



Newsletter

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS | SUMMER 2025 | VOL. 10, NO. 2



Message from your Mayor

I would like to begin this column by reflecting on the tragic accident on Highway 47 on March 28. My heart aches for the Ausland family on the loss of their son, Brady. My thoughts and prayers are also with the bus driver and all the first responders who undoubtedly have this horrible scene etched in their memory. Please know many in this community have you in their thoughts and prayers.

The Highway 47 improvement project through St. Francis is actively progressing with an estimated start date of 2028/2029. While the State of Minnesota leads the project, the City and County have active roles. Multiple factors are involved with this project, but as you can guess, the major obstacle is securing the money. The details are far too long and complicated for this article, but include an estimated \$17-20 million for the above-ground portions and another estimated \$8 million for the underground portion. The underground portion involves replacing and upgrading sewer/water lines, most of which were installed in the 1970s. I encourage everyone who would like more detailed information about this project to please contact City staff directly. Social media is definitely not your best source of information.

Several items of interest at the time this article is written include a pending sale of the former City Hall on Cree Street, the ongoing process/discussion of a

potential development behind Subway, the soon to begin development East of the Library, starting talks on redevelopment of Rum River Woods Park on Vintage Street and preliminary research for a remodel of the ice rink/warming house in Community Park. Again, the details of these items are many, but are all public information, and our city staff would be happy to discuss them with you.

Enjoy the warmer weather and hope to meet you around town!



2024 Consumer Consumption Report

The 2024 Consumer Consumption Report is now available at www.stfrancismn.org/publicworks/page/annual-water-reports

For questions about St. Francis' drinking water, contact Public Works at 763-235-2300. You can also request information on how to participate in decisions that affect water quality.



SENIOR LIVING

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PIONEER DAYS

Presented by the
St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce

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Visit us on social media!



Property Assessor 2025 Annual Review

Property Assessors are required by state law to visit and physically inspect each property every five years. This year, from May through September, the St. Francis City Assessors will be 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 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 outside 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.
- The property's characteristics that affect its market value are its age, square footage, quality of construction, condition,

basement finish, recent remodeling, and 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.

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 mnassessorerik@gmail.com



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.



St. Francis Recycling Events Save the Dates!

NO – Garbage, Construction Waste or Furniture at these events!

July 19 | 8 a.m.-Noon

September 20 | 8 a.m.-Noon

November 22 | 8 a.m.-Noon

All events are on a Saturday at St. Francis Public Works
4020 St Francis Blvd NW
Check the City's website www.stfrancismn.gov for more details.



ST. FRANCIS, MN Bottle Shop Since 1964

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

Hours
Monday-Saturday 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
Sunday 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Summer is just around the corner, and the Bottle Shop is here to help you make the most of it. Whether you're planning a weekend escape, a graduation celebration, or a backyard bash, we've got you covered. If you have a large order, please reach out to us ahead of time, and we'll be sure it's ready to go. We can also order kegs.

Please provide a week's notice to ensure availability at 763-753-2660.



New Senior Living Community, Vista Prairie at Eagle Pointe, Set to Open November 2025 in St. Francis

A new chapter in senior living is coming to our community this fall. Vista Prairie at Eagle Pointe, a thoughtfully designed senior living community, is set to open its doors in November 2025, bringing a welcoming environment for older adults seeking comfort, connection, and quality care.

Located on Ambassador Blvd just south of Zea Street, Vista Prairie at Eagle Pointe will offer various living options, including independent living, assisted living, and memory care. The facility aims to provide residents with top-tier services and opportunities to engage, grow, and thrive in their golden years.

“Vista Prairie at Eagle Pointe is more than just a place to live—it’s a place to call home,” said Amanda Stene, Sales and Community Marketing Manager of the new community. “We’re building a space where seniors can enjoy their independence while receiving the personalized support they need.”

The campus will feature modern amenities, including

restaurant-style dining, wellness programs, landscaped walking paths, activity rooms, and a beauty salon. In keeping with Vista Prairie Communities’ mission, the new location emphasizes a culture of compassion, dignity, and joy.

Construction is currently on schedule, and the community is already generating interest from families in the area. Pre-leasing for independent living units has already begun, and assisted living and memory care are expected to start pre-leasing in the summer/early fall. A multitude of events are planned throughout the summer and fall, giving people the opportunity to learn more about the community.

Vista Prairie at Eagle Pointe marks the latest expansion of Vista Prairie Communities, a non-profit organization with a longstanding reputation for excellence in senior care throughout the Midwest.

For more information or to inquire about residency, visit <http://eaglepointe.vistaprairie.org> or call 763-297-3717.



Calling all Local Farmers, Artisans & Food Makers!

Are you passionate about what you grow, create, or cook? Join our vibrant community at the 2025 St. Francis Farmers Market every Wednesday from June 11 to September 24, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.! We’re looking for dedicated vendors to bring fresh produce, handmade goods, delicious treats, and unique products to our market this season.



Why Join Us?

- Great exposure to local shoppers who value quality and sustainability
- Supportive and welcoming vendor community
- Marketing and promotional support
- Weekly foot traffic from hundreds of market-goers

Apply Now!

Spots fill up quickly, so don’t wait! Whether you’re a seasoned vendor or just starting out, we’d love to hear from you. Visit www.stfrancismn.gov/commdev/page/farmers-market, for more information.

For questions, contact Jodie Steffes at jsteffes@stfrancismn.gov

Let’s grow something great—together!



St. Francis Police Department sponsored

BIKE

9th Annual

RODEO

**Thursday,
June 5**

5:00
until
7:00 p.m.



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

- A chance to win one of 6 bikes
- A chance to win a tie-die Bike Safety T-Shirt and other giveaways
- Free hot dogs, chips and water
- Bicycle safety tips
- Ride your bike on the course (helmets required)
- Squad cars and fire trucks

All ages are welcome!



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

All are welcome to join the City staff for the National Night Out party in the park, Tuesday, August 4, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

For more information follow the Police Department's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/STFrancisPD



Join The St. Francis Police Department at the St. Francis Dairy Queen for a free cone on Thursday, August 21, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Water Pollutant – Chloride

Minnesota is facing a growing issue with salty water that endangers its freshwater fish and aquatic life. Chloride from deicing salt and water softeners contaminates lakes, streams, and groundwater. Just one teaspoon of salt can permanently pollute five gallons of water, and once it's in, there's no effective way to remove it.

When snow and ice melt, the salt used on roads and sidewalks flows into storm drains and local water bodies. In the Twin Cities metro area, around 365,000 tons of road salt are applied each year, with about 78 percent ending up in groundwater or lakes and wetlands. To tackle this issue, communities are incorporating sand and other methods to maintain safe winter roads while reducing salt usage.

People soften water to improve water heater efficiency, prevent hard water spots, and enhance soap lathering. However, the salty brine from water softeners often goes to wastewater treatment plants not equipped to remove salt.

Human health and environmental concerns

- Drinking water — In the Twin Cities metro area, 20 percent of monitoring wells showed chloride levels above Environmental Protection Agency guidelines, and 30 percent exceeded water quality standards.
- Fish and aquatic bugs — High chloride levels are toxic to fish, aquatic bugs, and amphibians, and even at lower concentrations, they negatively impact community structure, diversity, and productivity.
- Plants — Road salt splash can harm roadside plants and trees, absorbing salty water through their roots. Chloride in streams, lakes, and wetlands harms aquatic vegetation and can change the plant community structure.
- Soil — Salt-laden soil can lose its ability to retain water and store nutrients, and be more prone to erosion and sediment runoff (which also harms water quality).
- Pets — Salt can sicken pets who consume it, by licking it off their paws, which can also be an irritant, or they drink salty snow melt/runoff.
- Wildlife — Some birds, like finches and house sparrows, can die from ingesting deicing salt.
- Infrastructure — Chloride corrodes road surfaces and bridges and damages reinforcing rods, increasing maintenance and repair costs.

Retrieved from www.pca.state.mn.us/pollutants-and-contaminants/chloride

EMERGENCY DOOR DECALS are offered free of charge at the St. Francis Police Department. They assist the police, fire and paramedics in responding to certain calls for service and alert responding personnel to correct treatment and proper care.



Stay Safe This Summer: Outdoor Fire Safety & Permit Burns in Minnesota

As the days grow longer and Minnesotans head outdoors to enjoy summer barbecues, camping trips, and backyard bonfires, the fire department wants to remind residents that fire safety is as important as having fun in the sun.

Know the Rules: Outdoor Fires & Permit Burns

Summer is a popular time for open burning, but following Minnesota's fire regulations to prevent wildfires and keep our communities safe is crucial. Here's what you need to know:

1. Burn Permits Are Required

You need a burning permit if you plan to burn vegetative materials like brush or yard waste (not including small recreational fires). Permits are required whenever the ground is not snow-covered and are issued by the fire department.

How to get a permit:

- Follow local fire restrictions and daily updates at www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating_restrictions.html
- Permit approval may vary due to current weather conditions
- Burning Permits can be obtained at the Fire Station/City Hall building during city business hours

2. Recreational Fires

Backyard campfires are allowed without a permit, but safety rules apply:

- Fires must be less than 3 feet in diameter and 3 feet high.
- Use a fire ring or pit 25 feet away from any structure or combustible material.
- Keep a hose, bucket of water, or fire extinguisher nearby.
- Never leave the fire unattended. Ensure it's completely extinguished before leaving.

Fire Weather Awareness

Dry conditions and high winds can turn a small flame into a dangerous wildfire in minutes. Always check local fire danger levels and weather forecasts before lighting a fire. You can find real-time updates through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources or by contacting the St. Francis Fire Department.

Pro Tips for a Safe Summer

- ✓ Clear a 5-foot area around any fire.
- ✓ Keep children and pets at a safe distance.
- ✓ Never burn treated wood, garbage, or construction materials.
- ✓ Don't burn on windy days (over 10 mph).
- ✓ Report unattended or out-of-control fires immediately by calling 911.

Fire Department Statistics Snapshot First Quarter 2025

Call Volume

- Total Calls for Service: 231
 - o Fire-related Calls: 65
 - o EMS/Medical Calls: 166
 - o Response Time: 12 minutes and 20 seconds
 - o Average Calls Per Day: 2.6
- Busiest Day of the Week: Friday
- Busiest Time of Day: 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Yard Waste/Grass Clippings

Excess grass clippings and yard waste may seem harmless, but they can harm our waters. When these materials decay in water, they release nutrients that cause toxic algae blooms, depleting oxygen and suffocating aquatic life, and can be harmful to pets.

Please avoid dumping or mowing leaves and grass clippings into streets, storm drains, or stormwater ponds. Ensure your lawn care services follow these guidelines as well. Illegal dumping can lead to cleanup costs for the City, which may raise your stormwater fees and result in citations.

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 report them to the Public Works Department at 763-233-5200.

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



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.

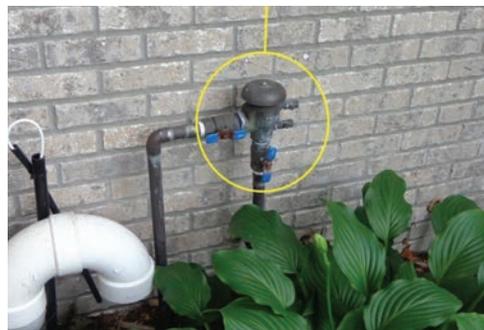
For example, if you watered twice a week:

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 per day	= 28,800 gallons per 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



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.

Dog Waste & Water

Uncollected pet waste is unsanitary and contains harmful bacteria and parasites. When it enters lakes and rivers, it decays, reducing oxygen levels and releasing ammonia, which can harm fish and other aquatic life. It also contributes nutrients that promote weed and algae growth, and elevated E. coli levels can create unsafe conditions for swimming and recreation.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency identifies pet waste as a major source of nonpoint pollution. This pollution occurs from various diffuse sources, such as dog waste left on lawns, curbs, and streets. During rainstorms, this waste can wash into local waterways directly or via storm sewers, often bypassing treatment facilities and ending up untreated in lakes and streams.

Dog waste not only harbors pathogens but also contains nutrients that, along with excess fertilizer runoff, can encourage weed and algae growth. Over time, algae blooms can make water areas uninhabitable. As the waste decomposes, it consumes oxygen needed by fish and aquatic life, and may release ammonia, creating an unhealthy environment for these organisms.

1. 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, including Community Park
2. Clean it up
3. Dispose of it properly (toilet or trash)

City Code:

10-93-12. – Illicit Discharge

E. Pet Waste. Owners or custodians of pets shall remove and properly dispose of feces on City-owned property.

Source material: www.ecolandscaping.org/03/developing-healthy-landscapes/ecological-landscaping-101/the-scoop-on-dog-waste



St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Presents

Pioneer Days in the Park

May 30-June 1, 2025



BUTTON EVENT
FREE and reduced cost
with a Pioneer Day button

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY

- 2:00-4:00 p.m. FREE Sweet 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 20 food trucks!) **BUTTON EVENT**
- St. Francis Lions Beer Garden Tent
- Vendors **BUTTON EVENT**
- Petting Zoo by Jonah's Ark
- 6:00 p.m. Kids Color Run with Root Beer Floats (register online) **BUTTON EVENT**
- 6:00-10:00 p.m. Live Music by Scary Gary (St. Francis American Legion)
- 6:30-8:00 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)
- 8:00-11:00 p.m. Live Music by Hollywood Blvd (Tasty Pizza)

MEDALLION HUNT CLUES
Start May 26

Grand Day Parade
Saturday,
May 31
NOON

SATURDAY

- 8:00 a.m. St. Francis Lions Club Softball Tournament Sponsored by Killebrew Root Beer (Community Park)
- 8:00-11:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast (St. Francis United Methodist Church) **BUTTON EVENT**
- 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Carnival Midway (Community Park)
- Food Trucks **BUTTON EVENT**
- Vendors **BUTTON EVENT**
- Petting Zoo by Joah's Ark
- St. Francis Lions Beer Garden Tent (Community Park)
- 11:00 a.m. Early Bird BINGO Blowout (Chester's Small Town Tavern)
- 12:00-1:00 p.m. Pioneer Days Grand Day Parade (Starting at 235th Ave NW & ends at St. Francis High School)
- 1:00 p.m. Live Music by Slippery Steve & Scary Gary (Tasty Pizza)
- 2:00-5:00 p.m. Live Music by CB Wilson (Chester's Small Town Tavern)
- 2:30 p.m. Miss St. Francis Ambassador Coronation under the tent (Community Park) **BUTTON EVENT**
- 5:00 p.m. BINGO Hosted by the Ham Lake Chamber of Commerce under the tent (Community Park)
- 5:00-9:00 p.m. Live Music by Kyle Peterson (St. Francis American Legion)
- 5:00-9:00 p.m. Live Music by Bryce Hegge (Chester's Small Town Tavern)
- 8:30 p.m. Live Music by Johnny Holm Band (Tasty Pizza)
- 10:00 p.m. FIREWORKS (10 Minutes after dusk 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 Midway (Community Park)
- Food Trucks **BUTTON EVENT**
- Vendors **BUTTON EVENT**
- St. Francis Lions Beer Garden Tent (Community Park)
- 10:00 a.m. Community Worship Service in the tent by Living Hope & Abundant Life Community Church (Community Park)
- 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Rum River Foundation Art Sale (Chester's Small Town Tavern)
- 12:00 p.m. DeGamba Summer Recital under the tent (Community Park)
- 12:00-4:00 p.m. Petting Zoo by Joah's Ark
- 1:00 p.m. MEGA BINGO at Tasty Pizza

FIREWORKS
Dusk
Saturday, May 31 at
St. Francis High School

www.stfrancischamber.org • Follow our Facebook Page for live updates!



3750 Bridge Street NW
St. Francis, MN 55070

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

ECRWSS POSTAL PATRON

Park Nature Trails!

We have created a few nature hiking trails in two of our City parks. Hiking is a natural exercise that promotes physical fitness, is economical and convenient, and requires no special equipment or skill. It's a great way to connect with nature and get outdoors. You can take the whole family, including your pet!

- **Smith Lake Park**—We have a .43-mile trail loop (23800 Palm Street NW).
- **Community Park**—The nature trail is about 1/8 of a mile long. It starts and/or ends near Bark Park and goes through the woods to the east/south side of the pond, near the parking lot off of Hwy 47 (22825 St. Francis Boulevard NW).

Benefits of Nature Walks

- **Stress Reduction:** A 20-minute walk in nature can help reduce stress hormones like cortisol.
- **Improved Mood:** Even a short walk can boost mood, self-esteem, and relaxation.
- **Cognitive Benefits:** Nature walks can improve focus, concentration and memory.
- **Physical Health:** Walking in nature can improve heart health and circulation, and lower cholesterol and blood pressure.

City Parks and their many health benefits are open to anyone. Don't be afraid to lace up your boots and grab a walking stick. The opportunities and benefits of hiking are waiting for you. All you have to do is go.



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