

City of St. Francis
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St. Francis, WI 53235

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Fax: (414) 481-6483
www.stfranciswi.org

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Residential Customer
Saint Francis, WI 53235

City Administrator

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City Clerk / Treasurer

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Police Department

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City Engineer/Director of Public Works
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St. Francis Library

4230 S. Nicholson Avenue
(414) 481-7323
www.stfrancislibrary.org

Visit Us Online:
www.stfranciswi.org



City Property Owners Experience Market Revaluation of Assessments

The State of Wisconsin requires municipalities to perform a market revaluation when total assessed values vary from market values by more than 10%. Market revaluation is a comparison of similar property sales and not based on year to year improvements, so a property could experience a change to assessed value with no new improvements to the property. St. Francis completed a market revaluation in 2013 when assessed values were 112% of market value and again in 2020 when assessed values were 89% of market values. Single family home market conditions in 2013 were based on depressed housing sales coming out of the 2008 Great Recession leading to 65% of single family properties seeing reductions in their assessed values.

In 2020, single family home market conditions were vastly different, with historic low interest rates, high construction costs, and high housing rental rates that drove single family property sales significantly higher than assessed values. The average assessed value increase was 14% across the City in 2020.

This was good news for increasing the equity in your home, but was bad news for real estate taxes. Many of the same properties that experienced significant tax reductions after 2013 also experienced tax increases in 2020 all due to changes to their assessed value.

There are a number of components that determine your total tax bill. While your tax bill is payable to the City of St. Francis, the City portion represents 34% of your total tax bill. The other taxing jurisdictions are St. Francis School District, Milwaukee County, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and Milwaukee Area Technical College.

The **Net Mill Rate** on your tax bill is comprised of all the taxing jurisdictions' levies divided by the City's total assessed value. The Net Mill Rate times the total assessed value of your property determines your **Total Taxes**. The State provides further discounts from your Total Taxes which may include **School Levy Tax Credit, First Dollar Credit** and **Lottery Credit**. First Dollar Credit applies to all parcels with improvements of a building or structure and Lottery Credit is available to all property owners where the parcel is their primary residence. The County also provides a **Sales Tax Credit** through their levy. Applying these discounts reduces your real estate taxes to the **Net Property Tax**. The Net Property Tax is then adjusted for **Special Assessments** (typically street improvements), **Delinquent Charges** (past due water and sewer utility charges) and a **Recycling Fee**.

(continued)

Mayor

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Cell (414) 335-0434

**City Council
District 1**

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Steve Wattawa
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District 2

**Council President
Donald Brickner**
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**Municipal Judge
Honorable Peter Hemmer**
(414) 481-2300 Ext 135

(continued from front)

Your Net Property Tax bill has a number of components that may change on an annual basis, determining what you pay. For instance, the Sales Tax Credit and the Lottery Credit go up or down annually based on consumer purchases of taxable items in Milwaukee County and the number of lottery tickets sold across the state.

In addition, the Net Mill Rate is affected by the total assessed value of the City. The total assessed value includes your property's total assessed value plus assessments of all other existing property and **Net New Construction Growth** completed by January 1st each year.

Net New Construction Growth in St. Francis is primarily focused within designated Tax Incremental Districts (TID). Total Net New Construction Growth within the City's TID districts has increased the City's total assessed value by \$64,088,700, as reported within State Annual TID Finance Reports. Net New Construction Growth reduces all property owner's real estate taxes because it reduces the Net Mill Rate.

So in a nutshell, Net New Construction Growth within the City reduced your Net Property Taxes by 11.14% for 2020, or about \$500 on an average \$160,000 home.

For all of these reasons, real estate property taxes vary from year to year. We have a tendency to forget when they go down and be disgruntled when they go up. However, in the long run, we often find that on average real estate taxes fall within inflation for all the services that they pay for.

~ Written by City Administrator Mark Johnsrud

2020 BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE PLANTER BED SPONSORS

In 2018, the Beautification Committee, with Common Council approval, launched a Planter Bed Sponsorship Program. The program has been very successful. In 2018, 12 of the 19 beds were sponsored. In 2019, all 19 beds were sponsored. The planter beds are sponsored by local businesses, civic organizations, and residents. And, while 2020 has been a challenging year for many, 9 of the 19 beds were sponsored this year. The 2020 sponsors were:

GOLD LEVEL (\$200/bed)	SILVER LEVEL (\$100/bed)	BRONZE LEVEL (\$50/bed)
FM Auto Service Center	St. Francis Historical Society	St. Francis DPW
Bontempo Plumbing	Layton Fruit Market	
Dobie's Steak House	PDQ Tooling	
Carl and Karen Kitzinger		
Friends of St. Francis Library		

The Beautification Committee and Common Council thank these sponsors for helping to keep the City planter beds looking beautiful especially during these unprecedented times.

Watch for news flashes from the City website about the 2021 Planter Bed Sponsorship Program!

Health Department Update

The South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Department continues to work on controlling the Coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic. Please monitor our Facebook site and Website for the most up to date information.

As we move to the next phase of response towards vaccination, please remember that COVID-19 is still present in the community and we should all be monitoring ourselves for signs and symptoms. If you suspect that you have COVID-19: get tested! www.testupmke.com has the most up to date information on where to get tested.

Things to remember and to keep you safe at this time:

Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

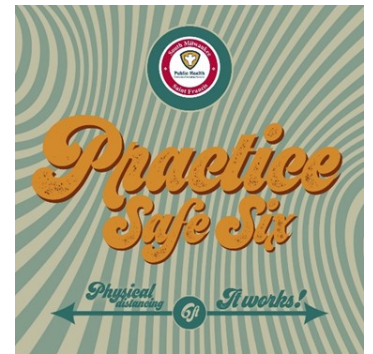
If you develop signs and symptoms, self-isolate by keeping your distance from others and, if you are able, wear a mask.

Gatherings

The recommendation is to keep mass gatherings at less than 10 people until there is a substantial decrease in the number of people testing positive. If attending a small gathering maintain physical distance and use protective measures.

Helpful Links:

- <https://www.facebook.com/southmilwaukee.stfrancishealthdepartment>
- <http://smwi.org/300/Coronavirus-COVID-19-Updates>



Did you know ?

That Brust Avenue in St. Francis was named for Christopher Brust who subdivided some of his land at St. Francis and Kansas Avenues in 1891 and named the street for himself? Brust helped organize Immaculate Conception Church in Bay View and Sacred Heart Church in St. Francis. His son Peter was an architect and designed the infirmary, library, and Miller Gym located on the St. Francis Seminary grounds. His grandson Leo Brust became an Axillary Bishop for the Milwaukee Catholic Archdiocese in the 1960s.

These and many other fun historical facts - **and the stories behind them** - are awaiting you at the St. Francis Historical Society.

Become a member-supporter and receive the quarterly newsletter.

Visit the displays in the St. Francis Civic Center rotunda. **Log on** to the Society's Facebook page or website!



(414) 316-4391
st.fransishistoricalsociety@gmail.com
stfranciswihistoricalsociety.org

January 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2021

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28						

March 2021

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April 2021

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Brown garbage cart is collected weekly.

Green recycle cart is collected every other week on shaded weeks.

Residents will receive up to two (2) bulk item collections per month at no additional charge. Residents must contact Johns Disposal to schedule a special bulk pick up.

Call Johns Disposal at 888-473-4701
www.johnsdisposal.com
E-mail: office@johnsdisposal.com

May 2021

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June 2021

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July 2021

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August 2021

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29	30	31				

~~☒~~ Holidays (no collection)

New Years Day-Friday 1/1/2021
Friday collection will be delayed by one day.

Memorial Day- Monday 05/31/2021
Collection will be delayed by one day.

Independence Day- Sunday 07/04/2021
Collection will be have no delay.

Labor Day- Monday 9/6/2021
Collection will be delayed by one day.

September 2021

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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October 2021

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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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December 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Thanksgiving-Thursday 11/25/2021
Thursday and Friday collection will be delayed by one day.

Christmas Day- Saturday 12/25/2021
Collection will have no delay.

The brown garbage cart is emptied on a weekly basis. The green recycling cart is emptied on an every other week basis. Large items, extra cans, bags or other items can be taken with scheduled bulk collections. Please call 888-473-4700 for more information or to schedule a special bulk pick up.



Basement Bedrooms

2020 was certainly an interesting year, and hopefully 2021 will find us recovering to some sort of normalcy. There continues to be a considerable amount of construction taking place even with the pandemic, including a sizable amount of home improvements and remodeling. One recurring question we have been receiving centers around installing additional sleeping areas in the basement of existing dwellings. Since there are numerous codes relating to building, HVAC, and electrical, we will concentrate on a few of the more important building requirements to keep this from becoming a full code book.

The first thing to consider is Uniform Dwelling Code SPS 321.03(5) that covers exiting requirements from basements used for sleeping areas. This requires a door to the exterior, a stairway to the floor above, and either a door to the garage that must also have a man door to the exterior or an egress window. Egress windows used for exiting purposes must meet sizing requirements according to SPS 321.03(6) meaning:

1. The window must be openable from the inside without the use of tools or removal of a sash.
2. The net clear window opening must be at least 20 inches by 24 inches irrespective of height or width.
3. The lowest point shall be no more than 60 inches above the floor. However if the lowest point is above 46 inches above the floor, a permanent platform or fixture shall be installed such that the flat surface at least 20 inches wide and 9 inches deep is located no more than 46 inches directly below the clear opening.

Also as a part of the discussion, there are requirements found in SPS 321.05(1) which state habitable rooms shall have natural light by means of glazed openings which must be at least 8% of the net floor area. For instance if the room dimension is 10'X12', the net floor area of 120 sq.ft. would require at least a glazing area of at least of 10 sq.ft. This would also meet the minimum requirements of natural ventilation of at least 3.5% of the net floor area of the habitable room required under SPS 321.05(2).

Codes for smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are covered in SPS 321.09 and requires the following:

1. A listed and labeled multi-station smoke alarm with battery back-up shall be installed in the following locations:
 - a. Inside each sleeping room.
 - b. On floor levels that contain one or more sleeping areas, and alarm shall be installed outside of the sleeping rooms, within 21 feet of the centerline of the door opening to any sleeping room and in an exit path from any sleeping room.
2. For new construction which commenced after February 1, 2011, the addition of a listed and labeled carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed and maintained in one- and two-family dwellings.

This is just a quick snapshot of a few code requirements you or your builder will need to address when remodeling and installing a new sleeping area in your existing basement area. This is by far not all of the codes that will apply to this type of installation. All construction codes can be found on the Wisconsin DSPS website, or if you have questions please feel free to reach out to us and we will help you find the specifics that pertain to your installation.

**City Yard Waste Recycling Center
2125 E. Bolivar Avenue**

**YARD WASTE ONLY
Proof of residency required.**

Brush, branches, grass clippings, hay accepted.

NO used motor oil, batteries, tires.
Call John's for a bulk pick up of these items.

This is a self-help facility. Accommodations for disabled persons are available.

NOTE: Branches should be left as long as possible. Do not mix grass, leaves, twig, branches-they are sorted separately. No root balls, sod, or dirt.

SPECIAL YARD DEBRIS PICK-UPS
Brush or tree stumps can be picked up by the City for a fee. Call the City for more information.

STORM DAMAGE
After a storm, large wind damaged branches will be picked up by the City at no cost. Branches must be in the terrace (cannot block the street or sidewalk)

Summer Hours:
April 1st - October 31st
Monday 4:00-7:00pm
Wednesday 9:30am-11:30am
Saturday 9:00am-2:00pm
(Closed Holidays)

Winter Hours:
November 1st - March 31st
Monday 4:00-6:00pm
Saturday 10:00am to 2:00pm
(Closed Holidays)

St. Francis School District



Long Range Planning Information Available to All Citizens

With the close of 2020 comes the culmination of the St Francis School District's Long-Range Facilities Planning and a movement toward an April 2021 referendum, should the School Board adopt the resolution.

The District has gathered feedback throughout the facility planning process, and together with architect GROTH Design Group and construction partner, CG Schmidt, over 40 options were considered, studied, vetted and ultimately culled based on associated tax-impact and feasibility.

History

Beginning in May 2020, Long Range Facilities Planning began with a District-wide assessment that evaluated the condition of each school. A multitude of needs were identified and categorized to prioritize the following for our students, staff and community:

- Provide necessary funding to maintain quality programs and services
- Improve safety, security, and accessibility
- Ensure educational spaces meet the needs of students today and tomorrow
- Complete infrastructure and facility maintenance projects that are too large to be funded from our annual operating budget
- Update and expand athletic facilities for school and community

The District heard that residents wanted greater input in the planning process than in the past. "We Listen Before We Plan," was oft repeated as the District hosted multiple community input sessions to share the results of the study and gathered stakeholders' ideas through surveys and polls. This feedback was used to develop the more than 40 potential facility solutions. The School Board reviewed all 40 options, identified two optimal facility solutions and surveyed the community to gauge response.

Transparency

"It's imperative that each citizen has access to information," said Superintendent Mark Elworthy. "We're really promoting the website link where all the information about the process is stored. The needs, history, survey results, district mailings and a frequently updated FAQ section are all found on the site. And, my door is wide open for questions."

The needs include: renovations and additions at the Willow Glen Primary and Deer Creek Intermediate Campuses; safety, security and accessibility updates, Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) area addition and renovations, and theater upgrades at the High School; district-wide capital maintenance and building improvements; athletic facility upgrades and improvements at the High School, including the addition of restroom facilities; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment.

For more information, please visit <https://www.stfrancisschools.org/district/facilities-planning.cfm>, email Superintendent Mark Elworthy at melwort@sfsd.k12.wi.us or call (414) 747-3900.

We Listen Before We Plan

NEW!!! City Garbage & Recycling Information

Alley/Curb Service

Johns Disposal Service carts (brown-garbage, green-recycle) shall be placed for collection at ground level at the alley/curb. Carts should not be placed in the alley right of way or in the street. Carts may not be placed more than 24 hours prior to collection, and should be removed within 12 hours after collection.

Remember that materials must be out by 6:00 AM on collection day or collection is not guaranteed.

Weekly Cart Garbage Collection Items

Garbage (refuse / rubbish / trash) includes food waste, household waste, and plant based fruit and vegetable waste and it must be properly contained in the BROWN Johns Disposal Service cart. Garbage should still be bagged and not loose in the cart. Garbage that does not fit in the cart should be saved for the following week.

Bulk Collection Items

Each residential property is allowed 2 bulk collections per month up to 24 bulk collections per year. You must call Johns Disposal Service at (262) 473-4700 to schedule your bulk collection. The following items can be set out for bulk collection:

- Additional bagged garbage and/or recycling
- Automotive batteries
- Used motor and cooking oil
- Non-commercial vehicle tires - 2 per month up to 8 per year per residence
- Sinks, tubs, toilets (w/ tank removed)
- Furniture, chairs, sofas, beds, dressers, etc.
- Appliances such as refrigerators, washers, dryers.
- Building materials: lumber (w/ nails removed or bent down) metal, pipes, etc.
- Small auto parts (empty of all liquids)
- Water based paint: let paint dry up outdoors or use absorbent (oil dry, kitty litter, sawdust, etc.) to soak up

paint, and place in container for disposal. For oil based paint call (414) 225-2066 or visit www.mmsd.com for hazardous materials information.

- Carpets, rolled and tied in lengths of 4' or less (less than 60 pounds per item, please keep carpet dry)
- Ashes in paper bags
- Evergreen trees and wreaths (holiday season)
- Other oversize items not banned from landfill

Curbside Electronics Collection

Each property is allowed up to 2 electronic collections per year. They are counted as one bulk collection. Only one electronic item can be collected such as one TV or one computer system (keyboard, monitor, tower).

Recycling Information

Please recycle the following in the GREEN cart:

- Plastic bottles and containers #1-7
- Glass bottles and jars
- Aluminum cans, tin or steel cans, foil, and pie tins
- Paperboard from cereal, cracker, snack boxes, etc.
- Paper cardboard from cartons, dairy, and juice containers
- Flattened cardboard
- Junk mail
- Phone books
- Magazines, newspapers, office paper
- Brown paper bags

Missed Pick-ups

If you believe you have been missed by the regular garbage or recycle collection (remember collection is subject to holiday adjustments), please notify Johns Disposal Service at (262) 473-4700 Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Special Collections

If you are in need of a special collection due to excess of garbage or recyclable materials, you may:

- Call Johns Disposal Service (262) 473-4700 for a quote.
- Purchase a Bagster from a local hardware store. Instructions on collection are included with purchase, and there is a fee for collection.
- Order a dumpster: a permit from the City of St. Francis is required to have a dumpster on your property or in the street.



Items Banned from Landfill

- Air conditioners
- Furnaces
- Dehumidifiers
- Water heaters
- Water softeners
- Dishwashers
- Washers, dryers
- Stoves, ovens, microwaves
- Refrigerators/freezers
- Electronic equipment

Find information on how to recycle these items online:

- www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/recycling
- www.recyclemorewisconsin.org
- www.uwm.edu/shwec/wrmd
- www.refrigerantrecoveryinc.net
- www.appliancerecycling.net
- www.refrigerant-depot.com

The Library is Open with Limited Hours and Services

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri: 10am – 3pm
 Tuesday: 2pm – 7pm
 Saturday: 10am – 2pm

We will continue offering curbside service during these same hours for those patrons that aren't quite ready to come back into the building. No appointment necessary. When your holds are ready for pickup, just park in the designated spot, call the library to let us know you have arrived, and we will bring your items out to the cart in front of the building.



Beginning January 11, the whole family can register and track their reading progress through Beanstack. Find a link on our website or log on to stfrancislibrary.beanstack.org to get started. Paper reading logs will still be available to those who choose to stop in the library to register for the program.

Complete information about the reading program is available on the library's website.

Online Resources

Be sure to check out these online resources available through the library:

- **Brainfuse HelpNow** – Live tutors, practice tests, study tools and more available on demand for all ages and levels.
- **Brainfuse JobNow** – Get help creating or polishing a resume, brush up on interview skills, or discover your best career fit.
- **Gale Courses** – A wide range of interactive, instructor led courses that you can take entirely online.
- **OverDrive** – A free service that allows you to select and download audiobooks, eBooks, videos, or music to play directly on your computer or other supported portable devices.
- **Hoopla** – Thousands of downloadable eBooks, audiobooks, comics, movies, and music available for mobile or online access.
- **Transparent Language** – A fun, effective, and engaging experience for learners of all levels looking to build their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in a foreign language.

Check our website and social media to stay up-to-date on all the library has to offer, including our popular Take & Make kits and virtual programs!
www.stfrancislibrary.org



(414) 481-7323

www.stfrancislibrary.org

Find our full calendar of events, as well as the monthly newsletter online at our website www.stfrancislibrary.org.



St. Francis School District

Thank You for the Generosity of Parents, Families, and the Community

We can not educate our students without your support and assistance!

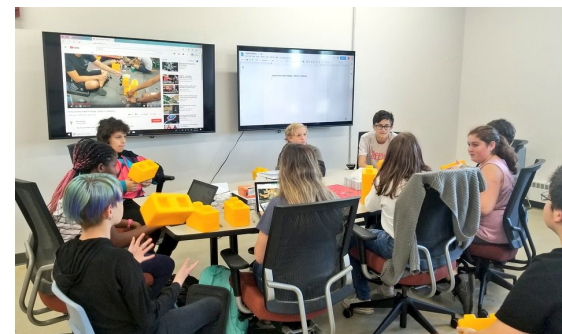
- Athletic / Music Boosters
- Partnerships with SFFD, City, and FBI to put first aid kits in every instructional setting with donations from many

community groups including the SFFD, St. Francis Lions, and St. Francis Civic Association

- Deer Creek hosted a Fundraiser for Honor Flight Participants
- Staff AED Training provided by the St. Francis Fire Department
- St. Francis Holiday Parade
- Student Food Drives with the Hunger Task Force

District Awards/Accomplishments

- The St. Francis Community took 1st in our category for National Night Out (2019)
- New academic offerings in math, science, and graphic arts; community partnership Building 2 Learn (trades)
- Added student support with a full-time nurse, tablets for grades K4 and K5, new software to improve communication and the delivery of instruction
- Since 2017, all students (grades 6-12) have a Chromebook with technology readily available for all students
- All schools met or exceeded expectations with the 2019 Wisconsin Schools State Report Card, with Willow Glen Primary School significantly exceeding expectations with a score of 91 out of 100
- 2020 Middle School and High School Poms both won State in the Hip Hop Category; other State finishes: HS - 3rd in Poms, MS - 2nd in Jazz



Robotics / Fab Lab

The St. Francis School District created the Innovation Lab, opened fall of 2019, by upgrading existing and unused space at Deer Creek Intermediate School. A 2019 WEDC Fab Lab Grant was used to create the St. Francis Fab Lab. This equipment will allow students to create and manufacture prototypes to enhance lab work in the study of science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics for students in grades 4-8.

Manny's Munchies

The goal of Manny's Mariner Munchies is to provide quality baked goods to St. Francis School District employees. These baked goods are made by students with developmental disabilities in the High School Transition Program. Running this bake shop will help the students learn job skills for their future. St. Francis High School is the proud school of Dominic Dean, Milwaukee Food Reviewer.



Student Activities - Twenty (20) student activities at the High School

- A comprehensive Recreation Program run for all children attending.
- Multiple offerings of student daycare offered in the District.

Student Athletics - Twenty-one (21) sports offered

- Three State Championships: 1975 Boys Cross Country, 1975-76 Boys Basketball, 1976 Boys Track & Field
- State Runner-up - 2004 Football
- Twelve (12) Conference Championships including 2019 Softball Team



Police Department News

Winter Reminders

Snow Emergencies: A snow emergency exists when 3" or more of snow falls in the City within a 24 hour period. A snow emergency may also be called by the Mayor, or in his absence, the President of the City Council, when weather forecasts predict an accumulation of 3" or more within 24 hours. Such emergency exists until snow-plowing operations are completed, as declared by the Mayor or his designee.

Whenever such emergency exists or is declared, the Mayor, or in his absence, the President of the City Council shall cause announcement of the emergency to be broadcast by radio and television stations prior to 10PM. **All vehicles shall be moved by 9AM following the declaration.**

Snow Removal: The Owner, occupant, or person in charge of any building fronting upon or adjoining any sidewalk, and owner or person of an unoccupied or occupied dwelling or lot frontage upon such buildings fronting upon or adjoining any sidewalk shall cause the same to be kept clear of any snow or ice within (24 hours) after such snow or ice has ceased to fall. The streets that the snow emergency parking applies can be found on the City website under the public works tab.

A cold car is better than no car!

More than 100 cars are stolen in Milwaukee County every week.

City Ordinance 435-19 does not allow for owners to leave their vehicle operating unattended. The ordinance does allow for the owner to have their car running unoccupied if they have a remote start, and the vehicle is locked.



Package Delivery Reminders:

With all those packages being delivered during and after the holiday season, it's inevitable that some will be stolen from front porches or other delivery areas.

It is frustrating if thieves target your house or neighborhood. Here are some tips that may help keep your packages safe.

- ◆ **Don't let your packages sit.** Monitor when your packages are expected to arrive. Leaving your packages on your porch or in your mailbox overnight or for a couple of days is an open invitation to thieves.
- ◆ **Talk to your neighbors.** If you have neighbors who are home during the day, consider asking them to collect your packages on the delivery date. More than likely, they'll be willing to help which can eliminate some holiday stress for you.
- ◆ **Consider shipping to an alternate address.** Depending on where you work, your company may allow you to ship your packages directly to your place of business. Check with management to see if this is acceptable. In addition, consider shipping your packages to a friend or relative's home.
- ◆ **Ship to the store.** Some retailers allow you to ship to a store near you. While this isn't as convenient, it does provide security and helps avoid long lines at the register. Some

stores even offer special parking near the entrance.

- ◆ **Hi tech solutions.** If you order numerous packages all year round, it may be wise to invest in technology-based solutions. Examples of this may include mobile apps, security cameras, or services such as Package Guard.
- ◆ **Install a package lockbox.** If you have deliveries showing up daily you may want to consider installing a lockbox. These boxes can be bolted to your front porch. Once installed, share your code with your delivery service and you should be good to go.
- ◆ **Signature on delivery.** Consider having your packages delivered only when someone is available to sign for them.
- ◆ **Insure your packages.** Because package theft increases around the holidays, it may be wise to insure your packages this time of year. This way, if your package is stolen, you can be reimbursed for your loss.
- ◆ **Ship to your local pack and ship store.** If you have a UPS, FedEx, or other locally owned packing and shipping store nearby, consider sending your packages there.



St. Francis Police Department 2021 Citizen Academy

The St. Francis Police Department Citizen Academy is a program designed to give participants a first hand look at the St. Francis Police Department. It is designed to improve communication with the citizens and the Police Department. It can help increase citizen awareness of a police officer's job responsibilities.

Participants will be able to do a ride along with an officer and participate in some of the same training officers go through. Some of the topics that will be covered are: Criminal Investigation, O.W.I. Enforcement, Patrol Procedures and the K-9 Program.

The requirements for the Academy are:

- 18 years or older
- Live, work, or own property in the City of St. Francis
- Have a clear criminal record
- Attendance of 80% of the scheduled sessions is required for graduation
- Valid driver's license.

Applications are available at the Police Department or on the department website.

Don't delay, class size is limited and fills up fast. Submit your completed application to the St. Francis Police Department to be considered for the next exciting class!

For more information, contact Community Resource Sergeant Shane Czerniakowski at:

The dates for the 2021 Academy are March 24th—May 19th and applications are being accepted now.

**(414) 316-4341 or
Email: shane.czern@stfranwi.org**

Fire Department News



I don't know about you, but I miss the old days. The days when if you walked into a store wearing a mask, you were there to start some trouble. I'm disappointed in myself for even having a favorite mask, and I can tell reality is a distant memory when I'm walking into a grocery store with my kids and I'm the one that forgot his mask. I drove up north once and my son didn't tell me he forgot his shoes until it was time to use a gas station bathroom. We used the bathroom in shifts, sharing my shoes (in case you were wondering)...

But it's important to remember all the normal dangers in life still exist. People still get the common cold and influenza, and there are plenty of things that can harm us in spite of the pandemic. While we were careful to weigh the risks of holiday travel and other social gatherings, we should also be aware of a few things that we can do to keep ourselves and our families safe around our homes this time of year.

- **Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors:** CO is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that can be produced by any fuel burning appliance. CO detectors should be placed on every floor of your home (same as smoke detectors) and tested monthly. It would benefit you to keep the instruction manual and note what the different "beeps" mean. 4 beeps and a pause may mean something different than 1 beep every minute, and the instructions (or the label on back of the alarm) may help if the alarm activates.
- **Reduce clutter in your home:** Spring cleaning is great, but who wants to start cleaning when the nice weather actually shows up? Clean now and schedule your bulk pick up before you fill the house with all the wonderful things you received in December. You won't have room for the air fryer if you don't get rid of the bread maker, I mean the space age blender, I mean the panini maker.



- **Take care of your furnace:** Don't wait until something is wrong before you replace the filter. Cheap, thin filters should be replaced monthly, and better filters can be replaced at longer intervals. If your furnace is over ten years old, get it checked annually. Preventative maintenance saves money. If it's a newer furnace, every other year might be ok.

I don't know if anyone reads these and heads into their basement to start cleaning or replace their furnace filter, but I can offer this instead: go to your neighbors and see if they need help. Reach out to that neighbor down the street and see if she needs anything from the store while you're going, or while your kids are shoveling this winter, send them next door too. Do a good turn, think of others, and take care of each other. Have a great new year!

Your St. Francis Fire Department

