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City Council Members

Steve Kane, Mayor	763-235-2310
Rich Skordahl	763-235-2311
Richard Orpen	763-235-2312
Chris McClish	763-235-2313
Tim Brown	763-235-2314

City Council Meetings

Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00 pm at the ISD 15 Center Services Center. 4115 Ambassador Boulevard NW.

City Office Information

St. Francis City Hall
23340 Cree Street NW
St. Francis, MN 55070
Phone: 763-753-2630
Email: city@stfrancismn.org
Fax: 763-753-9881
Website: www.stfrancismn.org
Hours: 7:00am—5:30 pm
Monday—Thursday
(Closed Fridays & Holidays)
Newsletter:
Also available online. Get current and past copies at www.stfrancismn.org



Message from Your Mayor

Dear Friends and Neighbors;

First I would like to take this opportunity to send a big “Thank You” to past Mayor Jerry Tveit and past Council Member Amy Lazere for their distinguished service for you and the City of St. Francis. When you see them out and about, please thank them.

As for myself, I am honored to have an opportunity to serve and represent the great City of St. Francis and its residents, and promise to do the very best job that I am able. As a short background, my wife Cindy and I have lived in St. Francis since March of 1999 and have a son who lives in Duluth. I have been involved with the city for 12 years serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission, City Council and the Charter Commission. We really enjoy living here and find really great people who live here also.

What a crazy winter! With the early cold and snows and then a warm-up in January has kept our Street Department personnel very busy. During the big storm in November they plowed every street in town twice in a 23hr period! The Public Works crew also worked very hard to get the skating rink back up and running after the January thaw. We are very lucky as a city to have the crew we do as they do an exemplary job all year long. Please remember to stay clear of the plow trucks. They may not see you if you get too close and may make a sudden stop or turn.

Our Inspections Department has been very

busy as 16 new homes were built in 2014, along with numerous remodeling projects. O'Reilly's Automotive built a new corporate store that opened in 2014 and Dollar General has built a new building, which opened in early February. Our EDA Board is alive and well and will work to bring in more development and business in 2015 and beyond.

Anoka County is planning the Sugar Hills Regional Trail that will run through St. Francis and connect us to our neighbors to the south. This plan is long term and funding sources have yet to be found.

A big Thank You to Anoka County for obtaining federal funding for the Bridge Street corridor upgrade. That project will begin in June of this year.

The Chamber is once again sponsoring our “Pioneer Days” celebration the first weekend in June and needs volunteers. Go to their website, <http://www.stfrancischamber.org/>, to get involved in your community!

I want to start a new topic in the upcoming newsletters which will spotlight our different departments and/or groups so you have a better understanding of how your city operates.

Your Mayor, Steve Kane
skane@stfrancismn.org





Annual Pet Clinic May 2

Mark your calendars for the annual St. Francis Pet Clinic, Saturday, May 2, 9:00 a.m.-noon, St. Francis Fire Station, 3740 Bridge Street NW.

This is offered as an opportunity for residents of St. Francis and surrounding communities to vaccinate their pets. Once again, veterinarian Dr. Stanley Fagerness will be here to offer a variety of vaccinations for your cats and dogs for a fee. You can also get your dog license this day.

Dog Licenses: Any dog 6 months of age or older must have a City Dog License. Note, licenses are now valid for as long as your dog's rabies vaccinations are current. Licenses can be picked up at the police department for the following costs: 1-2 year license \$10, 3 year license \$15

Reminder to dog owners: The City of St. Francis City Code Section 8-3-1 prohibits any dog from leaving the property limits of the owner while unleashed. If you find a stray dog or need to report a lost dog, please call 763-753-1264.

Fees are as follows:

Canine Vaccinations	
Rabies	\$15
Distemper Combo	\$16-20
Lyme.....	\$27
Bordetella	\$20
Feline Vaccinations	
Rabies	\$15
Distemper Combo	\$16-20
Feline Leukemia	\$22

From the Building Department

2015 finds St. Francis Building Inspectors preparing for a busy year. The City is staffed with 2 full time inspectors who are responsible for a variety of duties including enforcing the MN State Building Code in both St. Francis and the City of Nowthen. In addition to issuing permits and performing site inspections, as dictated by state statute and rules, the Building Official and Field Inspector are responsible for overseeing the City's Rental License program as well as responding to concerns over the condition of properties.

Approximately every 6 years the State's Department of Labor and Industry adopts a new building code which incorporates minimum standards for the construction industry as they relate to new construction and remodeling projects. The state code includes provisions for residential, commercial, energy, mechanical systems and accessibility to name a few. At various

dates in early 2015 the state is implementing new codes. Inspectors are attending training classes at the University of Minnesota, as well as other venues in order to keep up-to-date with various code regulations and ensure accurate and uniform enforcement. Any questions about specific code requirements can be addressed as you move through the permitting process but are generally more helpful if they are discussed during the planning stages of your project.

In accordance with St. Francis ordinances, all property owners who rent single or multi-family dwelling units are required to do so in accordance with a Rental License issued by the City. There is much work that goes into the implementation of such a program and staff is working diligently with owners to register and allow inspections of their properties. Once issued, the license period covers a 2-year timeframe and is aimed at providing a safe and attractive rental

environment for families and individuals. Another important duty of the Building Department is to follow up on concerns or complaints as they relate to the condition of residential and commercial property. The City has adopted standards that govern outside storage which prevent the accumulation of junk and debris. This effort, along with maintaining the exterior condition of buildings, will ensure St. Francis remains an attractive place to work and live, as well as maintaining property values and pride in our community.

Any questions regarding the State Building Code, Rental Licensing program or issues that relate to the condition of a property can be addressed to Andy Schreder, City Building Official at 763-235-2317 or aschreder@stfrancismn.org.

St. Francis Bottle Shop Profits: Where are your dollars going?

Some people may not know that the Bottle Shop is a city-owned and operated store. When you shop locally at the Bottle Shop, your money goes back into the community by way of transfers. In the past few years, our profits have helped fund police vehicles, the new Police/Public Works building, paving of

streets, rebuilding parking lots, and the Pioneer Days fireworks. Using these profits towards funding city projects, helps keep your taxes down. We would have not been able to accomplish the tasks without your loyalty. We hope this shows you a new light on what YOUR contributions do for YOU!

From the St. Francis Fire Department

We at the St. Francis Fire Department have heard how difficult it can be for daycares in the area to get the annual fire extinguisher inspections that are required with daycare licensing. That is why we are proud to announce that the St. Francis Fire Department has partnered with Brothers Fire Protection Company to start a fire extinguisher servicing program.

This program was started to provide fire extinguisher servicing to the daycares in St. Francis, but because of our commitment to fire prevention and fire safety, this program is open to anyone. Here is how the program works:

Bring your serviceable extinguisher with a \$60 deposit to the St. Francis Police/Public Works building (4058 Saint Francis Blvd NW) during lobby hours. You will receive a loaner extinguisher

while yours is being serviced. The fees will start at \$5.00 for standard inspection, \$20 for internal inspection (required every 6 years), and \$25 for internal inspection with hydrostatic test (required at 12 years). Service is expected to be completed within 2 weeks. At this point, you will be contacted. Your deposit will be returned after service payment is received and the loaner is brought back.

During our Annual French Toast Breakfast, which takes place during Fire Prevention Week, the servicing company, Brothers Fire Protection will also be present. They are able to do extinguisher testing during that event and have already committed to return this year for the October 10, 2015 breakfast and open house.

For questions or more information call 763-753-1264.

Learn Gun Safety with Eddie Eagle and the St. Francis Police Department

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2015 4:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.

The St. Francis Police Department will be hosting a two hour gun safety night for students who are currently in 2nd and 3rd grade. The Eddie Eagle Gun Safe[®] Program was created by a task force that includes educators, school administrators, curriculum specialist, urban housing safety officials, clinical psychologist, law enforcement officials and National Rifle Association firearms safety experts.

Officials estimate that there are over 200 million firearms in the United States. Studies suggest they're kept in approximately half of all households.

Whether or not a particular family owns firearms, chances are, neighbors and relatives do, making it likely that children will encounter a firearm at some point. From their earliest awareness, children are exposed to guns through cartoons, television shows and movies. They're curious about firearms, and may have developed inaccurate perceptions of what a firearm is and does.

Just as Smokey Bear teaches children not to play with matchbooks, Eddie Eagle teaches them not to play with firearms with a simple, memorable four-part plan:

If you see a gun: **STOP! Don't Touch. Leave the Area. Tell an Adult.**

It is important for children to understand that only with a parent or with parental permission and adult supervision should a child be around firearms.

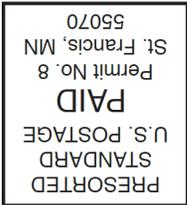
Young people in grades 2nd and 3rd are more prone to be curious about guns. They may have developed varying perceptions of fantasy and reality. Television and movies can distort their perceptions. Students at these grade levels need to understand that gun use on television is fantasy. This age group needs to know that guns are not toys and that showing off with guns is not cool.

- Snacks provided for students, Free to attend, Class size limited!

Please contact the SF Police Department at (763) 753-1264 to register your child for the event or any questions.



ESCROW POSTAL PATRON



Spring 2015
City of St. Francis
23340 Cree Street NW
St. Francis, MN 55070
city@stfrancismn.org
www.stfrancismn.org

Spring 2015 Calendar of Events

March Events

- Mar 20: Carnival Pizza Night @ East Bethel Community School 5:30 PM - 8 PM
- Mar 20: St. Francis Lions Easter Bingo @ SF American Legion 7 PM
- Mar 21: St. Francis Lions Easter Egg Hunt @ Community Park 10 AM
- Mar 21: SFES Carnival @ St. Francis Elementary School 11 AM - 3 PM
- Mar 30: Gun Safety with Eddie Eagle @ SF Police Department 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

April Events

- Apr 11: Early Childhood Garage Sale @ SF Elementary School 9 AM - 12 PM
- Apr 18: St. Francis Lioness Salad Luncheon & Fashion Show @ SF American Legion 11 AM
- Apr 18: CCCS Carnival @ Cedar Creek Community School 11 AM - 3 PM
- Apr 25: 4-H Clover Dash Fundraiser @ Bunker Hills Regional Park 9 AM

May Events

- May 2: St. Francis Recycling Day @ 4020 St. Francis Blvd. NW 8 AM - 2 PM
- May 2: Annual Pet Clinic @ SF Fire Station 9 AM - 12 PM

June 5 - 7 is St. Francis Pioneer Days!



Hydrant Flushing

City hydrant flushing will be done the week of May 4th.

E-Newsletter

Would you like to receive the newsletter by email?

Contact us today!

Phone: 763-753-2630

Email: city@stfrancismn.org

Pay Your Utilities Online!

Now you can pay your water bill and view statements online!

No need for checks in the mail.

Visit our website to sign up!

Follow us on



Spring Recycling Day • Saturday, May 2 • Extended Hours

WHEN: Saturday, May 2nd
TIME: 8:00 am - 2 p.m.
LOCATION: Public Works



The following items will be accepted at NO CHARGE

Large cardboard and Household Recycling is always accepted!

BATTERIES: Automotive batteries accepted by Knights of Columbus

SCRAP METAL: Rubber, plastic, glass, and wood parts must be removed from the item. Fuel tanks and crank cases MUST be drained.

SHREDDING: Shredding will be offered this day FREE of charge by Eco Shred MN. Only shred paper with personal data such as your social security number, charge account numbers and customer numbers. No need to remove staples or paperclips from docs. Do NOT place shredded paper in plastic bags.

LEAVES: We are accepting leaves this day. All debris found with leaves will be rejected. Due to state laws, leaves cannot be burned or buried. Leaves will be accepted in compostable bags or dumped directly into bag.

CELL PHONES and INK CARTRIDGES: St. Francis Elementary School will be here accepting donations of usable cell phones, tablets and ink cartridges.

BICYCLES: Used bikes will be collected for FREE by Mr. Michael Recycles Bicycles.

Plastic Grocery Bags can be dropped off at the main entrance at Kings County Market.

TIRES:

<i>Passenger without rim</i>	FREE
<i>Passenger with rim</i>	\$4
<i>Small tractor</i>	\$25
<i>Large Tractor</i>	\$45

FURNITURE WITH SPRINGS: ACE Solid

Waste will be here to accept couches, chairs, recliners, hide-a-beds or other items with springs for a **disposal** fee of **\$35.00 per item**.

Evergreen Recycling will be accepting mattresses and box springs for **\$13**.

APPLIANCES:

JR's Advanced Recyclers accepting the following items for a recycling fee of **\$5 per item**:

Refrigerators, freezers, washers, dryers, dishwashers, microwave ovens, residential furnaces, hot water heaters, dehumidifiers, trash compactors, garbage disposals & air compressors.

Household Goods: Clothing, small household goods and toys will be accepted by Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

ELECTRONICS:

Computer towers (CPU) **FREE**

Notebook computers **FREE**

Computer monitors **\$10**

TVs Flat Panel 22" or smaller **\$10**

Tube TVs > 23"-32" **\$15**

Tube TVs > 33" & Consoles **\$35**

Home and small office all in one printers & faxes **\$6**

Keyboards, speakers, home phones, wires and cables **FREE**

Household batteries **Small Fee**

Fluorescent bulbs:

Straight four foot and under \$.50 ea.,

Over four foot \$1 ea.

Round, U-tube, plug-in \$1 ea.

Screw in (CFL) \$2 ea.

HID lamps \$4 ea.

The following are \$5

Small printers

Scanners

Faxes

Typewriters

VCRs

DVD players

Satellite receivers

Stereo components

Boom boxes

PAY E-CYCLING SOLUTIONS DIRECTLY

CURBSIDE PICKUP FOR BRUSH IS: Apr. 27 & 28

North Metro Tree Service Inc. will pick up brush at the curb in the water and sewer district on April 27 and 28th. The brush must be have the cut ends towards the street. Branches cannot be over 4" in diameter and 8' in length. Only piles 3' high and 4' wide will be taken. Must be brought out to curb by **Noon on April 28th**. If you exceed this limit, please call **City Hall at 763-753-2630**.

CURBSIDE PICKUP FOR APPLIANCES is: April 29 and 30th — Sign up and pay at City Hall

The City will pick up your appliances at the curb on **April 29th and 30th**. The cost is **\$20.00** per appliance. Appliances must be brought out by **Noon** on April 30th.

WASTE ITEMS: (for St. Francis residents only):

The City will be accepting household waste at a cost of **\$25.00** per load. A load is any amount equal to or less than a level pickup box or equivalent sized trailer. *Oversized trucks or trailers will be charged extra.* Waste includes: old carpet, broken toys, plastics and general trash. These items fall under the same restrictions as your local refuse hauler.

NO HAZARDOUS WASTE WILL BE ACCEPTED: Any Loads seen as unsafe to unload can be refused by staff working the event. Hazardous waste includes such items as oil filters, herbicides, pesticides, paints, solvents, fuel and any undefined liquids, powders or solids. The containers these items are stored in are considered hazardous waste as well. **Bring your used car oil and oil filters to O'Rielly Auto Parts. Questions call Anoka County Hazardous. Waste Facility 763-323-5730.**

Tree Trimming Tips to Remember

The late dormant season is best for most pruning. Pruning in late winter leaves fresh wounds exposed for only a short length of time. It's easier to make pruning decisions without leaves obscuring plant branch structure. Pruning at the proper time can avoid certain disease and physical problems.

You can trim dead or diseased branches on all trees at any time of the year. This will not harm the tree but will help the tree give nutrients to its growing branches. It is not necessary to spray the cuts of dead branches with wound dressing.

Remember to trim just outside the "collar" of the tree as it will heal and close the wound faster.



Oak Trees

Do not prune oak trees during April, May or June. This will prevent the spread of Oak Wilt. If you need to prune during these times, apply wound dressing to mask the scent of fresh cut wood that attract the disease carrying beetles.

Elm Trees

Avoid trimming elm trees during early April to late July.

Ash Trees

Avoid trimming ash trees during May 1st to August 31.

Maple trees

Maple trees can be cut anytime. Be sure to remember maple trees will "bleed" but it is not a harmful effect to the tree. They can bleed onto parked cars and be cosmetically unpleasant to look at. To avoid bleeding, trim during mid-summer or late fall.

You can trim dead or diseased branches on all trees at any time of the year. This will not harm the tree but will help the tree give nutrients to its growing branches. It is not necessary to spray the cuts of dead branches with wound dressing. Remember to trim just outside the "collar" of the tree as it will heal and close the wound faster.

Is Your Water Softener Operating Efficiently?

When was the last time you checked your water softener? Is it operating efficiently? How often does it regenerate? Many people have water softeners installed to remove hardness which is caused by Calcium and Magnesium, but after installation, softeners are sometimes neglected or forgotten about. Most people soften their water because they do not like the feel of the water when used for bathing or laundry purposes. The City of St. Francis does not soften the water that is treated at the water treatment plant. We only remove iron and manganese. The water from the water treatment plant contains about 13 grains per gallon (220 mg/l) of hardness.

How do water softeners work? Basically, through a process called Ion Exchange. Water passes through resin or beads that are saturated in sodium (salt) ions. The sodium (salt) covered resin acts like a magnet and attracts the calcium or magnesium ions that cause "Hardness" and removes them from the water, leaving "soft water". After so long, the resin or beads become covered in Calcium and Magnesium ions and is no longer able to soften water. When the resin is no longer able to remove the calcium and magnesium ions, it has to go through a

regeneration process with salt water. Regeneration is the process of using Sodium Chloride or salt water from the salt tank, and running it through the resin bed to wash the calcium and magnesium ions from the resin and regenerate the resin bed with Sodium ions. So what happens to the Sodium Chloride used to regenerate the resin? It is disposed of down the drain and sent to the wastewater treatment facility where it can become an issue.

More cities with water and wastewater treatment facilities are being required to meet chloride limits set forth by State and Federal agencies. If Chloride limits are not met, these agencies can force a city into compliance. This could mean additional treatment at the water plant and or wastewater treatment plant, which would likely cause water and sewer rates to rise. By making sure your water softener is operating efficiently, you can help to lower the Chloride levels in the wastewater and this in turn will help the city to meet its chloride compliance limits.

As a home or business owner, check how often you softener regenerates, you can save money by using less salt and using less water.