

the CIVIC

October 2018

NEWSLETTER

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Advisory Referendum on Road Improvement Funding Set for November 6th

The St. Francis Common Council approved holding an Advisory Referendum to be held in the City of St. Francis on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. The following question provides an opportunity for the public to provide input to the Common Council:

“Street Improvement Costs. Should the City of St. Francis increase property taxes in order to reduce the use of special assessments to pay costs of future street improvement projects?”

Street Improvement Costs Frequently Asked Questions

1. How does the City currently pay for Street Improvement costs?

Per Section 10-3 of the City Code of Ordinances, the cost of paving City streets, alleys and sidewalks is currently paid by special assessment of abutting property owners. Affected property owners are special assessed for street improvements (pavement, curb and gutter, sidewalk, and driveway) based on a cost per linear foot basis.

2. What is a special assessment?

A special assessment is a charge levied by the City against property to pay for the costs of an improvement that benefits the property. The authority of a special assessment is provided in State Statute §66.0703 which provides municipalities the ability to special assess property for the health, safety and welfare of the public.

3. How much is a typical special assessment and how is it paid?

The total amount of special assessment varies based on the total cost of improvements

however, it is not uncommon for a special assessment to exceed \$10,000. Property owners may pay this amount as a lump sum or may repay the costs of the improvements over a ten-year period based on principal and interest.

4. How much will property taxes increase if the City uses property taxes as the primary means of funding street improvements?

Due to levy limits, debt service would be used to fund street improvements as approved annually by the St. Francis Common Council. Debt service, interest and principal, is typically financed over a ten year period. The increased cost to the average home owner (\$150,000 home) is approximately \$15 per year each year annually for the next 10 years or a \$150 total increase to your property taxes after year ten. This amount may vary slightly from year to year based on total annual amount borrowed and interest rates.

5. What is the advantage or disadvantage of paying for street improvements using property taxes?

One advantage of paying for street improvements through property taxes is that costs are spread over all property tax payers. A disadvantage of paying for street improvements using property taxes is that almost 30% of the City's total property is tax-exempt and do not pay property taxes.

6. Does this affect any special assessment paid on past street improvements?

No. All past street improvements which were special assessed and are due and payable or paid in full are not refundable. This would only affect future street improvements.

Remember to vote Tuesday, November 6th!

Polls are open 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM statewide.



Aldermanic Districts 1 & 3
vote at the Community Center
(Lions Club)
Aldermanic District 2 votes at
City Hall.

To find your polling place visit our website at
www.stfranciswi.org
or call City Hall at (414) 481-2300.

1ST ANNUAL CITY OF ST. FRANCIS CHRISTMAS PARADE



On August 21st, The City Council approved of sponsoring a new 1st Annual City of St. Francis Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 1st. The parade will begin at 3:00 PM. Beginning at Vretenar Park on Lunham Avenue, it will head west for one block to Packard Avenue, then three blocks north to Howard Avenue, and finally three blocks west to end at the Civic Center.

After the parade, a Christmas tree lighting ceremony will take place on the front lawn of the Civic Center and refreshments will be served in the City Fire Department. Santa Claus will be in attendance so bring the kids (whether they were naughty or nice over the last year)!

Don't miss this exciting new parade to kick off the holiday season here in St. Francis!

**Come Join Us!
Saturday
December 1st
3:00 PM**

**ST. FRANCIS
TRICK-OR-TREAT
SUNDAY,
OCTOBER
28TH
5:00-7:00 PM**

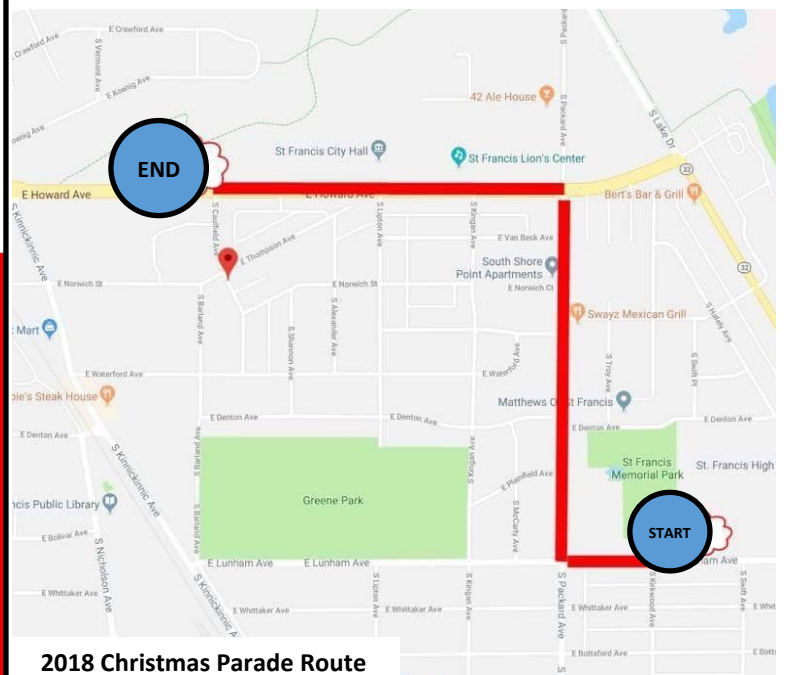
Please leave your porch light on
if you are participating!

FALL LEAF PICK UP:

Fall leaf pick up by the City began on September 24th. The final day for leaf collection pick up will be November 25th. The leaves are collected citywide beginning on one side of the City and working towards the opposite side. It takes about one week during peak collection to make one trip throughout the City. Please place only leaves in the gutter: branches and other garden wastes are not permitted.

Recycling Center Winter Hours:

Winter hours begin November 1st and end March 1st.
Monday - 4:00 - 6:00 PM
Wednesday - Closed
Saturday - 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM



2018 Christmas Parade Route