

San Francisco Township Newsletter



JANUARY 2025

TOWNSHIP ELECTION RESULTS

Jeanne Aufderheide (301 votes) was elected to be our newest Township Board member for a four year term over incumbent Larry Schmidt (223 votes). She will be sworn in at the January Board meeting joining current members Scott Selken and Jim Olson.

Thank you, Larry, for your 20 years of service to our Township. Welcome to the Board, Jeanne.

TOWNSHIP TREASURER POSITION OPEN

Due to the election of current Township Treasurer, Jeanne Aufderheide, to the Board, there is an opening for a SFT treasurer. Ann Kastner has been appointed Deputy Treasurer until she or another candidate is appointed treasurer by the board. The Board is looking for candidates to apply for the position.

If you are interested in serving as the Township treasurer, please contact Heidi Schmidt, Township Clerk for information at heidisft@gmail.com

ELECTION NEWS

The polling place was extra busy on election day and poll workers were kept busy all day. **651 residents voted** at the 2024 November Election. Twelve election poll workers did their civic duty helping make everything run smoothly. Election judges put in time for testing equipment, setting up the polling place, working the election, and closing the polls. Thanks to all who helped make the election a good experience. Also special thanks to Supervisor Scott Selken for help with the setup.

CARVER COUNTY 2040 PLAN AND SFT TOWNSHIP POLICIES IN THE PLAN

The Town Hall was filled with about 30 residents attending the November 21, 2024 CAC meeting to hear Paul Moline and Kristen Larson from Carver County Department of Planning & Water Management. They addressed Carver County and San Francisco Township's policies for growth and development. They covered current and future land use; San Francisco Township policies for land use, water resources, parks, open spaces and trails, and transportation/road policies. Questions about parks and land use were of concern to some of the attendees at the meeting. These areas of concern are owned by the U.S. Game and Wildlife Department and not in the county plan. There was a consensus among attendees that it would be a good idea to have more meetings by others whose plans impact the citizens of our Township. Most stayed for the CAC (Citizens Advisory Committee) business meeting after the presentation. It was great to see such a good turnout. Keep tuned for more updates on speakers. THE CAC MEETS AT 7:00 PM AT THE TOWN HALL ON THE THURSDAY AFTER THE MONDAY BOARD MEETING. ALL RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

MEET YOUR TOWNSHIP BOARD

SCOTT SELKEN (BOARD CHAIR):

My wife, Kim, and I moved into the Township 24 years ago. We have three children: Hannah (25), Conner (21) and our still at home teenager Caleb. I work for the City of Chaska as the assistant Public Works Director. I have worked for the City for 28 years. I am also on the Carver County board of adjustments (Variances). I enjoy helping my neighbors navigate their way through the county rules and regulations. My favorite part of the Township is making sure we are keeping up with roads and bridges so we all can travel safely throughout our Township.

JIM OLSON (SUPERVISOR) :

I have been a lifelong resident of San Francisco Township. I graduated from Belle Plaine High School and the University of MN St. Paul with a BS degree. I have been married to my wife Bev for 37 years and we have two children: Andy (age 31) and Carter (age 27). I have had previous experience being on the Township Board. I was a supervisor from 1991 until 2003 until I started a new job and needed to travel for work. I currently work in the dairy industry and for hobbies I enjoy farming, traveling and being involved in grass roots government.

JEANNE AUFDERHEIDE (SUPERVISOR):

I have lived in MN most of my life. I grew up in the farming community of Gibbon, MN. (My parents were originally farmers.) I have lived in Carver county for close to 40 years and in SFT a total of 20 years. Professionally, I've held positions in a number of companies as an Information Technology Project Manager and currently consult for Boston Scientific. I am extremely family oriented and also have a strong passion for nature. San Francisco Township is the perfect environment to observe a wide variety of wildlife and also bird watch! I look forward to serving you on the Township Board.

DUST COATING FOR 2025

Concerned residents have approached the Board about reinstating some type of dust coating plan for next year. The Board is looking at current cost and alternatives solutions to be discussed at the January Board meeting. If you are interested in this topic, plan to attend the meeting on January 13, 2025 at 6:00 pm to learn more.



**IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!!
DO NOT PLOW SNOW ACROSS A TOWNSHIP
ROAD INTO THE DITCH.**

**THIS CREATES HAZARDS FOR BOTH
MOTORIST AND SNOWPLOWS.**

**Please find a spot on your property to pile
snow and keep it off Township roads.**

COUNTY ROAD 40 UPDATE

County Road 40 is nearing completion. It is paved all the way through and finishing work is scheduled for next spring. There have been concerns about the safety at the intersections with Township Roads. **The Board is encouraging citizens with concerns about about the road safety to contact our County Commissioner, John Fahey. He can be reached at:**

(612) 849-6298 jfahey@cp.carver.mn.us

FREE ONLINE CARVER COUNTY NEWS NOW AVAILABLE

To fill the news and information void following the closure of local newspapers in Eastern Carver County in April 2024, a group of concerned citizens began a nonprofit news organization covering the communities of Chaska, Chanhassen, Carver, Victoria and the surrounding region. To check it out use this link:

<https://cclocalnews.org/>

TOWNSHIP HALL ARTICLE IN WACONIA PATRIOT

Copy of article can be found on the Township Website!!

STARRY SKIES PRESENTS: DARK SKY WALK & MORE

Join us for a Starry Skies North program and explore the Rapid Lake Refuge after dark! This FREE experience includes a guided walk, local art viewing and many more hands-on activities that help us explore the mysteries of the night sky. Open to all ages. No experience needed, come learn about the wonders of the darkness and how you can help reduce light pollution! Registration required!

Date and Time: Friday, February 28th from 6:00pm-9:00pm

Registration Information: 50 spots available

Location: Rapids Lake Visitor Center [15865 Rapids Lake Rd, Carver, MN 55315](https://www.fws.gov/locations/rapid-lake-refuge)

Registration Information: 50 spots available through [Signup.com](https://www.signup.com).

Activity Level: Medium-active, we will walk at a good walking pace and make some stops during the guided walk. There will be activities indoors and outdoors with varying degrees of movement.

More information at:

<https://www.fws.gov/event/starry-skies-north-presents-dark-sky-walk-more>

Activity Level: Medium-active, we will walk at a good walking pace and make some stops during the guided walk. There will be activities indoors and outdoors with varying degrees of movement.

GRAVEL NEEDED FOR 169/282 OVERPASS CONSTRUCTION

This project is starting in February of 2025 and will last for 3 years. It will need a lot of sand and bids are being taken now. Chard asked for pre-approval to increase truck count plus Saturday trucking before placing a bid. Trucks will be traveling south towards Jordan for this project. Most of the material will be needed in 2026. Trucks, if not from Chard, would probably travel from the Lundquist pit causing more traffic on County Road 11 north of the Chard pit.

LOU'S CORNER OF HISTORY

I recently read a 70 page booklet called CARVER COUNTY TODAY AND YESTERDAY (1858-Minnesota Statehood Centennial-1958) and a 72 page booklet titled HISTORY OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY-1882, If you look at a detailed map of Carver County, you see most townships are 36 square miles arranged in a 6 mile by 6 mile square. Because our county borders the meandering Minnesota River, San Francisco township is far from a 36-mile square.

San Francisco village was laid out in 1854 by William Foster. "The buildings in the SF village then consisted of a warehouse (40 feet long, one story) for the transferring of freight on account of the rapids, the store of Foster & Davis (20 x20 feet, one and a half stories), and a few shanties uninhabitable in inclement weather. Such was the first county seat of Carver County. In 1855, the first Board of County Commissioners held their meeting at this place as the county seat and was also the first meeting in 1856. The very next year (1856) from a county-wide vote, Chaska became the county seat and has held it every since (even though Waconia has tried to earn that status because it is centrally located inside the county).

Originally, when Carver County was created in 1855 and mapped, SF Township land area included most of everything you see on maps today, however it also included the 18 sections of land directly west of of our township making it the largest township in the county. On March 4, 1868, the 18 sections of land west of SF Township became Hancock Township in response to numerous signed petitions to County Commissioners. It's easy to see why they wanted their own township when you read early history records. Most of the early settlers of Hancock Township made their claims for land on the western of the township. They were 13 miles west of San Francisco village. Travel back then was mainly by foot or horseback and 13 miles was a long way to travel. Plus, San Francisco had been washed away by flood before that. They reasoned they would better off as their own township and the County Commissioners agreed with them. It is amazing what you learn when reading these old historical journals. Go out and make your own history in this new year!

**TOWNSHIP BOARD Meets on the 2nd MONDAY OF THE MONTH
6:00 PM SAN FRANCISCO TOWN HALL
17380 HOMESTEAD ROAD, CARVER MN 55315**

Website: sanfranciscotownship.com

SFT Phone # : 612-354-0032

Chair:	Scott Selken	(sselken.Sftownship@gmail.com)	612-490-9234
Supervisor:	Jeanne Aufderheide	(JAufderheide.SFT@gmail.com)	612-354-0032
Supervisor:	Jim Olson	(jolson@leedstonel.com)	952-486-2569
Clerk:	Heidi Schmidt	(HeidiSFT@gmail.com)	612-354-0032
Dep. Treas:	Anne Kastner	(akastner4@gmail.com)	612-240-7785

TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025 @ 7:00 SFT Town Hall

Please attend the SFT Annual Meeting. This meeting is run by the citizens. Citizens get to vote on budget and levy. It is also a time to bring matters of concern to the Board. Citizens can move to have items brought to the Board for future consideration. The Board does not make any decisions at this meeting.

2025 HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL 2025