



City of
St. Francis

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2018 | VOL. 3, NO. 4

Message from your Mayor

The elections are over and I want to thank everyone for your support. I consider this a win for our residents so that the progress this city is seeing now will continue into the future. I have done a lot of walking around in the past four months and have enjoyed talking to all of you; unfortunately, I did not make it to everyone.

As I have mentioned many times before, the surest and best way to lower our water rates is through long-term reputable development. I also believe in leaving no stone unturned. Therefore, there are a couple of other areas the city is looking into.

Those areas are in renewable energy to save utility costs on our public buildings and possibly regionalization of our wastewater treatment facility, either locally with other cities connecting to our

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Local Election Results

Mayor

(Two-Year Term)

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Steven Feldman | 1387 |
| Amy Faanes | 1000 |

Two Council Members

(Four-Year Term)

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Sarah Udvig | 1348 |
| Kevin Robinson | 883 |
| Mike Rodger | 765 |
| Rich Skordahl | 599 |

The new council will take the oath of office on January 7, 2019.

Rags, wipes and other items

Sanitary sewer collection system information

When wastewater is flushed from your home or business it is conveyed via a four or six inch service pipe that connects to a complex sanitary collection system. This system is comprised of miles of larger pipe, lift stations and check valves that collect wastewater and deliver it to the wastewater treatment facility. The wastewater flows by gravity in these larger pipes to structures called lift stations. These lift stations have pumps and check valves in them that pump water from lower elevations to higher elevations, so the wastewater can flow by gravity again.

The problem is when items such as cleaning rags, wipes and other items are flushed, they start to plug these pumps and check valves. This plugging can lead to sewage backing up in the mains and into homes and businesses that can cost thousands of dollars to restore, resulting in potentially higher insurance premiums for the residents and the city.

Cleaning rags and wipes can also lead to plugging in the service pipe that leaves the home or business. Rags and wipes can settle in the service pipe and harden, creating a blockage. In this event, the property owner would be responsible for the cost of having the service line cleaned and/or repaired. Remember, the property owner is responsible from the city sewer main in the street to the home or business.

Some packaging may read "flushable," but if it isn't toilet paper or human waste, please do not flush it.



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Visit us on social media!



New local water plan near completion

JAMIE SCHURBON

Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization

A new local plan for the Rum River, Lake George and other local waterways is in its final stages. The plan focuses on water quality but also addresses stormwater management, flood prevention and other topics. Once approved by the state, this management plan outlines projects that will be led by the Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization (URRWMO) over the next 10 years.

The URRWMO is comprised of representatives from the cities of Bethel, East Bethel, Oak Grove, Nowthen, St. Francis and Ham Lake. Its purpose is to address water management issues, which often cross city boundaries. The organization and its new plan put emphasis on implementing already existing rules and finding the highest priority problems upon which to focus limited funding. The plan positions the organization to compete for state water quality grants to fund larger projects. Work outlined in the plan includes water quality improvement projects, fixing shoreline erosion, stormwater inspections and regular water quality monitoring.

The Rum River and Lake George are two high priorities in the new plan. The Rum River is in relatively good condition and a highly valued state scenic and recreational river. Phosphorus levels are near, but slightly better than, state water quality standards. It will continue to be monitored. Lake George has good water quality for this region of the state, receiving an overall B letter grade; however, declining secchi transparency is a concern. East Twin Lake, Pickerel Lake, Seelye Brook, Cedar Creek, Ford Brook and Crooked Brook are some other waterbodies also discussed in the plan.

The most updated plan draft and information about the URRWMO is available at www.URRWMO.org or contact Chuck Schwartz at 612-548-3141.

The **Know The Flow** website (www.KnowTheFlow.us) is a water resources management initiative to provide public information and coordination among Anoka County agencies, communities and water management organizations.

What is stormwater and why does it need to be managed?

What is stormwater and stormwater runoff? The water on earth constantly cycles between liquid, gas, and solid states. As part of the water cycle, water vapor in the air condenses and falls as rain and/or snow. When that rain or snow hits the ground it is called "stormwater". Stormwater, including melted snow or ice, eventually does one of the following:

- runs off to a surface water (pond, lake, stream, river, etc.)
- soaks into (infiltrates) the ground
- evaporates into the atmosphere

Stormwater runoff is the portion of stormwater that runs off to a surface water. Many factors affect how much of the stormwater will run off, including the following.

- The temperature determines if the precipitation is frozen and how fast it melts. Snow that accumulates during winter may melt quickly in spring, which can lead to flooding. High temperatures also increase the amount of water that evaporates.
- Vegetation can slow the rate of runoff and take up water, thus reducing the amount of runoff.
- Runoff will increase as the slope of the land surface increases.
- The most important factor affecting stormwater runoff is the makeup of the surface that stormwater runs over. If the surface is sandy (pervious surface), more water soaks in than if the surface is clayey. Impervious surfaces, such as streets and roofs, allow for almost no infiltration. Thus, areas with a high percent of impervious surface will have a large amount of stormwater runoff.

Why does stormwater need to be managed? Over the past century or so we have built homes, roads, shopping centers, commercial buildings, and so on, all of which dramatically increased the amount of impervious surface. At the same time, we have modified the landscape to facilitate rapid drainage of stormwater runoff from our

developments. This has had the effect of concentrating the stormwater runoff and decreasing infiltration. This causes three problems:

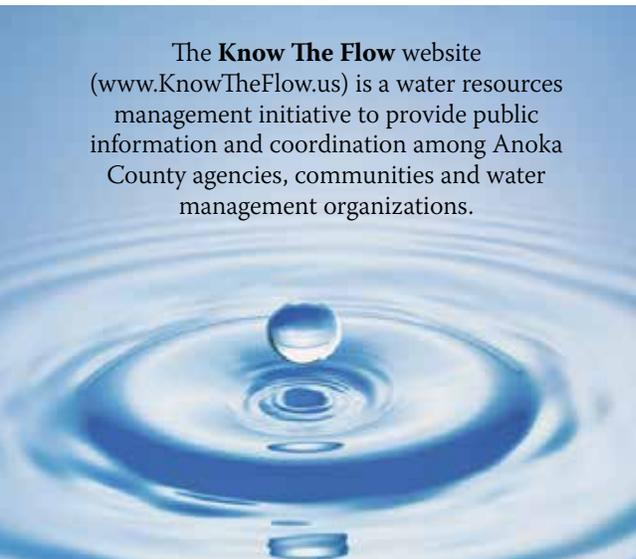
- Flowing water is quite powerful and picks up soils, debris, leaves and oils from the impervious surfaces it flows over. Unless treated, this material reaches surface waters, where it can pollute them beyond the point where the water supports wildlife or recreation.
- The increased volume of water running off and the increased speed of the drainage means large quantities of water reach surface waters quickly. This can lead to flooding and scouring (erosion) of river channels.
- Less water infiltrates, resulting in reduced soil moisture and less water percolating to groundwater. Consequently, plants may be stressed during dry periods and aquifer (groundwater) levels may decrease. Depleted groundwater levels may, in turn, reduce water levels in streams and reduce drinking water supplies.

We can minimize or reduce these negative impacts through proper management of stormwater. Examples of management strategies include the following.

- Retain runoff water and release it slowly to reduce flooding.
- Capture and treat runoff to reduce pollutant loads.
- Reduce the amount of materials available to the rapidly flowing water by stabilizing slopes with ground cover and removing debris and other potential pollutants from the path of the runoff.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. *Minnesota Stormwater Manual*.

What is stormwater and why does it need to be managed? Retrieved from https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php?title=What_is_stormwater_and_why_does_it_need_to_be_managed%3F



Mayor

Continued from page 1

plant or through the met region. These of course will take time to implement but are definitely worth looking into. Trying and failing is still better than not trying at all!

I recently received an email from one of our residents pertaining to roundabouts. She put a link to the state MnDot website about “how roundabouts work” which are based on the yield principle (www.dot.state.mn.us/roundabouts).

Parties wishing to enter are to stop and yield to traffic already in the roundabout. Once you are in the roundabout, you have the right of way. It’s not a state law, but signaling your exit does make it clear to another motorist that they can enter.

A road plan created by our public works director and brought to the city council’s attention by our city administrator allows asphalt overlays in the future to be paid for by the city versus assessments. Also our city has joined Coon Rapids and eight other cities in a consortium to reduce the cost of sealcoating our roads. Roads will always be an ongoing issue and this city for the first time is being proactive. This will be funded through the levy amount we receive from Anoka County each year and dedicating two percent of those funds for this program.

I want to explain to everyone why this city is required to bill our residents \$60 per year per parcel for the MS-4 stormwater permit. This came down from the federal government to the state government to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and then to the city. It is in 264 cities in our state. It is for populations of 10,000 or at least 5,000 when that city discharges its stormwater into an Outstanding Resource Value Water. Which for the City of St Francis is the Rum River. The funds collected are put into a dedicated account and are only used for stormwater related activities. The amount has been the same ever since this went into effect in 2015.

If you see a spike in your water bill, please call public works (763-233-5200) and the city will send out public works staff to check your water meter and give you some areas that you can repair, if needed. Also there could have been a misread on your bill as I experienced in the summer.

As I have mentioned before, if you have a concern or issue, please bring it to our attention so we may address it. We will look into it with full due diligence and give you an honest answer one way or the other. Also if you see a possible violation in your neighborhood, you can call the city hall anonymously; give us the address and the complaint and staff will look into it.

In closing I want to remind everyone it is getting darker earlier so please watch out for our children and pedestrians walking in the crosswalks and on the roads.

I wish all of you safe, healthy and happy holidays ahead.

Regards,
Mayor Feldman

With appreciation from St. Francis Bottle Shop

Thank you, citizens of St. Francis, for making **your** liquor store profitable. We are again on pace to be above our previous year’s sales numbers, and that’s because of **you!** Stop in and visit with our friendly staff, put in a request, heck buy a six pack... you’ve earned it!

Make St. Francis Bottle Shop your one -stop shop for the holidays... gift sets available now.

Reminder of all the discounts we provide:

- Tuesday – Senior Day 10% off*

- Wednesday – Wine Wednesday 15-20% off*
- Case Discounts – 10% off*
- Pizza Coupons – 10% off*

Once again we will be looking to have a/some food trucks stationed at times in our lot spring through fall. If you know someone that has a food truck or have tried one you’ve liked in the past, have them call the Bottle Shop 763-753-2660 and we’ll get them all set up.

*All discounts on all non-sale items, excluding tobacco.

Home-based business

Thinking of starting a home based business? Already have one? Here are a few things you need to know! The City has a permit process for home businesses. City code is to provide standards to keep businesses from jeopardizing the health, safety and general welfare of the surrounding neighborhood. The city is working to prevent a nuisance in the neighborhood by limiting odors, noise, light glare, vibration or smoke in their backyards. A home-based business can become a nuisance as well with vehicles, materials and debris. When a property is interested in having a home based business, there are guidelines that must be adhered to keep the integrity of the neighborhood. Home-based businesses are limited on the amount of traffic, both for deliveries and employees. All equipment and supplies must be kept in an enclosed area and not stored in the yard, driveway or public space. Operating a business without the permit could place your property in code enforcement. If you have questions on a home-based business, please visit the City website, review chapter 10-21 of City Code or contact staff to identify the type of business and the permit required to conduct business within your home.

Holiday Lights and Cell Phone Recycling!

Holiday lights and cell phones may be dropped off year round in the front lobby at St. Francis Public Works during regular business hours.

St. Francis Police & Public Works Facility
4058 St. Francis Boulevard NW
St. Francis, MN 55070

Hours: 6:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Monday-Friday

Questions? 763-233-5200



St. Francis Fire Department news

The St Francis Fire Department wishes all of you a very happy holiday season this year. With change of the season comes the “busy” season for your firefighters. The cold weather in Minnesota creates opportunities for increased risk of fire, including

everything from utilizing auxiliary heating sources such as space heaters, to the increase use of candles during the holidays, to holiday lights and extension cords. Please be sure that you keep a safe clearance of combustibles away from space heaters. A



recommendation of 36 inches or three feet would be considered a safe distance to ensuring your candles are extinguished before bed or leaving the house. Be careful to not overload your electrical service with holiday lighting is another way you can help prevent home fires over the winter season.

If we have a winter anything like last year, please be sure to keep fire hydrants free and clear of snow. Our ability to not only quickly access the fire hydrant in case of a fire, but to be able to locate a fire hydrant in close proximity to a fire plays a large part in our ability to quickly extinguish fires. Please, if you have a fire hydrant on your property, keep it free and clear of snow.

Holiday Safety Tips

Here are some additional tips to help keep you and your family safe from fires over the holiday season.

- Water live Christmas trees daily, keep trees away from heat source and check lights for excessive wear.
- Make sure artificial trees are labeled “fire resistant.”
- Use no more than three light sets per extension cord.
- Use LED candles.
- NEVER leave burning candles unattended. Blow the candle out if you are getting sleepy.
- NEVER leave the house or go to sleep with the Christmas tree lights on.



St. Francis Police Department news

Winter parking restrictions are coming

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



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 as well.

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.

All parking regulations can be viewed on the City of St. Francis website under Chapter 7.

Santa & the Fire Truck

**Thursday, December 13
beginning at 5:30 p.m.**

Santa and the Fire Truck are teaming up with St. Francis Firefighters to walk through neighborhoods to collect food donations for the North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf and hand out candy canes to the children.

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



SANTA

Thursday, December 13
5:00-7:00 p.m.

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

Children can visit with Santa and share their Christmas wish list. Remember to bring a camera to capture a photo.

The St. Francis Police Department is a drop-off location for toy donations. Donations will be accepted until December 17 and will be distributed to Christmas Committee and Toys for Joy, helping people living in all of northern Anoka County.



Snowmobile safety

- Don't drink alcohol and ride.
- Pay attention to the weather and check trail conditions.
- Don't ride alone.
- Slow down, obey all trail signs and cross roadways with extreme caution.
- Stay to the right on trails.
- 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 of St. Francis website under Chapter 7 of the city code.



Winter driving tips

- Always buckle your seat belt!
- Brake properly to avoid skidding. If driving on snow or ice, start slowly and brake gently. Begin braking extra early when approaching an intersection.
- If you start to slide, ease off the gas pedal or brakes. Steer into the direction of the skid until you regain traction, then straighten your vehicle. If you have anti-lock brakes, apply steady pressure.
- In fog, drive with headlights set on dim or use fog lights.
- In rain, fog, snow or sleet, stay within the limits of your vision. If it is too difficult to see, pull off the road and stop. Turn on hazard blinkers.
- Decrease speed and increase following distance on hazardous roads. Your speed should adjust for conditions without becoming an impediment to traffic flow.



Visit <http://hsem.dps.mn.gov> for the winter safety checklist.

Package theft deterrents

Holidays are approaching fast and packages are being delivered to more homes than ever before. Millions of Americans have packages stolen from their homes each year. There are several ways to protect yourself from criminal activity. Here are some measures that can be taken to protect yourself from package theft.

- If you know you won't be home during the delivery of a package, have it delivered to your workplace.
- Place insurance on the item being delivered.
- If you're going away for the holidays, place your package delivery on hold.
- Require signature on delivery.
- Install a security camera. Security cameras can deter a thief and act as a tool for law enforcement if a theft occurs.
- Check with your vendors and delivery services for other security options.

Best if used: prevent food waste

Ninety percent of Americans throw food away too soon. Here in Anoka County over 20 percent of what we throw away is organic material that could be composted. During the busy holiday season, why is this important? Cooking for guests and parties creates more waste than other times of the year. A 4-person family loses \$1500 a year on wasted food. Saving that would basically be a raise. The good news is there's something we can do. The better news is that it's easy and we've got everything we need right in the refrigerator.

Reduce First

Meal planning around the holidays especially is key to making sure you have just enough. SavetheFood.com has a great meal planning tool for any size gathering. You can calculate how many people will be eating, if you want leftovers or not, if those people eat like birds or horses and is surprisingly spot-on! Find it at www.savethefood.com/guestimator.

Become a Label Pro

Most people throw food out too soon. Learning to understand what

date labels on packaging mean can go a long way to making sure you are not.

Sell By: These dates are meant for store staff. They build in quality so if the food is sold by that date, you can still get it home and have top-quality shelf life for sometime after.

Best By: These dates refer to quality rather than food safety. It's the date before which the brand stands by its product (unless it's been opened or left out in warm temperatures). Foods with a "best before" or "use by" date or other expressions should be safe to eat after the date has passed, but they may no longer be at their very best.

Cook It, Store It

Proper food storage is also key in making sure that your hard-earned dollars spent on food don't get tossed out. Anoka County has a food storage guide with tips and hints on how to store foods in the fridge, freezer and your cupboard to optimize freshness. Go to: AnokaCounty.us/1035/Publications.

Now that you are armed with the know-how, you can enjoy a greener holiday season with less food waste.

City of St. Francis has text alert/advisory system available

To sign up to receive alert and advisory text messages from the City of St. Francis, text "FRANCIS" to 888-777.

You can sign up for Community messages at www.nixle.com and manage your account settings at www.nixle.com > enter your zip code> click green Sign Up tab> fill out informational form.

Sign up now through www.stfrancismn.org > **subscribe** on the homepage. Some cell phone carrier restrictions may have restrictions. Call city at 763-753-2630 for more information.

Water softener tip Chlorides in wastewater

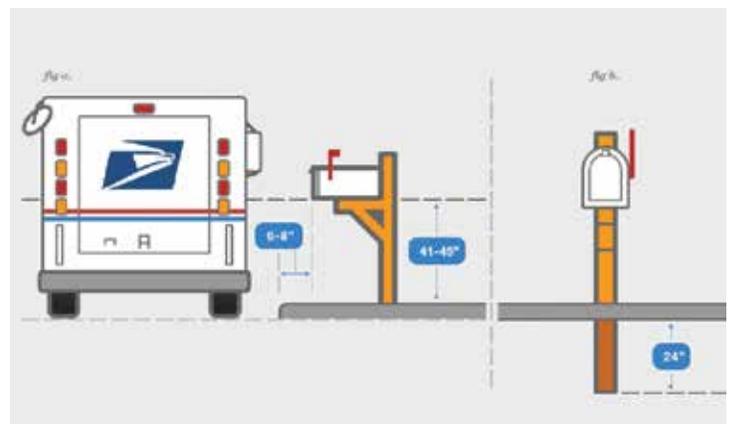
This is just a friendly reminder to make sure your water softener is operating efficiently. The main cause of high chlorides in wastewater is from water softeners. This is where we need your assistance. High chloride levels can have a negative effect on the ecosystem of our streams, rivers and lakes. As many of you know, when the MPCA renewed our wastewater permit in 2015, we were given a chloride limit. When a water softener goes into regeneration mode, the salt water (chlorides) used to regenerate the softener is discharged into the city's wastewater system. Public Works staff would like to remind residents to make sure their water softeners are operating efficiently. The drinking water in St. Francis is around 13 grains per gallon. Adjusting your softeners accordingly will help in keeping chloride levels down.

Snow reminders and winter tips!

- ❄ When shoveling your driveway apron, shovel the snow to the right of your driveway if you are looking at the street. This will reduce the amount of snow in your driveway when the plow comes by.
- ❄ 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.
- ❄ Please help keep fire hydrants clear near your home.
- ❄ Placing wooden lath (available at City Hall or Police & Public Works Building) along your property helps the plow driver determine where the edge of the road is and helps to prevent damage to your property.
- ❄ 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 describes United States Postal Service requirements for your mailbox. Using these requirements can help reduce the chances of your mailbox being damaged.





So Here's The Deal..

TAKE A TRIP TO LAS VEGAS - SFACOC STYLE!

St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner

Mark your calendars and save the date. We have the table set for the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner, "*Fabulous Casino Night*", to be held on Jan 25, 2019 starting at 6:00pm.

The evening will include a fun exciting casino night experience for both the novice and the expert player, a buffet dinner, raffles, silent auction, and will include a short presentation by our President Eric Schmoll about the wonderful work of the chamber and all those who benefit from our work with events like this.

The public is welcome and encouraged to join area businesses, and the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce, as they honor outgoing chamber board members, welcome the newly elected board of directors, and raise money to

support scholarships for our area youth, promote local businesses and serve the community.

The mission statement of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce is to serve the needs of the membership in working toward the common goal of a growing, healthy business environment and community as a whole.

Held at The Refuge Golf Club in Oak Grove, the Fabulous Casino Night program will be a great way to socialize, have fun gaming, enjoy a dinner, and have an opportunity to win dozens of fantastic prizes donated by area businesses.

Contact the chamber today with any questions and to purchase tickets to be part of this fun event. dinner@stfranschamber.org

Details at www.stfranschamber.org - Mention this ad at checking out for a BONUS!



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

- December 13:** Have your picture taken with Santa at the St. Francis Police Department 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- December 13:** Santa and the Fire Truck in selected neighborhoods beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- December 25:** Christmas Holiday - City Offices Closed
- January 1:** New Year's Day Holiday – City Offices Closed
- January 21:** Martin Luther King Holiday – City Offices Closed
- January 25:** Annual Chamber Dinner at the Refuge Golf Course 6:00 p.m.
- February 18:** President's Day Holiday – City Offices Closed

For a full list of events—visit the city's website www.stfrancismn.org

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 |
| Council Member Rich Skordahl | 763-235-2311 |
| Council Member Robert Bauer | 763-235-2312 |
| Council Member Jerry Tveit | 763-235-2313 |
| Council Member Joe Muehlbauer | 763-235-2314 |