



# Fridley

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

DECEMBER 2016  
NO. 203

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. Saeffe

Councilmember 2nd Ward – Dolores M. Varichak

Councilmember 3rd Ward – Ann R. Bolkcom

City Manager – Wally Wysopal

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## The Future Looks Bright Fridley Police Explorers

This summer, a diverse group of young men and women, ages 14-17, gathered together to learn how they could actively participate in making their community a safer place. These future leaders were selected from within the Fridley community to dive head-first into life in law enforcement as Fridley Police Explorers.



The Explorers began the program by getting to know their fellow community members who joined the program, as well as their advisors, who are all Fridley Police Officers. They toured the Fridley Police Department, learned about squad cars and equipment, and were issued uniforms. Their journey in the Explorers program continues as they cover various policing topics.

The knowledge and skills the Explorers are developing in the program will be put to good use in Fridley and surrounding cities, as they volunteer at community events and programs. Officers participating as advisors benefit from the opportunity to mentor future leaders, as well as build relationships with young people who represent the many cultures that make up the Fridley community. This strengthens the partnership between community members and the police officers who serve them.



Thank you to Officer Shawn Murphy for bringing back this important program and to the advisors and Explorers, who have made the program a great success. If you or someone you know is interested in gaining insight into community policing through the Fridley Police Explorers, please visit our website at [FridleyMN.gov/policeexplorers](http://FridleyMN.gov/policeexplorers). If you would like to get involved in the program, please fill out the online interest form available on the website.



## New Additions to Commons Park



Fridley Parks staff took a few moments to “safety test” the new playground equipment at Commons Park after an exciting two days of installation. Timing is everything – and we were pleased to debut the new climbers just before one of the most gorgeous weekends of fall! Kids had a chance to explore the fun before the weather turned cold.

We added five new playground pieces to Commons Park—take a look!

**Discovery Cave:** Fun exploration geared for ages 2 to 5. Climb on the outside and discover tactile elements inside.

**S Rock Wall Climber:** This playground trend, introduced by Game Time, offers an innovative and challenging activity for ages 5 to 12.

**Four Seat Buck-a-Bout:** A classic playground favorite for ages 5 to 12.

**Tilted Sky Runner:** Grab the ring, push off and take a thrilling, spinning, adventurous ride! Ages 5 to 12.

**High Stepper Climbing Net:** The best for last! This net is 18'8" high and 32'9" wide! Climbing nets offer a challenge that promotes skill and strength development in ages 5 to 12.





## Local Businesses Build Community

### Strong in Numbers

Fridley is home to the largest number of employees in Anoka County. In 2015, there were 22,709 people employed in the City – that is nearly as many residents that call Fridley home!

In 2015, Fridley's unemployment rate was at a 10-year low of 3.9%. As of August, the 2016 average was still 3.9%, below the national average of 4.9%.

Fridley's Largest Employers (2015):

1. Medtronic: 4,560 employees
2. Unity Medical Center: 1,490 employees
3. Cummins Power (Onan): 1,210

BAE Systems is currently Fridley's 5th largest employer with 595 employees in 2015. The remainder of this 122-acre site is being redeveloped by Hyde Development and, together with Mortenson, is expected to employ approximately 3,000 people when the addition of ten new office and industrial buildings are complete.

### Strong in Innovation

You have probably noticed Medtronic's beautiful world headquarters, located right here in Fridley, but do you know what they do there? Medtronic is the global leader in the ever-changing world of healthcare by developing medical technology, services and solutions. This fall, Medtronic received FDA approval for the world's first hybrid closed loop insulin delivery system for those living with Type 1 diabetes. They also designed the world's smallest pacemaker, free of lead, and able to be implanted inside the heart via a minimally-invasive approach. Strong not only with innovation, but also with the greater good, Medtronic employees contribute to the community on a large scale with efforts like making healthcare more accessible and small scale by planting trees in neighborhood parks.

Micro-Matics, another Fridley manufacturer, produces parts for a variety of industries, including aerospace, electronics, commercial, medical, auto and governments, and they partner with many local businesses. Still growing, Micro-Matics started in Fridley in the 70s, and last year expanded 4,000 square feet.



### Strong in Ethics

Fridley companies stand out and are recognized nationally for practices and products. Victory Auto Service and Glass (6920 Osborne Road) is one example of a company that goes the extra mile. Owner Jeff Matt was featured as a KARE 11 – Eleven Who Care honoree in 2011 for his support of Cars for Neighbors. It is not uncommon for Victory to donate vehicles to single mothers, or to donate the shop's tools, facility and labor hours to those in need. Among their numerous awards, this fall they received the 2016 International Torch Award for Ethics from the Better Business Bureau Institute for Marketplace Trust. Only four businesses receive this top honor, one in each category based on number of employees.



EJ Ajax (7773 Ranchers Road) also exemplifies both ethics and innovation. They are a family-owned and operated company offering metalforming solutions, and have been named a Top Workplace in Minnesota two years in a row by the StarTribune. The company is dedicated to building relationships with both clients and employees, and in investing in their staff through internships, scholarships and apprentice

programs. The result is a staff able to think outside the box, discovering new ways to approach problems like the unique weather seal they recently created for the retractable roof of a MLB ballpark. In addition, EJ Ajax incorporates stringent standards to environmental protection and pollution prevention.

### Challenges of Tomorrow

Businesses face challenges every day. Some are large scale like workforce recruitment, environmental practices, competition, and technology changes. Others are more personal like family balance, employee retention, and creating safe work environments.

Many Fridley businesses are tackling future challenges by addressing them today. Kurt Manufacturing, a true Fridley success story of growth, strives for a 100% accident-free workplace for their employees. They are also concerned about the safety of our community and any affects their operations may have on the environment, even those that are not caused by their operations. To that effort, they are working closely with the Environmental Protection Agency. Today they pump and treat the groundwater on their property and undergo soil vapor extraction to ensure that any concerns are contained.

No matter what possibilities, opportunities or challenges await Fridley businesses tomorrow, we are committed to helping them succeed. Fridley's Business Expansion and Retention Program, along with the Fridley Housing and Redevelopment Authority have a number of resources to share.

- Expansion Planning
- Open to Business: Free Business Advice and Planning
- Visits with City Staff
- Business Loans and Financial Resources
- Business Crime Prevention
- Company Recycling and Energy Saving

For more information on any of these programs, contact Paul Bolin, Fridley HRA, at (763) 572-3591.

### Kids love the choices for afterschool activities offered by Fridley Recreation.

January starts all new classes!

Sign up today online at

[FridleyMN.gov/recreation](http://FridleyMN.gov/recreation) or

call (763) 572-3570.



Fun with arts and crafts



Fall sports kick up great teamwork



New This Year: Musketeer Fencing!

# Mayor Scott Lund Inducted into Fridley Hall of Fame

The Fridley Hall of Fame was established in 2004 by the Fridley Historical Society to recognize individuals who have contributed to the growth and success of the City. In November, 3 new members, including Fridley Mayor Scott Lund, were inducted with a ceremony at the Fridley Community Center.

Mel Manley grew up in Fridley and was a 1978 Fridley High School graduate. His education led him to the Minnesota School of Business, Control Data Institute and Federal Air Traffic Control. He worked in Air Traffic Control, followed by computer programming for the Twin City Bottle Company and eventually the Glen Taylor Corporation. Mel served the City as a long-time member of the Fridley Historical Society, including 10 years on the Board of Directors and a term as Vice President.

It was Mel's idea to create the Fridley Hall of Fame in 2004. He became Chairman and organized this event for many years. He also assisted with August Fest, the annual lasagna dinner fundraiser, and acted as a docent on a regular basis. Mel and his wife, Alicia, were eager to volunteer. Mel passed away in July 2016, and Alicia accepted the Hall of Fame honor on his behalf during the November ceremony.

Carole Miller called Fridley home for 41 years and made every moment count through here involvement with education, business, local government and civic pride. She raised three sons in the Fridley School District, not only supporting sports, drama, music and student government programs, but also taking an active role in ensuring strong values and leadership through the selection of superintendents and school board members. Carole encouraged parents to take an active role in their children's educational and social development, and helped create opportunities for them to do so. She served on the Board of Directors of the Fridley Chamber of Commerce, and served as the Chair of the Board of the Southern Anoka County Chamber of Commerce. She also volunteered at Unity Hospital.

Carole was best known for starting and leading one of the most successful eye care businesses in the state (and recognized nationally). She reveled in getting to know the stories of each family she met and, by doing so, touched thousands of Fridley families with her caring nature. Carole exemplifies Fridley community values and she is missed since her passing in December 2015.

Scott Lund has served as Fridley Mayor since 2001 and has worked tirelessly to make Fridley a better community in which to live, work and play. He has been a community leader, working closely with various community organizations and residents to provide high quality local government to our residents. Mayor Lund has worked with State Legislators, County Commissioners, and other representatives on big Fridley initiatives such as the Northstar Commuter Rail, Springbrook Nature Center, Fridley's Charter Revision Campaign, Fridley's 50th Anniversary, and reform of the state's Local Government Aid formula. His civic involvement includes the Metro Cities Board, Fridley High School Foundation, Stargazers, Fridley Historical Society, Lee Carlson Center, Fridley Community Theater, Fridley Lions Club, Fridley Ambassador Program, the Chamber of Commerce, the Fridley Senior Center, and the Church of St. William. He served as President of the Fridley '49er Days Festival Committee, and was President of the Fridley Jaycees.



Mayor Lund has received numerous awards for his outstanding work for the City of Fridley and for his remarkable volunteerism in all aspects of life.

## 2016 General Election Results

On November 8, 13,654 Fridley voters cast ballots for national, state and local candidates, giving the City a 78% voter turnout.

In the race for Mayor, Scott Lund was re-elected over his opponent Drew Schuette by a vote of 8,146 to 3,014.

In the race for Councilmember-at-Large, Robert Barnette was also re-elected over his opponent David Ostwald by a vote of 5,522 to 5,062.

While there were long lines at the precincts during the day, the election process in Fridley went smoothly. Fridley's hard-working and dedicated election judges were able to close the voting precincts at 8:00 p.m. After reconciling the reports within each precinct and reporting those results to the City staff, the election process in the City was completed by 11:30 p.m.

Many thanks go out to the voters for taking time to cast their ballots, to the election judges and to elections staff for their hard work and dedication.



### Chicks in the Sticks

Springbrook puts a whole new spin on Girls Night Out! Join the naturalist staff for a little adventure—just for women. Bring friends or make new ones. Our adventure will include a relaxing campfire and refreshments.

**Friday, December 9:** Snowshoe Hike

**Friday, January 13:** Snowshoe Hike

(Snowshoeing requires 3" inches of snow; but do not worry, if we have less we will simply hike the trails.) Event is 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Pre-registration required: Call (763) 572-3588 to reserve your spot. \$5/person per class • \$5 snowshoe rental

## Winter Break Youth Trips Grades K-5: School's Out Events

**December 27:** Chuck E. Cheese and Adventure Peak

**December 28:** Tropics Waterpark & Adventure Playground

**December 29:** MN Science Museum & Omnitheater

**December 30:** Pump It Up & Bowling at Andover Lanes

All events cost \$28/each and are from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Transportation to and from the Fridley Community Center. Get details and registration online at [FridleyMN.gov/recreation](http://FridleyMN.gov/recreation) or call **763-572-3570**

Extended hours available: 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., \$8 additional/event.

## Attention Utility Customers!

Did you know...You can have your City of Fridley utility bill paid automatically with our free Direct Payment Program!

- Save money (no stamps, no processing fees)
- Save time (no checks to write)
- No late fees, no worries!

Direct Payment is a free service and enrollment is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Simply complete the form to the right.
2. Attach a voided check or savings withdrawal slip.
3. Return it to us with your current City of Fridley utility payment or mail anytime.

Once you are enrolled, your utility bill will state \*\*\* Bank Draft\*\*\*. It's that simple!

Bills are paid automatically from your checking or savings account on the due date. Our Direct Payment Program is a free service, and you can withdraw anytime by contacting us at least 10 days prior to your due date.



## Utility Bill Direct Payment Program Form

Mail completed forms to:  
City of Fridley, Attn: Utility Billing  
6431 University Ave NE, Fridley MN 55432

Questions? Call us! 763-572-3529

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Utility Account #: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Financial Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  Checking  Savings

By signing below I am authorizing the City of Fridley Utility Department to automatically withdraw my utility payment from my checking / savings account.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Attach voided check or savings withdrawal slip here.

## Winter Parking: Now through April 1

**107 miles of city roads + 80 cul-de-sacs + 18 alleyways and dead-ends + 17 parking lots + 23 miles of sidewalks & trails = 1 very dedicated and busy Streets Department**

Now through April 1, there is no parking on any City street between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m., regardless of weather. In addition, there is no street parking anytime while snow removal is in progress.

Why? We do this so our plows can work quickly and effectively. Roads may require treatment before or after a snow event, and a single snowfall may require a plow to pass multiple times. Winter parking restrictions help lessen the risk of damage to vehicles and plows, and help plow drivers work as quickly as possible. Fridley does not declare snow emergencies. By maintaining a regular policy, it is less confusing for our residents and more effective for getting our streets cleared.

Vehicles left on the street during these times can be tagged and towed at the owner's expense.

### Safety First!

Snow plows go through your neighborhoods, often during poor weather with slippery conditions and limited visibility. For that reason, we ask for your help.

- Keep children safe. Do not build snow forts or snow sculptures close to the street. Plows are big, they do not swerve quickly, sometimes drivers have limited site lines and they need extra room to turn or move. For your family's safety, please keep forts and snowmen away from the street.
- Reduce your speed around plows and keep your distance.

Our top obstacle every winter season is garbage and recycling containers, or other items left in the street. Keep them in your driveway and out of the street or sidewalk. Please do not put ANYTHING in the street.

### A Plowing Timeline

Emergency routes are first priority after any snowfall. These redlines are established to ensure emergency vehicles can reach within one or two blocks of every home. After emergency routes are clear, the City is split into 11 plowing districts. Each district has four different starting points that rotate each time. If your street was plowed last this time, it will be next time. Clean, safe plowing of all City streets takes approximately 10-12 hours.

### Reminder for Property Owners

It is unlawful to push/shovel/blow snow onto or across City streets and boulevards. Penalties range from a formal warning to a \$700 fine or 90 days in jail plus any City cost. Property owners are responsible for their actions and those of their contracted snow removers.

Together we will make it through another beautiful Minnesota winter! Thank you for partnering with us to keep our community safe.



## Don't Let Your Holiday Go Up in Flames

Like it or not, the cold weather is coming. Dry trees and overused space heaters are a dangerous combination. Each year in the U.S., there is more than \$2 billion in property loss due to winter home fires. Here are 10 important reminders to help you not become a statistic.

- 1 Keep anything that can catch fire (including bedding, paper, walls and people) at least three feet from heat sources, including the stove.
- 2 Test your alarms: smoke and carbon monoxide.
- 3 Keep all doors and windows that could be escape routes clear of snow and ice.
- 4 Keep all vents – fireplace, dryer, furnace and oven – clear of snow, ice and debris.
- 5 Plug only one heat-producing appliance (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time, and do not use extension cords for portable heaters.
- 6 Only use portable heaters that have an automatic shut-off.
- 7 Hire a professional to inspect, service and clean chimneys, vents and furnaces. This should be done every year.
- 8 Store cooled ashes in a covered metal container at least 10 feet from your home and any nearby buildings.
- 9 In Minnesota, cooking is the leading cause of structure fires, most often due to unattended equipment and combustibles too close to a heat source. Stay in the kitchen when cooking. Do not fall asleep or leave.
- 10 Keep holiday decorations away from heat sources. Keep the Christmas tree watered. Do not block exits. Pick a secure tree stand that holds two days of water.

To learn more about fire safety including home escape planning and tip sheets, visit [FridleyMN.gov/firesafety](http://FridleyMN.gov/firesafety)

## Cops and Clergy

Fridley Police Officers see a lot. They see people in need, kids without beds, parents suffering the loss of a child, and families without enough food. Yes, there are a lot of great resources out there; social services that officers can connect people with and organizations that reach out to help those in need.

That help is not always enough. There are gaps. Sometimes people do not understand the process or the red tape it takes to get the help they need. Sometimes they miss the qualifying mark just enough to be denied, but that does not mean the problem goes away. Sometimes the help people need is more emotional or spiritual, less tangible.

Fridley Police want to help fill those gaps. The first step in that direction is a new partnership called Cops and Clergy.

“We believe that by bringing together shared spiritual and police resources, we can improve the quality of life and safety of our children, congregations and communities,” explains Police Captain Mike Monsrud. “We are very excited about the positive impacts this collaboration can make within our

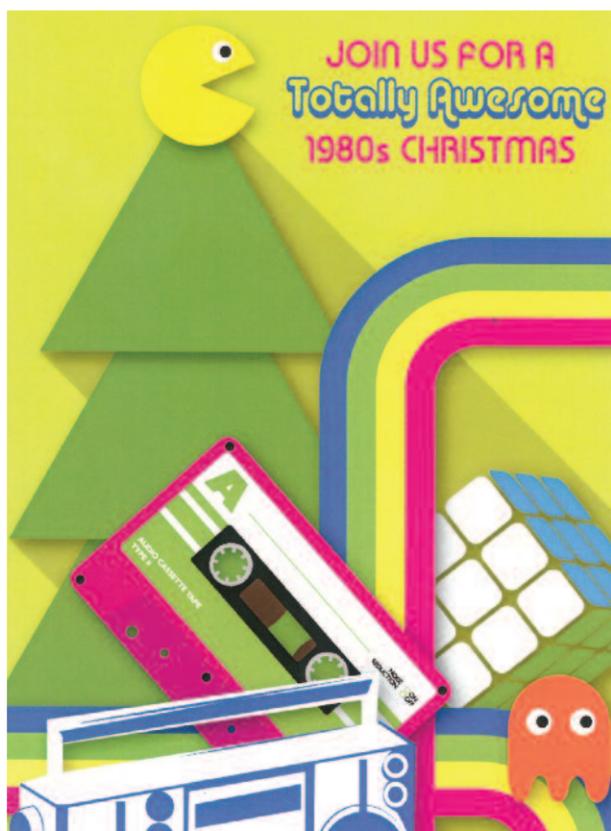


*Cops and Clergy lend helping hands as they serve lunch at Bridgeview Center.*

community, and we appreciate the efforts of those members of our faith community who have joined us in this effort.”

It is a win-win. The local faith communities are already doing amazing good right here in our community – initiatives unknown to our officers, until now. This group shares resources, ideas and outreach. This partnership also gives officers another way to get involved and give back to the community. Sometimes it is those quiet moments of passing out food or delivering meals that creates a connection that makes all the difference.

One positive connection. One new relationship. One alternative. Sometimes all it takes is one.



The Fridley History Center presents...

### A Totally Awesome 80s Christmas

A time of neon, Pac-Man, synthesized music, shoulder pads, leg warmers, friendship bracelets and big hair.

**Grand Opening: Saturday, November 19**

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Exhibit Hours ~ Free Admission**

**Saturdays: November 19 – December 17**

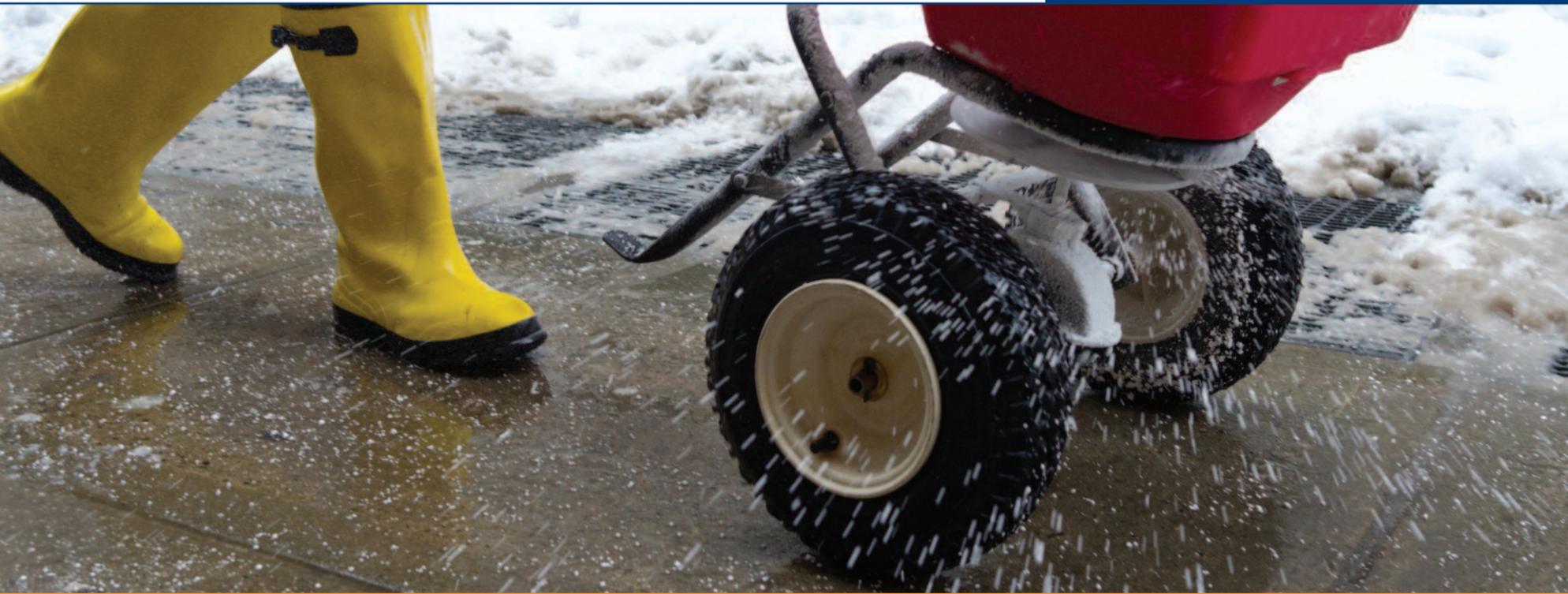
**Sundays: November 20 – December 18**

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Bring the whole family! Don't miss the historical vignettes, operating train set, trivia, children's activities, Christmas tea and treats!

Fridley History Center • 611 Mississippi St NE

[www.fridleyhistory.org](http://www.fridleyhistory.org) • (763) 571-0120



## Protect the Environment: More Salt Does Not Equal Faster Melting

**Did you know...?** As little as a single teaspoon of de-icing salt permanently pollutes five gallons of water. When that 50-pound bag you picked up at the store is empty, it may have polluted 10,000 gallons of water!

**Did you know...?** Heaps of salt does no good. Use salt sparingly and give it time to work. Extra salt does not make the ice melt any faster, but it does get washed into our waters causing significant pollution problems and harm to fish.

**Did you know...?** Most salt will not melt ice in temperatures below 15 degrees.

Water pollution from salt (called chloride), is widespread in Fridley and the vast majority comes from deicers used in winter maintenance. Salt dissolves and becomes extremely difficult to remove from water bodies. Prevention is the only feasible way to protect our clean water. Even sand for traction has environmental impacts, as it turns into sediment if it gets into the stormdrain.

The number one strategy to avoid the need for salt and sand is early snow removal—you know you have to do it, so attack it right away. This gets rid of the snow before ice has a chance to form. Compacted snow is more work to remove than fluffy snow. Use a broom to sweep up those last flakes to avoid future slippery spots. Never apply deicers to unshoveled snow – it is harmful and there is no point.

**You can make a difference:**

- Stay on top of winter maintenance and clear right to the pavement as soon as possible after a storm to avoid icy buildup. Kick the salt habit with early intervention.

- If you hire a snow removal service, choose one that is certified by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in Level 1–Snow and Ice Control Best Practices OR ask your current provider to become certified. Monitor how quickly the service responds after a snowfall and make sure they are not overly reliant on salt.
- If you see salt or sand on dry pavement, it is done working. Sweep it up to use next time or throw it in the trash. Do not wait for warmer weather to wash it into the stormdrain and pollute our waters.
- Chip away. Break up ice with an ice scraper or shovel then push it out of the way for a safer, non-slippery surface without the use of salt. If the surface is still slippery, use salt sparingly, give it time to work, and sweep up the excess.

If you must use salt, apply the absolute minimum (no piles of salt!) in only critical areas and remember that regular deicers do not work in extreme cold. Magnesium chloride and calcium chloride work better when it gets super cold, but pets can be sensitive to these products. Consider using a glycol product or sand instead. Sand does not melt anything; it is used for traction. You need to sweep it up and not let it escape into the stormdrain afterward.

Take this time before snow really hits to find those spots where water accumulates. Correct troublesome downspouts, gutters and low spots to avoid the need for deicers over the next few months. Salt kills lawn, pits concrete and creates rust, in addition to turning our fresh water into salt water. By changing your winter habits, you can make a difference.

### Fridley Community Calendar

#### December

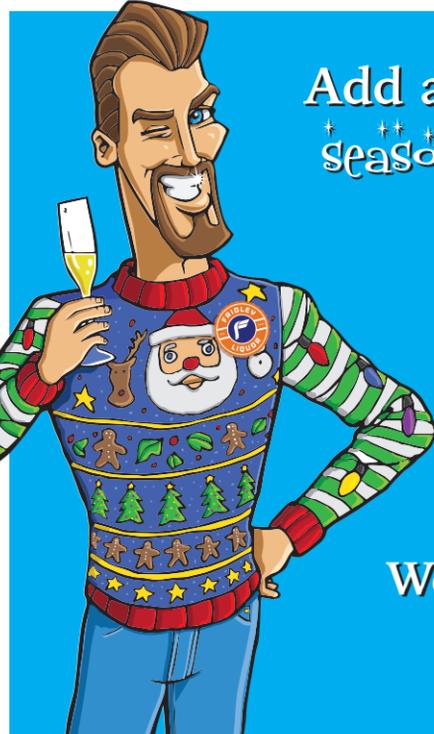
- 1 HRA Meeting
- 5 Parks & Recreation Commission
- 7 Appeals Commission
- 12 City Council Meeting
- 13 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission
- 21 Planning Commission
- 26 City offices closed in observance of Christmas
- 27 City Council Meeting

#### January

- 2 City offices closed in observance of New Year's Day
- 3 Charter Commission
- 4 Appeals Commission
- 5 HRA Meeting
- 9 Parks & Recreation Commission
- 9 City Council Meeting
- 10 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission
- 16 City offices closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 18 Planning Commission
- 21 Winterfest at Fridley Community Center
- 23 City Council Conference Meeting
- 23 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.



## Add a little sparkle to the season at Fridley Liquor!

**Great Selection. Awesome Service.**  
**Two convenient locations!**

**Fridley Market**  
248 57th Ave NE  
Mon - Sat 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

**Fridley Annex**  
6289 Hwy 65  
New Hours:  
Mon - Thur 12 - 10 p.m.  
Fri - Sat 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

**We have the spirits to get you in the holiday spirit!**

[FridleyLiquor.com](http://FridleyLiquor.com)

Please drink responsibly.





**Breakfast with Nature Santa**  
Tuesday, December 13 • 10:00 a.m. – Noon  
Springbrook Nature Center

Start your day off with a delicious breakfast followed by a story and activities with Nature Santa! Parents, bring your camera and capture those big smiles!

Come meet Nature Santa and all of his helpers!  
Kids, bring your parent!  
*(Children must be accompanied by an adult.)*

\$7 per person, pre-registration required.  
Call (763) 572-3588.

# Fridley Police Behind the Scenes: 2016 Citizen's Academy

Sergeant Jim Mork led 26 Fridley residents on an 8-week journey with Fridley Police. This was not your ordinary jail tour, media interview or educational seminar. This was digging deep, side-by-side, hands-on Fridley policing.

Today, more than ever before, partnerships between citizens and police are essential to public safety. Officers want you to understand what they do, how they do it and, most importantly, why. The Citizen's Academy is one of Fridley Police Department's most comprehensive ways to do that. Each participant dedicated 24 hours over the course of 8 weeks to comprehensive instruction with officers, staff and experts in various aspects of law enforcement and public safety.

Academy members:

- suited up with firefighters and controlled the Jaws of Life.
- rode along with officers on patrol.
- drove a Fridley squad car on a closed course and made a simulated traffic stop.
- gained better understanding of Constitutional Law and how it applies to policing.

- met the Fridley K-9s.
- learned when, how and why the use of force may be necessary.
- dove into criminal and narcotic investigations.
- built relationships with Fridley Officers and Staff to strengthen community partnerships in the future.

"Having taught this class many times over the past 11 years, I find I can't go more than about a week without running into Citizen Academy graduates," says Sergeant Jim Mork. "The connections we make really do last for years! It is a great learning experience for the participants, as well as for the instructors."

The Fridley Citizen Academy is offered every fall, free of charge, and open to anyone who lives or works in Fridley, over the age of 18 with no prior felony convictions. We invite you to join us in 2017. Watch for details on our website this spring, or call Fridley Police at (763) 572-3629 to learn more.



## You're Invited!

### the annual SPRINGBROOK SPREE

Saturday, March 4, 2017 • 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Springbrook Nature Center,  
Inspirational Gathering Space

Come and celebrate in our new Nature Center building! This annual fundraising event includes a catered dinner, guest speaker, live auction and silent auction. All money raised during this fun-filled evening directly benefits the nature center programs and facilities.

Springbrook Spree is hosted and organized by the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation (SNCF), a non-profit group of volunteers dedicated to enhancing and preserving the Springbrook Nature Center. Their mission is to preserve the natural heritage, educate all visitors and nurture the human spirit.

Tickets and details will be available soon at [springbrookfoundation.org](http://springbrookfoundation.org).



## Meet Fridley Cops for Coffee

Join us for the last Coffee with the Cops of the year:  
December 28.

Share your concerns, brainstorm crime prevention ideas, ask questions, or just get to know us better! Let's talk about what you can do to keep your home and your neighborhood safe during the holiday season.

Bring your neighbors and let's partner for a safe and vibrant community. Let this year's New Year resolution be to get involved.

Wednesday, December 28  
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
Dunn Bros Coffee – 7610 University Ave NE

## Adopt-a-Hydrant

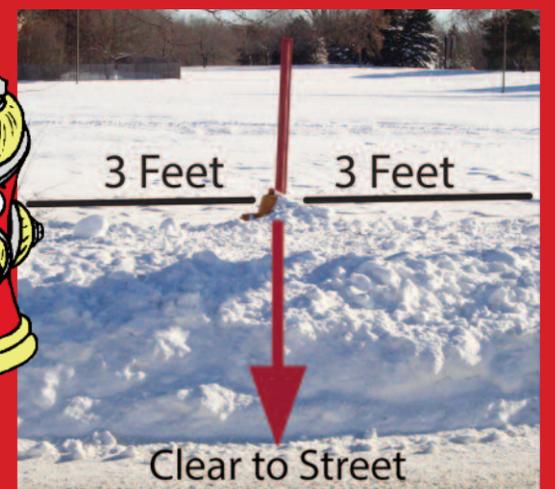
Make a difference - those extra few minutes could save a life!

A fire can double in size every minute – you can make a difference.

Adopt the fire hydrant on your street today!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Register to Adopt-a-Hydrant in your area. You can do it online at [FridleyMN.gov/978](http://FridleyMN.gov/978) or call (763) 572-3613.
2. Keep your hydrant clear of snow.
3. WIN! Once a month or every major snowfall, we will draw a name from those registered. If our quick check determines your hydrant is clear, you win!



Remember: 3 Feet Around and Clear to the Street  
Seconds Matter - Shovel Out Your Hydrant, 3 Feet on All Sides and a Path to the Street

playful

## POLLIWOGS

Tuesday Mornings AND (coming soon) Evenings!

Springbrook's popular parent/child program just got better! Now you can choose from mornings or evenings for a little nature fun with your 2-5 year old. This hands-on, fast-paced weekly class will get your creativity flowing. Each week will include both indoor and outdoor adventure.

Tuesdays 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
Cost is \$4/child per class.

**Upcoming Themes:** December 6 – Let It Snow  
December 20 – Nature's Gifts  
(No class on 12/13 due to Breakfast with Nature Santa.)

Watch our website for details on the addition of evening Playful Polliwogs, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. - NEW in 2017!

[SpringbrookNatureCenter.org](http://SpringbrookNatureCenter.org)



## Safeguard Your Holiday Spirit

The holidays are often full of abundance and distractions. Predators know this. Do not let them take advantage of you. Here are a few helpful tips to keep you safe this holiday season.

### Shopping

- **The Juggling Act:** If you are struggling to handle all those bags and boxes, it makes it easy for someone to snatch them from you. Ask for help to carry packages to your car.
- **Light the Way:** Shop in the daylight if possible, or stick to well-lit parking areas and walkways. Make note of where you parked so you can walk quickly to and from your vehicle with your keys in hand.
- **Safety in Numbers:** Shopping is more fun with friends or family. Kids, however, can refocus your attention and make you less alert of your surroundings. Plan a fun day out with friends, leave the kids with a trusted babysitter, and get your shopping done.
- **Keep a Lookout:** Pay attention to your surroundings. Don't be distracted by your phone. Carry cash in your front pocket and have a strong hold of your wallet or purse, if you have to carry one. Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason.
- **Be Type A:** Stay organized. Keep track of your purchases and receipts. Check credit card and bank statements for accuracy. Keep a list of card numbers at home to easily and quickly report any cards that go missing.
- **Alternative Payments:** Consider using a gift card or disposable credit card for online orders. Make sure your computer's security is up-to-date.
- **Be a Teacher:** If you are shopping with children, teach them to go to a store clerk for help if they get separated. Keep them close. Teach them their full name, address and telephone number to give to police or mall security if needed. Never let children make unaccompanied trips to the restroom.

### ATM Machines

- **Go Public:** If you must use an automated teller (cash) machine, use one inside a mall, bank or other well-lit location during operating hours.
- **Bare Necessities:** Withdraw only the cash you need.
- **Keep It Secret:** Shield your PIN number from anyone standing nearby and do not throw away your receipt at the same location.

### Driving

- **Up Close:** Park as close as possible to your destination, and stay in well-lit areas.
- **Stay Visible:** Avoid parking next to vans, large trucks or other types of vehicles that shield your vehicle from view.
- **The Lock Up:** Keep all doors and windows closed and locked while in or out of your car. Set your vehicle alarm or anti-theft device.
- **Not Even for a Second:** Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- **Out of Sight:** Do not leave valuables in your car. Anything in plain sight is an invitation to a criminal.

### Your Home

- **Every Second Counts:** Double check that doors and windows are locked, even if you are only leaving for a few minutes.
- **Secret Travels:** When leaving home for an extended time, have someone collect mail and newspapers. Use automatic timers on lights. Timers can also be used on TVs or radios. Never leave a message on your voicemail or answering machine that notifies callers that you are away.
- **Hide the Goods:** Do not leave those tempting holiday gifts or labeled boxes in view from windows or doors. Thieves like the easy route – do not leave gifts where they could be quickly grabbed by breaking a window.

- **The Sideway Slide:** Place a thick metal or wooden rod in the track of patio doors and windows that slide sideways. Windows that slide up should have an anti-lift mechanism installed on the interior.
- **Unplugged:** Extension cords running through doors or windows usually prevent them from closing and locking properly. Use an exterior outlet for your outdoor holiday lights.
- **Big Box Reveals:** Make arrangements for deliveries to be made to a workplace or when you will be home instead of being left on a doorstep. Also, be aware of those boxes advertising your new electronics or expensive items. Do not leave those empty boxes out by the trash or easily visible.
- **Going The Extra Mile:** Go a step further and treat your windows and glass doors with glass protection film. This protective layer will make the glass harder and noisier to break. You can also install a high quality door brace at the interior base of entry doors to prevent them from being forced open. Choose a brace able to withstand at least 1800 pounds of force.

### Scams

- **Knowledge is Power:** There are countless scams out there. People trying to get your money or personal information by playing on your emotions or fears. Trust your instincts and always do your homework. Never give out personal information or financial information over the phone or internet unless you initiated the communication with a trusted source. Scam artists pretend to be the IRS, a family member in trouble, an IT professional trying to fix or secure your computer, or any number of false identities.

You can learn more about crime prevention including trending imposter scams, education events and Neighborhood Watch programs on our website: [FridleyMN.gov/police](http://FridleyMN.gov/police).

# winterfest

12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Saturday, January 21



Indoor and Outdoor Family Fun  
Win \$100 in our Medallion Hunt!

#### Outdoor at Commons Park:

Sleigh rides, ice games, snowball launching and more!

#### Indoors at Fridley Community Center:

Bingo, dancing, crafts, games and treats!

Keep warm and make s'mores by the bonfire! Meet the Clydesdales! Try your luck for fun prizes!

#### Don't forget our Medallion Hunt!

Where could it be? Your keen eye and sharp detective skills could earn you the \$100 cash prize!

Questions? Give us a call at 763-572-3570.



## A Day in the Life of a Firefighter: Fridley Fire Open House 2016

Guests had a chance to feel the power of a firehose, get hands-on instruction on how to use a fire extinguisher, climb aboard a firetruck, and witness how a person is rescued when a car is crushed in a serious collision.



### Pumpkin Night Adds Up

**3** dedicated staff dig into planning



over **+1,021** volunteers get their hands dirty with pumpkin carving



**+346** event helpers



**+1,000** carved pumpkins



**+9** costumed characters

**3** miles of trails



**= over 4,200** welcomed guests

