

City of St. Francis

3400 E. Howard Avenue
St. Francis, WI 53235

Phone: (414) 481-2300
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www.stfranciswi.org

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The CIVIC Newsletter

3400 E. HOWARD AVENUE ST. FRANCIS, WISCONSIN 53235 • (414) 481-2300 • Winter 2023

*****ECRWSEDDM****

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Saint Francis, WI 53235

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Police Department

Chief Kevin Hunter
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Building Inspection

Gary Meerschaert
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St. Francis Library

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



Visit Us Online:
www.stfranciswi.org

SNOW... LOVE IT...OR HATE IT!

We are all accustomed to snow. Whether it is a warm winter, or a cold winter, snow comes early or sometimes late, we all have to deal with it. To some snow is a nuisance, but to others it is an opportunity to enjoy. For the City, it is just another challenge in maintaining safe roads and sidewalks for residents and the general public.

A typical snow event in St. Francis is attacked by the Department of Public Works (DPW) often in the middle of night or early morning hours to ensure City streets are plowed and salted for morning and afternoon rush hours. DPW crews use various equipment from large wing plows and salters to pickup trucks to deal with public right of ways, alleys and public parking lots. Sidewalks are cleared with a machine called the "ToolCat" which can use a plow, snowblower or a mechanical broom. Often the DPW staff will work long hours to ensure that streets and alleys are cleared before we head to work or school.

The City has a few Ordinances which we ask persons to follow to make dealing with snow removal easy and safe for everyone. Here is a summary of what everyone needs to know:

- Any owner, occupant or person in charge of a building must remove all snow and ice from public sidewalks to the entire width within 24 hours of the end of a snow event.
- Owners of corner lots must remove all snow and ice on all pedestrian ramps and sidewalks in the right of way to the back of the curb.
- Snow may not be shoveled or blown into a City street or alley.
- Snow may not be plowed across a City street or alley.
- Snow may not be shoveled or blown onto a neighbor's property without their permission.
- Declared snow emergencies require persons to remove all vehicles from arterial streets posted on the City website for the duration of the declared emergency. Vehicles left on the street may be subject to being ticketed and/or towed to allow emergency plowing to occur. Any declared snow emergency is posted on the City website and media is notified of the emergency.

Please be aware of traffic when entering street right of ways during shoveling or blowing snow. Often you may have your back to traffic where drivers have a difficult time seeing you in darkness or low visibility conditions. Always take that extra moment to be safe and yield to traffic to allow vehicles to pass.

Fire hydrants are important to all of us and contribute to lower property insurance rates in the City. Should you have a fire hydrant near your property, please take a moment to clear deep snow from around the hydrant. A clear hydrant can literally save minutes in dealing with fire.

Love it or hate it, we will always have to deal with snow.

Mayor

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City Council

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Debbie Fliss

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Municipal Judge

Honorable Peter Hemmer

(414) 481-2300 Ext 135

Common Council President

St. Francis, formerly part of the Town of Lake, is beautifully located along the shores of Lake Michigan. Incorporated July 24, 1951, as the City of St. Francis, our City leaves a lasting impression upon visitors despite its small geographical footprint of 2.57 sq. miles. St. Francis is a community within the Milwaukee metropolitan area embracing small town values.

St. Francis Public Library was built in 1986, and offers many events and programs for all age groups. Full list of events available on www.stfrancislibrary.org. New for this year, the Library added Passes for free access to local attractions. The passes can be checked out on a first come first serve basis. Some attractions include Milwaukee County Zoo, Betty Brinn Children’s Museum, and Discovery World. The library will also begin conducting Annual Giving Campaigns to fund specific projects that are not covered by the library’s operating budget. For the inaugural project in 2024, the Library Board has decided to transform one of the study rooms on the main level into a Nursing Lounge. The fundraising goal for this campaign is \$3,000. The funds will help cover the cost of a loveseat, nursing pillow, nursing stool, privacy curtains on the windows, an activity basket with books for older siblings, and other amenities to create a comfortable and private space for parents to feed their infants. Libraries are easy outings for new parents, and providing a Nursing Lounge for those parents will encourage them to continue using the library without having to schedule library visits around feeding times. There will be many ways to support the Annual Giving Campaign. Keep an eye out on social media and in our newsletters for raffles, links to Amazon Wish Lists, and more. Fundraising and donation opportunities will be announced throughout the year, until the \$3,000 goal is met. I encourage you all to visit this great team and experience the benefits they add to our community.

St. Francis School District recently announced in the inaugural Edition of Mariner Magazine. This issue highlights the completion of final phases of \$30.6 million referendum project. St. Francis High School has partnered with “Rise Above the Cloud” to help educate students about the dangers of vaping. I am pleased to share that St. Francis High School has been awarded a \$15,000 grant for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) programming at the high school! We are so incredibly excited. The aims and goals of the programming will be to do the following:

- Increase Education and Awareness of the dangers of vaping and AODA through school-wide assemblies
- Empowering students to make SFHS a vape/drug free school environment by creating a student group.
- Engaging your Parents/Families by building their capacity to support you.

SFHS was awarded a \$500,000 grant to help achievement, close gaps for all students, and provide programming before and after school. They are now offering tutoring, study tables, mentoring, and some new groups (podcasting, Breakfast Bunch for strength and conditioning, and more to come). These opportunities are FREE to students. Please encourage your students to take advantage of these opportunities!

Willow Glen Primary School has been honored with the distinction of being recognized as a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School by the US Department of Education. One of only eight Wisconsin Schools to receive this distinction in 2023. Amanda Dehli was Awarded 2023 South Shore Chamber Educator of the Year. Recent State School Report Cards indicate our school district is learning, growing, and rising! The dedicated staff of the St. Francis School District continue to help all students learn and grow in their educational trajectory. Willow Glenn and Deer Creek earned “Exceeding Expectations” and the High School is “Meeting Expectations” with continued overall improvement. The School District Goal is to “Significantly Exceed Expectations” within the next 5 years. They are on their way, go Mariner Nation!

With closure of many local sources of recreational activities, our St. Francis School District Recreation Department continues the strong commitment to activities for our community. Programs include Art Rec Club, Basketball, Chess Club, Dance, Judo, Jukado martial arts, POMS, Robotics, Storybook STEM Club, Volleyball, and numerous other activities. The Rec Dept. also offers Summer School education and activities. This is a highly affordable resource to all St. Francis residents, with a nominal fee for non-St. Francis residents.

St. Francis Fire Department has elevated service provision adding Paramedic service for advanced emergency care capabilities. St. Francis Police Department honors Canine Bane legacy, passing the torch to Canine Riggs. Last fall, Detective Holly McManus drove home one of the most spectacular monuments befitting our Canine Officers. The dedication ceremony was attended by people from across the nation. The statue is located in front of City Hall on the west side of the Council Chambers. Well done Detective McManus your dedication to this project was very impressive. Our Police Chief and Fire Chief continue to rise to the staffing challenges presented through retirements. Positive reputation of their teams serves well for recruitment efforts, these professionals have created a welcoming environment in our amazing community. Both departments have experienced retirements and new additions this past year, and they both serve as educational resources for their respective peer groups by offering Honor Guard Training and other advanced training seminars. These events are attended by teams from all states, including as far away as Hawaii. Both departments additionally promote advanced training of team members supporting participation in events abroad to add to the service provision for our community.

Our DPW has risen to the challenges of leadership and process changes. Their commitment to excellence is notable, and their adapting to the changes have been inspiring as they pave the way as a team to seek better alternatives to past practice and process evolution. The improvements to the organization and utilization of the current DPW facilities is admirable.

The fluctuating financial market has slowed but not stopped growth in our amazing community. Hidden Ponds development has begun to complete this long interrupted project. The Bluffs development groundbreaking is anticipated this Spring.

I am truly honored to represent this amazing community, serving with our elected officials and St. Francis City Department Heads.

Respectfully,
Shawn M. Feirer
District 2 Alderman, Common Council President

City of Saint Francis

2024

January 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		


March 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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 262-473-4700

E-mail: office@johnsdisposal.com

www.johnsdisposal.com

May 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2024


Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

 Holidays (no collection)

New Years Day - Monday 1/1/2024
All collections will be delayed by one day.

Memorial Day - Monday 5/27/2024
All collections will be delayed by one day.

Independence Day - Thursday - 7/4/2024
Thursday & Friday collections will be delayed by one day

Labor Day - Monday 9/2/2024
All collections will be delayed by one day.

Please place all materials out the night before or by 6 a.m. on your day of service.

Collection Schedule

September 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Thanksgiving - Thursday 11/28/2024
Thursday & Friday collection will be delayed by one day

Christmas Day - Wednesday 12/25/2024
Wednesday - Friday collection will be delayed by one day

The brown garbage cart is emptied on a weekly basis. The recycling (green cart) is emptied every other week and not emptied by the bulk collection crews. Large items, extra cans or bags can be taken with the scheduled bulk collections. Construction materials and electronics are not included in bulk collection.

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, twigs, branches-they are stored 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 11:00am to 2:00pm
(Closed Holidays)



STORMWATER INFORMATION/EDUCATION

The City of St. Francis partners with Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc. for the information and education portion of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit.

Get more information on how to protect the water entering Lake Michigan at www.respectourwaters.org/facts-at-home

Street Light Out:

To report a street light that is out, please call WE Energies at (800) 662-4797 or go to the WE Energies website at www.we-energies.com. Click on the tab at the top labeled "Outages and Safety". The page will then show the different types of outages to report. Click on "Street light or area light not working". The next page will give you a button to report the outage online or a phone number to call. If you choose to report online, click the button. The next page will ask you for an address or a pole number and has a picture of the different tags with the pole numbers for reporting.

Did You Know?

In 1982, a band shell was added to the St. Francis Memorial Park, now known as Milton Vretenar Memorial Park. The park was created in the late 1970s from land purchased from the St. Francis School Board for \$1. With an audience of 300, the band shell was dedicated on August 28, 1982.

The construction of a band shell had been on the late Mayor Vretenar's mind since 1978. Architect John Spoden sketched a drawing of a band shell structure on a piece of notebook paper, and the mayor carried around the sketch for four years. Unfortunately, Spoden died before the band shell, based on his sketch, was completed. Recently, the band shell was named the Alan "Al" Richards Memorial Park Band Shell for a former mayor of St. Francis.



The band shell is the venue for "St. Francis Concerts in the Park" held every Thursday evening during the summer months, free of charge, at 7:00 pm. The "St. Francis Concerts in the Park" is supported by three separate organizations: The St. Francis Civic Association, the St. Francis Lions' Club, and St. Francis Days.

The St. Francis band shell is included on a website documenting band shells across the state: <https://www.wibandshellsandstands.com/st-francis.html>



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



St. Francis
Public School District
Open Enrollment
Award Winning Schools

OPEN ENROLLMENT STARTS
FEBRUARY 5 - APRIL 30, 2024 BY 4PM

About Us :

Located on the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan in the City of St. Francis, the St. Francis Public School District proudly offers a wide range of opportunities for students both in the classroom & in our school community consisting of notable athletic programs, music, drama & visual arts programs, as well as academic competition teams, such as DECA and Robotics. Student learning is further enhanced through our STEAM programs, Advanced Placement courses, & newly renovated learning spaces across the District in ALL three schools. We are THE PUBLIC SCHOOL District of CHOICE serving over 1,100 students and families.

In partnership with our families, our highly qualified instructional staff is proudly committed to EMPOWER students, to ACHIEVE extraordinary success, and LEAD in an ever-changing diverse world.



Check out our School App!

Home of the Mariners
www.stfrancisschools.org



414-747-3901
lcollins@sfsd.k12.wi.us
4225 South Lake Drive
St. Francis, WI 53235

Police Department News

St. Francis Police Department 2024 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 as officers go through. Some of the topics that will be covered are:

- Criminal investigations
- O.W.I. enforcement
- Firearms
- Criminal and traffic laws
- Courtroom procedures
- Patrol procedures
- Processing of evidence
- Traffic stop demonstrations
- 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.

The next academy starts March 27th 2024. Classes are Wednesday nights from 6-9PM. The Academy will run each Wednesday through May 15th. Applications are available at the Police Department or on the department website. **Application deadline is March 11th, 2024.**

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



Fire Department News



Winter is here! The first day of winter is the shortest day of the year and the days get longer as winter progresses, so I tell myself it's ending as soon as it starts. It's not really true, but it helps me deal with the cold weather. Complaining about the weather is like complaining about your height: it might make you feel better, but there's not much you can do about it so we just deal with it instead. Part of dealing with it is preparing for it, so let's run down the list of our usual things-to-do:

- Get your furnace checked. Conventional wisdom says to get it checked every year, but it is probably less necessary with a new furnace. After 7 to 10 years of use a yearly service is a good idea. The main concern is to make sure there's no issues with carbon monoxide, but they'll inspect and clean your pilot light system, heat exchanger, the blower, and blower motor too. Don't wait until the subzero temperatures to learn you have an issue.
- If you have a gas snowblower, have fuel on hand. When you have a snow storm you'll want to stay off the roads as much as possible, so have the gas can full and ready. If you have an electric snowblower, bring the battery inside and keep it charged. Some brands use the same battery for a trimmer as they do for the snowblower, and you may not realize it's not plugged in until you need it.
- Have your salt ready to use so a lack of preparedness doesn't translate to an emergency visit to the local hardware store. When you need it, they'll probably be out of it. That's Murphys Law.
- Gas and groceries. It feels like people are better prepared for a Packer Game than inclement weather. When bad weather is on the way, it's a great idea to have more than a quarter tank of gas and some food in the fridge. Enough to get through a few days at least. It keeps us safe to stay off the roads until the crews can get the snow under control. If you do head out, be patient with others on the road and people in the stores. With bad weather comes poor driving conditions, so give yourself extra time to get around.
- Last but not least, take care of your neighbors. Check on the elderly or infirm. Check on the relatives you don't see often. Everyone needs food, everyone needs warmth, everyone needs a little help some times. You've got a big snowblower? Run it up the block a bit and help your neighbors out. That elderly couple with the corner lot would certainly appreciate it.

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.recyclenewwisconsin.org
www.uwm.edu/shwec/wrmd
www.refrigerantrecoveryinc.net
www.appliancerecycling.net
www.refrigerant-depot.com

Public Works

Report a Spill:

Anyone witnessing the dumping or spilling of oil, antifreeze, or any other hazardous substance can report the spill to the Department of Natural Resources on their 24-hour hotline at 1-800-943-0003.

Brush or tree stumps (with all the dirt knocked off) can be picked up by the City for a fee. Call the Engineering Department for more information.

Water in Basement:

If your sanitary sewer is backing up in your basement, this is an emergency.

Storm Damage:

After a storm, large wind damaged branches will be picked up by the City at no cost. Call the Engineering Department during normal business hours for more information.

To speak to someone for assistance call (414) 481-2300 extension 4319, Monday – Friday 8am to 4:30pm. For assistance after hours or on weekends, call the Police Department at (414) 481-2232.

Special Yard Debris Pick-ups:

2024 ELECTION INFORMATION

The Presidential Preference Primary Election will be held April 2, 2024. In-person absentee voting will begin on Tuesday, March 19th and run from 8:00AM - 4:45PM weekdays until Thursday, March 28th. City Hall will be closed on Friday, March 29th in observance of Good Friday, however absentee voting will be conducted between the hours of 8:00AM - 5:00PM by appointment only. Appointments must be scheduled with the City Clerk no later than 4:30PM on Thursday March 28th by calling City Hall at (414) 481-2300. Photo ID is required to request an in-person absentee ballot.

Applications for absentee ballots by mail for the April election can be made online at www.myvote.wi.gov, in person at the Clerk's office at 3400 E. Howard Avenue, or by mail. Photo ID may be required for requesting an absentee ballot by mail. Please request early to allow for mail delivery times. The final day to request an absentee ballot by mail is Thursday, March 28th.

ELECTION INSPECTORS

The Fall Primary Election will be held August 13th, 2024, and the Fall General Election will be held November 5th, 2024. We expect large turnouts for these elections and while we have a dedicated pool of current election inspectors, we might need a few extra inspectors for these busy elections! If you have an interest in helping us, or even being on standby as an alternate in case of last minute worker cancellations, please consider submitting an application. It can be found in the elections portion of our website: www.stfransicwi.org/elections, or you can pick up a copy at City Hall. We will hold additional training sessions as needed later in the summer.

**UPDATE YOUR REGISTRATION OR
REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOTS:**



WWW.MYVOTE.WI.GOV

Wisconsin Child Passenger Safety

Puffy coats and car seats

Puffy winter coats affect how the harness in a car seat fits your child. The extra coat padding makes it hard to get the harness to fit correctly. The harness might feel snug, but the extra material will compress in a crash, making the harness too loose. Loose harness straps means your child will not be safe in a crash.



How to know if a coat is safe

Here's a simple way to check whether your child's coat is safe to wear underneath a harness:

Step 1: Put the coat on your child.

Step 2: Sit them in the car seat. Buckle and tighten the harness.

Step 3: Without loosening the harness, unbuckle it, and remove your child from the car seat.

Step 4: Take the coat off.

Step 5: Strap your child back into the car seat without adjusting the straps. If the harness is too loose, the coat is too thick to wear under the harness.



Four inches matter

A puffy coat adds four inches of slack to car seat harness straps. Imagine how loose your pants would be if you added four inches to the waist. A loose car-seat harness greatly increases the risk of injury to your child.

Tips for bundling up

- Put your child in thin, warm layers like fleece.
- After the child is snug in the car seat harness, layer blankets over the top of the harness, or put the coat on backward over the arms and shoulders.
- For older children in booster seats, buckle the seatbelt, then put the coat on backward over the arms and shoulders.



Resources

Car seat resources and information:

childrenswi.org/carseats

Car seat installation and check events:

safekidswi.org/events

Email: carseatwi@childrenswi.org

Phone: (855) 224-3692



Proper fit is the key to safety.



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Health Department

Winter Weather Preparedness

Winter weather hazards can come in many forms, and can cause many harmful impacts including car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, and other injuries. Get prepared for winter by following the helpful safety tips listed below.

At home – Keep the cold out this winter by insulating, caulking, and weather stripping your home. You should also make a habit of testing your carbon monoxide detectors and smoke alarms each winter. For financial assistance with home weatherization, please contact the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program at www.bit.ly/energybenefits.

On the go – You might experience the impacts of winter weather while in your car. To prevent this, clear all snow and ice from your vehicle before driving. If possible, keep your gas tank at least half full to prevent your gas-line from freezing, and never warm up your car while inside a closed garage as this could lead to carbon monoxide problems. Additionally, make sure to have an emergency kit with a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, water, nonperishable food, and jumper cables in your car. If trapped in your car, stay inside and try to call for help.

Self – During periods of extreme cold, try to limit your time outdoors. If you must go outside, wear multiple layers of warm clothing, and watch for any signs of frostbite or hypothermia. Signs and symptoms may include numbness, white or gray skin, shivering, exhaustion, confusion, or slurred speech. Go to a warm room and call for help if you or someone you know experiences these symptoms.


For more information on winter weather safety, visit www.ready.gov/winter-weather.



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Proceeds will support the creation of a nursing lounge

GIVE TODAY



Please mention the "2024 Giving Campaign" in the comments.



2024 GIVING CAMPAIGN

The St. Francis Public Library will begin conducting Annual Giving Campaigns to fund specific projects that are not covered by the Library's operating budget.

For our inaugural project in 2024, the Library Board has decided to transform one of the study rooms on the main level into a Nursing Lounge. The fundraising goal for this campaign is \$3,000. The funds will help cover the cost of a loveseat, nursing pillow, nursing stool, privacy curtains on the windows, an activity basket with books for older siblings, and other amenities to create a comfortable and private space for parents to feed their infants and pump.

Libraries are easy outings for new parents. Providing a Nursing Lounge for those parents will encourage them to continue using the Library without having to schedule Library visits around feeding times.

There will be many ways to support the Annual Giving Campaign. Keep an eye out on social media and in our newsletters for raffles, links to Amazon Wish Lists, and more. Fundraising and donation opportunities will be announced throughout the year, until our \$3,000 goal is met.



Writing Contest

Theme: Fables & Fairy Tales



Submit an original fable or fairy tale, the reimagining of a classic, a real-life fairy-tale experience, or something else that fits the theme.

For adults (18+) and teens (12-17). Cash prizes up to \$100 will be awarded for both age groups.

January 2 - February 29, 2024.

Details and entry forms available

at the Library or at

www.stfrancislibrary.org/WritingContest

Winter Reading Program

January 2 - February 29, 2024

Enter for a chance to win a \$25 Target Gift Card!

Log up to 20 titles on [Beanstack](http://Beanstack.stfrancislibrary.org) (stfrancislibrary.beanstack.org) or pick up a paper entry form at the Library.

- Open to all ages.
- All entries must be logged / turned in by February 29, 2024.
- Winners will be announced by March 9, 2024.



SIGN UP FOR OUR e-NEWSLETTER

www.stfrancislibrary.org



Technology Classes

Tech Help

Wednesday, January 10 from 2 - 3:30 pm

Wednesday, January 24 from 2 - 3:30 pm

Half hour, one-on-one sessions to help you get answers to your questions on library related services, resources, or basic device problems. Ages 18 and over. **Registration required.**

Welcome to Hoopla

Monday, January 15 from 1 - 2:30 pm

Learn about this digital resource where you can borrow eBooks, audiobooks, music, and more using your phone, iPad, or tablet. Come with questions, we're here to answer them. Ages 18 and over. **Registration required.**

Storytime

Toddler Storytime (ages 1.5 - 3)
Tuesdays, 10 - 10:30 am
January 9 - April 23

A Groovy Storytime (all ages)
Saturday January 13
10 - 10:45 am

Move & Groove (ages birth - 5)
Wednesdays, 10 - 10:30 am
January 10 - April 24

Let it Snow (all ages)
Tuesday, January 30
6:15 - 7 pm

Family Storytime (ages birth - 5)
Fridays, 10 - 10:30 am
January 12 - April 26

Brrr...It's Wintertime! (all ages)
Saturday, February 10
10 - 10:45 am

Yoga Storytime (ages 3 - 6)
Saturday, January 6
10 - 10:30 am
Saturday, February 17
10 - 10:30 am

Love Birds (all ages)
Tuesday, February 27
6:15 - 7 pm

No registration required.

Craft Supply Swap: DONATIONS WANTED!

Throughout the month of February we will be collecting any craft supplies that you no longer have a use for. Then, on Saturday, March 9 from 10am - 2 pm, we will host a Craft Supply Swap event. Anyone is invited to "shop" for "new to you" craft supplies.

- Please make sure donations are new or gently used.
- There will be no charge for supplies at the Craft Supply Swap, but there will be a limit of one bag per person (bags will be provided).
- Donations are appreciated, but not required to attend the Swap event.



Guess the winners of the 2024 Academy Awards for a chance to win a

\$25 Marcus Movie Gift Card!



Vote online or pick up a ballot at the Library beginning Monday, January 29.



The deadline to enter is March 9, 2024. For ages 16 & older.

Library Hours

Mon - Wed 9:30 am - 8 pm

Thu - Fri 9:30 am - 6 pm

Saturday 9:30 am - 4 pm

