

San Francisco Township Newsletter



October 2024

ELECTION NOVEMBER 5, 2024 SAN FRANCISCO TOWNSHIP HALL 7:00AM -8 PM

Come prepared! Check to see who is on the ballot. You can **see your sample ballot** by going to the MN Secretary of State website or using this link:

<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot>.

Enter your address and your ballot will show up. For more information, you can check links on the website.

Early voting by mail or at Court House.

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR POSITION CANDIDATES

Two candidates are on the ballot in the upcoming election for the open SFT supervisor position. Jeanne Aufderheide, current Township Treasurer, and Larry Schmidt, current Board Supervisor, have both filed for the open position.

ANDY OLSON STEPS DOWN FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD

Due to moving out of San Francisco Township, Andy Olson can no longer remain on the the Board. The September Board meeting was his last. At the October 14 Board Meeting the board selected Jim Olson as the replacement to fill out the rest of his two year term. We wish Andy well in his new home.

TOWN HALL UPDATE

When you drive by the Town Hall you will see some major changes on the outside of the building. The ADA ramp is in place around the north and east side of the building. Concrete work has been done on the west side connecting steps to ramp. Outdoor lighting was installed for safety and security. New steps have been put in to access the front porch from the newly resurfaced parking lot. This makes our building easily accessible for voting and meetings. A storage building has been installed behind the building to store signs and other road related equipment which have been stored in the Town Hall. This will make it easier to access them when needed.

CAC MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024 7:00 PM TOWNSHIP HALL

Speaker: Paul Moline from Carver County Planning Department will present information about San Francisco Township's 2040 plan and potential options. **RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND and learn about the future of SFT.**

Waconia Patriot Township Official Newspaper

All required notices can be found there and on SFT website.



RAPID LAKE VISITOR CENTER REOPENS

The Rapids Lake Visitor Center is now open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10am-5pm! At the visitor center, you'll meet volunteer Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners who would love to tell you about the area. The Rapids Lake Unit is known for having the historic Gehl-Mittelsted house and outhouse – both built in 1888 with Chaska brick. Descendants of the original family were still living in it in 1995 when it was purchased by the Wildlife Refuge. .

Rapids Lake also contains oak savannah, an ecosystem which used to cover 10% of Minnesota's landscape. Now, only 1% of the original oak savannah is left, making it one of Minnesota's rarest wildlife habitats. It is a unique ecosystem of open prairie dotted with fire-resistant bur oak trees that is a well-suited habitat for deer, turkeys, red-headed woodpeckers, swainson's hawks, bobolinks, and sandhill cranes (among others!).

Keep an eye on the website for future events: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota-valley/events>

Activities to do at the Rapids Lake Visitor Center:

- Hike or mountain bike on our trails
- View the rapids on the Minnesota River (when water is low)
- Check out the Gehl-Mittelsted house and outhouse
- Bird-watch: Binoculars are available to check-out for free!
- Complete a wildlife scavenger hunt: There are activity booklets for kids to go out and look for plants and animals on the property.