



Fridley

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Parks and Recreation
Brochure Enclosed

JAN/FEB 2022
NO. 234

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

7071 University Avenue NE
Fridley, MN 55432
phone: (763) 571-3450
FridleyMN.gov
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Mayor – Scott Lund
Councilmember-at-Large – David Ostwald
Councilmember 1st Ward – Tom Tillberry
Councilmember 2nd Ward – Steve Eggert
Councilmember 3rd Ward – Ann Bolkcom
City Manager – Wally Wysopal

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Sign up for email notifications on FridleyMN.gov



Successful Coats from Cops 2021

The 2021 Coats from Cops event occurred on Wednesday, November 10, and was a success. The event was held as a drive-through event where attendees filled out a clothing request form which Public Safety staff, Explorers, and Omnetics volunteers met requests to the best of their ability.

Thank you to everyone who donated items or time at the event, as your dedication played a big part in its success. This event is an excellent way to make sure that area families have the means to keep safe, warm, and dry this winter season.

There were approximately 270 coats, 100 snowpants, 100 pairs of boots and countless hats/mittens distributed to families. LED energy-saving lightbulb sets were also available to families to bring home. Families came from all over the north metro. Thirty coats were also donated to the Alexandra House, which provides services to individuals and families who have experienced domestic, sexual or relationship violence.



Lanternlight Hike

January 7, February 11, March 11
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Bring yourself, a friend, or your whole family on an evening stroll through the trails of Springbrook. We will guide your way with the cozy glow of lanterns on the trails and let you warm your hands over a fire. If snow conditions allow, bring your own snowshoes!

\$5 per person, pre-registration required.

Additional \$5 snowshoe rental available from the Nature Center while supplies last.

PRESORTED STD
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Twin Cities, MN
Permit NO. 92886



Annual Tree and Shrub Sale Moved to Fall

The City of Fridley's Annual Tree Sale has moved to the fall. Watch for more information in the July/August newsletter.

Winter Tree Pruning

Late winter, right before spring, is the best time of year for pruning most species of trees. Pruning your trees is important to keep your trees looking great, but also to prevent storm damage and disease. Trees should be pruned when they are young in order to form strong branch attachments and a good structure. Proper pruning technique is crucial to keep the pruning site from getting infected.

Do you have a tree that looks a little unruly? Check out the list of licensed tree pruners online at: FridleyMN.gov/LicensedSolicitors.

Keep in mind:

- To avoid oak wilt, do not prune Oak trees from April to October. If you must prune during this

time, immediately spray with wound dressing or use latex paint over the wound.

- Winter is the dormant season for the emerald ash beetle, so it is the best time to remove a poor-quality ash tree.

Interested in learning more?

Visit FridleyMN.gov/Forestry.

Codes to know:

City Code requires removal or treatment of damaged or unhealthy trees and branches. City Code does not require removal of healthy branches, even if they extend over property lines.

If you have a question regarding a healthy neighboring tree, please speak to the property owner or a mediation service. Learn about free mediation services supported by Anoka County at MediationService.org.

If you are out and about and see a tree that looks damaged or unhealthy, you can report it at FridleyMN.gov/RequestTracker.aspx.

Emerald Ash Borer

Winter is also one of the best times to remove diseased ash trees in order to avoid the flight season for emerald ash borer. Learn more at FridleyMN.gov/EmeraldAsh.

Fridley Historical Society partners with Fridley Liquor

On October 14, Fridley Liquor and the Fridley Historical Society unveiled their newest Fridley historical photos at the Fridley Liquor location on 57th Avenue. The week leading up to the unveiling was used as a fundraiser for the Historical Society. Customers who donated \$5 or more to the Historical Society received a free Fridley Liquor tote bag. Fridley's own Forgotten Star Brewing also got involved by holding a beer sampling at the unveiling event.

Next time you visit Fridley Liquor, you can take a look at the Fridley history pictures on the walls. The photos include the Banfill-Locke House, Bob's Produce, Fridley Village, Fridley State Bank, Holiday Village North, Northern Pump Company Plant, Rickey's Embers, and the Fridley Pony Express. You can view these photos online as well and read their descriptions at FridleyLiquor.com/FLHistory.

WINTER WARM-UP

Friday, February 25, 2022

BANQUETS OF MINNESOTA • FRIDLEY

The Winter Warm-up is back! Join us for a night out supporting the Fridley Lions. Co-hosted by Fridley Liquor, you will be able to sample various wines and beers, snack on some delicious food, and listen to live music. There will also be both a live and silent auction. Vendors from throughout the Twin Cities will be on hand, and you will be able to easily purchase any of the beer or wines featured at the event at FridleyLiquor.com/WinterWarmUp.

Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased by visiting Eventbrite.com and searching for "Fridley winter warm-up". Must be 21+ to attend.

This event is a fundraiser for the Fridley Lions and proceeds will be used to fund community service projects.

FRIDLEY BY THE NUMBERS

950 volunteer hours donated at Springbrook Nature Center

71 new hires welcomed 

 **636** (and counting) building permits issued

 **1,527** cars participated in the January – November recycling events, not including those that came for paper shredding!

More than 50 City Council, Commission and HRA meetings held and recorded for City TV 

5,510 clients enrolled in Recreation and Springbrook Nature Center's online registration system

Apply for a Grant or Loan to Update Your Property in 2022!

The Fridley Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) provides a variety of housing programs to help Fridley residents maintain and improve their homes. Grants, loans, and rebates can be used concurrently as long as all program criteria are met. The following is a summary of available programs.

Grants/Rebates

Front Door Grant Program—now includes interior projects!

Grant application Deadline: March 7, 4:30 pm

If applications exceed available funds, eligible projects will be selected by random drawing. Priority will be given to those who did not receive a grant in 2021.

This program is intended to incentivize homeowners to increase the “curb appeal” of their home (and the City) by providing *a portion* of the cost of improvements on the street side of their home. Homeowners undertaking the minimum “Beautification” upgrades can also include interior and exterior “Basic” projects in their application.

The grant is for between \$1,000-\$5,000. Homeowners must pay at least \$4,000 of their own funds toward “Beautification Projects” to be eligible to receive the minimum grant reimbursement of \$1,000. Grant funds do not need to be repaid.

Eligible properties include homesteaded residential properties, with an assessed market value of less than \$400,000, located in Fridley. None of the exterior projects may be covered by an insurance claim. Work may not begin until a Grant Agreement has been signed by the property owner and the City.

Applicants *must* include \$4,000 worth of improvements from the “Beautification Projects” list. Beautification Projects (reimbursed at 25% of project cost) including the following:

- Front door, storm door and/or garage door
- Sidelight windows by front door
- Columns at front door
- Covered front porch

- Brick, stone or shakes
- Permanent landscaping (visible from the front yard)
- Driveway and Sidewalk repair and replacement
- Window boxes and shutters
- Screening of utility boxes, garbage/recycling cans
- Decorative fence (visible from the front yard)

Additional Basic Projects (reimbursed at 15% of project cost) can be added once the minimum \$4,000 Beautification requirement is met. Basic Projects include:

- Roof
- Soffit/Fascia
- Retaining wall
- Siding
- Gutters
- Chimney repair
- Painting
- Windows
- Deck or Porch
- Eligible interior upgrades, including but not limited to major remodeling, building an addition, or finishing previously unfinished space.

Applying is simple! Visit FridleyMN.gov/Frontdoor beginning in January to learn more.

Residential Paint Rebate:

A fresh coat of paint can make a world of difference. Eligible owner-occupants of 1-4 unit properties in Fridley can receive a rebate for purchasing exterior paint and necessary supplies. Households must earn 110% of Area Median Income or less. The maximum grant is \$500 for a single-family residence, with up to \$350 provided for each additional unit. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis at FridleyMN.gov/Homeloans. Homeowners have four months to complete painting once a grant agreement is approved.

Loans

Home Improvement Loans:

This program is intended to address the home improvement financing needs of eligible homeowners residing in the City of Fridley. The interest on this loan has been reduced to 2%. Owners of 1-4 unit residential properties may borrow up to \$50,000 for most permanent interior and exterior improvements. This loan can be paired with Fridley’s Grant programs.

Multi-Family Loans:

Fridley’s multifamily property owners can receive a loan for substantial exterior and interior property improvements. Properties with 12 or fewer units, in the same ownership for at least 2 years, are eligible for a 2% loan, up to \$50,000.

Mobile Home Loans:

Permanent interior and exterior improvements to owner-occupied mobile homes can be financed through this program. Loan amounts up to \$10,000 are available at a 2% interest rate.

Senior Deferred Loans:

Make improvements to your property’s livability or update the home for future sale. Senior Deferred Loans of up to \$25,000 are offered at 0% interest with no payment due until the borrower sells, transfers ownership, or no longer occupies the property. This loan can be paired with Fridley’s Grant programs.

Down Payment Assistance:

First-time Fridley homebuyers can receive up to \$5,000 at 0% interest, to be used for down-payment or closing costs. Recipients must earn 110% of Area Median Income (AMI) or less and purchase a residence with 1-4 units. No payment is due until the borrower sells, transfers ownership or no longer occupies the property.

To learn more about these loan programs, visit our website at FridleyMN.gov/Homeloans.

City to Consider Accessory Dwelling Units

The City Council held two Conference Meetings in Fall 2021 to discuss the possibility of an ordinance amendment allowing Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in Fridley. Other names for ADUs include mother-in-law apartment, carriage house, granny pod, and accessory apartment.

Staff will prepare a draft ordinance to be reviewed by the Planning Commission in early 2022. For more information, please contact Associate Planner Nancy Abts at 763-572-3593.

EV Charger at Fridley Civic Campus

Thanks to a Volkswagen Settlement Grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, a new Level 2 ChargePoint Charger is now available at the Fridley Civic Campus in the back parking lot between City Hall and Public Works by the plaza. The charger can charge two cars at a time at a rate of 20-30 miles per hour. Members of the public are welcome to stop by and charge their electric vehicles while taking a stroll around the Civic Campus trails, visiting Locke County Park, or conducting business at City Hall. The first three hours are free and subsequent hours are \$2/hour.

According to the EPA, transportation was the source of 29% of total US greenhouse gas emissions in 2019. Electric vehicles produce less greenhouse gas emissions per mile than traditional internal combustion engine vehicles, an amount that is expected to decrease even further as the proportion of renewable energy in the electric grid increases. Supporting electric vehicles is an important strategy in the City’s Energy Action Plan.

To learn more about the City’s Energy Action Plan, visit FridleyMN.gov/Energy. To find out more about electric vehicles, visit DriveElectricMN.org.



113,520 pounds of organics diverted from landfill



227 public trees protected against Emerald Ash Borer



30 parks were adopted through the Adopt-A-Park volunteer program



135,000 plastic bags were used in the recycled boards at the new Craig Park boardwalk

Over **301,000** sales transactions completed at the Fridley Liquor stores

103 shelter rentals across Commons Park, Flanery Park and Moore Lake picnic shelters

17 special events held including Winterfest, Summer Concert Series, Chalk the Walk and more!



Fridley Fire responded to **2,564** calls (as of mid-November) and Fridley Police had **24,874** calls for service, including **5,986** traffic stops



Utility Billing Changes – What Residents Need to Know

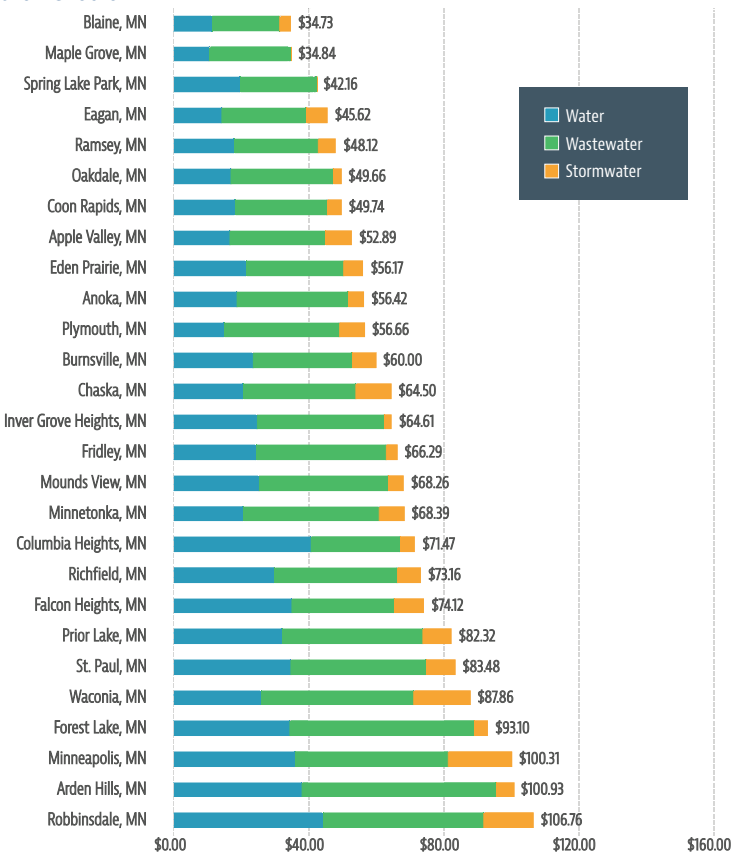
As a resident of the City of Fridley, you receive a quarterly utility bill that combines four key services: water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer and recycling.

The changes in your bill from one quarter to the next can sometimes be a bit difficult to understand. Some changes are due to the time of year, as seasonal consumptions can vary significantly. For example, during the warmer months, you have extra water usage to maintain your lawn or fill a pool. Other changes are due to a fixed or variable rate change determined by the City. In addition, charges like sanitary sewer for residential and small multi-family are calculated once a year and carried forward for the next three quarters.

Utility Rate Changes

Utility Funds: Based on the current revenue and expenditures projections and to maintain an adequate balance of cash in each fund, there will be a modest 3% increase in the Water Utility Fund and the Sanitary Sewer Utility Fund in 2022. The Storm Sewer Utility Fund will have a 10% increase in 2022. While this may seem like a large increase, it is important to know that it equates to \$1/quarter for residential customers.

FIGURE 1: REPORTED 2021 TOTAL UTILITY BILL FOR 6,000 GALLONS
Minneapolis/St. Paul Metro Respondent Service
5,000 or Greater



Recycling Fund: The City’s recycling fund is used to cover the cost of the City’s residential recycling program. Currently, the City has a contract with Republic Services Inc. to provide city-wide curbside recycling. Due to an increase in the value of recyclables, the quarterly recycling fee will decrease from \$11.20 in 2021 to \$10.20 in 2022. This is a decrease of \$1 per unit per quarter for residential units of 12 units or less (9%). You can help keep our recycling rate low by making sure to keep trash out of the recycling. While contamination of recycling in Fridley is relatively low (approximately 11%), the cost of disposing of this unwanted material combined with rising landfill tipping fees increases the recycling rate for Fridley residents. Do a quick recycling refresh by visiting FridleyMN.gov/Recycling.

What does this mean to your utility bill?

The total impact of these proposed changes will result in an increase of \$4.58 per quarter (2.32 percent) to a residential customer using 18,000 gallons of water a quarter. See Figure 2 for the increase from 2021 to 2022 for an average residential quarterly utility bill.

How does Fridley compare with other cities?

Please note that the estimate in Figure 1 is based on one month of service. The City of Fridley bills quarterly.

Typical Household Water Use and Ways to Reduce Water Consumption

According to the American Water Works Association, about half of household water use is laundry.

Some easy ways to reduce water consumption include:

- Turn off the water while washing dishes by hand
- Run the clothes washer only when full
- Update to a water-efficient washer, toilet and/or irrigation system. The City will be offering rebates later this year for an upgraded system
- Shorten shower time (one to two minutes shorter saves approximately 25 gallons of water per month)

No one likes rate increases, but they are sometimes a necessity. The City believes in a Fridley that is safe, friendly, and vibrant and provides stable homes for families and businesses. Residents should be assured of the best quality of 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 763-573-3529.

Please consider enrolling in our automatic payment plan to save time and not ever have to worry about late fees again. A cut-out form is included below.

FIGURE 2: Residential (18,000 Gallons Used)

	2021	2022	Increase (\$)	Increase (%)
Water				
Fixed Charge	\$ 21.60	\$ 22.20		
Usage	\$ 49.12	\$ 50.60		
Subtotal	\$ 70.72	\$ 72.80	\$ 2.08	2.94%
Sanitary Sewer				
Fixed Charge	\$ 52.50	\$ 54.10		
Usage	\$ 63.10	\$ 65.00		
Subtotal	\$ 115.60	\$ 119.10	\$ 3.50	3.03%
Storm Water				
Fixed Charge	\$ 10.10	\$ 11.10	\$ 1.00	9.90%
Recycling				
Fixed Charge	\$ 11.20	\$ 10.20	(\$ 1.00)	-8.93%
Total Utility Bill	\$ 197.52	\$ 202.10	\$ 4.58	2.32%

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. 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
7071 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.



Smart Salting this Winter

Did you know one teaspoon of salt can permanently pollute five gallons of water—forever? Salt and de-icers contain chlorides, which can enter our waterways as snow and ice melt. Springbrook Creek is already listed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as vulnerable to chloride contamination, and other Fridley waterbodies are close behind. Chloride contamination can kill fish and plants, as well as give a salty taste to drinking water. If you use salt during the winter, please follow these smart salting tips from our partners at the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO):

- 1) More salt does not equal faster melting — just more pollution and wasted money. Shoot for a 3-inch spread between salt granules. For \$10–\$20, a hand spreader can make the job easier and more accurate. To be more exact, try to apply no more than one pound per 250 square feet of pavement. (Tip: A regular-size coffee mug typically holds about one pound of salt.)
- 2) If you must apply salt or de-icer, clear off any loose and/or compacted snow first. Apply the product on ice only; do not apply it on dry pavement. Temperatures often drop after a snowstorm, so double-check the label on your salt or deicer product to make sure it will work before you apply it (rock salt does not work below 15°F). You can use the table on the right from the MWMO to check the lowest pavement temperature different deicers will work.
- 3) Sweep away any extra salt once the ice is gone to keep it from washing into the stormsewers.

Learn more about the dangers of salt pollution and how to be a Smart Salter at the Smart Salting Display at Springbrook Nature Center on loan from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Melting Agent	Lowest Melting Temp.	Things to Know
Urea	20°F	Promotes algae growth in waterways; over-application can harm plants; slow-acting; relatively pet safe
Sodium Chloride (NaCl)	15°F	Harmful to plants; harmful to concrete; very corrosive to metal, cheap and abundant
Magnesium Chloride (MgCl ₂)	-10°F	Harmful to plants, corrosive to metal, relatively high cost
Potassium Acetate (KAc)	-15°F	Can cause surface slickness; lowers oxygen levels in waterways; biodegradable, relatively high cost
Calcium Chloride (CaCl ₂)	-20°F	Corrosive to metal; leaves slimy residue; less harmful to concrete
Sand	No melting	Provides traction only; potential pollutant; can be swept up and re-used

Development Update: What's New in Town

Dollar Tree

The exterior of the building is complete and the new landscape has been installed. The interior work is now taking place to finish off the Dollar Tree store, which is expected to open by February 2022.



Bank of America

Located on the former Embers site at 5400 Central Avenue, the new Bank of America building is taking shape. The rest of the exterior work and interior work will take place over the next few months to make way for a April 2022 opening.



Willows Bend

The exterior of the 136-unit senior living building at 6455 University Avenue is nearly complete. Finishing touches are being made to the brick and siding work on the outside of the building. This will allow the contractor to work on the inside of the building throughout the winter. This building will have a mix of independent, assisted and memory care suites. The units will range from studios to 2-bedrooms units, with full kitchens, laundry, bathroom and storage space. The common area will include a two-story lobby, mail lounge, library, multi-purpose community room and many other amenities. Willows Bend expects to open July 2022. For more information call or email Beth Voss at 612-287-3432 or bvoss2@fairview.org.

Interested in finding the latest updates on development in Fridley? Visit our Development web page at FridleyMN.gov/CityMaps to view our interactive development map! Select a build to read more or view the full list of developments.

Fridley Community Calendar

January

- 3 City Council Meeting
- 4 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- 6 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 10 Charter Commission Meeting
- 11 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission Meeting
- 17 City Offices Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 19 Planning Commission Meeting
- 24 City Council Meeting

February

- 3 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 7 Charter Commission
- 7 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- 8 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission Meeting
- 14 City Council Meeting
- 16 Planning Commission
- 21 City Offices Closed for Presidents' Day
- 28 City Council Meeting

NOTE: City Council and Commission meetings start at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 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.



Last Call for \$150-250 Rebates Off Toilets and Washing Machines

Only a small amount of grant funding is remaining for utility bill rebates for new Energy Star-labeled washing machines and WaterSense-labeled toilets and irrigation systems. Act soon in order to claim your rebate. Last year, over 50 Fridley residents and businesses received \$150-250 off their utility bill for installing an efficient appliance. Rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Learn more at FridleyMN.gov/WaterGrant or by calling 763-572-3554.

Rebate Amounts

Fridley residents and businesses can receive rebates for the following water-saving devices:

Item	Specifications	Maximum Rebate Amount*	Est. Water Savings
Washing Machine	Energy Star Labeled	\$250	2,000 gallons per year
Toilet	Water-Sense Labeled	\$150	13,000 gallons per year

*Rebate amounts capped at listed amount or 75 percent of purchase price, whichever is less.

Why should I participate?

Funding for this rebate program is provided by the Metropolitan Council's Water Efficiency Grant program to encourage water savings in Fridley. All of the City's water comes from groundwater sources which take many, many years to recharge, so it is important that we conserve our water. Pumping water from the ground also uses considerable energy, which costs money and contributes to greenhouse gases. Many homes in Fridley have older appliances. Switching to newer, more efficient appliances will save you and the City money, and help conserve resources.

Who qualifies for the rebate?

All property owners in Fridley qualify. Renters are encouraged to work with the property owner to participate. Rebates for toilets and washing machines can only be used for replacement items, not for new construction. The product must have been purchased after January 13, 2020.

How will I get my rebate?

Your rebate will be applied to your utility bill. Depending on when you submit your receipts, it may take a full billing cycle for your rebate to process. If

your rebate is more than your water bill, the rest of the rebate will be applied to the second billing cycle.

What other rebate programs does the City offer?

Fridley offers discounts on the Home Energy Squad program, as well as a competitive loan program. To learn more about these programs, visit our website at FridleyMN.gov/HomeImprovements.

This program is provided by funding through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

Watch Fridley City Council meetings live and on demand.



FridleyMN.gov

or local Comcast channels 17(SD) and 859(HD)

Fridley Municipal Television is in High Definition and On-Line

Fridley Municipal Television can be found in high definition on channel 859 on Comcast/Xfinity. Standard definition subscribers can still find us on Channel 17.

If you don't have cable television you can find us online at Fridley.Vod.Castus.Tv or by going to the city of Fridley website and clicking on the City TV button. You can live stream our channel by selecting the live tab, then select Municipal Television and then click on the play icon.

Seniors Services through Anoka County Community Action Program (ACCAP)

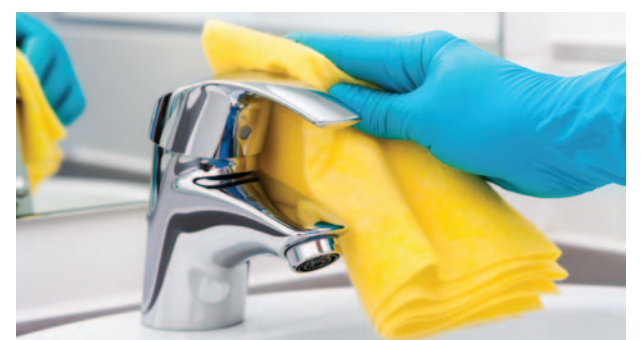
ACCAP Senior Programs aims to provide quality, affordable or free services to adults 60 years of age or older within Anoka County. Their goal is to empower older adults and help them thrive in their communities.

ACCAP Senior Kinship Program: The Senior Kinship Program connects volunteers to seniors living in Anoka County. Volunteers may provide assistance and friendship, companionship and support, transportation to appointments and errands, and participate in activities and outings. ACCAP's Senior Kinship Program strives to help people to remain independent in their homes and to provide a helping hand to Anoka County senior residents who may be isolated or home bound. Call 763-783-4745.

ACCAP Chores & More: The Chores & More program utilizes volunteers and paid independent contractors to assist seniors over the age of 60 in Anoka County. Through this program, they are able to provide housekeeping services (laundry, vacuuming, sweeping floors, cleaning bathroom or kitchen) and chores services (heavy housework, washing windows and walls; basic home maintenance, yard work: mowing, trimming, snow removal). All services are based upon the availability of volunteers and workers. Call 763-783-4767.

ACCAP Senior Outreach Program: The Senior Outreach Program is a free, no cost program which assists seniors 60 years of age and older in Anoka County. Their workers collaborate with seniors and their families/caregivers on a short-term basis to navigate the social and human service systems, and also work as advocates for the seniors. Through this service we provide forms assistance, tax referrals, housing navigation assistance and more! Call 763-783-4741.

ACCAP Senior Information Line: The Senior Information Line is open to all! Whether you are a potential client, a family member or caregiver, or a partner in our community, their phone line is open to you. They have a number of referrals and resources to assist in answering your questions. Call 763-783-4707 TODAY!



Police Deputy Director George Completes Fire Academy

On Tuesday, November 2, Police Deputy Director Ryan George graduated from the Anoka County Fire Training Academy. The graduation ceremony was the culmination of a fifteen-week training academy that covered the basic knowledge and skills that are necessary to serve as a firefighter. Deputy Director George was able to successfully earn state certifications in Firefighter I, Firefighter II, and Hazardous Materials Operations.

The 176-hour academy took place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, as well as some Saturdays. Deputy Director George acknowledged that most firefighters have regular jobs in addition to their firefighting duties. He remarked, "I've seen first-hand the level of commitment that volunteer and paid on-call firefighters have. I had the opportunity to train with an exceptional group of dedicated individuals who are now ready to serve their communities as firefighters throughout Anoka County."

Despite completing the academy, you may not see Deputy Director George fighting fires on a regular basis. "My motivation for completing this training was to develop a better understanding of the operations of the Fire Division," George stated. He currently oversees the overall operations of the Police Division and the entire Public Safety Department's budget. George stated, "I now have a much clearer understanding of the items that come across my desk, and my training has reinforced the importance of having a well-trained and well-equipped Fire Division." Director of Public Safety Brian Weierke added, "We are all proud of the time and effort he put forth to have a better understanding of the fire division."

Deputy Director George received ongoing support from the Fire Division throughout his training. He remarked, "Throughout my sixteen years in Fridley, the Police and Fire Divisions have always worked together as a team. The fire staff showed a genuine interest in my training, and they were very patient and supportive when I had questions." Fire Division Deputy Director/Fire Chief Maddison Zickmund added, "This is a perfect example of our transition to a Department of Public Safety and the collaboration that exists between Police and Fire Divisions. Leaders



of both divisions can only gain from having further knowledge of the type of work each performs, equipment used, and the training requirements necessary. I am glad Deputy Director George was able to gain a better understanding for the initial training our paid-on-call firefighters commit to, as well as the budgetary requests for items such as turnout gear, SCBA, tools and equipment, all the way to purchasing new fire apparatus."

Deputy Director George encourages members of our community to consider serving as paid-on-call firefighters. "Service to your community is not only challenging and rewarding, but it affords you the opportunity to join a team of amazing public safety professionals who are dedicated to making the City of Fridley a safe place to live and work."

Serve Your Community: Election Judges Needed

Election Day this year will be August 9 and November 8, 2022. Election Judges are responsible for the administration of election procedures in each polling location on Election Day. They are citizens who help their neighbors cast ballots while protecting the rights of voters by ensuring the election process is fair and in accordance with Minnesota and Federal laws.

Election Judges are an integral part of making the election process work smoothly for voters. Fridley Election Judges administer the City's polling locations in several different capacities such as greeting voters, registering new voters, demonstrating how to mark a ballot, maintaining accurate ballot counts and certifying polling location results.

There are a few requirements to serve as an Election Judge:

- Must be eligible to vote in Minnesota;
- Must be able to read, write and speak English fluently;
- Must attend mandatory Election Judge training;
- Must not be a candidate in the election, or a family member of a candidate; and
- Must not be a family member of any other Election Judge at the same polling location.

For more information on becoming an election judge, visit our website at FridleyMN.gov/Elections, email elections@FridleyMN.gov or call 763-572-3523.

Submit Your Property Concerns Online

Did you know? You can report concerns online at FridleyMN.gov/1517/Report-A-Concern via your smart device or a computer. When you submit a concern online, you are able to see the step-by-step progress of the code violation (i.e. dates of letters to the owner of the property, photos and timelines of when the violation is set to be corrected by).

Complainant information is confidential and protected under the Minnesota Data Privacy Act.

What types of things can you report online?

- Private property maintenance concerns, container storage, vehicle violations
- Public property concerns such as graffiti, park equipment maintenance, potholes, tree concerns.
- Crimes that do not require immediate police presence

Assessor's Office: 2021 Update

The 2021 assessment was a continuation of the modified processes employed in 2020 as a response to the pandemic. For the safety of our residents, business owners and staff, requests for any kind of interior inspection were suspended. The use of digital cameras for still shots and full video were used, when possible, to view interior conditions and new improvements. Additionally, requests for phone interviews were also used to gain insights from the owners or occupants.

This was also a year where exempt properties were required to be reviewed and inspected, adding just over 600 additional parcels to the workload. Staff reviewed 1,549 parcels to meet the required quintile inspection threshold of residential properties and 129 commercial and industrial properties. There were 38 apartment buildings inspected to round out the year, with all these inspections taking place from May through September.

The Assessor's office enjoyed the assistance of Intern Thomas Cooper who assisted with the residential reviews through the beginning of September. Staff finished the year inspecting work started in 2020 but not completed along with all new permit work for 2021. This required review of nearly 900 new permits and follow up on just over 450 incomplete projects from 2020.

All these inspections and reviews are used to update property records that best reflect the condition, quality and value affecting attributes of real estate in Fridley. In conjunction with analysis of sales, these updated records will help inform the assessor what changes in value need to be made to reflect the market of 2021 as of the assessment date on January 2, 2022. The estimated market value as of that date is used to determine the property taxes that will be paid in 2023.

Winter Fun in the Parks!

Sledding Hill

If you are looking for a great place to bring the sleds – try out Commons Park! The sledding hill is located just beyond the playground and picnic shelter.

Groomed Trails

Groomed trails will be available at Commons, Moore Lake and Meadowlands Parks for cross-country skiing, walking and fat tire biking. Trails will be available when snow conditions permit.

Cold Weather Guidelines

As a general guideline, we suggest cancelling outdoor activities if the temperature or wind chill is minus 10 degrees Fahrenheit or colder.

Where to Skate in Fridley

The City of Fridley creates and maintains nine general skating rinks and five hockey rinks throughout the city. It is a great way to spend time outside with family and friends! We need about 10 consecutive days of freezing temperatures in order to create safe and usable ice – a 3 to 4 inch even layer. Warm weather, freezing rain and even snow can affect ice maintenance; our goal is to keep the rinks prepared for use as much as possible throughout the season. A listing of locations can be found on our website at FridleyMN.gov/WinterParkUse.



Adopt-A-Drain Challenge Winners

In 2021, Fridley participated in the Anoka County Community Adopt-A-Drain Challenge alongside Columbia Heights, Andover, Blaine, and our local watershed organizations to encourage residents to protect our waterbodies by adopting a storm drain. 420 drains were adopted within participating cities during the challenge, including 53 in Fridley. While Fridley lost the overall challenge to Columbia Heights, a Fridley winner was recognized almost every month of the Challenge for their efforts to keep our storm drains clean. Congratulations to our Challenge winners, and thank you to all of our storm drain adopters!

March - Metcalf family

April - Jones family

May - No winner

June - Stan Mraz

July - Angie and Wayne Clark

August - Amelia, Fridley Girl Scout

September - Stan Aukema

October - Amy Schendel

Join us for this **FREE** Event

winterfest



Saturday, January 22 from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Springbrook Nature Center, 100 85th Avenue NE

Looking for extra fun throughout the week? Park Passports will be available again this year. Remember to scan the QR code to check in at each event. Passports are available on our website, at City Hall, and at Springbrook. Follow us on social media @fridleyrecreation for behind-the-scenes sneak peeks of event planning. More event details will also be posted on our website at

FridleyMN.gov/Winterfest.

NEW FOR 2022

INTRO TO ICE FISHING

Join us on the ice for some fishing fun! Instructor and Fishing for All owner, Evan Griggs, will teach basic ice safety and ice fishing skills for the whole family. All equipment is provided. Dress for the weather. Registration required for this one-hour session. Parent/guardian must be present. No fishing license required.

4735 Ages 8+ M, Jan 17 12:00-1:00 pm
4736 Ages 8+ M, Jan 17 1:15-2:15 pm
FREE Moore Lake Park

FRIENDLY FRIDLEY COMPETITION

Skiing, skating, sledding and more! Scan the QR codes in the parks or use your Park Passport to earn points for throughout the week. Each activity is 50 points, with an extra 100 points for participation in WinterFest Day activities. All participants will receive a goody bag. Grand prizes will be awarded to the participants who earn the most points. Follow us on social media @fridleyrecreation for a sneak-peek at the prizes.

INTRO TO FOREST BATHING WALKS

Take a guided stroll through the forest with David Motzenbecker, an award-winning landscape architect and certified ANFT-Forest Therapy Guide. Forest bathing allows participants to come to nature for spiritual, mental, and physical nourishment. This introduction is a 25-minute version of the longer walks led by David's company, Motz Forest Bathing Experiences. Ages 18+ only. Walks occur at WinterFest on the half-hour between 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 22 at Springbrook Nature Center.

These events are **FREE**. Pre-registration required for Ice Fishing.

Request a Recycling Calendar

Did you know? Most Fridley residents in single family homes and apartments with 12 units or less have every other week recycling. You should have received a recycling schedule and list of acceptable recyclables in the mail at the end of December from Republic Services.

If you have not received your calendar, or would like an extra, please email your address to

recycling@FridleyMN.gov or call 763-572-3594. You can also search for your recycling day on the neighborhood map at FridleyMN.gov/CityMaps.



Remember - no plastic bags in the recycling cart. Put your recycling in the cart loose or in paper bags.

No Plastic Bags (drop-off only)

Recycling Dropoff

The City of Fridley will host five recycling drop-off and paper shredding events in 2022 at Recycle Technologies, Inc., in the location previously occupied by Green Lights Recycling. Midwest-based Recycle Technologies, Inc. purchased Green Lights Recycling in the fall of 2021 and led the September and November 2021 drop-offs. We look forward to continuing our successful recycling drop-off and paper shredding events with them this year.

NEW IN 2022! Free recycling of electronic media including CDs, VHS tapes, floppy discs, and cassette tapes. It is requested, but not required, that you remove these items from their plastic sleeves prior to bringing them in. Before bringing electronic media to be recycled, please check donation options listed in the recycling directory at FridleyMN.gov/Recycling.

2022 Schedule of Events

March 12 September 10
May 14 November 12
July 9 *No January drop-off in 2022
There will be no January drop-off in 2022

- All events 8 AM – 12 PM
- Cash and Check Only
- Drop Off entrance located at 1525 99th Ln NE
- All Fridley residents receive \$30 off their total plus free recycling of many items including light bulbs, batteries, paper shredding and more.
- Visit FridleyMN.gov/Dropoff for a full list of items in pricing
- Questions? Call 763-572-3594

Looking to get rid of a working refrigerator or freezer that you no longer need?

Xcel Energy will pick up it up from your home and pay YOU \$50.

Learn more and schedule an in-home or contactless pick up at XcelEnergy.com/Fridge or call 1-800-599-5795.

