



# Newsletter

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS | WINTER 2025 | VOL. 10, NO. 4



## Message from your Mayor

December 2025 Newsletter

I would like to begin this article with a brief acknowledgment of the Public Works Truck or Treat event, held in late October. This was a true team effort by the entire Public

Works Department and other staff and volunteers, resulting in a fantastic event attended by many.

The following are some updates at the time this article was written (early November):

A purchase agreement has been signed for St. Francis Hardware and the Rum River Inn. Closing is scheduled for December 2025, and more details will emerge at that time. Some of the staff and I had the opportunity to meet the buyers, and we greatly enjoyed their enthusiasm and vision. The buyers emphasized how much the St. Francis community means to them.

We look forward to working together with them.

You have probably received your estimated 2026 tax statement. It is worth noting that a portion of the increase is due to the inclusion of the MS4 Wastewater fee, which the City had been billing out separately for many years. Unfortunately, the cost of services continues to rise at an accelerated rate. The final vote for the 2026 levy will occur on Monday, December 1, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., during which a Truth and Taxation Public Hearing is included. All are highly encouraged to attend.

The St. Francis and Bethel Fire Departments have been working together for years and have now formed a new fire district, known as the Rum River Fire District. The role of Fire Departments has evolved greatly over the past decades, and these changes will continue due to growing expectations, rules, demographics and skyrocketing costs. Hopefully, this new fire district will help reduce projected cost increases and keep or enhance our current level of services.

Lastly, the Highway 47 reconstruction project continues to move forward, with a projected completion date of 2027. We continue collaborating with our State Legislators to secure bonding for portions of the project. Progress continues with soil boring and site plans.

Citizen engagement is crucial in shaping our City now and into the future, so please consider joining us at our City Council meetings, held on the first and third Mondays of every month.

Hope you have a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



STORMWATER FEE

| PAGE 2



TOYS FOR JOY COLLECTION | PAGE 3

LIGHTS/CELL PHONE RECYCLING	PAGE 2
ASSESSOR'S CORNER	PAGE 3
SALT ALTERNATIVES	PAGE 4
WINTER PARKING	PAGE 5
SNOWMOBILE PERMITS	PAGE 6
OUTSIDE FUN	PAGE 8

Visit us on social media!



# Stormwater Fee

Within the last couple of weeks, you should have received your “proposed property tax statement” from Anoka County. This statement provides an estimate of your property taxes for the upcoming year. These numbers are not final — they are set in early September and can change before they are finalized in December. The statement also shows any changes in your property value and breaks down how your taxes are shared among the different taxing districts, such as the county, school district, and City.

For the City of St. Francis, the proposed 2026 amount was set higher than what we expect the final City levy will be in December. The City budget has been adjusted to reduce the levy increase by 2%. Because the budget is created months in advance, we make estimates for costs such as inflation, Fire calls, potholes, road salt, and snow plowing over time. As the year progresses and we receive more accurate information, we will make adjustments when possible.

One change affecting the 2026 levy is the method of collecting stormwater fees. The City will no longer mail out separate Stormwater bills. Instead, the Stormwater charge will now be included in your property taxes. This change will make payments simpler for property owners and help the City save time and reduce costs. You can continue to see how Stormwater funds are used by visiting the City website at [www.stfrancismn.gov](http://www.stfrancismn.gov).

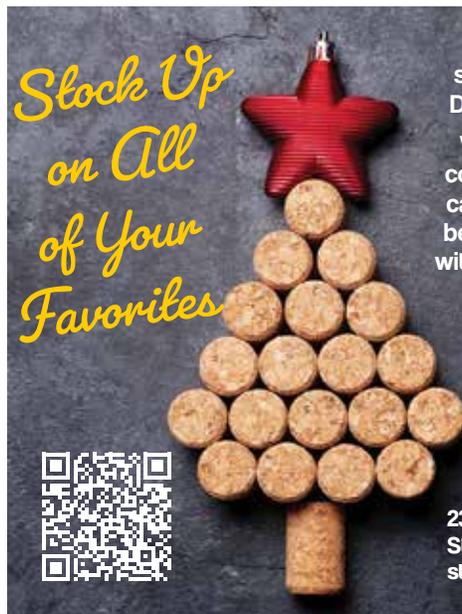


## Recycling – Holiday Lights and Used Cell Phone Collection

Each year, St. Francis Public Works collects your old, used, broken or worn-out cell phones and holiday lights for proper recycling. These items are not accepted for recycling through your curbside recycling carts. Instead, they are usually thrown away.

Public Works will collect your used lights and cell phones and properly recycle them at a local recycling facility. You can drop off your holiday lights and cell phones at the Police and Public Works Facility during our regular hours, from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. If you have any questions or concerns about recycling, please call Public Works at 763-233-5200.

While you are dropping off your holiday lights and cell phones, you can also pick up your free organics bin!



*Stock Up  
on All  
of Your  
Favorites*

We've been busy gearing up for the holiday season! Don't want to go out in the cold? Try DoorDash and have your order brought to you!

We are looking forward to upgrading our beer coolers! In January, we will be installing a walk-in cave cooler for all our cases of beer. We will also be rolling out a “Case of the Mondays” discount with the new cooler setup! More details to come.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook.

ST. FRANCIS, MN

*Bottle Shop*  
Since 1964

23307 St. Francis Blvd. NW  
St Francis, MN 55070  
[stfrancisbottleshop.com](http://stfrancisbottleshop.com)

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

## Collection location for Toys for Joy

The holiday season is approaching, and once again, the St. Francis Police Department is proud to serve as a drop-off location for the Toys for Joy Charitable Program, supporting families in the Anoka area.

We'll be collecting new, unwrapped toys in our Police Department lobby from Monday, November 24, through Friday, December 17.

Your generosity helps bring smiles to children and families in need this holiday season — thank you for your continued support!



## *Santa is Coming to Town*

to the St. Francis Police Department

**Thursday, December 18 | 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

4058 St. Francis Boulevard NW, St. Francis

**Warm up with hot cocoa and meet Santa**

Take photos with Santa and celebrate the season with St. Francis Police Department officers. An excellent opportunity to connect with the community, share holiday cheer, and create lasting memories with your family.

**All ages are welcome, and don't forget your wish list.**

*We look forward to seeing you there.*



## Assessor's Corner

### 2025 Property Review Update

The City Assessors have completed visits to all properties due for a five-year review this year. In the weeks ahead, they will be inspecting all areas of the City to review work done under permits (new construction, demolition, decks, additions, etc.) issued this year, as well as follow up on projects that were in progress at the end of 2024.

2026 Proposed Property Taxes Statements will be mailed out from Anoka County in November. This is a notice showing the preliminary estimate of the property tax amount for 2026. The proposed tax estimate amount is based on preliminary levies submitted by Anoka County, the City of St. Francis, school districts, and other taxing authorities. Dates and times are provided for upcoming public meetings of each taxing authority, where property owners can bring questions and concerns about the levy amounts. This notice does not include amounts for waste management fees, special assessments, or school district referenda approved in the fall. More information about these statements can be found online at [www.anokacountymn.gov/4315/Sample-Notices-Statements](http://www.anokacountymn.gov/4315/Sample-Notices-Statements).

*Other Resources:* For more information about Minnesota Property Taxes, visit the Minnesota Department of Revenue online page at [www.revenue.state.mn.us/understanding-property-tax](http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/understanding-property-tax).





# A Message from the Building Department

As lumber prices start to decline and winter approaches, we anticipate that residents will consider starting basement remodels and basement finishes in the coming months. Basement finishes can be a good way to increase the value and livability of your home.

Please remember to pull a permit for this work and use the basement finish handout to help plan your project. If you add any sleeping/bedrooms to your basement, the occupancy of your home changes, and it will need to be inspected for egress, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Additionally, if you have a septic tank, adding a sleeping area or bedroom may make your septic system non-compliant.

Pulling a permit for your work will help limit your personal liability for the work if you ever sell your home. It also helps ensure that the work is completed to the building code, to help protect the safety of you, your family, and future residents. If you have any questions regarding basement permits or permits in general, please contact the City of St. Francis Building Department in person at City Hall, by phone at 763-753-2630, or by email at [bldginsp@stfrancisn.gov](mailto:bldginsp@stfrancisn.gov).

## Winter Salt Alternatives

### Ways to Reduce Chloride Pollution

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

- Remove snow during a snowstorm instead of waiting until the end. Start with the very first snow and keep up the rest of the winter, especially in shaded walkways.
- Think “anti-icing.” The goal is to break the bond between ice and pavement just where you need it so it can be shoveled or plowed (as opposed to melting everything).
- Treat before a storm to help prevent ice buildup, which requires less deicer.
  - o Alternatives: Sand – for traction ONLY – safe and effective, but sweep up excess and re-use.
    - » Liquid magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, potassium chloride (all three work better than regular salt in colder temps), calcium magnesium acetate and potassium acetate.
      - Do **not** apply if ice has already formed, in rainy, sleeting, or blowing conditions, or if snowfall exceeds one inch per hour.
      - Concrete may require specialized use or a product. Salt, chlorides, and urea-based “pet-friendly” options can cause pitting or spalling of the concrete surface. Check the product label for information on using the product for concrete.
- After storms, use as little de-icer as possible:
  - o The closest salt substitute is potassium acetate, but it is hard to find. Ask for it to create consumer demand.
  - o Sand – safe for pets and children (sweep up excess).

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

Information provided by Coon Creek Watershed District (763-755-0975 or [www.cooncreekwd.org](http://www.cooncreekwd.org)).



## CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

Gopher State One Call

Local: 651-454-0002

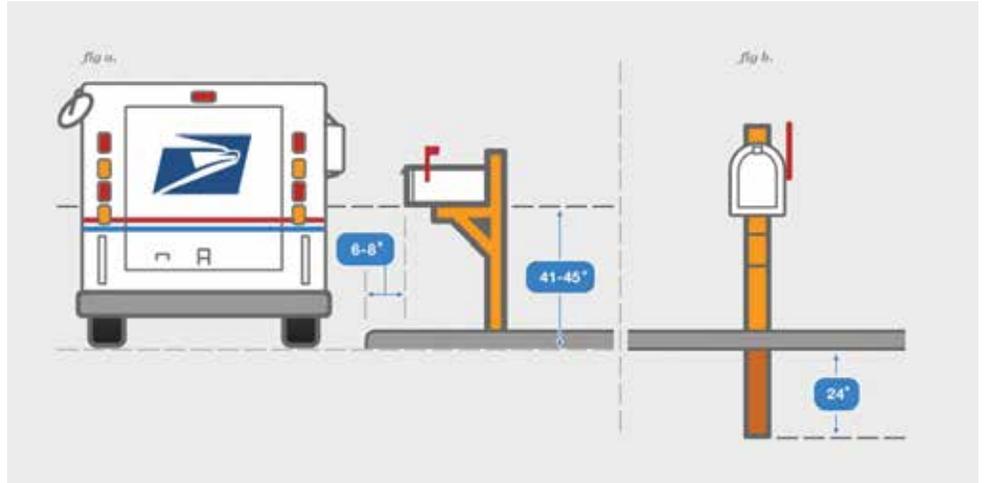
Toll Free: 1-800-252-1166

[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)



# Winter Parking and Snow Removal Tips and Reminders

- Do NOT blow, shovel, or push snow from your driveway into the street. It is illegal, and the City will issue code enforcement violations to residents who violate this law (Minnesota Statute 160.2715). Violations are misdemeanors, but civil penalties also apply if the placement of snow creates a hazard, such as a slippery area, a frozen rut, or a bump that contributes to a motor vehicle or pedestrian crash. The civil liability can extend to both the property owner and the person who placed the snow.
- When shoveling your driveway apron, shovel the snow to the right of your driveway if you are looking at the street. It will reduce the amount of snow in your driveway when the plow comes by.
- Under St. Francis City Code Chapter 7, residents are responsible for removing snow and ice from public sidewalks abutting their property, within 24 hours.
- Do not park your vehicle in the street. **No parking** is allowed on any City street during November through May from 1:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and/or during a snow event. A snow event occurs when there is a snowfall of two inches or more and ends when the roads have been cleared to full width. Violators will be towed at the owner's expense.
- Volunteer to clear snow from fire hydrants near your home.
- Do not place your garbage cans in the street. Make sure there is a spot for them at the edge of your driveway.
- Keep the area around and behind your mailbox clear of snow. It allows room for more snow without it piling up. The image below describes United States Postal Service requirements for your mailbox. Using these requirements can help reduce the chances of your mailbox being damaged.



## St. Francis Area Schools Kindergarten Registration Events

Welcome Class of 2039!

To provide families an opportunity to see their child's school and learn more about the registration process, each of the three elementary schools will be hosting a Kindergarten Registration Event for Fall 2026 kindergarten students.

Jan. 12  
**East Bethel  
Elementary School**  
6-7:30 p.m.

Jan. 13  
**Cedar Creek  
Elementary School**  
6-7:30 p.m.

Jan. 15  
**St. Francis  
Elementary School**  
6-7:30 p.m.



 Visit [www.isd15.org/kindergarten](http://www.isd15.org/kindergarten) or scan the QR code to learn more and register for an event.



# Water Softener Tip

## Chlorides in Wastewater

Just a friendly reminder to make sure your water softener is operating efficiently. The main cause of high chloride levels in wastewater is water softeners. This is where we need your assistance. High chloride levels can harm the ecosystem of our streams, rivers and lakes.

As many of you are aware, when the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency renewed the City's wastewater permit, 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 has a hardness level of around 13 grains per gallon. Adjusting your softeners accordingly will help in keeping chloride levels down.



# Snowmobile Permit Information

An annual permit is required to ride a snowmobile in the local access areas of St. Francis.

## Permit Details

- Cost is \$15 per year
- Color-Coded Zones: Permits are assigned a color based on the holder's address. You may take the most direct route from your primary residence to the state trail within your assigned color zone. Color zone maps are available at the police department.
- Restricted Areas: Driving outside your designated color zone or in the orange zone is strictly prohibited.

## Sticker Placement

- Local access sticker: on the hood, visible from the left side
- Year sticker: directly below the local access sticker

## Rules While in Local Access Areas

- Maximum speed: 20 mph
- Urban areas: Travel on the right side of the paved road within the curb line
- Unpaved roads: Travel within the curb point

## Where to Obtain a Permit

- St. Francis Police Department
- Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Stay safe and enjoy riding responsibly!



# WINTER DRIVING TIPS



- Always buckle up your seatbelt.
- To avoid skidding, brake gently, especially when it's snowy or icy, and start braking a little earlier when you're getting close to intersections.
- If your car starts sliding, just ease off the gas or brakes and steer into the skid. If you have anti-lock brakes, just keep steady pressure on the pedal.
- When it's foggy, use your dim headlights or fog lights.
- If it's raining, foggy, snowy, or sleeting and you can't see well, pull over and stop. Don't forget to turn on your hazard lights.
- Slow down and keep more space between you and the car in front on tricky roads.

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



# St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 655 | St. Francis, MN 55070

763-438-5163

chamber@stfrancischamber.org

www.stfrancischamber.org

St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner

**WELCOME**  
TO *Fabulous*  
**CASINO NIGHT**  
Hosted by the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce

**SAVE THE DATE**

**FRIDAY,  
JANUARY 30TH  
2026**

**@ The Refuge  
Golf Course**

- Play Casino Games
- Chances to win Prizes
  - 50/50, Silent Auction & Raffles
- Dinner & Cash Bar

Get your tickets online: [stfrancischamber.org/anannual-dinner](http://stfrancischamber.org/anannual-dinner)

**Theme Dinosaurs and Diamonds**

**St. Francis  
Pioneer Days -  
60th Anniversary  
Celebration!**

**Mark your calendars!**

Pioneer Days 2026 will take place May 29-3, 2026, and it's going to be a very special year, the 60th Celebration of Pioneer Days!

Did you or someone you know attend the very first Pioneer Days back in 1964?

We'd love to hear from you!

Please contact Michelle Anderson at 763-568-0038 to share your memories and help us celebrate this milestone in St. Francis history.

Celebrating St. Francis  
**PIONEER DAYS**

## St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Membership Directory

Ace Solid Water, Inc.  
Advanced Automotive Care, Inc.  
Air Central Inc.  
American Family Insurance  
Anderson Hometown Team Re/Max Results  
ANEW Salon  
Anoka County Library - St. Francis Branch  
Anoka Hennepin Credit Union  
Barna, Guzy & Steffen, LTD.  
Becker and Associates  
Beef 'O' Brady's  
Cedar Creek Construction  
Central Heating & Cooling, LLC  
Chesters Small Town Tavern & Eatery  
City Council  
City of St. Francis  
Collision 2000, Inc.  
Compound Fitness MN  
Connexus Energy

Cruise Planners  
DeGamba School of Music  
Dugout Bar & Grill  
E&H Embroidery, LLC  
ECM Publishers, Inc.  
Edward Jones Investments  
Elevation Exteriors  
Freedom Strategy Group  
Future Image Lawn Care  
Garphish  
Hakanson Anderson  
Hidden Haven Golf Club  
Highland Money Management  
Hometown Highlights  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy  
Innovations Plus  
King's County Market  
Lakeside Cabinets and Woodworking  
LePage & Sons  
Mansetti's Pizza & Pasta  
McDonald's

Minnco Credit Union  
Minnesota Custom Solar  
Minuteman Press  
NACE Foodshelf, Inc  
North Anoka Plumbing  
North Metro Money Management  
Opp Family Chiropractic, P.A.  
Out of the Woods Nutrition  
Rebel Boutique  
Rising Phoenix Bookkeeping Services  
Rum River Consulting  
Rum River Outdoor Foundation  
Rum River Tree Farm  
Sands Auto  
Schroeder Creekside Stables  
Select Urgent Care  
Sign Gypsies North Metro MN  
St. Francis Area Schools  
St. Francis Collision & Glass  
St. Francis Dental Care, P.A.  
St. Francis Fire Department

St. Francis Lions  
St. Francis Physical Therapy  
St. Francis Police Department  
St. Francis Smoke Shop  
St. Francis Untied Methodist Church  
St. Francis Veterinary Clinic  
St. Luke's Chiropractic  
Tasty Pizza Bar & Bowl  
Tax Office - Jolynn Olson  
Temperature Specialists, Inc.  
The Bridge  
The Ponds Golf Course & Restaurant  
The Refuge Gold Club & Wedding Venue  
Trinity Lutheran School  
St. Francis True Value Hardware  
Village Bank  
Vista Prairie at Eagle Pointe  
Zen Business



3750 Bridge Street NW  
St. Francis, MN 55070

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

## ECRWSS POSTAL PATRON

### Have Fun Outdoors this Winter

Don't feel like you're stuck inside this winter, head on out to the sledding hill right here in St. Francis. Seelye Brook Park is located at 4540 229th Avenue NW. There is a porta-potty in the front and a parking lot in the back. For parking, please park in the rear parking lot and avoid the roads. To access the parking lot, travel east on 229th Avenue NW and turn right at the first intersection. The parking area is in the back, surrounded by pine trees.

St. Francis maintains a full-size hockey rink along with a smaller recreational rink. When the weather cooperates, Public Works staff will create and maintain the ice for the residents to enjoy. The ice rinks are located at 3948 229th Avenue NW, across the street from the St. Francis Elementary School. Each year, the goal is to have the warming house open and staffed by the time of Christmas break. Warming house hours (weather and schedule permitting) are as follows: Monday through Friday, 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Please help keep our City safe and clean. Report any vandalism or trash dumping to Public Works by calling 763-233-5200.



### Events Calendar

Visit the City's website [www.stfrancismn.gov](http://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](http://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](mailto:City@stfrancismn.gov) 763-753-2630  
Website [www.stfrancismn.gov](http://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