

San Francisco Township Newsletter



MARCH 2026

2026 ANNUAL MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026 7:00 PM SAN FRANCISCO TOWNSHIP HALL

This meeting is totally run by the residents of the township.
The meeting will be moderated by a resident voted on by the attendees.
This is your chance to voice your concerns and ideas.
We will review 2025 Financial Report and vote on the proposed 2027 Levy.
Board members will be there to listen to your concerns.
Please attend and help make our Township the best in the county!

BOARD APPROVES INTERIOR REPAIR TO SECOND ENTRY

At the January Board meeting, the Board approved the contract with Sawhill Remodeling to do the work on the back entrance to make it compliant with ordinances. They will be insulating the basement, stabilizing access to basement, improving steps, fixing door and walls, and installing electrical outlets in main room. The work will begin in the spring.

ROAD AND DITCHES

Any concerns with roads like snow plowing, gravel, dust coating, ditches, etc. should be addressed to Scott Selken. He will contact the appropriate persons to address the problem. Scott Selken: 612-490-9234 Email: sselken.Sftownship@gmail.com



WHERE IS THIS?

**ANSWER IS IN THIS EDITION OF
SAN FRANCISCO TOWNSHIP
NEWSLETTER!**

2026 Elections Information

We will vote at the Town Hall on Aug. 11th for the Primary Election and on Nov. 3rd for the General Election. Polls are open from 8AM – 8PM. Senators, Representatives, Governor, Secretary of State and State Auditor and two Township positions will be on the ballot. Local residents will act as Election Judges. The judges get trained through Carver County and will participate in equipment testing. They are compensated a minimal amount for their time. TWO SUPERVISORS are up for election this year. This is a great way to get involved in your local government! No experience required. It is a 4 year term with 1 or 2 meetings per month.

If you are interested in being a supervisor or an election judge you will need to sign up with the clerk before the July 13th Board Meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDAR 2ND ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO TOWNSHIP PICNIC THURSDAY JUNE 18TH

Continuing the fun, food and fellowship!

CAC Planning meeting March 12 at Town Hall at 7:00 pm. All welcome!

We are looking for input as well as sponsors for the picnic!

2025 SFT ACCOUNTS YEAR END BALANCES

Old National Bank dated 12/31/2025 balances are as follows:

Checking Account:	\$291,174.65
CD 1:	\$285,344.30
CD 2:	\$462,739.94

Fun Facts about Townships in MN

Did you know there are 1806 townships in 87 counties in MN?

Townships make up 80% of the land versus Towns and Cities occupying 20%

Yet only 16% of MN population lives in a township.

Almost all townships (80%) have a population less than 1000

San Francisco Township population is 958.

Carver County Waste Collection Dates

The County will be holding two Special Waste Collections this year, one in the spring and one in the fall. These collections are open to all County residents, participants can drop off a variety of problem materials and household hazardous waste (tires, appliances, electronic waste, scrap metal, fluorescent lamps, batteries, paints, cleaners, garden chemicals, automotive fluids, etc.).

Many of these items are free to drop off, they do charge a fee for some things, pricing is listed on the RecycleCarver Facebook page. Collection is held at the Cologne Public Works Headquarters.

Dates are: May 16th 8AM-Noon and Sept 12th 8AM-6PM.

Rapid Lake Hosts Annual “Light and Seek”

Residents of San Francisco Township are lucky to have a dedicated crew of community volunteers who freeze approximately 1,000 ice luminaries that brighten a January night each year (this year, Jan. 30) – making walks around the Gehl-Mittelsted Farm sparkle.

Thanks to the dedication of a local crew of educators – Anna Edlund, Toni Dauwalter, and Shelley Rudolf – ice candles have been lighting the walking paths of Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center at the Minnesota National Wildlife Refuge along the Minnesota River, warming the spirits of locals since 2021.

“The original idea was that the simple elements of water and light draw us into the woods to share in an evening of community,” says Edlund, noting that the roots of the event track back 25 years. In the early years, the lights sparkled in the downtown area of Carver, along the river bottoms and dike. In recent years, luminaries, ice sculptures, and hanging stars have brightened the Wildlife Refuge’s walking paths. Those who needed a “warming hut” break headed indoors to the Visitor Center where they could make and take home lantern bags, read by castles of starlight, and experience northern lights art at night. “Seeing how the children carried the wonder of the luminary walk indoors was one of the best parts of the night,” said Rudolf. “The activities helped them connect what they’d just experienced outside to creativity and stories inside—and gave families a few extra moments of warmth and joy together.”

In addition to the Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center staff, Cullen and Cooper Dauwalter and Nick Robinson helped place the luminaries. Many other community volunteers froze the lanterns; sculptors Shelley Rudolf and Chris Przybylski contributed their ice art to the evening; and Carver Fire, USFWS, the Carver County Library (Chaska branch), SouthWest Transit, Thrivent Cares, River Wild Preschool and Master Naturalists helped make the evening shine. If we missed you this year, we hope to see you next year!

Francisco Village: The Story of a Ghost Town

A story in three part

Part One: The Founding and promising Beginnings

San Francisco was founded in 1854 by William McFadden Foster along the banks of the Minnesota River, near the rapids at what is now part of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Foster named the settlement after San Francisco, where he had lived briefly before moving to Minnesota.

Foster industriously purchased land, platted lots, and built the first store and a warehouse in hopes of creating a thriving river community. In the 1850’s, river traffic – primarily steamboats – was the key means of travel and commerce, and being near the rapids was seen as an opportunity to serve travelers and transfer freight:

In 1855, the Minnesota Territorial Legislature passed a law granting Foster his heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns the exclusive right and privilege for a period of fifteen years to keep and maintain a ferry at the specified crossing point on the Minnesota River at San Francisco. Mr. Foster was certainly an entrepreneur. His fares were as follows: foot passenger 12 ½ cents, horse and rider 25 cents, two-horse team with wagon 50 cents, each additional horse or yoke of oxen 25cents, loose cattle (per head): 12 ½ cents, and sheep or hogs (per head) 6 1/4cents.

By 1855-1856, San Francisco had become the first county seat of the newly created Carver County, hosted the first County Commissioners’ meetings in Foster’s warehouse. Foster was key in establishing basic services, including a United States Post Office which operated intermittently from 1856-1862. A formal town meeting in 1858 declared San Francisco an official town with elected officials.

(To be continued)

Adventure at Kelly Lake

By Cecelia Manning Pizzicato
Edited by Lou Longhenry (Feb. 2026)

I am the great-granddaughter of Richard Joseph Kelly (1844-1923), an Irish immigrant, and his wife, Katie Corcoran (1856-1932). Their son, John Henry Kelly (1885-1983), was my grandfather. My mother, Connie Manning (1929-?), is 96 years old. She is the last surviving child of John Henry Kelly and Mary Frances O'Neill (1886-1934).



When my grandfather passed away at the age of 98, I offered to go through the many boxes containing old photographs and documents. Among the many items I received, there were multiple audio cassette tapes of my grandpa talking about growing up in SFT (San Francisco Township). I am in the process of incorporating his tapes into a book, but in the meantime, I am more than happy to share some of these shorter stories with you. I have become very attached to the hardworking, faith driven, community-centered families who inhabited your township during the years 1855-1940. The Kellys were an important part of the SFT community and treasured the many friendships they developed. Richard was very involved in local politics, including serving as Carver County Commissioner and Superintendent of Schools. We have been told that my grandfather, John, helped rebuild School House #22 (now our historical Town Hall) after the first school burned down in 1917, but we can't confirm this with any documents. I do know that my grandpa and his siblings all attended the original school, and that my aunts, uncles and cousins attended the new school after it was rebuilt.



This land plat of a portion of SFT would have been drawn up about in about 1880. The Minnesota River forms the eastern boundary line of SFT in Carver County. On this map you can find **Kelly Lake (blue)**, where the following stories take place. To the left of Kelly Lake is the **Hugh Hoy Farm (green)**, which was later purchased by my grandpa, Richard Kelly. In 1857, Richard Kelly's older sister, Rose (1834-1917), married another Irish immigrant named Hugh Hoy (1832-1911) in Anoka County. In 1860, Hugh and several other men came up the Minnesota River looking for land to purchase. They disembarked at **Bristol's Ferry (orange)**, and Hugh selected undeveloped land in Sections 16 and 21 on the map. (It's hard to see!)

It was on this property that Hugh built the original Kelly Lake farmhouse, in which their 12 children were born. Richard Kelly bought the farm from Rose and Hugh around 1897 when the Hoy's moved to the city. Around 1910, the "Hoy House" burned to the ground and was rebuilt by Richard Kelly, the new house owner. They rebuilt the house. Some of the outbuildings are still standing and loved by the current owners (Gary and Gail Capaul). Sadly, all the family photos, records, and possessions were destroyed in the house fire. (2 B continued, 4 sure!!)

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) 2025 UPDATE

The Citizens Advisory Committee for San Francisco Township held meetings with three governmental agencies in 2025 to assess their future plans for San Francisco Township. A summary of these meetings is as follows:

US Fish and Wildlife (USFW) on June 12, 2025

1. Goal for the refuge is conservation, natural preservation, hiking, hunting and bird watching.
2. Acquire property with strategic value as it becomes available. Not soliciting purchases of property.
3. Facilities available for research, biology, educational and pollution control programs.
4. Discussion on paving Carver Highlands Drive to the refuge. Currently a township road.
5. Discussion on collaboration between Township and USFW to benefit both.

Met Council on September 11, 2025

1. Met Council provides regional planning and framework for comprehensive plan to the County for review. County gives input. Local entity handles zoning.
2. Met Council's focus includes metro water treatment facilities, transportation and parks.
3. Sewage treatment of waste water planning is controlled by the MUSA Line.
4. 2050 Comprehensive Plan is just starting.
5. San Francisco Township continues to be Agriculture, with 1 to 40 acres requirement for residential development. Zoning provisions for other requirements.

Carver County Staff and Representative John Fahey on November 13, 2025.

Review of 2040 Comprehensive Plan and starting 2050 Comprehensive Plan which included the San Francisco Township Policy Chapter on County population trends and future land use in the County.

1. City of Carver is expected to grow in direction of Dahlgren and Laketown Townships. San Francisco Township not in plans for Carver growth.
2. No pressure to change the 1 to 40 acres residential requirement or the 4 to 40 acres conservation requirement.
3. Transportation needs will be considered as development expands.
4. No school growth expected.
5. Mining of aggregate is preferred before development by the County. Mining is more difficult once development has occurred. San Francisco Township has strict mining ordinance.
6. The County has no authority over US Fish and Wildlife property purchases.
7. Review of Land Use Policies for the 2050 Comprehensive Plan in process. Access the WENR Management Plan on Carver County website for more information.

**TO GET MEETING NOTICES, RECEIVE E-NEWSLETTER, KEEP UP TO DATE
PLEASE SIGN UP WITH YOUR EMAIL ON THE WEBSITE.**

THOSE ALREADY RECEIVING NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL NEED NOT SIGN UP.

Go to website. Click "Contact". Click on "Join Newsletter" sanfranciscotownship.com

TO SIGN UP FOR THE FREE CARVER COUNTY LOCAL NEWS

<https://cclocalnews.org> and click on subscribe in top right hand corner

SAN FRANCISCO TOWNSHIP

2026 ANNUAL MEETING - MARCH 10 - TOWN HALL - 7:00PM

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

TOWNSHIP BOARD meets on the 2nd MONDAY OF THE MONTH at 6:00 PM
(If Federal Holiday is on the 2nd Monday, Board meeting will be one week later)

March 9 April 13 May 11 June 8

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meets the Thursday after the Board meeting at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

March 12 May 28 JULY16

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SAN FRANCISCO TOWN HALL

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	Jim Olson	(jolson1586@gmail.com)	952-457-1586
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Treasurer:	Anne Kastner	(treasurer@sanfranciscotownship.com)	612-354-0032