too numerous for this article. Briefly, the state-mandated MS4 Stormwater fee that was billed separately each year will now be included on the City portion of your annual taxes in hopes of reducing staff time, billing,

postage, etc. Secondly, the general levy amount from the City is expected to increase by around 11 percent. This increase is due to inflation and increased operational costs, but also in large part because we now have two bonds (Police/Public Works facility expires 2036 and Fire/City Hall expires 2053) that need to be paid. In a sense, we now have two "mortgages." The City is paying around \$1,036,000 per year on debt

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City Council Meeting

Learn About the Tax Levy & Utility Rates

Monday, September 15, 2025

6:00 p.m.

The City of St. Francis encourages residents to attend the upcoming City Council at City Hall meeting to learn more about proposed changes to the tax levy and utility rates. City staff will present key factors prompting the need for adjustments, including rising costs, service demands, and future infrastructure needs. At this meeting, the Council will set the maximum levy for 2026 and discuss changes coming to water and sewer rates.

This is your opportunity to hear directly from staff, to understand better the challenges facing our community and learn what's influencing tax and utility rate increases.



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Visit us on social media!



The City of St. Francis Needs Your Help! Optimize Your Water Softener

Beginning January 1, 2026, the City of St. Francis must meet a new Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) wastewater discharge chloride limit. Chloride is unfortunately not removed in the wastewater treatment processes. The City of St. Francis Wastewater Treatment Facility discharges treated effluent “water” to the Seelye Brook, and chloride is harmful to aquatic life. The primary source of chloride is generated from residential water softener regeneration.

In consideration of the new chloride limits, Public Works has collected random chloride samples throughout town to determine what areas have high levels of chloride. Sampling results indicate that this problem is citywide.

So, what does this mean for you?

The hardness of the water in St. Francis is around 13 grains per gallon. Having your softener set higher than 13 grains per gallon is a waste of salt and water.

Lower salt costs

We are asking that you adjust your water softener hardness level to 10 grains per gallon. Benefits you could expect from this adjustment are cost savings from a decrease in salt.

Reduce water usage

Less water is used as your softener regenerates less.

Corrective action

If our chloride levels continue to rise, the corrective action would be a complete modification of the City’s water treatment facility to a reverse osmosis facility, with preliminary estimates of that work being between \$10 million and \$20 million.

Need assistance

Please call St. Francis public works at 763-233-5200, and we would be more than happy to discuss this matter with you and assist in optimizing your water softener.

Reflective Delineators or Snow Poles!

Putting reflective delineators (snow poles) next to the curb can help the snowplow operators locate the edge during the first or second snowfall. When there is a fresh blanket of snow on the ground, it can be difficult for snowplow operators to see the curbs or the edge of the road.

Delineators are used as a guide for the snowplow operator. When putting in the delineators on your property, **do not** use metal posts, so as not to cause injury to others or the plow trucks/machines.

Public Works at 4058 St. Francis Boulevard NW has a set of six delineators available per address, for pickup during regular business hours, Monday through Thursday, 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You will need an appointment with Jen from Public Works, as we will be keeping track of who has gotten them for our own records. Please call Jen at 763-233-5200 or email her at jgulbrandson@stfrancismn.gov to schedule an appointment to pick up your set of snow poles.



Crime Prevention Tips

St. Francis Officers will leave a tag on your door if they notice suspicious activity, an open door or garage door(s) at night, parking issues, or any other suspicious incident.

Here are some tips for crime prevention at home:

- Lock windows and doors, including the garage door. Unlocked doors are open invitations to intruders. Secure sliding glass doors with a bar or lock.
- Don't put your box(es) for your new TV 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 or neighbor pick up your mail and newspapers and remove trash cans from the curb.

Mayor

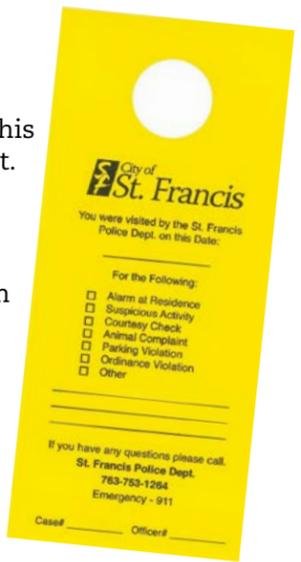
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service for these two bonds. Lastly, the city water and sewer rates are climbing steeply due to increased operational and maintenance costs, as well as upcoming routine repairs that are needed. Ratepayers are paying around \$1,861,000 per year on debt service (Water Plant expires 2027 and Waste Plant expires 2046). There has been a lot of discussion about accelerating development to offset these water and sewer rates, and your educated opinions are needed.

I highly encourage all citizens to stay informed and educated about the ongoing decisions and matters of this City. I recognize how “painful” it can be to watch a long meeting or read through the agendas and packets, but that is the only proper means of obtaining accurate information. Most of us have very limited time, but please dig a little deeper into the details—especially when a particular topic comes to your attention. Once again, I highly encourage all citizens to reach out to our staff, as they are your best resource and would welcome your inquiries.

If you'd like police to patrol around your house during this time, please stop in at the St. Francis Police Department lobby and fill out a house security check form.

- Remove valuable items from vehicles and lock vehicle doors.
- Get to know your neighbors and help one another maintain a crime-free neighborhood.



ST. FRANCIS HHW DROP-OFF EVENT

OCTOBER 11, 2025 | 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.

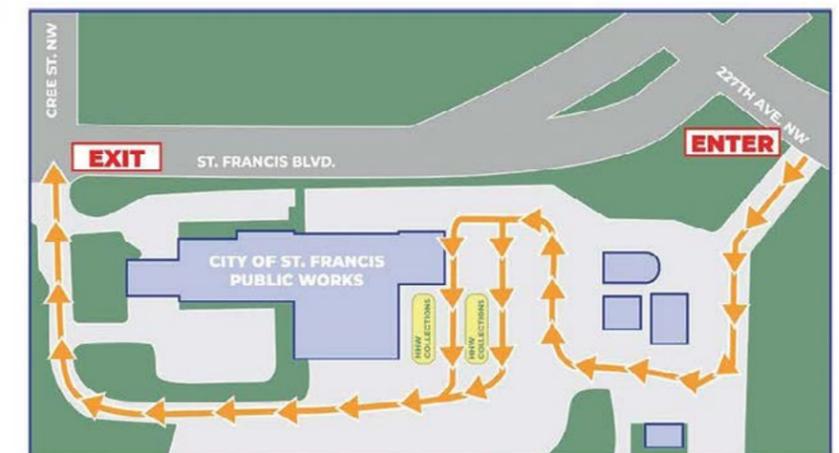
Drop it off, then the to-do list is done.

Stay in your vehicle staff workers collect household hazardous waste from your vehicle at our mobile collection event.

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

Anoka County
RECYCLING & RESOURCE SOLUTIONS

ST. FRANCIS PUBLIC WORKS
4020 St. Francis Blvd NW | St. Francis
(Enter event from 227th Ave NW.)



With summer coming to an end, don't let back-to-school get you down!

There's still plenty of time to enjoy all the deals at the Bottle Shop.

Whether it's an Oktoberfest tasting, wine tasting, or THC tasting, we've got you covered. Stay tuned for more information to come on our Facebook page.

Also, we're partnering with DoorDash soon and will be offering delivery services to the surrounding area! Make sure you've got our app on your phone for easy ordering!

ST. FRANCIS, MN

Bottle Shop

Since 1964

23307 St. Francis Blvd. NW
St. Francis, MN 55070
stfrancisbottleshop.com

Hours
M-Sat 8 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sun 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Leaves Dos and Don'ts



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

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

Don't blow it off

Don't just blow leaves off the yard and into the street. It is illegal to do so. 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 yard waste collection service, use it. Leaves thrown in the trash go to a landfill. Yard waste collection goes to composting.

Do clean the street

Regardless of whether you rake or blow the leaves and debris, clean along the curb, street, and any covering near the storm drain. Leaves, grass, and dirt feed algae, turning 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 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is offering grants to professional landscape companies to switch from their old, 2-cycle gasoline, volatile organic compounds-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).

Last Recycle Events of 2025!

September 20 | 8 a.m.-Noon
November 22 | 8 a.m.-Noon

St. Francis Public Works
4020 St. Francis Blvd. NW

**NO Shredding, NO Trash/
Construction Debris, NO Furniture,
NO Large Plastic Toys, NO Pools,
and NO Hazardous Waste.**

Enter these recycling events across from Community Park off 227th Avenue. Exit the event on the Police Dept. side, onto Hwy. 47.

Any questions, please call Public Works at 763-233-5200 or visit the City's website at www.stfrancismn.gov/publicworks/page/recycling.



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

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



Property Assessor 2025 Annual Review

Property Assessors are required by state law to visit and physically inspect each property every five years. This year, the St. Francis City Assessors began in August and will continue into the fall, visiting and reviewing all properties in the areas outlined below.

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

- The assessor will visit the property and knock or ring the doorbell. If an adult is present, an inside review may be requested depending on how recently a full review was conducted. The assessor will also walk around the outside of all buildings (if accessible) to verify exterior features.
- If no one is present when the assessor visits, they will leave a door tag with instructions for any questions.
- Characteristics of the property that affect market value include age, square footage, quality of construction, condition, basement finish, recent remodeling, location, etc.



- The assessor will be wearing an official identification badge and carrying 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 through January 2025.

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

BE A SAINT!

St. Francis Area Schools
We're Hiring!

Immediate Availability

- Child Care
- Custodial
- Bus Drivers
- Nutrition Services
- Educational Assistants

www.isd15.org/jobs

Know The Flow!

www.knowtheflow.us

PUBLIC WORKS TRUCK OR TREAT EVENT

OCTOBER 28TH!
5:00 PM-7:00 PM

- Adult & Kid - Free DRAWINGS
- Fun Giveaways
- Temp Tattoos/Color pages
- Hot Dogs, Chips Served!
- Halloween Candy!

⇒ WIN \$100 CREDIT TOWARDS YOUR WATER BILL!

⇒ HELP US NAME THE SNOW PLOW!

⇒ WIN A RIDE TO SCHOOL ON A SNOW PLOW! (WE WILL PICK YOU UP AND BRING YOU TO SCHOOL!) - ISD15 INCLUSIVE

WEAR YOUR COSTUMES!

The St. Francis Fire Department has a Lucas Device

Saving Lives with Technology

In the critical moments of a cardiac emergency, every second counts. For our firefighters, having the right tools on hand can mean the difference between life and death. One of those lifesaving tools is the LUCAS Device—a powerful piece of medical equipment now used by many emergency response agencies, including the St. Francis Fire Department.



What Is the LUCAS Device?

The LUCAS (Lund University Cardiopulmonary Assist System) device is a portable machine designed to deliver consistent

and effective chest compressions during cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). In other words, it performs the essential work of CPR—pumping the chest at the correct depth and speed—so first responders can focus on other life-saving tasks.

Why It Matters

Manual CPR, especially over several minutes or during patient transport, can be exhausting—even for trained professionals. Fatigue can lead to inconsistent compressions, which can reduce the chances of survival. The LUCAS device, however, delivers uninterrupted, high-quality compressions, exactly where and how they're needed, and never tires.

This consistent performance:

- Increases the chances of restoring a pulse
- Improves blood flow to the heart and brain
- Frees up emergency crews to manage airways, administer medications, and prepare for transport

Real-Life Impact

Imagine a cardiac arrest call at a remote location or in a cramped hallway. Firefighters arrive, and while one person starts CPR, another sets up the LUCAS device. Within moments, the machine takes over compressions while responders coordinate advanced care or safely move the patient to the ambulance—all without stopping chest compressions.

An Investment in Our Community

While not inexpensive, the LUCAS device is an investment in safety, science, and the future of emergency care. Thanks to community support, the St. Francis Fire Department can deploy this tool quickly to patients in need.

The LUCAS device may not look like much at first glance, but it's a game-changer. When someone's heart stops, this small machine can help give them a fighting chance—and that's something we can all be grateful for.



St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 655 | St. Francis, MN 55070

763-438-5163

chamber@stfrancischamber.org

www.stfrancischamber.org

St. Francis City-Wide GARAGE SALE

So many sales. So many bargains!

September 4-6

See the map at www.stfrancischamber.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WELCOME TO Fabulous CASINO NIGHT Annual Dinner

The Chamber's Annual Dinner and Casino Night on January 30, 2026. More details to come!



2025 St. Francis Farmers Market every Wednesday from now through September 24, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Community Park

Stop by on September 3 for Senior's Day!



FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST

SAT 8-12 **SFFD** OCT 11th

St. Francis Fire Station

3750 Bridge ST

Business Trick-or-Treat Friday, October 31

Check the chamber website, www.stfrancischamber.org, for participating businesses. Also, we will have members at the St. Francis warming house across from St. Francis Elementary School.



3750 Bridge Street NW
St. Francis, MN 55070

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 8
St. Francis, MN
55070

ECRWSS POSTAL PATRON

BACK TO SCHOOL



Safety Tips from the St. Francis Police Department

Walking or Riding a Bike

- Stay alert and attentive when walking.
- Only walk on sidewalks and use crosswalks. Look both ways before crossing a road and never assume a car will stop for you.
- If riding a bicycle, wear safety gear and ride on the right side of the road.

On the Bus

- Be patient when waiting for the bus. Stand back from the road—no running or rowdy behavior on the bus.
- Stay seated when on the bus, listen to the driver and use quiet voices.
- When getting off the bus, look to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder.

- Make eye contact with the driver before crossing the road. Please wait for the bus driver to signal that it's safe to cross.

For Drivers

- Stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk or intersection.
- Never go around a school bus with its lights flashing and the stop sign out. Violators can be cited or arrested.
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.
- Obey the speed limit and slow down in school zones, before school begins and after school lets out.
- Focus on driving, avoid distractions, such as cell phones.



Events Calendar

Visit the City's website www.stfrancismn.gov for calendar updates.

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 City Hall
3750 Bridge Street NW

Agendas and minutes online:
www.stfrancismn.gov/meetings

St. Francis City Hall

3750 Bridge Street NW
St. Francis, MN 55070

Hours Monday-Thursday 7:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Friday 7:00-11:00 a.m.

Contact Us city@stfrancismn.gov 763-753-2630
Website www.stfrancismn.gov

City Council

Mayor Mark Vogel	763-235-2312
Councilmember Amy Faanes	763-235-2310
Councilmember Joe Muehlbauer	763-235-2314
Councilmember Kevin Robinson	763-235-2313
Councilmember Sarah Udvig	763-235-2311