



# Fridley

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

NOV/DEC 2021  
NO. 233

Parks and Recreation  
Brochure Enclosed

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

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Fridley, MN 55432  
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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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## Stay Connected!

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-  Follow Us on Twitter: @CityofFridley
-  Watch City Programming: Search Fridley Municipal TV
-  Sign up for email notifications on FridleyMN.gov

## Support and Safety through the SRO Program

Back in the days of Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) that taught students decision-making for safe and healthy living, the Fridley Police Division became a friendly and collaborative partner with the Fridley Public Schools district. The relationship through D.A.R.E. would eventually lead to a new, more robust partnership known as the School Resource Officer (SRO) program.

The partnership between the Fridley Public Safety's SRO program and Fridley Public Schools is built on trust and the common goals of supporting a safe school environment and creating positive relationships between students and officers.

### What are SROs?

Employed by the City of Fridley's Public Safety Department, SROs are sworn, licensed career peace officers who work in the Fridley school district for a five-year term through a partnership between the city and the school district. SRO candidates must be interested in and have a passion for working with the community's youth. The application process includes an interview conducted by leadership from both Fridley Police and the Fridley school district.

The Fridley SRO program dates back to the mid-1980s when the first officer took that role in the district's middle school. In 1999, current Fridley Public Safety Director Brian Weierke became the first SRO at Fridley High School. Through its more than 20-plus years of existence, the program has benefited many students, officers and community members. Currently, Officers Nico Wallat and Jason Elasky are serving as School Resource Officers at Fridley High School and Fridley Middle School respectively.

"As the first ever SRO in the Fridley High School, I saw firsthand the benefits of a police and school partnership," said Fridley Police Chief Brian Weierke. "I've been with Fridley Police for 26 years, and one of my most rewarding assignments was that of School Resource Officer. They were some of my most enjoyable years. It's an enjoyable experience for many of our officers and four out of five of our command staff have served as SROs. It's a unique and rewarding experience that helped make us better leaders. Keeping our schools safe is a top strategic goal for the Public Safety Department and we all do our part in achieving that goal."



SROs spend their workdays in the schools as an available resource for students and staff, and have become a safe, everyday presence in their respective schools. They build relationships with students by connecting with them as needed—through personal conferences, extracurricular events, and school activities. Formally trained in a variety of areas including SRO certification, Safe Schools, Crisis Intervention, and Verbal De-escalation, the presence of school resources officers can provide overall safety and deter potential threats and crime from occurring in the schools. Officers also present in the classroom to students about subjects such as driving safety and drug education in a youth-friendly platform.

### What is the role of SROs?

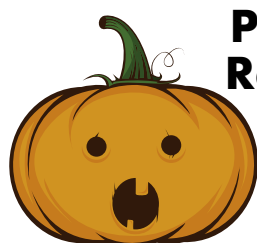
The role of an SRO is to serve as an in-school resource to the school district by providing youth-centered safety education and information to students, serving as a first responder in the event of an emergency, and being an informal counselor to students as needed. Each officer has their own office in the Middle School and High School with an open-door policy for everyone. The officers strive to build relationships with students to create a safe space for confidential conversations, resources, and support.

The SRO program gives students and staff access to a police officer that they can get to know and feel comfortable talking with. The rapport and strong connections they build with students have helped students feel safe connecting with them when they need support.

This program bridges the gap between police officers and youth, increasing positive attitudes toward law enforcement and providing students with a present support system.

SRO, continued on page 8

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Permit NO. 92886



## Pumpkin Recycling

November 1 - 15

Springbrook Nature Center Parking Lot

The pumpkin dumpster will be back at Springbrook Nature Center from November 1 - 15. Toss your pumpkins in the dumpster, and they will be recycled into compost. Our goal this year is two tons of pumpkins!

\*\*Only pumpkins in the Pumpkin Dumpster, please.\*\*



## Holiday Lights!

December 1 - January 31

Fridley Civic Campus

We will be collecting broken and non-working holiday lights for recycling December 1 through January 31. A labeled drop box will be in the lobby at City Hall. Remember to never put string lights, cords, hoses, or other tangles in your home recycling cart—it jams up the machines.

Questions? Call 763-572-3594 or email recycling@FridleyMN.gov.



## Should I Stay or Should I Go?

While on your way home from work, a neighbor stops by to tell you that refinancing your home is the biggest “No Brainer” in history, given the historically low interest rates available. As you gather the mail on your way into the house, you notice a flyer from your local agent offering to sell your house, guaranteed, or he will buy it from you.

After dinner, you take the dog for a walk and notice there are a dozen or so groups waiting to see your neighbor’s house, which went on the market today. As you pass your neighbor, you stop and ask, “Where will you go once your house is sold?” He smiles and says he is not sure, but with the price of homes where they are now, he will worry about that later. You stride on and wonder if you should be considering finding a new house of your own.

For most of us, the decision to stay in our existing home or sell in hopes of finding that next great place to live is challenging at best. It is true, interest rates are at all-time lows, which make homes that once might have been out of reach more affordable. It is also the case that the inventory of homes available for sale is at historically low levels. This combination can make selling and then purchasing again a stressful and complicated process.

As a seller, you have a lot of leverage in the market, but as a buyer, the tables may be turned. An effective strategy for the seller is to ask for the buyer to agree on a period for the seller to find that next home and close on it. A buyer may be willing to make a reasonable concession just to avoid a bidding war and to get the home under contract. A seller can also employ the local agent mentioned earlier, but can run the risk that the home does not sell quickly and then be forced to take a lower price to close on the new home.



### Winter Parking in Effect November 1 – April 1

Friendly reminder: Fridley does not declare snow emergencies. From November 1 through April 1, however, it is a violation to park any vehicle on City streets between 2 - 6 a.m.

It is a violation to stop, park or leave standing a vehicle in such a manner as to impede the plowing or removal of snow, ice or waste from public streets or highways regardless of date or time.

Violators will be tagged and towed, and subject to storage charges. Fridley City Code, Chapter 506.05

The choice to stay put or move forward depends on your tolerance for risk and should be balanced against the fear of missing out on low interest rates. Have you considered the possibility of taking a loan out to make improvements to your existing home? The City of Fridley has special programs to assist with many improvements that could help you add extra space, update your kitchen or bathroom, or increase curb appeal.

No matter what you decide, it is a great time to move or improve.

#### Home Loans & Grants through Fridley HRA

The Fridley Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) provides a variety of housing rehabilitation programs to help Fridley residents maintain and improve their homes. The following is a summary of the programs available.

##### Home Improvement Loan Program:

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.

##### Multi-Family Loan Program:

The intent of the program is to provide more incentive for Fridley’s multi-family property owners to make substantial exterior and interior improvements to their rental units. Properties with 12 or fewer units, owned by the same entity for 2 or more years, are eligible for a 2% loan, up to \$50,000. Improvements can include correcting code violations, roofing, solar, siding, painting, windows, driveways, parking, signage, security systems, ADA accessibility, fire prevention, HVAC, insulation, plumbing, electrical and flooring.

##### Mobile Home Loan Program:

The intent of this program is to make low-interest home improvement loans available to Fridley residents for basic mobile home improvements. Owner-occupied mobile homes are eligible for up to a \$10,000 loan, with a 2% interest rate, for most permanent interior and exterior improvements.

##### Senior Deferred Loan Program

*All funds have been used, please check back in 2022 for this program.*

The intent of the Senior Deferred Loan Program is to provide an incentive for Fridley seniors to make home improvements that will allow them to remain in their homes and/or update the homes for a future sale. The program provides a 0% loan, up to \$25,000, that is due when the borrower sells, transfers ownership or no longer occupies the property.

##### Down Payment Assistance Loan Program:

The program is intended to provide incentive for first time home buyers, earning 110% or less of the area median income (AMI), to move to Fridley. Eligible properties include 1-4 unit residential properties. The program provides a 0% loan, up to \$5,000, that is due when the borrower sells, transfers ownership or no longer occupies the property. Funds may only be used for down-payment and/or closing costs. The borrower(s) CANNOT receive any portion of these funds as cash.

##### Grant Programs:

Applications have closed for the 2021 grant programs. Check back in future newsletters or online at [FridleyMN.gov/HomeLoans](http://FridleyMN.gov/HomeLoans) for information about updates and new opportunities with the 2022 Grant Program.

## Civic Campus West Plaza Project

The City of Fridley will be performing construction on the Civic Campus West Plaza this fall. The majority of the trail and sidewalk connections at the Civic Campus were completed in the fall of 2020, leaving the West Plaza as the final piece of land to be developed as part of the Civic Campus project.

The vision for the West Plaza will be to serve as another community gathering space for our residents and visitors. The West Plaza will be connected to the existing trail system around the Civic Campus. The City will continue to inform the neighborhood on the construction and development of the Civic Campus West Plaza. Visit [FridleyMN.gov/WestPlaza](http://FridleyMN.gov/WestPlaza) to learn more about the project, including the concept plan and anticipated construction timeline.

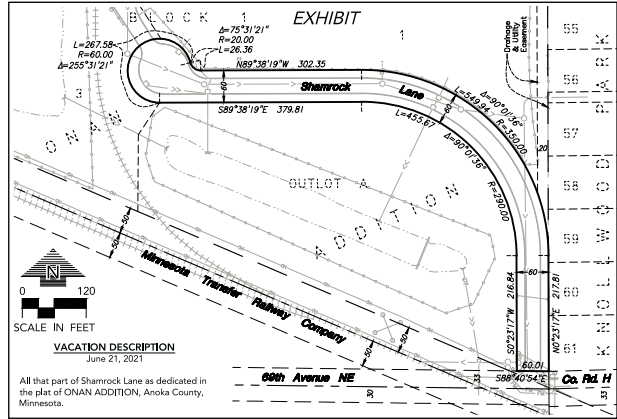


If you have questions about the project, please contact Jeff Jensen, Operations Manager for Parks & Streets, at [Jeff.Jensen@FridleyMN.gov](mailto:Jeff.Jensen@FridleyMN.gov), or 763-572-3569.

# Development Update

## Vacation of Shamrock Lane

In July, Cummins Power Generation, located at 1400 73rd Avenue N.E. submitted a street vacation application to have Shamrock Lane N.E. vacated. Shamrock Lane is a City right-of-way that ends in a cul-de-sac located north of 69th Avenue on the east side of the City.



In 1999, a plat of the Cummins property was approved to create a new lot on the southern portion of the 90-acre campus. That lot was created to accommodate the construction of a 400,000 square foot warehouse building that was owned by Murphy Warehouse. Shamrock Lane was then dedicated and constructed as public right-of-way to provide direct access to the newly created lot. A minimum of 25 feet of right-of-way adjacency and access was required to create this parcel. Shamrock Lane was created to meet that requirement. The parcel itself was required to be created because it was a separate owner at the time.

The lot with the existing warehouse building has since been purchased by Cummins and the two lots were combined in 2015 to create one tax parcel for the 1400 73rd Avenue N.E. address.

As a result, Shamrock Lane only serves the Cummins property and does not serve as a roadway for the public. If the right-of-way is vacated, it will once again become part of the Cummins property and will be privately owned and taxed.

Both the Public Works and Public Safety Departments are in full support of vacating this right-of-way. It removes it from the City's roadway maintenance schedule, and it also helps to alleviate the parking and illegal dumping issues the City has dealt with since its construction.

This employee only vehicle entrance would keep employee vehicle access separate from truck access on the site. No trucks would be allowed to enter from this access point and Cummins would provide secured control to this access for their employees.



## Station Village Building #3

Sherman and Associates intends to have their third and final building at Fridley Station Village complete and ready to receive its Certificate of Occupancy in February 2022. For those who have been by the site recently, it is starting to get that finished building look as they round the corner on completion.

Walking trails, a dog park, a patio/pergola, and raised bed gardens have been placed into the common areas in the village to be enjoyed by its residents.

## Axle Apartments

Axle Apartments, on University Avenue at Mississippi Street has gained quite a personality just since the last edition of the City Newsletter. The exterior finishes are being applied and the complex is soon to be ready for the colder winter construction season. Much work is being done inside the complex including plumbing, electrical, sheetrock, and the application of some interior finishes. As contractors prefer to do, most of



the exterior work will be done by snowfall, so that the heaviest concentration of work can be focused on the interior.

Axle Apartments Construction Superintendent, Eddie Anderson, Ironmark Building Company, has indicated that an April completion is what the crew has scheduled for this complex.

The free-standing, 10,000 square foot commercial building, planned and approved for the area east of the apartments has not begun and the developer intends to begin that portion of the redevelopment project when the primary tenants for the space are known.



## Jersey Mike's

The lunch crowd has begun circling the new Jersey Mike's site, 8040 University Avenue, excited for its opening. The Certificate of Occupancy has been issued for the building and from what we understand, staff for Jersey Mike's has been hired and they are training off-site. Once back on site, training in the facility will take place and soon after the "OPEN" sign can be plugged in and turned on. It is anticipated that by publication date of this newsletter, you will have an opportunity to meet the new staff.

# 2020 Census Update

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a count, or a Census, of all individuals living in the United States and the five U.S. territories. The last Census was conducted in 2020.

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released the initial population and housing counts from the 2020 Census. As of April 1, 2020, the City of Fridley had 29,590 residents living in Fridley, compared to 27,208 in 2010, which was an increase in 2,382 residents. Fridley also had a total of 12,155 housing units and 11,695 households. Household size averaged 2.51 persons per household.

The White, non-Latino, population in Fridley was 16,953 or 57.3% of the population. The BIPOC (Black/Indigenous/People of Color) population in Fridley was 12,637 or 42.7% of the population. The BIPOC population grew by 5,049 residents or 14.8% from 2010. Additional results from the 2020 Census, including Census data at the Census tract level, will be released over the coming months.

In Fridley, the 2020 Census self-response rate was 78.4% in 2020 and 79% in 2010, a decrease of only .6%. Thank you to all of the Fridley residents who filled out their Census form in 2020 and all of the community partners that helped to increase awareness and participation in the 2020 Census of Fridley residents.

Census data collected is used for:

- **Representation:** Census data determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the size of voting districts for state and local governments. This release of data will help with redistricting this year. The Minnesota State Legislature is responsible for redistricting Minnesota's Congressional districts, Minnesota Senate and House districts, as well as the Metropolitan Council districts. The City is responsible for redistricting other election districts and establishing precinct boundaries. The City of Fridley will share information at a later date about our redistricting efforts.
- **Funding:** Census data guides approximately \$675 billion in federal spending allocated to local communities each year, including more than \$15 billion distributed to Minnesota communities in the past. This release of data will help with redistricting allocation of funding.
- **Planning:** Census data helps federal, state and local governments plan transportation, schools, hospitals, senior centers, emergency services and other needs to best serve changing demographics.
- **Businesses:** Census data assists businesses in investing in the community including locating businesses, factories and stores, recruiting employees and conducting market research.

You can learn more about the 2020 census at [2020Census.gov](https://2020Census.gov).

# Recycling Dropoff

November 13 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Recycle your mattresses appliances, electronics, batteries, and more. All recycling drop-offs will be held at Green Lights Recycling (enter at 1525 99th Lane NE, Blaine).

Paper shredding, scrap metal, batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, bicycles and handheld electronics are always free.

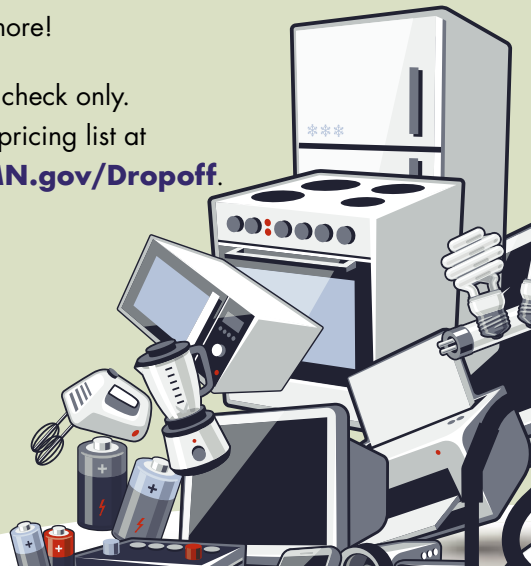
All Fridley residents can receive \$30 in free items with proof of residency. What can that include?

- Two appliances
- A small TV
- A large 60" TV for only \$25
- Four Tires
- And more!

Cash and check only.

See a full pricing list at

[FridleyMN.gov/Dropoff](https://FridleyMN.gov/Dropoff).



## North Suburban Center for the Arts Finds a New Home and Stays in Fridley

In August, the North Suburban Center for the Arts (NSCA; formerly Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts) announced their vision for the future. They highlighted their potential new home that would keep them in Fridley - the decommissioned fire station located on the corner of East River Road and 77th Way NE. Since then, the NSCA has reached a lease agreement with the City of Fridley and has now taken occupancy of the old fire station. Terms of the agreement include the ability to renovate the space to suit the needs of NSCA programming, and the option to buy the building once the organization is financially able.

The NSCA has hired William Rust of Rust Architects to help design the space and oversee construction. Currently, they are working on a renovation plan with the goal of starting renovations this fall and opening in early 2022. In the meantime, the art center will continue to operate out of the Banfill-Locke House and fundraise the estimated \$100,000 needed for renovations.

The Mayor and City Council are supportive of the NSCA's efforts and their lease agreement with the City. When asked about this project, Mayor Scott Lund said "We recognize the value of the arts in our city and believe our decommissioned building could provide a good, stable home for NSCA. Fundraising will be key in order for this vision to come to life since no property tax dollars will be used to support this project."

You can learn more about the North Suburban Center for the Arts and track their progress at [NorthSuburbanArts.org](http://NorthSuburbanArts.org).

## Fridley Community Calendar

### November

- 1 Charter Commission Meeting
- 1 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- 4 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 8 City Council Meeting
- 9 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission Meeting
- 11 Offices Closed for Veterans Day
- 17 Planning Commission Meeting
- 25 & 26 Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

### December

- 2 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 6 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- 13 City Council Meeting
- 14 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission Meeting
- 15 Planning Commission Meeting
- 20 City Council Meeting
- 24 Offices Closed in Observance of Christmas
- 31 Offices Closed in Observance of New Year's Day

**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.

## Get to know: Mississippi Parks Connection

This year, we are interviewing the different organizations that manage water and natural resources in Fridley. Did you know that the 72 miles of Mississippi River through the Twin Cities Metro Area (including in Fridley!) are part of a National River and Recreation Area with the National Park Service? This issue, we are interviewing Mary Hammes, Environmental Stewardship and Volunteer Manager with Mississippi Parks Connection—the non-profit partner of the Mississippi River National River and Recreation Area. Learn more at [parkconnection.org](http://parkconnection.org) or follow MPC on Facebook at [@MissParkConnection](https://www.facebook.com/MissParkConnection).

### Can you tell us about the mission of the Mississippi Park Connection?

Mississippi Park Connection strengthens the enduring connection between people and the Mississippi River by enriching the life of the river and the lives of all who experience our national park, the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. I work directly with park rangers to enhance parks along the river for people, critters, and quality of life! One great way to do this is planting trees to ensure our forests are healthy and resilient.

### What are some projects that you have done in Fridley?

We have spent a few years helping to reforest Riverfront Regional Park in Fridley. We love this park for its long shoreline on the river and really awesome boat launch. Last year, we helped out with a survey of ash trees at Riverview Heights park and will be planting there thanks to support from Securian volunteers this fall. Ash trees are of concern along the river given the emerald ash borer—99% of ash trees will likely be lost, especially in natural areas along the river. Planting a diverse mix of species can help forests survive and thrive in the future. The survey will help us target planting locations and plan for future projects.

### Why should Fridley residents care about our natural resources?

Forested spaces along the Mississippi River are invaluable! Trees provide cooling as our temperatures warm, they increase the oxygen supply, clean our air,



and store carbon. Trees help to infiltrate and slow water—so important with an increase in the severity and frequency of rainstorms. Trees provide habitat to the majestic bald eagle and shade for the fish they like to eat. Should I go on!? I think forested spaces on public lands are a shared refuge and space where we can all find peace and take a deep breath. Go enjoy!

### What is one of your favorite tips to help protect water quality?

I think the most important thing we can do is share public land with our neighbors and friends! Make sure that you are sharing the space with other people by picking up any dog waste, being kind and respectful to other park visitors, and taking out what you brought in. Public lands are for all! Members and volunteers for Mississippi Park Connection help us to support the Mississippi River. You can learn more about how to get involved at [parkconnection.org](http://parkconnection.org).

The Mississippi River Crew, a division of the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa, working for the Mississippi Parks Connection, removed buckthorn, invasive honeysuckle, and 69 ash trees from Riverview Heights Park. Thank you for the awesome work Mississippi River Crew!

On October 6, MPC and the National Park Service along with employees of Securian Financial planted a diversity of trees in Riverview Heights Park to replace removed ash trees. Thank you, Securian Financial team, for your efforts!



## Successful Summer Concert Series

Fridley Recreation and Springbrook Nature Center hosted an exciting Concert Series on Tuesday evenings this summer. This was the first series at the Civic Campus which consisted of six concerts, offering a wide variety of music genres. Performers included: Mr. Winky Band (Classic Rock and Roll), Rum River Brass (Brass Quintet), Innocent Reggae Band, Betty Rydell Show (Country), Roseville Big Band and Fridley Four (Rock and Country). In addition, The Jolly Pops played a morning family show at Commons Park. Springbrook Nature Center's Amphitheater provided a lovely backdrop for the following performances: Anthony Miltich (Acoustical), Blue Groove Bluegrass and Xibaba Brazilian Jazz.

The events were well attended ranging from 115-225 at each concert. Audiences really enjoyed the performances and catching up with their neighbors.



We have been collecting feedback through a survey and would love to hear from you! If you have not yet responded please use the included QR code to find our online survey and submit your feedback. We look forward to offering another fun concert series next year and will use your feedback to guide decisions.

Thank you for those who attending the concerts this summer. We hope to see you again next year!



## Fridley Named City of the Year, by Minnesota Real Estate Journal

On July 29, 2021, The Real Estate Journal hosted their 2021 Minnesota Real Estate Journal Awards. The Award Ceremony was held in Downtown Minneapolis at the Depot.

**Minnesota Real Estate Journal** is a real estate business newspaper, which began publishing in Edina and later Bloomington in January 1985. It has recognized outstanding developments, developers, architects, and cities through the years.

The City of Fridley was nominated by Jacquell Hajder, Doran Companies. Jacquell had the unique opportunity to work as an intern for the City of Fridley several years ago. Jacquell is a development talent whose resume also includes her work with the City of White Bear Lake and the County of Anoka, before taking her role as the Director of Development for Doran Companies.

In the nomination document, she highlighted many accomplishments completed or underway in the city.

*Having record development and permit numbers in the city during a pandemic required staff to collaborate*

*virtually and find solutions to partner with the private community to press forward on these projects. The momentum and ability to continue redevelopment throughout the City is a testament to many years of thoughtful planning, flexible and innovative staff, and wise use of public funds.*

Once Hajders's nomination was submitted, a panel of six judges evaluated each of the city nominations and evaluated what set those cities apart from other nominations. The judges were appointed and included professionals from both public and private sector organizations or companies. Judges included: Deanna S. Kuenen, Community and Economic Development Director, Faribault, MN; James D. Lockhart, JD, LLM, CPA, Partner at Wipfli Law Firm and also serves as the national leader of Wipfli's Real Estate Practice; Cathy Mehelich, Economic Development Director, City of St. Cloud; Mike Salmen, Transwestern, Co-Founder of Equity Commercial Services; Jon Tollefson, Sr. Vice President, Commercial Banking, Bridgewater Bank; Jason Wilsey, VP, Client Executive/Shareholder Real Estate Development and Construction.

*The Awards Program for the Awards Ceremony stated: "The City of Fridley has completed numerous, complex, and impressive projects for a city under 30,000 people. The City of Fridley has three transportation corridors: University Avenue, Highway 65, and East River Road with key areas that have been planned for redevelopment or have changed with the changing economy over the last 20 years."*

It was a great honor to have the City of Fridley selected for this prestigious award. It would not have happened without the Fridley citizen input on the projects as they are evaluated in the development process. We'd also like to thank our community, City Council, and volunteer commissions for their support.

Thanks all and enjoy this recognition, for it is your award and you deserve congratulations! Everyone can share in this prestigious recognition that reminds us once again that Fridley is working hard to be the friendly, safe, vibrant, and thoughtfully planned city you have desired and worked for it to continue to be.

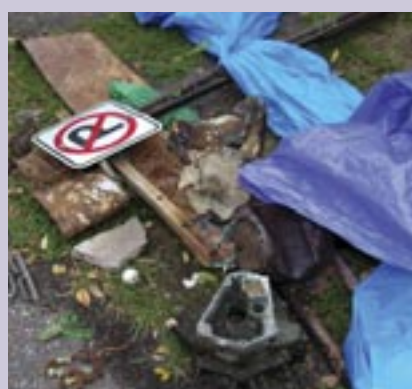
## Citywide Clean-Up Recap

On Saturday, September 25, the City of Fridley hosted its first Citywide Clean-Up! The Citywide Clean-Up is a community-wide volunteer event that encourages community members and groups to clean up Fridley parks, trails, neighborhoods, streets, and other places around the city.

Community members and groups gathered in parks, on trails, in their neighborhoods, or other places in the city to pick up trash and litter. Thank you to all the Clean-Up Site Hosts and community members that participate in the Citywide Clean-Up. The City of Fridley had six clean-up sites.

- **Riverview Heights Park**—City of Fridley's Environmental Quality and Energy Commission & Coon Creek Watershed District
- **Jay Park**—Dr. Shabaz Charity Group
- **Commons Park**—Fridley Lions & multiple Fridley High School Groups
- **Moore Lake Park**—Moore Lake Hills neighbors & Fridley Lions & Target Distribution Center
- **Fridley High School & Middle School Athletic Fields**—Fridley High School Football Program
- **57th Ave Street**—Fridley Community Development & Adopt-A-Highway Group

Thank you to our event partner, Coon Creek Watershed District.



## Recodification Project

The Fridley City Code (Code) is a collection of ordinances, or local laws, adopted by the City Council and arranged into a common structure. Coupled with the City Charter (Charter), it provides the foundation for nearly all municipal functions – it governs numerous procedures of the City, and many behaviors of residents and business owners.

The Charter provides for the recodification of the Code every 10 years. Recodification is the process in which the Code is rearranged according to a system or plan. The process will include a thorough inventory of the Code, and analysis of every chapter to ensure compliance and alignment with the Charter, state statutes, federal laws and various best practices.

On August 23, 2021, the City Council authorized the City Manager to begin recodification. The project is led by the City Manager's Office and facilitated by the City Clerk's Office. Staff from every department will also lend their expertise to the project, which may take up to three years to complete.

For more information on the recodification project, please visit: [FridleyMN.gov/1582/Recodification-Project](https://www.fridleymn.gov/1582/Recodification-Project).



## More Harm Than Good: Please Do Not Feed Deer This Winter

As temperatures cool this fall and winter, wildlife in Fridley adapts to the change in our climate. Animals take three basic approaches to the harsh Minnesota winter. Some, like the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, will migrate to warmer climates where they can still find food in the form of nectar from flowering plants. Others, like turtles or snakes, will slow their bodies and rest beneath the ground or water. Last are the animals like White-tailed Deer that will weather the snow and cold of the winter season.

There is a natural tendency to feel empathy for these animals that may not enjoy the human comforts of winter such as heated homes, insulated clothing or a steaming mug of hot chocolate. Many of us, with good intention, turn to feeding wildlife during the winter months. In some cases, however, feeding wildlife can cause more harm than good.

Deer provide the most dramatic example of unintentional harm from feeding. Ingesting too much feed, such as corn, can cause a fatal disease commonly called grain overload. Bacteria naturally found in the deer's digestive system react to high volumes of grain and produce toxins that can be fatal to the deer within 24 hours.

Grain overload is not the only negative impact that can be seen from feeding deer in an urban setting. When deer congregate at a feeding station, there is an increased risk of disease transmission. Chronic Wasting Disease, as well as several other bacterial infections, can be spread when deer gather together and share feed.

In addition to risk of disease, feeding deer also changes their behavior in ways that can be harmful to the deer and to our residents. Deer are more likely to cross roadways to find a known source of food like a feeding

station, leading to an increase in automobile accidents. Larger congregations of deer can also lead to conflict with neighbors who may not want deer on their properties or visiting their gardens or bird feeders.

For those residents who do want a close look at winter wildlife, feeding birds can be a great option that presents far fewer issues than feeding deer. Black-oil sunflower seeds can attract beautiful Cardinals and Chickadees, while suet (animal fat) feeders attract a variety of woodpeckers that brave the winter weather. To avoid attracting deer to your bird feeders, be sure to hang them at least 6 feet off of the ground.

Fridley's Springbrook Nature Center provides a great resource to discover winter birds. A feeding station is located outside of the Nature Center's exhibit space and our friendly staff loves to share tips and tricks for bird feeding and identification.

## Organics Just \$10.61 per Month!

Give thanks, not waste! Sign up for the organics recycling program in November and receive a credit for three free months on your second bill. Participants in the organics recycling program send their food waste (including turkey bones, potato peels, half-eaten cranberry sauce, and more!), paper towels, and certified compostable products to a commercial composting program instead of the landfill.

On average, each household in the program is keeping more than 500 pounds of trash out of the landfill each year. Learn more at [FridleyMN.gov/Organics](http://FridleyMN.gov/Organics). Make sure to sign up by November 16 so that your cart arrives in time to collect all of your Thanksgiving leftovers.

## MS4 Permit

The City of Fridley's municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) is comprised of almost 5,000 storm drains, more than 100 miles of pipe, and over 900 outfalls into ponds, Moore Lake, Rice Creek, the Mississippi River and other water bodies. The City's management of this storm sewer system is regulated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) through the MS4 permit. This permit is revised every five years, most recently in November 2020. As a result, the City is in the process of updating how it approaches stormwater education, stormwater pollution response, and storm sewer system maintenance to comply with new permit requirements.

An important component of the permit is preventing and responding to illicit discharges- which is the illegal dumping of discharges into the storm sewer system that are not comprised entirely of water. This includes pollutants such as pet waste, salt, leaves,



trash, sediment, chemicals, and other materials, which can cause negative impacts to the receiving water body. Even though some illicit discharges are naturally present in the environment, they can cause havoc downstream when introduced

in unnatural concentrations by the storm sewer system. If you notice illegal dumping into a storm drain, please report it to the City's Public Works' Department at 763-572-3566.

To raise awareness of the connection between our storm drains and downstream water quality, the City received a Rice Creek Watershed District Mini Grant to commission artist Geno Okok to paint a storm drain in the north parking lot at Commons Park. Check it out next time you're in the area. You can find more of Geno's art on storm drains in Blaine, Columbia Heights, and Brooklyn Park as well as on Instagram and Facebook @Geno4Art.

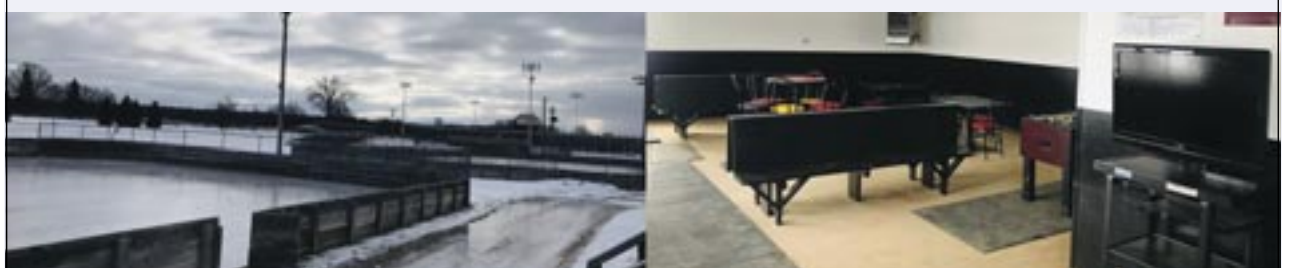
**JOIN US FOR THIS  
FREE EVENT**

winterfest 

Saturday, January 22  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Springbrook Nature Center,  
100 85th Avenue NE

See Recreation brochure for more details!

## Commons Park Warming House



The Commons Park Warming House will open at the end of December as ice/snow permit!  
Stop by for sledding and ice skating!

Weekdays: 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
Weekends, Holidays and School-out Days: 1:00 to 8:00 p.m.

# Volunteer with Fridley Fire!



The Fire Division is excited to launch a new program beginning this winter known as Fire Corps. Fire Corps is a nationally recognized program founded under the National Volunteer Fire Council. The Fridley Fire Corps is meant for adults who desire to make a difference in their community. No specific education or experience is required to apply. Join us to work alongside your Fridley firefighters and give back to your community.

## What is a Fire Corps Volunteer?

Fire Corps volunteers work alongside Fridley firefighters completing functions such as:

- Photography
- Education
- Data-entry
- Special events
- Community outreach
- Training
- Arson investigations
- And more.

Fire Corps is meant for individuals who have a desire to serve in a capacity other than firefighting or emergency medical services. This opportunity is perfect for older adults with prior public service or anyone interested in learning more about emergency services and has a passion to serve our community.

Fire Corps members are issued a department uniform and equipment necessary to complete their volunteer work. No prior experience or training is necessary, although we look to utilize a volunteer's current skills

and experience for a similar role within the Fire Division.

## Requirements

Fire Corps volunteers are required to attend monthly meetings and agree to volunteer 8 additional hours a month to help with their desired task. Members must have a clean criminal history and satisfactory driving record, confirmed by a background check. Fire Corps volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and have a connection to Fridley either by residence, occupation, or service work. No previous fire or EMS experience is necessary, nor the desire to become a firefighter or EMT/Paramedic.

## Apply Today!

To apply for a Fire Corps position, complete our online application at [FridleyPublicSafety.org](http://FridleyPublicSafety.org).

## Questions?

Learn more about the Fire Corps program on the National Volunteer Fire Council's website or contact our Deputy Director/Fire Chief, Maddison Zikmund at [Maddison.Zikmund@FridleyMN.gov](mailto:Maddison.Zikmund@FridleyMN.gov) or 763-572-3610.



# Fridley Fire Division and Home Depot Working Together to Keep Residents Safe

As part the 2021 Fire Prevention Program, Home Depot has donated carbon monoxide alarms to Fridley Fire Division to install in residents' homes. Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas formed by the incomplete combustion of fuels.

Household appliances, such as gas fireplaces, boilers, central heating systems, water heaters, cookers, and open fires which use gas, oil, and wood may be possible sources of CO gas. Dangerous levels of CO can emit from these appliances if they are not working properly. Running a car engine in an enclosed space can also cause CO poisoning. Carbon monoxide is harmful when breathed in, and large amounts of CO can overcome a person in minutes, without warning, causing them to lose consciousness and suffocate.

The Fridley Fire Division will also continue to offer smoke alarms to residents. Smoke alarms are critical for the early detection of a fire in your home. In a fire, smoke and deadly gases will activate the smoke alarm giving residents time to get out of the building. For more information on how you can get a carbon monoxide alarm, smoke alarm or batteries for your smoke alarm, please contact the Fridley Fire Division at 763-572-3613.



# Adopt a Hydrant this Winter!

Fridley firefighters would like to remind residents about the importance of keeping neighborhood fire hydrants shoveled out and accessible to firefighters.

When fire hydrants become covered with snow, it can delay firefighters in securing a water source at a fire scene, when every second counts.

## Keep an eye on hydrants.

Wintry weather can create fire safety hazards, such as ice or heavy snowfall, that can obstruct fire hydrants. You can help reduce the risk by keeping fire hydrants accessible and clear of ice and snow.

Fire trucks carry a limited amount of water, so one of the first tasks upon arriving at a fire is to locate a water supply from the nearest hydrant. Hydrants covered in snow can be difficult to locate, and uncovering them can waste valuable time needed during the firefighting operations.

Keeping them clear can mean easier access to water and more time doing what really matters — fighting the fire.

## How to keep fire hydrants clear.

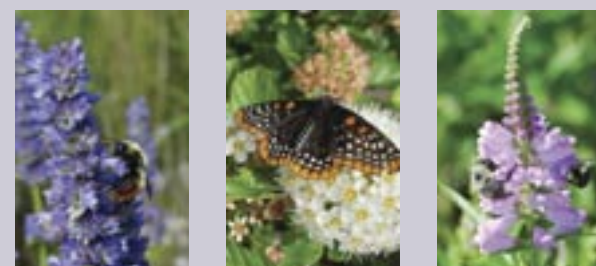
In addition to removing snow and debris covering the hydrant itself, clearing a 3-foot area around the hydrant for easier access is recommended

Maintaining a shoveled path from the street, sidewalk or driveway to the fire hydrant is important so that it is visible from the road and firefighters can easily access it.

## Who should clear hydrants?

Although there are few hard and fast rules concerning who should clear hydrants, it is generally considered the responsibility of the residents occupying the property near a hydrant.

Consider helping elderly friends, neighbors, or those with medical conditions keep their fire hydrants clear. If you would like to adopt a fire hydrant in the City of Fridley, please visit our website at [FridleyMN.gov/978/Adopt-A-Hydrant](http://FridleyMN.gov/978/Adopt-A-Hydrant).



# Lawns to Legumes



Applications for Lawns to Legumes funding are currently open through February 15, 2022. Apply at [BlueThumb.org/L2L](http://BlueThumb.org/L2L) for you chance to receive up to \$300 for native plants, pollinator lawns, or pollinator beneficial trees and shrubs through the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

# Winter Fun in Fridley – Skating, Sledding and Skiing

Did you know 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! Use the rinks as an opportunity to brush up on your ice skating skills, learn to skate, play a pick-up game or to just have fun!

We need about 10 consecutive days of freezing temperatures in order to create safe and usable ice – a 3-4 inch even layer. Warm weather, freezing rain and even snow can slow the process, but our goal is to get those rinks ready as soon as possible.

**NEW this winter** we will have a mix of hockey and figure skates available for use at the Commons Warming House, thanks to everyone who contributed to the 2020 Ice Skate Drive! The skates donated will be available at no cost for the public to use on a first-come basis. (**Note:** Although we have a variety of sizes, we cannot guarantee a certain style or an exact size will be available).

### Cold Weather Guidelines

As a general guideline, we suggest cancelling outdoor activities if temperatures fall below 10 degrees Fahrenheit or there is a wind chill of -25 degrees.

**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.

### Explore Springbrook Nature Center – Snowshoe Style!

Springbrook Nature Center has snowshoes for rent (\$5 per pair) this winter. Get ready for a family adventure close to home that helps you explore nature, burn some extra calories, and get some fresh crisp air into your lungs. Reserve your pair online or in person.

A few particulars:

- There are a limited number of snowshoes available each day.
- Three inches of base snow is required for snowshoe rental.
- Snowshoe rental times are from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. All snowshoes must be returned to the building by 4 p.m.
- Snowshoes may ONLY be used ONSITE.

Location	General	Hockey
Briardale Park: 6171 Rice Creek Dr.	✘	
Commons Park: 555 - 61st Avenue NE		✘ (2)
Flanery Park: 1487 Onondaga Street		✘
Hackmann Park: 1071 Hackmann Circle	✘	
Hayes Elementary: 615 Mississippi Street	✘	✘
Logan Park: 155 Logan Parkway	✘	
Madsen Park: 7358 - 73rd Avenue	✘	✘
Ruth Circle Park: 9160 Ashton Avenue	✘	✘
Sylvan Hills: 6205 Jupiter Dr	✘	
Plymouth Square Park: 4801 Main Street	✘	



## Craig Park Update

The park redevelopment project at Craig Park is wrapping up. For many years, Craig Park experienced drainage issues that caused standing water in the park and adjacent properties. During rainy years, portions of the park were not usable and adjacent properties experienced flooding—an issue that was expected to worsen with the increase in heavier rain events. Additionally, the storm sewer running under the park brought untreated storm water runoff from the surrounding neighborhood directly into the Mississippi River in Riverview Heights Park. This untreated stormwater runoff contributed sediment, phosphorus, and other pollutants to the river.

In 2021, with support from the Coon Creek Watershed District, the park was redeveloped around a storm water management system designed to improve the drainage issues and the water quality of the Mississippi River. This system is comprised of a series of basins and swales to convey storm water runoff and help it soak into the ground. Additionally, the storm sewer under the park was redirected into a new infiltration basin to help filter pollutants from the storm water and reduce erosion at the outlet of the pipe in Riverview Heights Park. Soil excavated from the swales and basins was used to build up the field to keep it dry. A trail was constructed through the park around these features. This project will treat storm water runoff from more than nine acres, eliminate over 1,100 pounds of sediment and four pounds of phosphorus pollution to the river annually, and keep the park usable during wet years. Learn more at [FridleyMN.gov/CraigPark](http://FridleyMN.gov/CraigPark).



## SRO, continued from front page

The officers' primary purpose are to help the students and connect them and their families to resources. They bring in the knowledge of many government resources police officers use for things related to mental health assistance and more. Through the SRO partnership, the resource pool becomes larger and more equipped to help students and families when there is need.

### How have SROs had a positive impact in Fridley schools?

To be a successful SRO, an officer must have a high level of dedication to serving the youth of the community. The two current SROs are great examples of this. Officer Jason Elasky grew up in a law enforcement family and had a close relationship with his own SRO. When Elasky became a police officer, it was his goal to be accepted into the SRO program and provide the same experience he had as a student to Fridley students. Officer Nico Wallat enjoyed and embraced the community policing portion of his job and was interested in the SRO position because of the ability to see a student's growth and create better relationships during the five-year term of the position.

Both officers enjoy their time in the schools and continue to be excited for the opportunity to build long-term connections with students, staff, and families. They recognize the importance of supporting the community's youth and providing them resources to navigate challenging situations.

“The goal of Fridley Public Schools is to provide our scholars with an excellent education and skills to be successful in life,” said Fridley Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Kim Hiel. “Our partnership with Fridley Public Safety allows students to understand



community partnership and have access and exposure to another career choice.”

One former student reached out to their former SRO (now Lieutenant) Nick Knaeble via email to thank him for his guidance during the student's time in Fridley. The student recalled that during a particular conversation, then SRO Knaeble did not scold or reprimand him for his poor choices, but offered words of advice and encouragement on how to make better decisions. This conversation came from a place of genuine concern that would prove to be life-changing. The former Fridley student drew inspiration from Knaeble's caring approach and went on to become a police officer in Arizona. With permission to share in this article, the former student wrote this message to Knaeble: “The whole reason I'm writing this email is to let you know how much I appreciate you.”

The connections between students and SROs often live on well past the walls of the schools. Lifelong friendships and stable resources have been established because of this program. There have been many fond memories shared by both students and officers, as well as recounts of support in challenging situations. As the program commemorates more than 20 years in Fridley Public Schools, both the school district and the City of Fridley's Public Safety Department look forward to many more years of their partnership and its positive outcomes for the community.