



City of
St. Francis
NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2016 | VOL. 1, NO. 4

Change: A Year in Review

Some days we look around the city and it doesn't look like much has changed. There are people who wish change would happen fast and those that wish it wouldn't happen at all. The fact is, change is inevitable.

The primary focus of the Community Development Department is to manage the changes that occur in economic development and residential growth. This department is the first place to see what is changing. Some of the changes moving forward include the development of townhomes, a proposed assisted living facility and redevelopment of the dilapidated gas station. We are excited to see how these projects progress in 2017 as tools have been put in place for them to move forward.

The residential growth in the City continues as 41 new residential lots opened in the Rum River Bluffs 2nd Addition subdivision. Currently St. Francis has only 11% (or 246 parcels) available for new construction, but those vacant lots are moving as 2016 brought us 33 permits for new homes. Permits also show households are investing into their homes through improvements as they choose to stay in St. Francis. According to a report by the Association of Realtors, home sales are up in St. Francis along with average sales prices. To help bring all the changes together and plan for the future, a planning effort known as St. Francis Forward is underway for the Bridge Street and Hwy 47 corridors. This will be another tool to guide the City in the efforts to provide quality residential and business growth. Visit our department website to learn more about the Community Development updates, forms or programs.

Message from your Mayor



As I write this, my last newsletter, I have been reflecting on my 14 years in public service for the City of St. Francis and want to thank you, the voters, for the privilege of serving you. I have

seen many changes over the years and am proud of the fact that I leave the council with the City on a solid foundation and poised for future growth.

We have had several inquiries lately with regards to stormwater grants from the Met Council. Staff has looked into this and

found out that the City of St. Francis is ineligible for these. These grants are only available for Watershed Districts or Watershed Management Organizations.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Update: Last year we implemented a household income survey. Because of the results, we were eligible for an additional \$6,000,000 (round number) in WIF Grant funding from the State. Because the State Legislature did not pass the Bonding Bill, those monies have not been approved for disbursement. The Governor has refused to call a special session so the Bonding Bill could be passed. We currently have a loan from the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority for

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Visit us on social media!





Santa is Coming to the St. Francis Police Department!



Bring your camera and tell Santa
what the perfect gift will be.

Thursday, December 15

5:00 - 7:00 PM

4058 St. Francis Blvd

Cookies!

Coffee!

Apple Cider!



Event Calendar

- Dec 3: **Breakfast with Santa**, American Legion 9 a.m.
- Dec 5: **Council Meeting**, ISD 15 District Office 6 p.m.
- Dec 7: **Community Tree Lighting**, Woodbury Park 6 p.m.
- Dec 8: **Santa on the Firetruck**, Various Neighborhoods 6 p.m.
- Dec 15: **Santa is Coming**, Police Department 5 p.m.
- Dec 17: **Basketball Bingo**, American Legion 3:30 p.m.
- Dec 18: **Gladiators Breakfast**, American Legion 8 a.m.
- Dec 19: **Council Meeting**, ISD 15 District Office 6 p.m.
- Dec 21: **Planning Commission Meeting**, ISD 15 District Office 6 p.m.
- Dec 26: **City Offices Closed** (Christmas Holiday Observed)
- Jan 2: **City Offices Closed** (New Year's Day Observed)
- Jan 3: **Council Meeting**, ISD 15 District Office 6 p.m.
- Jan 16: **City Offices Closed** (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
- Jan 17: **Council Meeting**, ISD 15 District Office 6 p.m.
- Jan 18: **Planning Commission Meeting**, ISD 15 District Office 6 p.m.
- Jan 28: **SFHS Choir Fundraiser**, American Legion 4 p.m.
- Feb 11: **Remembering the King**, American Legion 5:30 p.m.
- Feb 15: **Planning Commission Meeting**, ISD 15 District Office 6 p.m.

Recipe Corner

Best Brunch Egg Bake!

Recipe by Megan Krape



Ingredients

- 8 slices bread, cubed
- 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 cup shredded monterey jack cheese
- 10 eggs
- 2 cups milk
- 2 teaspoons dry mustard
- 2 teaspoons dill
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon white pepper
- salt
- 1/2 small yellow onion, chopped

** Optional: Add chives, bell peppers, mushrooms, or broccoli.*

Directions

1. Prepare a 9x13 pan (greased)
2. Spread cubed bread evenly; cover with cheese.
3. Beat eggs until light and fluffy.
4. Add remaining ingredients.
5. Pour over bread and refrigerate overnight
6. Bake for 50 minutes at 350 degrees or until set.

Eddie Eagle *flew* into this November's Gun Safety Class to help educate the children on being safe around guns.



Watch for the spring newsletter for upcoming classes and come meet Eddie Eagle in person!

Winter Tips

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.



Please do not...

Do not blow, shovel, or push snow from your driveway into the street. It will end up back in your driveway from the plow and it is illegal.

Do not place your garbage cans in the street. Make sure there is a spot for them at the edge of your driveway.

Do not park your vehicle in the street. (No parking is allowed on any city street during the months of November through May from 1 a.m. to 11 a.m. and/or during a snow event. A snow event occurs when there is a snowfall of 2" or more and ends when the roads have been cleared to full width.)

And as always...

Please help keep fire hydrants clear next to your home.

Mayor...from page 1

the balance of the project after the original \$3,000,000 grant. We are still eligible for the \$6,000,000 IF either the Governor calls a special session or the Bonding Bill is passed. I have made several requests both in writing and verbally to one of the Governor's Advisors for a face-to-face meeting with the Governor. I will also be in contact with Speaker Daudt and Senator Benson.

My congratulations to our new incoming Mayor and Council Members. I wish the very best for you as you face the upcoming challenges of navigating state and federal unfunded mandates and will lend my support in any way I can.

In closing, I would like to give a very special thanks to our Saint Francis Ambassadors! They travel many thousands of miles every year all over the state representing the City of Saint Francis in an extremely positive manner.

'Tis the season

Now is the ideal time to check for drafts and seal air leaks around windows and doors. Some self-help websites suggest a candle or match to find air drafts, but there are safer options. A tool called a smoke pencil is available at most home centers and will allow you to detect drafts and air leaks. Another inexpensive option is a bulb syringe with baby powder.

Once issues are identified, you can determine the proper method of caulking or gasketing to resolve the issue. Be aware of freezing temperatures as this can affect the curing ability of many caulking products.

Programmable thermostats are now required for new construction homes and have proven to be a huge energy saver. Consider installing a thermostat that can adjust the temperature to be more comfortable when you are home at night, and lower heating costs when you are away.

In Loving Memory of Police Chief Jake Rehling



EOW 11/16/2016

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Chief Jake Rehling. Each of us are grieving the passing of a tremendous person who will be greatly missed by all. Our hearts and thoughts go out to his family and loved ones.

Rest in Peace Jake and thank you for your service.

Furnace and water heater "tune-ups" are well worth the time and money as they reduce energy consumption and prolong the life of the appliances. Mechanical and plumbing contractors can get your equipment ready for the winter weather.

One more thing, never underestimate the value of quality YouTube videos and home improvement websites as they can offer other suggestions for money saving tips and annual maintenance. Any contractors you invite into your home should be licensed and insured; make sure to check references.





Waste Water Treatment Plant Progress

Major progress since the last fall update includes:

- The Operation building is nearly complete. Electricians are wiring all the pumps, motors and process controls. HVAC work has started.
- The two clarifiers are complete. The protective domes have been placed on both and all mechanical equipment is working.
- Pipe work for the aeration basins is complete. Few minor finishes are left. Electrical work remains for this.
- The Bio solids tank is finished. City staff completed walk-through inspections.
- Crews continue to work on the Tertiary building. HVAC equipment is being installed. Process equipment continues to be installed. Electricians continue to install wire and cable for equipment. Aeration Pipe work remains.
- Pipe has been installed in the new influent lift station. Electrical work is nearly completed for this structure.
- Roughly 1200 feet of water main for the facility has been installed.
- Crews are finishing effluent pipe work.
- Crews continue to do site grading.

www.knowtheflow.us

Reducing your garbage

Every day, the average person produces 4.3 pounds of waste. By reducing the garbage you produce and recycling more, you can save money with less garbage pickups. Here are a few ways to reduce the amount of garbage you discard.

1. Use reusable containers and bags when traveling or shopping.
2. Purchase large containers of items or buy in bulk. Try to avoid buying individually wrapped items such as single-serve containers or small packages.
3. Start a compost in your backyard. Combining food scraps with leaves and yard trimmings can make a great compost for your garden or plants. Plus, the added benefit of reducing the smell of a stinky garbage.
4. Purchase materials made of recycled content. They can be cheaper in price and almost always can be recycled again.
5. Reduce your unwanted junk mail! The average resident in America receives over 30 pounds of junk mail per year. Sign up for the “do not mail list” to reduce your junk mail, it is free!

Local Election Results



Mayor

(Two Year Term)

Steven Feldman	1672
Jerry Tveit	1607

Two Council Members

(Four Year Term)

Robert Bauer	1647
Joseph Muehlbauer	1411
Tim Brown	1134
Richard Orpen	832

The new council will take the oath of office on January 3, 2017.

Effective November 5, 2016, Councilmember Chris McClish resigned. Applications are being accepted to fill this vacancy through December 7th. More information to apply can be found at stfrancismn.org or by visiting City Hall.

A Future Generation of Operators

Each year, we have 4th graders from Cedar Creek, East Bethel and St. Francis Elementary (11 individual classes this year), visit the City of St. Francis Water Treatment Facility. While in class, each student builds a mock water filter using household items such as pop bottles, coffee filters or cheese cloth.

The students later apply what they've learned in class to the water treatment plant while touring the facility. Both students and teachers can see first-hand how we filter iron and manganese from our drinking water.



Q & A: Utility Rates

The City will be implementing the second phase of the water and wastewater rate increases on December 1, 2016 for bills due January 10, 2017. At the June 1, 2015 City Council Meeting, the City approved rate increases for water and wastewater rates. These rate increases only apply to City Water and City Sewer users. Below are some frequently asked questions regarding the rates:

Why is the City raising rates again, they just raised them in November of 2015?

The City originally proposed to raise water and wastewater rates in the Spring of 2015. The proposed rate increases were supposed to be an 85% increase in wastewater and a 45% increase in water rates. The City realized that would be a dramatic spike in rates and decided to phase in the rate increases – about half in November 2015 and about half in December 2016, for bills due January 10, 2017. The overall increases ended up totaling 40% Sewer and 20% Water in November 2015 and 40% Sewer and 20% Water in December 2016.

Why is the City raising these utility rates?

The City is constructing a new Wastewater Treatment Facility that is planned to be completed by the Fall of 2017. The wastewater treatment facility was constructed for two main reasons. First, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has standards for wastewater treatment and the City had issues meeting these standards. The MPCA has statutory authority to fine the City up to \$10,000 per day for noncompliance. Also, the new wastewater treatment facility allows for the City to grow and add additional connections to the water and sewer utilities. Prior to the new facility, the City had capacity to allow an additional 250 connections to the system.

The City had approximately 256 residential lots that had at least received preliminary plat approval. The City also had approximately 23 commercial lots with an estimated 82 additional connections that could be added. Therefore, the City was on track to exceed the capacity for the system. These numbers do not include any new development opportunities the City could also accommodate.

Why does the City want to add additional users to the water and sewer systems?

Every new connection to the water system and wastewater system brings in \$3,060 and \$4,284 in revenue respectively. In addition, each new user helps drive down the cost to existing users through their monthly usage of the systems. Finally, having additional capacity allows for future development opportunities to attract or expand businesses, provide essential services in the community through development, and increase the population to expand the tax base.

Ok, what is the final dollar impact this will have on the typical residential user?

			11/1/2015 Increase	12/1/2016 Increase
Consumption (gals)	2014	2015	2016	2017
1000	\$35.93	\$35.93	\$46.49	\$60.55
2000	\$45.08	\$45.08	\$58.45	\$76.28
3000	\$54.23	\$54.23	\$70.41	\$92.00
4000	\$63.38	\$63.38	\$82.37	\$107.73
5000	\$72.53	\$72.53	\$94.33	\$123.45

Why are water rates increasing?

In 2006, a rate study suggested rates should be at \$15.00 for a base rate and \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons. Prior to the increases in 2015, the rates were at \$13.75 for a base rate and \$4.25 per 1,000 gallons. The combination of the slowed housing market around 2007 and the tough economic conditions resulted in the City using cash balances to offset any shortfall in revenues. Expenses in the water fund have continued to increase and the City is raising rates to ensure there is no shortfall in the water fund.

For inquiries regarding the rate increase, please contact city@stfrancismn.org.

Chamber Currents

A publication of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce, St. Francis, Minnesota

WINTER 2016

Annual Dinner

*Open to St. Francis Area Chamber
of Commerce members, guests and
the general public.*

Friday, January 27th, 2017
The Refuge Golf Club

*The St. Francis Area Chamber
of Commerce exists to serve its
members and better
the community.*

*To find out more or to
become a member:
call: 763-438-5163
or visit us online:
www.stfrancischamber.org*

Quick Dates

Mark these dates on your calendar. Visit www.stfrancischamber.org for more details.

December 14
Networking Breakfast - Beef O'Brady's

December 21
Board Meeting - St. Francis
Community Center

January 11
Networking Breakfast - Beef O'Brady's

January 18
Board Meeting - St. Francis
Community Center

January 27
Annual Dinner - Refuge Golf Club

June 9-11
Pioneer Days 2017

*Thank you to all the candidates
and public attendees that
participated in our Meet the
Candidates Forums, and
Congratulations to the newly
elected School Board Members,
City Council Members, and
Mayor.*



Are you getting the Chamber's eNews?

Did you know the Chamber has an email newsletter? Chamber eNews is distributed one to two times per month; it is the best way to stay up to date on Chamber news and events. You are automatically signed up when you join the Chamber. If you haven't been receiving it, check your spam folder. Anyone can sign up to receive the newsletter. Let us know if you or someone you know would like to receive it.

St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Members

ABC Newspapers	Crown Electric, Inc.	Minnesota Star Realty	St. Francis Insurance Agency, Inc.
Ace Solid Waste, Inc.	Custom Catering	North Anoka County Emergency Foodshelf	St. Francis Lions
Advanced Automotive Care	Dairy Queen/Orange Julius	North Anoka Plumbing, Inc.	St. Francis Physical Therapy
Advanced Roofing & Siding Inc.	Dennis Philp Construction, Inc.	Northstar Outdoors, Inc.	St. Francis True Value Hardware
American Family Insurance - Mary Dresch	Dugout Bar and Grill	Nowthen Plumbing	St. Francis United Methodist Church
American Mortgage and Equity Consultants Inc	Dusty's Drain Cleaning, Inc.	Opp Family Chiropractic, P.A.	St. Francis Veterinary Clinic
Anoka Hennepin Credit Union	Edward Jones Investments	Patriot Lanes Bar & Grill	Steve's Collision
Anoka Ramsey Community College	Elaine M. Mustari, CPA	Pillar Signs and Graphics	Subway - Oak Grove
Anytime Fitness	EZ TEEZ	Premier Specialties	Subway - St. Francis
Barna, Guzy & Steffen, LTD	Farmers Insurance - Vann Rogers Agency LLC	Printing Unlimited	Super America
Beef 'O' Brady's	Gerdin Auto & Tire	Reliance Electric	T & W Adventures
Bolton and Menk, Inc.	Goodrich Pharmacy	RE/MAX Results - Larry D. Anderson	TC Net-Works, Inc.
BTO Signs	Hidden Haven Golf Club	RE/MAX Results - Michelle Anderson	That Other Thrift Store
Captain's on Long Lake	Highland Money Management, Inc.	Rum River Tree Farm	The Bridge
Casey's General Store	Isanti Retail Meats, LLC	Sara Sauer C.P.A., LLC	The Oaks of Lake George
CellOnly	ISD 15 - The Courier	Schroeder's Creekside Stables	The Ponds Golf Course & Restaurant
Central Heating & Cooling, LLC	ISD 15	St. Francis Bottle Shop	The Refuge Golf Club & Restaurant
City of St. Francis	Lakeside Cabinets and Woodworking	St. Francis Collision & Glass	Trinity Lutheran Church & School
Collision 2000	Legal Shield	St. Francis Dental Care, P.A.	Tru-Cut Lawns, Inc.
Connexus Energy	Mansetti's Pizza & Pasta	St. Francis Fire Department	Tyrone Transportation, Inc.
County Market	McDonald's		Village Bank

Welcome New Members!

RE/MAX Results - Michelle Anderson, Farmers Insurance - Vann Rogers Agency LLC

Board of Directors

President:

Joe Raus (through 2016)
Premier Specialties,
president@stfrancischamber.org

Vice President:

Eric Schmoll (through 2017),
American Mortgage & Equity
Consultants, Inc.,
vp@stfrancischamber.org

Co-Treasurer:

Kerby Scherer, (through 2016)
St. Francis Subway,
treasurer@stfrancischamber.org

Co-Treasurer:

Brenda Jacobs, (through 2018)
St. Francis Dental,
treasurer@stfrancischamber.org

Secretary:

Shannon Mart (through 2018)
Anoka Hennepin Credit Union,
secretary@stfrancischamber.org

Directors:

-Joe Buhn (through 2017)
The Refuge Golf Club
-Sam Schudi (through 2017)
Pillar Signs & Graphics
-Lindsey Johnson (through 2016) –
St. Francis Physical Therapy

Service Representatives:

Tony & Carrie Derkos
TC Net-Works, Inc.
chamber@stfrancischamber.org

Promote your business at monthly breakfasts

Breakfast with the Chamber is held the second Wednesday of every month, 8-9 a.m. and is open to Chamber members and guests. Locations vary - Check the website for more details.

Would you like the opportunity to have 10 minutes to exclusively promote your business to others at an upcoming breakfast? Contact us if you would like to present information about the products and services you provide during our Sunrise Spotlight. This opportunity is ongoing, first come, first served.





23340 Cree Street NW
St. Francis, MN 55070

city@stfrancismn.org
www.stfrancismn.org

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St. Francis Forward

(re)Development Plans for the City of St. Francis, MN



The City of St. Francis is preparing a redevelopment master plan!

What does that mean?

We are looking at opportunities to create and improve businesses along Bridge Street and Highway 47.

What do we need from you?

We need to hear what you would like to see in St. Francis, where you would like to see development, and how we can help make it happen.

Take the survey by December 15:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StFrancisForward>

The funding for this plan has been provided through the Anoka County Housing and Redevelopment Authority.



City of St. Francis Photo Contest

The City of St. Francis is running a photo contest from December 1st - February 28th. The winner of the contest will have their photo featured in the next city newsletter! All submissions will be online.

See stfrancismn.org/photo-contest for details!

