



Fridley

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

OCTOBER 2016
NO. 202

We believe in a Fridley that is a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.

6431 University Avenue NE
Fridley, MN 55432
phone: 763-571-3450
www.FridleyMN.gov
e-mail: info@FridleyMN.gov

Mayor – Scott J. Lund

Councilmember-at-Large – Robert L. Barnette

Councilmember 1st Ward – James T. Saefke

Councilmember 2nd Ward – Dolores M. Varichak

Councilmember 3rd Ward – Ann R. Bolkcom

City Manager – Wally Wysopal

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Night to Unite 2016: Focused and Forward

As residents, police officers, firefighters, City staff and City leaders came out for this year's Night to Unite the evening carried significant meaning. Beyond the celebrations, which were certainly in abundance, there was a focus on listening and connecting.

Officers asked what can we do to help you feel safe in your neighborhood.

City staff asked what can we do to improve services for you.

Residents asked what can we do to show our support.

This year, the term "unite" took on new meaning. Plus, we all proved that Friendly Fridley really knows how to have fun!



The Riverview Heights neighborhood and several surrounding areas combined for one big party at Springbrook Park.

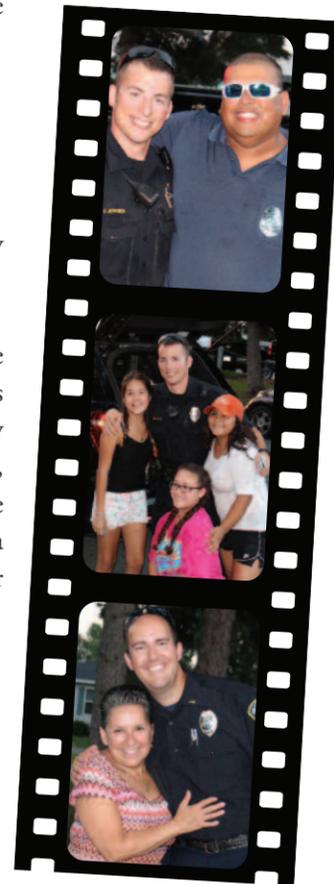


Captain Mike Monsrud helps teams warm up during a break in the annual Night to Unite wiffle ball tournament, a 12+ hour event.

Along with all the laughter and games, there were also some important questions asked to officers and City leaders as they talked to community members throughout the night. In this newsletter, we would like to address as many of those as we can. Look inside for more from Fridley Police, a closer look at your utility dollars, and tips for handling difficult neighborhood situations.



Springbrook Apartments celebrates in a big way with a dunk tank, cotton candy, face painting and more.



The red carpet is rolled out for Officer Erik Johnson and Lieutenant Ryan George as they take pictures with residents at Park Plaza Cooperative.

FAQs: What's Next for the Columbia Arena Area

A number of topics surfaced during this year's Night to Unite visits including a big one: *What is happening with the Columbia Arena site?*

Thank you to those who attended our July Open House or have been following this project since the beginning, you are helping shape the future of this significant area. For those who could not attend the open house, we want to answer any questions you may have. Here is a list of some of the most commonly asked questions. If you have any other questions, feel free to contact us. We are always happy to answer any additional questions.

What is happening at the Columbia Arena site?

We are preparing the land for future development consistent with the citizens' group recommendations. This includes removing the unsafe building, prepping the soil to release any trapped Freon, planting grass, hosting a series of citizen workshops to determine the best use for the area, and extensive research by the Fridley City Council.

Is anything specific proposed for this area?

Right now, it is in the planning stage. During the citizen workshops last spring, residents asked for housing, park space and a city or public presence. The current site plan proposal incorporates all those elements with a balance of public and private development. The target date for a formal bond proposal is November 14, 2016, when a public hearing will be held during the City Council meeting.

Why not make the entire site open to private developers?

Fridley Public Works is currently housed behind the Columbia Arena land and is a detriment to attracting private development. Currently, the Public Works Garage includes significant outdoor storage, blighted buildings and there are noise factors. City leaders agree that this is a highly visual area of the city and future development should be both attractive and practical. By putting City buildings on the site, City leaders will have more options and more control over the types of private development in that area. It also allows Fridley the opportunity to restructure the Public Works Garage so that it can blend with housing developments and expand in size so large vehicles and equipment can be stored inside.

What will city buildings consist of?

Under the current proposal-in-progress, Police, Fire, City Hall and the Public Works Garage would all be housed together, along with a public park, pond and trail. There would be community meeting rooms available, as well as other public spaces and features.

Does Fridley really need new buildings?

According to an independent engineering study, there is an urgent need. Prior to Columbia Arena being acquired by the Fridley HRA, the City Council was already evaluating options for city buildings as the cost of excessive repairs became a factor. The City Hall and

Columbia Arena, continued on page 6

Stay Connected!

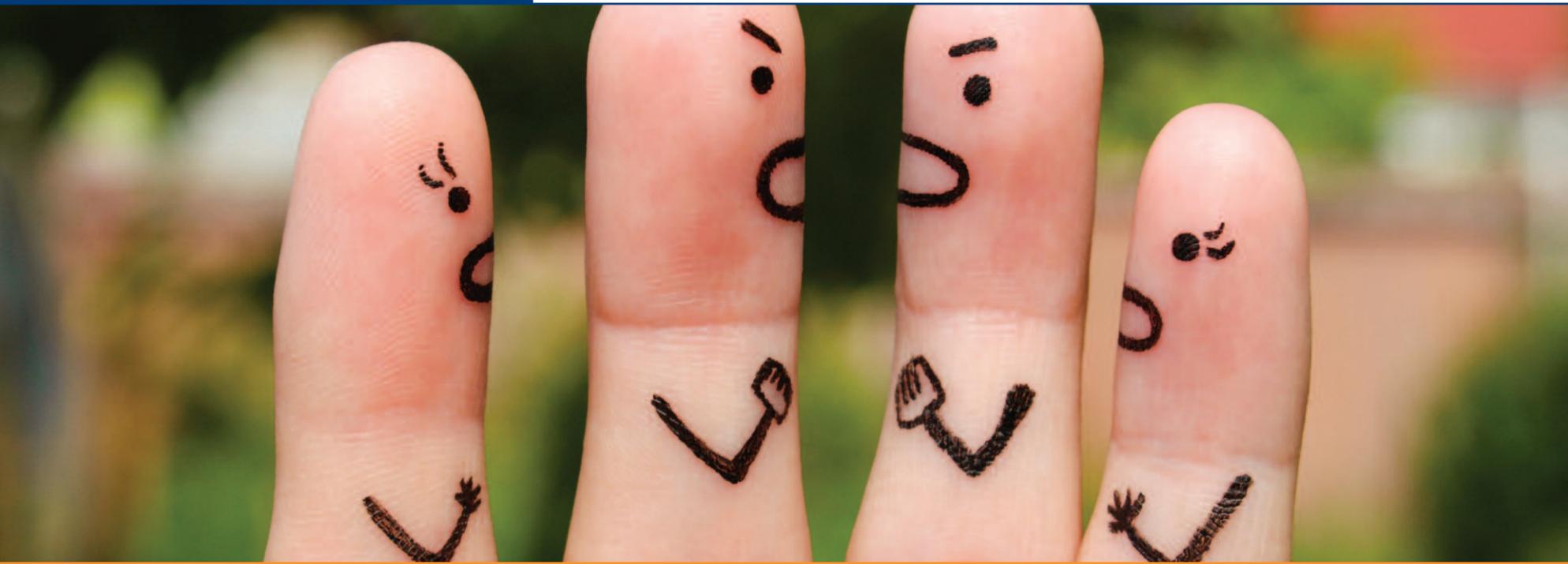


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Neighborhood Disputes: What Can You Do?

Living close to others can sometimes present challenges. Maybe your neighbor likes to play music louder than you appreciate, or their dog believes your yard is an acceptable place to defecate. It could be frequent backyard fires affect your asthma, or overflowing garbage is ending up on your lawn.

When the problem is serious, such as a threat to your safety or against City Code, the police or City can sometimes intervene on your behalf. Other times, someone or something may affect quality of life but may not be against the law. Before a situation escalates, there are steps you can take towards a peaceful resolution. Here are some suggestions:

Reach Out to Your Neighbor

Mediation Services of Anoka County offers a 4-step approach to resolving conflict. (*see step diagram*)

Ask Your Neighborhood Resource Officer

Each Fridley neighborhood has two police officers assigned specifically to cultivate relationships and address quality of life issues between neighbors. They

are excellent resources in helping prevent conflicts from getting out of control. Reach out to them and ask for help or advice. Depending on the situation, they may be able to help you talk to your neighbor, or approach them informally. They might also be able to refer you to free outside help, such as Mediation Services of Anoka County. We want you to feel safe in your home and in your neighborhood, and these officers can help with that. They also have school resources if the situation involves a juvenile, training for various groups through Restorative Justice Circles, and other community resources.

To connect with the neighborhood resource officer in your area, call Fridley Police at 763-572-3629, or find a map of neighborhoods and officer contact information online at FridleyMN.gov/508.

Code Enforcement Reporting

If you feel uncomfortable approaching your neighbor and the issue is a violation of Fridley's City Code, you can make an anonymous complaint either by phone at 763-572-3592, or online at

FridleyMN.gov and click the "Report a Concern" icon.

A list of City Codes is available on our website. Examples of issues that fall under the City Code include inoperable vehicles, outdoor storage, housing maintenance and uncut lawns. Grass/weeds must exceed 10" on average across the property in order to be a violation.

Call 9-1-1

If a situation is due to excessive noise, something that is affecting your health like smoke inhalation, or you feel unsafe, dial 9-1-1 while the incident is happening. An officer will come out, investigate and approach the neighbor if necessary. Fridley has officers on duty 24 hours a day, but they cannot respond if you do not call. Waiting until the next morning or posting a complaint to social media doesn't do much good. Instead, call 9-1-1 while it is happening. We prefer to stop by and find nothing wrong than to have something escalate because a call was never made.



Get the Buckthorn Out!

Buckthorn is an invasive species of tree that has become widespread throughout Innsbruck Park, a 24-acre wooded park with trails, marsh and wildlife areas in Fridley. If left alone, the buckthorn will continue to spread and kill native plants and trees.

You Can Help!

Volunteers are needed to help remove seedlings and small trees. Training will be provided on site by Fridley Park staff. Calling all adult volunteers, and those ages 12-17 with adult supervision — make a difference, meet new friends and have some fun!

Saturday, October 29
from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
and

Saturday, November 5
from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
(Bad weather make-up date:
Saturday, November 12, same time.)

Innsbruck Park: 5815 Arthur St NE, Fridley

Sign up today (we need a count so we can plan accordingly) ~ Call Fridley Recreation at 763-572-3570.

STEP #1: PREPARE	
WHAT TO DO	WHAT NOT TO DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have your emotions under control. Calm yourself and be prepared – or consider waiting until you can get to that place. Prepare your description of the conflict in as small and specific way as possible. Be prepared to respect the other person's response and openness to discussion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't assume you know how the other person feels or why they did what they did. Don't create a long list of problems – focus on one or two that are most important to you. Be prepared to hear that you are also contributing to the conflict in some way.

STEP #2: ACTION	
WHAT TO DO	WHAT NOT TO DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pick a time when you and the other person are likely to have a few minutes and the problem is not "hot". Ask – "May I talk with you about something?" Describe your plan "I would like to tell you about a problem I am having and then I would like to hear how you see it." Describe the conflict/problem as you experience it and why it is important to you. Invite the other person to explain how they see the situation and listen closely to their response. Check your understanding of the other person by summarizing what you heard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't discuss the reason you believe they do it or their intentions ("You did that because..."). Describe your feelings when the conflict occurs, but don't act them out. Don't communicate those feelings as judgments or "you" statements ("You make me angry"), but instead as "I" statements ("I feel angry when this happens"). Don't jump to conclusions and solutions. This is a time for understanding both sides of the conflict.

STEP #3: SOLUTION	
WHAT TO DO	WHAT NOT TO DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify any areas where you both agree. ("Sounds like 'x' is important to both of us.") Exchange ideas on actions that might help the situation. ("How about if we tried 'x'??") Look for actions that will work for both of you ("Would 'x' work for you?") Keep the conversation focused on today and the future, not the past. ("That's what I have done in the past, what would be helpful going forward?") Propose solution(s) that meet your interests and theirs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't give in or come to an agreement too quickly without careful thinking Don't rehash the conflict without moving to solutions Don't blame one another Don't be disappointed if the discussion does not lead to an agreement. Don't make the problem worse by overreacting in frustration.

STEP #4: AGREEMENT	
WHAT TO DO	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check to be sure you are in agreement about who will do what and by when. Thank the other person for their willingness to listen to you and work with you. Remember to hold up your end of the agreement. Watch for opportunities to recognize when the other person follows up as agreed. 	

Courtesy of Anoka County Mediation Services

Your Questions

Night to Unite offered Public Safety Officials a great opportunity to visit with the community. As they spread out to visit almost 100 parties that evening, a number of questions were asked that you might be wondering about, too. Here is a look at a few of the hot topics.

Police Body Cameras: Police are currently researching body cameras and considering them for the future. Although the process has started, it will not happen soon. Body cameras would require a substantial financial commitment from our City.

Vehicle Break-ins: The crime of concern for 2015 was auto theft. Last year, out of the 57 stolen vehicles, keys were left in 22 of those (38%). Many crimes are a crime of convenience. You are more likely to be victimized if you leave your doors unlocked, keys in the car or valuables in sight.

Related Vehicle Crime Concern: Another growing crime trend is using a garage door opener left in a car to break into the home. If you have a vehicle that is parked outside, especially overnight, do not leave a garage opener in the car. Criminals have been known to use the opener to enter a garage and proceed into a home through an unlocked door. It is also a good idea to deadbolt the door that leads to your garage.

Police Training: Our Night to Unite 2016 theme was Focused and Forward. The Fridley Police are striving to continue their community partnerships and work with you to keep neighborhoods safe. Their training and equipment continues to be the best, and they are continually striving for accountability and excellence.

In December 2014, President Obama created the 21st Century Policing Task Force to strengthen community policing and trust among law enforcement officers and the communities they serve. That task force consisted of a wide range of community & faith leaders, law enforcement leaders, and academics. This team developed six main topics areas (or pillars) to implement.

1. Building Trust: Police are guardians, not warriors, and pillars of building community partnerships. This is already a top priority for Fridley Police. This year, they are improving current programs

and implementing new ones to further this effort including Coffee with Cops, Cops in the Café (a program with area schools), crime prevention seminars, a cops and clergy group, senior safety seminars, and more.

2. Policy & Oversight: The Police Department is planning to assemble a citizens' group to better collaborate with community members to assist in developing policy and strategies for deploying resources and continue to create a transparency for our community and the Police Department.

3. Technology & Social Media: They are continually striving for new and creative ways to get safety messages to you. Social media is one of the most instant forms of communication and they are using Facebook, Twitter, NextDoor and email alerts from the City's website to get important information out as quickly as possible. They will stay current and advance with technology trends and equipment.

4. Community Policing & Crime Reduction: Crime prevention and your safety is always their top priority. A new focus has been put on positive youth interaction. Currently there are three School Resource Officers who work in area schools, make guest visits to elementary school lunches, have renewed the youth Police Explorer program and are looking to start a police athletic league.

5. Training & Education: In 2016, their training emphasized civil unrest equipment and training. Next year, the focus will be on mental health and de-escalation skills.

6. Officer Wellness & Safety: Some of the tools police utilize in officer safety include tactical first aid kits, mandatory ballistic vests, wearing seat belts and continuous training on awareness and use of these items.

Each year, Fridley Police offer a Citizens' Academy for a hands-on, in-depth look into the Police department. This no-cost, 8-week course is offered every fall. The 2016 Citizens' Academy is currently underway. If you are interested in joining us next year, send an email to FridleyPolice@FridleyMN.gov or sign up for Police News email alerts at FridleyMN.gov.



The Ups and Downs of Fridley Utilities

As a Fridley resident, you receive a utility bill from the City every quarter. That bill combines 3 essential services: water, sewer and storm water.

The fluctuations and increases can be difficult to understand. Some are due to your consumption which varies significantly by season, while others are due to annual rate changes. In 2016, Fridley residents did see an increase in their water and sewer rates. Why is that?

On average, Fridley residents use less water today than in recent years. In fact, water volume sales have decreased almost 15% since 2013. That is great news for the environment. It does, however, present a challenge to the city.

All three city services (water, sewer and storm water) have substantial fixed costs in just providing the service for residents and businesses. Fridley has an aging infrastructure and it is imperative that we are able to pay for the repairs, safety measures, staff and other necessities required to continue providing safe, high-quality drinking water and sewer services to our residents.

The City has no control over consumption, so it is difficult to predict years in advance what money will be coming in to cover those costs. With Fridley residents using less water today than in past years, the City did not meet projections for water and sewer revenue.

In addition, other factors come into play. For example, water production expenses increased about 10% when the City stopped the flow of water from New Brighton due to water quality concerns. In Sewer Operations, the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services recently increased their sewer disposal charges, with further increases expected. The MCES disposal charges account for nearly 80% of the entire Sewer Operations budget.

All these factors add up to a rate increase in the water and sewer services provided to you. The total impact for 2016 was approximately \$15.63/quarter for the average household.

Nobody likes rate increases, but they are sometimes a necessity. The City believes in a Fridley that is a safe, friendly, vibrant and stable home for families and businesses. It will continue to provide residents with the best quality services at the best value and ensure the future of these community assets. If you have any questions on your Fridley utility bill, you can reach us at 763-572-3529.

Explore your DARK side with
Haunting Hops at
Fridley Liquor!





2 convenient locations!

<p>Fridley Market 248 57th Ave NE Mon - Sat 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.</p>	<p>Fridley Annex 6289 Hwy 65 New Hours: Mon - Thur 12 - 10 p.m. Fri - Sat 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.</p>
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Get rewarded!
Stop in today and ask about Fridley Liquor Rewards.
FridleyLiquor.com

Don't Let Winter Do a Sneak Attack

Fridley is partnering with the Home Energy Squad to help you prepare your home for colder weather at half cost! Residents can receive the Home Energy Squad Enhanced visit for only \$50 (normally \$100). During the visit, experts will:

- Install energy saving materials (door weather stripping, high-efficiency lightbulbs, showerheads, faucet aerators, and a programmable thermostat).
- Perform a blower door test to measure your home for air leaks.
- Complete an insulation inspection.
- Safety check your home's heating system and water heater.

Participants also receive a customized Energy Fitness Plan that includes a prioritized list of energy

improvements as well as information on City financing.

Resident Kate recently had a visit and here's what she says: "We came to find out our house was barely insulated. No wonder we were so hot in the summer! We completed the recommended work and couldn't be happier. There's a sense of security in knowing that your home has been insulated and air sealed — I'm not worried about losing heat in the winter, or cool air in the summer. I know our house is functioning at its best."

Schedule your Home Energy Squad Enhanced visit today! Call Beth at 612-335-5874 or visit mncee.org/hes-fridley.



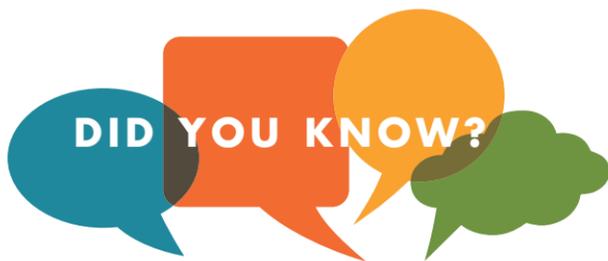
The City of Fridley is supporting Home Energy Squad Enhanced by buying down the cost to \$50. Home Energy Squad is provided by CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy and delivered by the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), a local nonprofit.

Did you know...

Heating accounts for half of your annual energy bills. A new heating system can save you \$120 to \$200 a year!

Reducing your utility bill is just one of the many reasons why it is important to replace your old (20+ years) heating system with a new energy efficient model. Most heating systems have a life span of 16-20 years. Do not wake up with to an unheated home in the middle of winter! The City of Fridley's Home Improvement Loan Program, administered by the nonprofit CEE Lending Center, can make having a new heating system a reality with a low-interest home improvement loan. They can also connect you with any utility rebates available.

Contact CEE's Lending Center today at mnlendingcenter.org or 612-335-5884.



Fridley Community Calendar

October

- 3 Parks & Recreation Commission
- 3 Charter Commission
- 6 HRA Meeting
- 10 City Council Meeting
- 11 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission
- 17 City Council Conference Meeting
- 19 Planning Commission
- 24 City Council Meeting
- 25 Council Information Meeting on the Columbia Arena Site (6:30 p.m.)

November

- 1 Charter Commission
- 2 Appeals Commission
- 3 HRA Meeting
- 7 Parks & Recreation Commission
- 11 City offices closed in observance of Veterans Day
- 14 City Council Meeting
- 15 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission
- 16 Planning Commission
- 24-25 City offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving
- 28 City Council Meeting

NOTE: City Council and Commission meetings start at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Municipal Center, 6431 University Avenue NE. The public is welcome.

Hearing impaired persons who need an interpreter or other persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids and would like to attend a meeting, should contact Roberta Collins at 763-572-3500 at least one week in advance.



Join Us for Coffee with Cops

Let's keep the conversation going!

Join us on the last Wednesday of each month from 4-5 p.m. Share your concerns, brainstorm crime prevention ideas, ask questions, or just get to know us better!

Bring your neighbors and let's partner for a safe and vibrant community.

Next Coffee Chats:

October 26 from 4-5 p.m. at Caribou Coffee (272 57th Avenue NE, Fridley Market)

November 30 from 4-5 p.m. at Starbucks Coffee (5300 Central Avenue NE)

The Fridley Historical Society presents...

Hall of Fame 2016

This year's inductees include:

Our very own mayor, Scott Lund • Oliver Erickson • Mel Manley • Carole Miller

Don't miss your chance to be part of the excitement and recognize these individuals for the impact they have made on our community.

Saturday, November 5 at 1:00 p.m.

Fridley Community Center, Fireside Room

Tickets for the buffet luncheon and ceremony are \$25.

Available at the Fridley History Center, 611 Mississippi Street or by calling 763-571-0120.



Fall Lawn & Yard Tips

Leaves = Valuable Resource

Use a mulching mower to finely chop leaves so that dry leaves nestle back into the lawn as natural fertilizer. If you cannot do that or have too many, you can compost the leaves in a proper compost heap (the University of MN offers guidelines on their website).

Reminder: The City Does Not Pick Up Leaves

Make arrangements with your garbage hauler for yard waste removal or take it to Bunker Hills Nature Center (13285 Hanson Blvd), charges apply. City Code does not permit garbage bags of leaves to sit out in plain view in the yard over the winter.

Leaves left unattended in yards and streets clog stormdrains and cause pollution. When these leaves wash into nearby lakes and streams, they can cause algae blooms leading to fish die-offs and other issues.

Skip Winter Fertilizer

You save money and keep excess fertilizer from washing into the nearest waterway by skipping the Winterizer fertilizer. Fertilize in late summer instead. Interested in learning more? Find out how much fertilizer your yard needs and when to apply it by having your soil tested at the University of Minnesota's Soil Testing Lab.

Don't Over Mow

Let your grass grow at least 3-inches tall this fall! The extra length will allow it to absorb more sunshine, making for a healthier and more weed resistant lawn. These slightly taller lawns will spend less time in that brown dormant state next summer if you mow more frequently but trim only 1/3 off the top at any one time. Lawns at 1½" tall (which we see often), go brown sooner and need more water (not water-wise), to stave off summer heat. When is it too tall? Lawns

at 10" in height usually get a letter from the City saying time to mow.

Scoop the Poop

Always be sure to pick up after your pet. Animal waste left on the ground is not only smelly and unsightly, it poses risks to human health and negatively impacts water quality when it washes away. Bag it and put it in the trash, not the compost heap and not in with leaves!

Tune Up the Irrigation System

Remember those sprinkler heads that spray the sidewalk or didn't work? Fix them when you schedule that irrigation system water blowout in fall. It is also recommended that you install a smart sensor for irrigation, which senses rain and helps you be a water conserving hero in Fridley.



Paddle the Mississippi

Mississippi River Paddle Share introduces a first of its kind in a national park, and right across the river on the south end of Fridley!

Rent a kayak and paddle 3.9 miles from North Mississippi Regional Park to Boom Island Park. Available Friday through Sunday through October, weather permitting. All kayak stations are aligned with Nice Ride bike share stations, so you can paddle one way and bike back.

You must be 18 years or older and an experienced kayaker. This self-serve equipment is available to rent online at www.paddleshare.org. Details and costs, as well as resources for beginners, are available on the website.



October/November School's Out Field Trips



October 19: Nickelodeon Universe and MN Sea Life Aquarium

October 20: Harvest Festival and Pumpkin Patch

October 21: AirMaxx Trampoline Park

November 11: Robotics & Bowling

November 18: Minecraft Game Design & Zero Gravity

Grades K-5
Extended hours available.

Details, fees, times and registration available online at FridleyMN.gov/recreation or call **763-572-3570**

Fridley Rec Sports & Fitness for adults!

Basketball Leagues
Registration begins October 3

Boot Hockey & Broomball Leagues
Registration begins November 1

Plus Zumba returns, along with Yoga classes, Kettlebell, Martial Arts and something new called T'ai Chi Chih.

Check them out online at FridleyMN.gov/recreation.

Primary Election Results

The two candidates receiving the most votes at the Primary Election move forward to the November General Election. The results of the August 9 Primary Election for Councilmember at Large:

Bob Barnette	442 Votes
David Ostwald	313 Votes
Shanna Larson	181 Votes
John Anderson	141 Votes

General Election Information

The November 8 Election will feature the following municipal offices on the backside of the ballot:

Mayor	Councilmember-at-Large
Scott Lund	Bob Barnette
Drew Schuette	David Ostwald

All polling locations will be open on November 8 for the General Election. You can find your polling location online at FridleyMN.gov/elections. Preliminary results of the General Election will be posted on our website as soon as we have them. The final report will be posted after the canvass board adopts the canvass report on November 14.

Remember, Minnesota does not have early voting, we have absentee voting. If you are unable to make it to the polling place on Election Day, you can vote by absentee ballot. You may do this in person at Fridley

City Hall, through the mail from Anoka County at 763-323-5275 or online at www.mnvotes.org.

Absentee voting at Fridley City Hall is available:

- September 23 through November 4 – Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- November 5 – Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- November 7 – Monday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If you have any questions about elections, please call the City Clerk at 763-572-3523, visit our website at FridleyMN.gov/Elections, or email your question to elections@FridleyMN.gov.

Columbia Arena, continued

Public Works buildings are over 60 years old and have not been renovated in the last 30 years. Similar to how your home ages over time, there is now a need to address major maintenance, safety, accessibility, environmental and other changing conditions. A complete look at the issues and research, as well as a short overview video, is available on the City website at FridleyMN.gov/city-hall-update.

How is something like this typically paid for? How do other cities do it?

Just like purchasing a home, there are really only two ways to fund this project: save up and buy it outright or borrow and pay as you use it. In the past, we have done the most with what we have, avoiding the need to borrow whenever possible, and addressing only immediate fixes. Today those Band-Aid fixes have caught up to us and the issues are so extensive it will require more funds than currently available. For that reason, it is imperative that the City Council takes the time to research and evaluate the best value and financial impact for our community.

Will this impact property taxes?

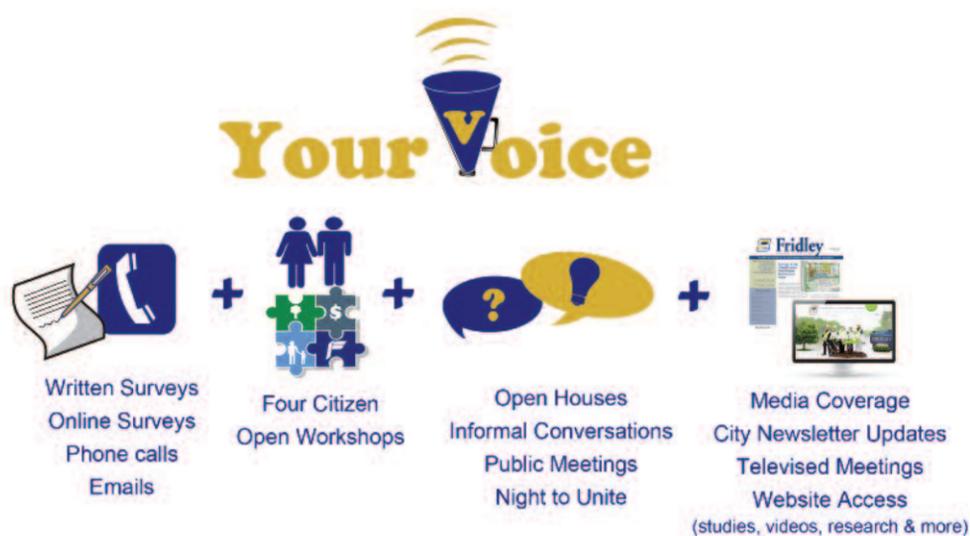
Yes, no matter what direction Fridley takes to address the major building concerns, they are excessive enough to require borrowing funds (similar to a home mortgage). Borrowing will mean an increase in property taxes. The City Council is currently evaluating the most practical use of taxpayer dollars. Remodeling the current building locations does not address all issues that need to be addressed and would add a lifespan of only 10-20 years. By building new, longevity would increase to 50+ years. Other factors such as space needs, accessibility and possible disruption of services are also being evaluated.

What's next?

Right now, City Council and staff are working with an architect to find out what the options are and what the costs would be. Once they have preliminary costs, they will send every Fridley residence details on what they learned and what the potential tax impact could be.

Fridley City Council and staff invite you to an Council Information Meeting on the Columbia Arena Site on Tuesday, October 25, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. You are invited to come take a closer look at the needs, findings, options and costs involved with the current site plan proposal. The meeting on the Columbia Arena Site will be held in the lower level of Fridley City Hall (Police entrance), 6431 University Avenue NE.

A Public Hearing on the City's Capital Improvement Plan (the overall plan for addressing major city improvement needs) will be held at the November 14, 2016, Fridley City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Fridley City Hall, 6431 University Avenue NE. Residents are invited to participate in the formal public hearing or to reach out to your City officials at any time.



LEARN MORE

Council Information Meeting on the Columbia Arena Site: Tuesday, October 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Public Hearing on City's Capital Improvement Plan: Monday, November 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Project website: FridleyMN.gov/city-hall-update



Annual Veteran's Day Celebration | November 11 at Fridley Community Center

Program begins at 10:50 a.m. so that we may observe a moment of silence at 11:00 a.m.

Special Guest Speaker: Marcus Kuboy

Sergeant Marcus Kuboy, an Army medic, will speak about his experience while deployed in Iraq and being hit by a road side bomb. He spent 14 months hospitalized and was presented with the choice to get "bitter" or "better." Marcus's personality and positive attitude shines though as he touches on the topic of choice during tough times.

Speaker event will be followed by a luncheon put on by the Fridley American Legion Auxiliary.

Registration required. \$2 fee, free for veterans. Call 763-502-5150



REPLACE SMOKE ALARMS EVERY 10 YEARS

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
OCTOBER 9–15, 2016**

firepreventionweek.org

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Every Smoke Alarm has an Expiration Date: What's Yours?

Fridley Fire urges all residents to know how old their smoke alarms are, and to replace them every 10 years.

Smoke alarms do not last forever. They have an expiration date—one you should take just as seriously as the expired by date on your gallon of milk.

“Time and again, I’ve seen the life-saving impact smoke alarms can have in a home fire, but I’ve also seen the tragedy that can result when smoke alarms aren’t working properly,” says John Berg, Fridley Fire Chief. “That’s why we’re making a strong effort to educate residents about the overall importance of smoke alarms, and that they do have a life limit.”

Many people are not even aware that smoke alarms have an expiration date much less where to find it. Next time you do your monthly battery check, take an extra moment to flip the alarm over. On back of your smoke alarm is a date. Now this is where it gets tricky. If turn over your smoke alarm and there is not an

obvious expiration date, that does not mean it does not have one. All smoke alarms are required to have a manufacturer date (see image sample). No matter what type of smoke alarm you have or what brand it is, you should throw it away 10 years after this manufacturer date (not the date of purchase or installation).



Manufacturer Date + 10 years = Expiration Date
If your smoke alarm is past its expiration date, you and your family are at risk.

Fire Prevention Week is October 9 – 15, 2016.
This year’s theme is “Don’t Wait – Check the Date!” Track your smoke alarm expiration dates today. That one extra step could be the difference between life and death. Learn more online at www.firepreventionweek.org.

In addition to replacing fire alarms before that 10-year mark, always remember to test them monthly and replace batteries every year or when they begin to chirp, signaling that they’re running low.

Experience Fire Safety at Fridley’s 2016 Fire Open House: Saturday, October 8
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Fire Station 1: 6431 University Ave NE



PUMPKIN NIGHT IN THE PARK

Saturday, October 22 • 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Springbrook Nature Center, 100 85th Avenue NW, Fridley

- Enchanted Trail
- Campfires
- Stage Entertainment
- And Much More!
- Pumpkin Patch Dance
- Yummy Concessions
- Spooky BINGO

Parking, directions and shuttle information is available at SpringbrookNatureCenter.org

Tickets are \$8/person, cash only at the gate or save in advance with 4-pack pre-sale for only \$28 before October 20. Pre-sale ticket packs can be purchased at Springbrook or Fridley City Hall, Recreation office.

Carve out a memory at Springbrook!
We are looking for volunteers, individuals, families and groups, to help us decorate our trails with 1,000 carved pumpkins!

We provide everything you need: pumpkins, carving tools and patterns. Now we need your energy and creativity.
Carved pumpkins will be left at Springbrook and lit for Pumpkin Night 2016!

Carving begins Sunday, October 16 and runs through Thursday, October 20. Join us for this free and fun community activity. Give us a call today to reserve your time for creative fun: (763) 572-3588.



Nature Center Building Now Open

Over a thousand people turned out on July 30 to celebrate Springbrook's Grand Opening with treats from Grandpa's Ice Cream, entertainment by the Fridley City Band, a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tours of the new building.

Check out what's new!

Tornado Exhibit

This new touchscreen kiosk takes a look back at the devastating tornado of 1986. See how those few minutes drastically changed the Springbrook landscape and hear first-hand accounts from those who were there.

Soil Cube

Crawl in the dirt! This exhibit allows you to explore from an insect's point of view. Get up close and personal with oversized bugs as you make your way through the new prairie soil exhibit.

Interactive Elements

Be sure to check out the new puppet theater, explore the tree exhibits and visit with our live animals. Kids of all ages will enjoy the nature play tables. For all the bird lovers, there is also a fascinating Bird Banding kiosk.

Larger, Upgraded Classrooms and Banquet Hall

Four individual classrooms are separated with flexible dividers that allow for various group sizes. Plus, new smartboards and audio-visual equipment help facilitate learning in each area. It is also perfect for business retreats, trainings and special events.

Environmental Design

About half of the original building is underground, and about half of the new addition has a green roof (sedum in wood planters). The green roof provides additional insulation in the winter and evaporative cooling in the summer. In addition, geo-thermal wells are used to heat and cool the Nature Center building. These wells are located under the parking lot. LED lights are used throughout the building, and etched, bird-safe glass helps protect our curious friends.

Reflection: Inside and Out

Inside the new interpretive center where the front desk used to be, a reflection area now welcomes you to relax and enjoy some quiet time. Inviting seating, views of nature and a cozy fireplace guarantee this will be a favorite corner, especially as the weather turns chilly.

Springbrook offers peaceful coves outdoors as well. Take a moment to rest on a bench along the 3 miles of trails, and stop at the Lawraine K. Beery Meditation Garden near the west end of the parking lot. This beautiful clearing houses a small fountain and pillars that show the location of the sun at the equinox, and summer and winter solstice.

Another outdoor favorite is the 900-foot floating boardwalk which takes you to incredible views over the water.

Butterfly Gardens – Blooming Next Spring

Not only do butterflies add beauty, but the two butterfly gardens near the building entrance also collect rainwater and minimize run off.



Banquet room windows provide fantastic views through bird-safe glass, and doors lead to new outdoor patio and trails.

You Can Be Part of Springbrook

Stop by Springbrook and see our new dedication path. There is still time for you to be part of Springbrook! Engraved pavers are available for you to honor a loved one, advertise your business or share your love of nature. The Springbrook Foundation is also offering donation levels for tree and bench dedications.

Find out more at SpringbrookFoundation.org

