



Fridley

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

SEPT/OCT 2020
NO. 226

Parks and Recreation
Brochure Enclosed

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
email: info@FridleyMN.gov

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

What's Inside

- Fridley Commission Member Retires2
- Safe and Secure Voting Alternatives2
- University Avenue Fence Removal3
- Street Project Update3
- When Do I Need a Building Permit?3
- Development Updates4
- Winter Parking4
- Reminders for Your Fall Yard Clean-up5
- Special Assessments5
- Street Sweeping and Hydrant Flushing5
- Home Energy Squad Intercity Challenge5
- Night to Unite – Tuesday, October 66
- Crime Prevention Month6
- Neighborhood Crime Watch6
- Fire Prevention Week7
- Driver and Pedestrian Safety7
- Street Project Updates7
- Fire Department Open House7
- SNC Pavilion Complete8
- Getting Around Town: Road Diets8
- Locke Playground Update!8
- Dog Licenses8

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Are You Looking to Make a Positive Impact in the Fridley Community? Adopt a Fridley Park!

The City of Fridley is looking for community members, organizations, and businesses to adopt a park! Community members and groups will work alongside City of Fridley Parks and Recreation staff to help keep our city parks clean and beautiful. You can make a difference in Fridley parks! Volunteers will be responsible for picking up litter, removing weeds, maintaining the area around the park sign, and reporting any vandalism or safety hazards to Parks staff. Responsibilities may vary from park to park. Adopting a park is a minimum one-year commitment with four cleanups per year. There are more than 30 different city parks available for adoption.

After you have been approved to adopt a park, you will have a short training with Fridley Parks staff to learn more about your adopted park. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Fridley staff have made modifications to the Adopt-A-Park program that follow social distancing guidelines. The safety of Fridley community members and staff is our highest priority.

To learn more about the Adopt-A-Park program and apply to adopt a park, visit the City's website at FridleyMN.gov/AdoptAPark or call Fridley Parks and Recreation at 763-572-3570.

2020 Census Information

Thank you to everyone in Fridley who has completed the 2020 Census! Minnesota continues to lead the nation in Census self-response rates. Information collected from the Census is used for government representation and federal funding for a variety of community services.

Census Self-Response & In-Person Followup will now end September 30, 2020

The U.S. Census Bureau continues to evaluate its operational plans to collect and process 2020 Census data. On August 3, 2020 the U.S. Census Bureau announced that it will end Census self-response collection and in person count efforts on September 30, 2020, due to the hiring of additional employees to accelerate the Census process.

Census workers are currently out in the neighborhoods visiting addresses that have not responded to the Census. Census workers will continue their in-person count until September 30.



You can still respond on your own to the Census until September 30, but do not wait. You are encouraged to fill out the forms even if you have not received an invitation in the mail. You can respond by visiting my2020census.gov or calling 844-330-2020. Census information is also available in 59 languages and can be found at 2020census.gov/en/languages.

Filling out your Census form online right now is the safest option for our community. If a census worker does come to your home, please know that each of them take an oath to protect and keep private and confidential all the information they collect. For more details, visit 2020census.gov/en/avoiding-fraud.html or call 800-923-8282.

If you have questions about the 2020 Census, please call 844-330-2020. If you have questions, please reach out to Alyssa Krusel, Community Engagement Specialist, by email at Alyssa.Krusel@FridleyMN.gov or by phone at 763-572-3579. Or visit the City's website at FridleyMN.gov/2020Census.

Fridley Awarded GreenStep City – Step 3 Award!

The City of Fridley advanced from a GreenStep City Step 2 to Step 3 (out of 5) this year! The Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a voluntary challenge program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality of life goals.

The City received this award for advances in areas such as Living Streets, trails, and organics recycling. Thank you to Fridley residents for helping us achieve this goal! Find out how you can help Fridley be a more environmentally-friendly city at FridleyMN.gov/Environment.



Minnesota
GreenStep Cities
10 CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Fridley Commission Member Retires After 46 Years of Service

Roy Oquist served on the Environmental Quality Commission in 1974 and was then appointed to the Community Development Commission in 1975. He was named chairperson of the Community Development Commission in 1978, and as a result served on the Planning Commission.



He resigned in 1986, but was reappointed to the Human Resources Commission in 1989. When the commission dissolved in 2002, he was appointed to the Planning Commission as an at-large member. He retired in July 2020.

Tell us about yourself. “I worked for Control Data Corp. for 28 years in engineering and management. After that, I worked at Minnesota Wire & Cable for 10 years.

I have been married to my best friend for 63 years. We have three adult children and seven grandchildren.”

When did you move to Fridley? “We moved to Fridley in September 1960 and then one more time in 1966, where we still live.”

How did you become involved in the Commission? “I was first on the Planning Commission from 1978 to 1985 after being asked if I would be interested by a councilmember. The second time I was on the commission, I was asked by a City staff member.”

What was your experience as a Commission member? What are some of the most memorable things you worked on? “My experience on the Planning Commission has been an enjoyable time, as well as a learning one, because I was involved in what was happening in Fridley. There were many memorable things I worked on, but I think the Fridley Civic Campus is the most memorable.”

Why is being part of a local commission important? “Being part of a local commission is important because you are involved in what is happening and will be happening in Fridley. Also, you have an input in the future of Fridley!”

What would you say to someone who is considering joining a Fridley commission? “Do not hesitate. If you are truly interested in what is happening in Fridley and want to be part of it and its future, join a commission.”

The City of Fridley has five commissions: Charter Commission, Planning Commission, Environmental Quality & Energy Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, and Housing & Redevelopment Authority.

There are two requirements to be a member of a commission: 1) You must be 18 years of age or older, and 2) You must be a resident of Fridley.

To learn more about the commissions, terms and vacancies, visit [FridleyMN.gov/Commission](https://www.fridleymn.gov/Commission).



Safe and Secure Alternatives to Voting in Person

COVID-19 has presented challenges to elections administrators at the state, county and municipal level. The Fridley Clerk's Office is working to ensure a safe and efficient Election Day for all eligible voters in the City. There are three ways to cast your upcoming ballot in Minnesota's General Election on November 3.

Absentee by Mail

To minimize direct contact with others, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) encourages all voters to vote by mail. All Minnesota voters are eligible to vote by mail. It is easy to do, as long as you plan ahead.

Voters are encouraged apply for a ballot no later than 10 days before Election Day. This gives you the best chance to get your ballot in the mail and still have time to mail it back or drop it off. You can apply after this date, but each day increases the chances you will not be able to receive and return your ballot by the deadline.

When you request an absentee ballot, elections staff will verify your registration status. If the application is complete, staff will initialize your ballot and mail it to you with detailed instructions on how to return it.

When your ballot is returned to Anoka County, every ballot is inspected closely by two election officials for the following:

1. The voter's name and address on the envelope matches the application;
2. The voter has not already voted in the election in person or by mail;
3. The voter has signed the white envelope;
4. The voter has provided the same identification number on the signature envelope as on the application; and
5. The voter is registered and eligible to vote in the precinct or has included a properly completed registration application with proof of residence marked on the signature envelope.

Your ballot application and signature envelopes are kept on file for 22 months in case any questions or concerns arise that need to be investigated. Any suspected instances of voter fraud will be pursued to the fullest extent of the law by the Anoka County Prosecutor's Office.

To track the status of your ballot you can go to mnavotes.sos.state.mn.us/AbsenteeBallotStatus.aspx to confirm your ballot was received and counted. The site will track the status of your ballot so you can follow it every step of the way.

For the General Election, your ballot will count as long as it is postmarked on or before Election Day (November 3) and is received in the mail no later than two days after Election Day (by November 5). **Note:** This is a change from the previous election law requiring mail ballots to be received by Election Day. Please note that if you deliver your ballot in person to the Anoka County Government Center, it must be returned by 3:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Absentee by Early Voting

Early voting is available in person at City Hall. The process is very similar to that of absentee by mail, however you will cast your ballot in person before Election Day. You will also be required to complete an Absentee Ballot Application. Staff will verify your eligibility to vote. You will cast your ballot and place your ballot in the required envelopes.

By law, staff count every properly returned ballot received by the stated deadline. It is a common misconception that absentee ballots are only counted during very tight races. To track the status of your ballot and confirm the state has received and counted your ballot, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at mnavotes.sos.state.mn.us/AbsenteeBallotStatus.aspx.

Early voting at City Hall is available:

- Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. September 18 through November 2;
- Saturday, October 24 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.; and
- Saturday, October 31 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

In Person on Election Day

Fridley's 12 polling locations will be open and fully staffed on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Staff have been working to outfit all locations with signage and equipment to accommodate social distancing guidelines. Additional sanitizing protocols will be in place for equipment and common surfaces.

Greeter Election Judges will play a more active role in monitoring the number of voters in each location. During busy voting times, you may be asked to form a line outside of the polling location. Please be patient with Election Judges. They will be following directives from City officials to ensure the public's health and safety on Election Day.

If you have any questions, please call the Fridley Clerk's Office at 763-572-3523.



University Avenue Fence Removal

The Fridley City Council kicked off the University Avenue fence removal in late July! City Public Works crews and contractors took down the rest of the fencing and added landscaping in the following weeks.

This project is headed by the City of Fridley and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) as a result of several visioning meetings held in early

2019 regarding the University Avenue and Highway 65 corridors. The series of meetings were held at the Fridley Civic Campus and focused on gathering public input on roadway improvements and street designs, reviewing similar projects by other cities, and putting together a final recommendation that was presented to the Fridley City Council, the Fridley Planning Commission and MnDOT.



Recommendations from the meetings included improving the aesthetics of the University Avenue corridor, such as substituting fencing for landscaped buffers where possible. A summary of those meetings can be found on FridleyMN.gov.

City crews removed chain link fencing on the west side of University Avenue from Star Lane to Mercury Drive, and from 67th Avenue to Rice Creek Terrace to allow for room to install landscaping. The contractor placed weed control on future planting beds, and within small areas to eliminate noxious weeds. They also completed fencing removal in Columbia Heights on the east side of University Avenue between 37th Avenue and 40th Avenue and between 45th Avenue and 53rd Avenue. Final disposition of some fencing in Columbia Heights is still being determined.



Street Project Update

2018 Street Rehabilitation Project (69th Avenue and Anoka Street):

Construction was completed in August. This project included a “69th Avenue road diet;” pavement rehabilitation; trail and stormwater drainage improvements; and other ancillary items. The “road diet” involved reducing the width of the existing street from 52 feet to 28 feet. By constructing the “road diet” this allowed for the addition of the 10-foot trail and stormwater drainage facilities, and reduced the amount of pavement maintenance needed for 69th Avenue.

2019 Street Rehabilitation Project (69th Avenue, University Avenue Service Road and 71st Avenue):

The project area is on the streets located near the Civic Campus. Construction for this project started in August. This project includes pavement

rehabilitation, new trail and sidewalk amenities, pond expansion, and watermain work. Completion is anticipated for fall 2020.

2020 Street Rehabilitation Project:

The project area includes streets within the Springbrook Neighborhood and consists of pavement rehabilitation, aging fire hydrant replacement and watermain work. Additional work includes a Liberty Street storm water quality structure to help remove sediment from rain runoff before it enters our natural resources such as lakes, streams and rivers. The cul-de-sac at Ironton Street and Ashton Avenue will also be removed, reducing impervious surface and enhancing pollinator habitat. Both improvements are funded by a Coon Creek Watershed District cost-share grant. Construction for this project started in late-July and completion is anticipated for fall 2020.



When Do I Need a Building Permit?

To provide some clarity regarding building permits, below is a list of examples where residential or commercial permits are needed.

Permits are required for most residential and commercial projects, including, but not limited to:

- Basement Finish
- Decks
- Door Replacement
- Electrical
- Garages/Sheds (over 200 square feet)/ outbuildings
- HVAC/Heating
- New Construction
- Plumbing/Fixture Replacement
- Porches/Additions
- Remodeling
- Re-roof
- Re-siding
- Window Replacement
- Pools/Hot Tubs (depth of more than 2 feet at any point and volume over 5,000 gallons)

Any questions can be directed to Trisha Lindahl, License & Permit Coordinator, at 763-572-3604 or Trisha.Lindahl@FridleyMN.gov.

Applications and handouts can be found on the City’s website FridleyMN.gov.



New Things in Town: *Development Updates*



New Entrance at Medtronic Rice Creek Campus

Medtronic Plant Building/Entry Addition

Medtronic's Rice Creek Central building at 7000 Central Avenue NE will be receiving a new entrance feature and complex chiller addition to their building. The campus has been, and continues to be, a very striking set of buildings with beautiful corporate architecture

Additional landscaping and some drive-aisle parking modifications will be made as well. Rain gardens have been planned by the new entry to both enhance the beauty of the site and to manage and treat stormwater before it enters the creek.



Train Station Building 3

Train Station Village's Third Building

Sherman & Associates received news in July that the Minnesota Department of Management and Budget selected the third building in the Fridley Train Station Village to receive Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds in the amount of \$10,680,175.

The building will be four stories of living space with underground parking. It will provide 71 units of 1, 2, and 3-bedroom options with 66 underground parking stalls and 43 surface parking stalls. This building will provide housing for those families earning below 60 percent Area Median Income (AMI).

The developer notes that, "in order to make the most efficient use of the site and to achieve the appropriate density, the proposed buildings have been designed

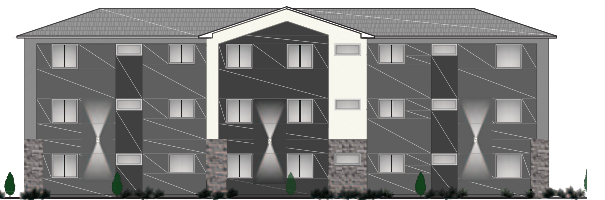
and located around the perimeter of the site in order to establish an urban environment."

The buildings address surrounding primary streets (61st and Main Street) by having minimized setbacks and main entries that are interior to the site. They connect the buildings to the provided green space, shared parking, and transit connections.

This building will provide modern amenities, including balconies, in-unit washers and dryers, a community room, fitness center, etc. The petitioner is also providing shared community features such as a splash pad, open-air pavilion, sidewalks and trail connections for everyone in the community to share.

If all goes as planned, construction on this building will start in late 2020 or early 2021.

In Gauge Engineering Transit Oriented Development Apartments at 58th and Main Street



SOUTH ELEVATION
58th Avenue NE

In late 2019, Clairson Dutra, with In Gauge Engineering and Technology Inc., requested zoning approval on behalf of the property owner of 105 58th Avenue, a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Master Plan, to allow the construction of a second multi-family building along the southern property line.

Dutra submitted a TOD Master Plan application to allow the construction of a 3-story, 9-unit multi-family apartment building south of the existing 2-story, 7-unit apartment building. The existing building and its garage will be updated on its exterior to match the new construction.

In the new building, there will be three one-bedroom units and six two-bedroom units. The existing building has six one-bedroom units and one two-bedroom unit. There will be a total of 16 apartments on the property.

The purpose of the TOD is to provide housing near transportation to eliminate the need to rely so heavily on vehicles. Currently, there are 15 parking stalls on site, including a seven-car garage. Eleven additional stalls will be constructed for a total of 26 stalls.

Landscaping and stormwater treatment will also be an important part of this site plan.

As of late July, it may have appeared the project had stopped. The reason is that there is a lumber shortage currently as it relates to the floor trusses that are being manufactured for this building. The builder indicates they are optimistic they will have those trusses very soon and the project can then commence.

Winter Parking in Effect November 1 - April 1

As we prepare for winter, remember that Fridley does not declare snow emergencies. From November 1 through April 1, it is a violation to park any vehicle on City streets between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.

It is a violation to stop, park, or leave a standing 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, towed, and subject to storage charges.

City Ordinance 506



Street Sweeping and Hydrant Flushing

Our street sweepers will be heading out this fall to clear the roads. Due to the unpredictable tendencies of Midwest weather, we are not able to provide an exact date for street sweeping. Typically, our Public Works team cleans the streets in October, before the first snowfall.

Street sweeping is essential to remove debris buildup before the winter season arrives to avoid washing leaves and other materials into the City's stormwater system. We do this to reduce stormwater pollution and maintain the water quality of our lakes, creeks, and rivers. You can help keep pollutants out of the storm drain year-round by cleaning up your local storm drain through the Adopt-A-Drain program. Join over 4,000 other metro-area volunteers by signing up at Adopt-A-Drain.org!



Reminders for Your Fall Yard Clean-up

Fall is in the air! Leaves are changing colors and soon, they will be dropping from the trees. Leaves that decompose in compost bins can turn into useful fertilizer, but leaves that enter our storm drains can cause flooding and pollution.

Please keep these tips in mind as you start your fall clean-up:

- Fridley residents can coordinate yard waste collection with their garbage hauler, drop off yard waste at Bunker Hills Compost Site or practice backyard composting.
- Yard waste can only be stored in bags or bundles outside for your next yard waste pick-up day.
- Bagged yard waste must be placed in compostable bags.

- Leaves should be raked away from the street and sidewalk to keep them out of storm drains.
- Plan ahead for tree care – late winter (just before spring arrives) is the best time to prune trees for quick healing and to reduce disease.

Bunker Hills Compost Site

13285 Hanson Boulevard NW, Coon Rapids
763-767-7964

April – November, weather permitting

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday: Noon – 5 p.m.

*or at sunset, if earlier than 7 p.m.

December-March, weather permitting

Saturday: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. only

Hydrant Flushing

After we finish street sweeping, we move on to hydrant flushing in late October. Hydrant flushing occurs twice a year, in the spring and fall, when the City flushes its water mains through the fire hydrants. This helps clear the water of small amounts of sediment such as iron or manganese that settle over time, and it verifies that the hydrants are in good working order.

During hydrant flushing, deposits from water lines may create yellowish-brownish water in homes near the flushing area. While this water is safe for drinking, it may discolor laundry. Run your water regularly to clear discoloration. If this persists for longer than two days or for updated information, call our Public Works staff at 763-572-3566.

What's So Special About Special Assessments?

Most property owners are familiar with property tax assessments but may not be familiar with special assessments. So, what is a special assessment? It is a fee collected by the City for improvements or services provided by the City of Fridley that enhance or maintain the value of your property. The fee is applied to the properties that benefit from the project(s). You can look up special assessments by property at FridleyMN.gov/PropertyInformation.

There are several types of special assessment fees that are used to finance road maintenance projects, sidewalk repair, water and sewer repair, and code enforcement actions, along with other community projects that can only be funded by a county or municipality because of the size and scope of the project. In Fridley, larger projects tend to be assessed over a ten-year period and include interest on the declining balance. Smaller assessments are typically levied in full for the following tax year.

The variety of special assessments present the City with the opportunity for various divisions to work together to assure a fair and accurate accounting of all assessments.

What if I don't agree with a proposed assessment?

Property owners are notified of proposed projects and contact information is provided so they can e-mail or call the appropriate staff if they have questions. Large projects must be approved by Council and affected property owners notified specifically about when the project will be discussed by the Council. The meetings are open to the public for comment. Code enforcement actions can also be appealed before they are certified to the next years property tax. The certification process enters Council for final approval in mid-October and property owners have a month to pay assessments to avoid interest. The final assessment roll is sent in mid-November to Anoka County to be certified for payment along with property taxes in the coming year.

Most special assessments pay for improvements to our roads and other infrastructure that enhance the safety and value of our homes and businesses. They allow for large projects to be done efficiently and in the most cost-effective manner.

Home Energy Squad Intercity Challenge

The City of Fridley is currently in an inter-city challenge with 15 other communities to see who can get the most Home Energy Squad visits by the end of the year. Home Energy Squad visits are a one-stop, easy way to find out how to make your home more energy efficient and your energy bill as low as possible.

As of late-July, we are in third place behind St. Louis Park and Hopkins. If you have not had a home energy squad visit, now is a great time. CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy are currently sponsoring FREE virtual visits in addition to the traditional in-home option. Residents can learn more at FridleyMN.gov/Energy.





Night to Unite – Tuesday, October 6

Our annual Night to Unite (NTU) celebration is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6. This is Minnesota's statewide event celebrating and strengthening neighborhood and community partnerships, particularly between residents and their local law enforcement. Night to Unite is sponsored by the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association, AAA of Minnesota/Iowa and local law enforcement communities.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NTU and the nationwide celebration National Night Out have

been moved from the first Tuesday in August to October. With the recommended safety precautions ever-evolving, plans could change. In the meantime, we will proceed with registration for the event beginning September 1 and will close registration on October 1.

You can register your block party and find updates for the event at FridleyPublicSafety.org/NightToUnite. Questions can be directed to Crime Prevention Specialist, Courtney Miller, at Courtney.Miller@FridleyMN.gov.



Crime Prevention Month

License plate theft is an ongoing issue that can be correlated to several things. We often see an increase in these thefts as gas prices rise. Criminals use the stolen license plates to make their vehicle more difficult to identify when they drive-off without paying for gas. When police run the license plate, it comes back not matching the vehicle seen in store surveillance.

These crimes also occur more frequently in the summer because people leave their cars parked outside and thieves are willing to take the time to remove the plates because temperatures are mild for nighttime thieving. Regardless of when they tend to occur, you should always strive to prevent crime when possible. Luckily, in this case, there is a simple and inexpensive solution. Affix your license plate with screws that require a special security wrench to remove. Kits are available online or in stores.

License plate thieves do not typically keep specialized tools on hand. They often loosen license plate screws with a basic screwdriver or even a key on their own keychain. By simply using a screw other than a Phillips or flat head, you lessen the likelihood that a thief will target your license plate.

Neighborhood Crime Watch

What is Neighborhood Crime Watch?

Neighborhood Crime Watch is a program designed to create a partnership between the residents of Fridley and the Fridley Police Division to promote crime prevention. Our police officers cannot be everywhere at all times, so the block captains are able to keep a watch on their area and contact help as needed.

What is a Block Captain?

A block captain is a Fridley resident who is willing to be the communication link between the residents of their immediate neighborhood and the police division.

Who can be a Block Captain?

Any interested citizen who resides in the City of Fridley can apply to be a block captain. You are required to pass a criminal background check, and must have a working email so the Fridley Police can quickly and efficiently share important information with you.

How much time is involved?

We ask you to attend a one-hour annual meeting in the spring of every year, communicate crime alerts to your neighbors when needed, and attend Block Captain trainings when possible. These trainings are offered throughout the year, and many are conducted via email.

Main Responsibilities

- Create a block list with names, addresses and phone numbers/emails of your neighbors



- Communicate/distribute Crime Alerts to your area as needed
- Attend annual Block Captain Meeting and trainings
- Host, or find someone to host, a Night to Unite celebration in your area
- Be in contact your Neighborhood Resource Officer with questions or concerns
- Be part of Nextdoor.com

For more information about Neighborhood Crime Watch or becoming a block captain, contact Fridley Crime Prevention Specialist, Courtney Miller, at Courtney.Miller@FridleyMN.gov.

As Fire Prevention Week approaches, the Fridley Fire Division reminds residents: "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!"

The Fridley Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)—the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years—to promote this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!” The campaign works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

According to NFPA, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries in the United States. Almost half (44 percent) of reported home fires start in the kitchen. Two-thirds (66 percent) of home cooking fires start with the ignition of food or other cooking materials.

“We know cooking fires can be prevented,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA’s vice-president of outreach and advocacy. “Staying in the kitchen, using a timer, and avoiding distractions such as electronics or TV are steps everyone can take to keep families safe in their homes.”

Fridley Fire wants to share safety tips to keep you from having a cooking fire.

- Never leave cooking food unattended. Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling or broiling. If

you have to leave, even for a short time, turn off the stove.

- If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- You have to be alert when cooking. You would not be alert if you are sleepy; have taken medicine, drugs, or consumed alcohol that makes you drowsy.
- Always keep an oven mitt and pan lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan to smother the flame. Turn off the burner, and leave the pan covered until it is completely cool.
- Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and cooking fire prevention, visit FPW.org.



Fridley Fire Open House 2020

This year Fridley Fire’s Open House will take place Saturday, October 3 as a kickoff for National Fire Prevention week, which takes place October 4-10. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we are making several major modifications to create a safe social distancing environment.

These changes will include information about new virtual materials including videos, websites, and apps to educate and promote fire safety. We also plan to provide a drive-through experience where citizens can still participate in-person and receive fire prevention materials. For updates, please check FridleyPublicSafety.org this September.



Driver and Pedestrian Safety: It’s a Two-Way Street

Roads are how we get around, but who is responsible for making the roads a safe place to travel? The Minnesota Department of Transportation and City of Fridley’s Public Works Department maintain roads by patching potholes, plowing away snow and clearing ice. Police officers enforce traffic laws like speeding and J-walking. However, the “onus” is really on all of us. Drivers and pedestrians share a responsibility to make roads safe for one another. According to the Wall Street Journal’s article “The Roads Are Quieter Due to Coronavirus, but There Are More Fatal Car Crashes,” traffic fatalities are up even though there is reduced traffic on our roads. Additionally, Minnesota is one of the states seeing an increase in traffic-related deaths.

Since March 16, there have been 42 deaths on Minnesota roads, compared to 29 during the same period last year. From January to June of this year, 148 people have been killed in traffic crashes in Minnesota. These included 7 people in distracted driving-related crashes, 47 people in speed-related crashes, 45 people in alcohol-related crashes, and 35

people killed who were not wearing seat belts. Deaths include 18 people who were pedestrians and 3 who were bicyclists. By staying within speed limits, not drinking or texting while driving and following the rules of the road, the likelihood of these types of accidents decrease.

Minnesota summers send people outdoors to enjoy the warm weather, going on walks, biking, and packing up the car to go to the lake. Come fall, students may be heading back to school. Bus stops will be loaded with students waiting for their ride, students will be walking to and from school, and crossing guards will be leading students across busy streets. It is everyone’s responsibility to make the roads safe—whether you are a bicyclist, pedestrian, or the driver of a vehicle. We are all responsible. (Statistics obtained from the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety)

To learn about traffic safety laws including those related to speed, bicyclists, and pedestrians, visit DPS.MN.gov.



September 12 & November 14 Recycling Drop-Off

Join us for our last two 2020 Recycling Drop-Off and Paper Shredding Events at Green Lights Recycling (1525 - 99th Ln NE in Blaine) for free and reduced cost disposal of electronics, appliances, mattresses, carpet and more. The event will be from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

View accepted items and pricing at FridleyMN.gov/Dropoff or call 763-572-3594. Receive \$15 off your total with proof of Fridley residency (license, water bill, etc.).



Fridley Community Calendar

September

- 3 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 7 City Offices Closed for Labor Day
- 8 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
- 14 City Council Meeting
- 16 Planning Commission Meeting
- 18 Early Voting for General Election Begins
- 28 City Council Meeting

October

- 1 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 5 Charter Commission
- 5 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
- 12 City Council Meeting
- 13 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission
- 21 Planning Commission Meeting
- 26 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.

SNC Pavilion Complete

The open-air portion of the pavilion is complete and available for use! Currently, we are not taking private reservations but welcome general use to park visitors. We are glad to see the shelter already being well used as an informal outdoor dining option. Rental options will likely be available this fall.

The outdoor shelter space and picnic tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis.



Getting Around Town: Road Diets

In *Getting Around Town* we feature road projects and safety tips here in Fridley. Is there a road or traffic topic that you would like to learn more about? Let us know! This edition we are featuring road diets.

What is a road diet?

A “road diet” refers to right-sizing a roadway by reducing the amount of pavement, usually through decreasing the number or width of traffic lanes.

Why are road diets helpful?

Fridley was built at a time when roads were designed to be as wide as possible. However, when roadways are too wide for the amount of traffic, drivers are more likely to speed, are more easily distracted, and have an increased crash rate. Studies show that right-sizing roadways based on the traffic volume and speed limit helps traffic flow more smoothly and reduces overall crashes by an estimated 29 percent (US Department of Transportation study).

There are many secondary benefits to road diets in Fridley. Reduced impervious surface means that more stormwater can naturally infiltrate into the ground instead of flowing into our overtaxed storm sewer system. Less impervious surface also requires less salt during the winter, helping to protect our lakes and rivers from chloride pollution. Maintenance costs related to snowplowing, crack sealing, and repaving are also reduced. Finally, the converted space can be put to other uses such as trails, raingardens, or larger front yards.

What makes a road a good candidate for a road diet?

Before implementing a road diet, a traffic study is done to determine current and projected traffic volumes. Based on the number of cars, there are standards for how wide a road should be. Modeling is also done to see how any changes will impact traffic flow. Based on the results, it can be determined if a road diet would help or hurt traffic flow. Other considerations include the need for parking, sidewalks, and stormwater management.

Where can I see a road diet in Fridley?

The City wrapped up a road diet on 69th Avenue this past summer. Prior to reconstruction, the lanes of 69th Avenue were more than twice the recommended width, which led to speeding and drainage issues. Following reconstruction, the amount of impervious surface on the roadway was reduced by more than an acre. With the help of a Rice Creek Watershed District management grant, bioswales were installed in the freed-up space. These swales will treat 74 percent of the road’s stormwater, reducing the amount of sediment into Rice Creek by more than 700 pounds per year. Check it out by biking along the 69th Avenue spur of the Rice Creek West Regional Trail at Old Central Avenue.



Locke Playground Update

In 2018, the Locke Playground was displaced due to the new Civic Campus Development. In 2017, an agreement was reached with the neighborhood to replace the playground and relocate it to the southeast end of the Civic Campus Development.

On Wednesday, July 29, the City hosted an Open House for Locke Playground at the playground site. About 30 community members attended the open house. There was good representation from the Holiday Hills neighborhood as well as the two new housing communities—Lennar Townhomes and Pulte Patio Homes. Residents had the opportunity to speak with project staff, learn about project updates, look at playground designs, and then help choose some of the playground elements including the play element for youth ages 2-5 and the swing set. The winning playground element for youth ages 2-5 was the Smart Play Motion and the winning swing set will include three regular swings, one molded bucket seat, and the one full bucket seat. Construction on the playground will start late summer 2020 and the playground will open fall 2020.



Update: Pumpkin Night in the Park

Each year, Springbrook Nature Center hosts the popular Pumpkin Night in the Park event. It is one of our favorite events as thousands come from surrounding communities to experience the magic of the Nature Center on an October evening.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Springbrook Nature Center will not be in a position to run Pumpkin Night in the Park in the same way it has been organized in the past. Instead, we are hosting a scavenger hunt!



Pumpkin Pursuit
in the
Parks

Gather a team to compete in a Fridley park system scavenger hunt over MEA weekend (October 16 - 17)! Prizes awarded to the top three teams.

More information located on page 7 of the Recreation Brochure.

New Dog Owner? Remember to Apply for a License

The City of Fridley requires all dogs over the age of six months to be licensed and vaccinated against rabies (City Code Section 101.05). We do not require cats to be licensed.

By applying for a license, the owner acknowledges that it is their responsibility to keep the dog's rabies vaccination current once the license is issued. Fridley dog licenses are issued for the lifetime of the dog, or until its ownership is transferred within Fridley. The license fee is \$25.

Visit [FridleyMN.gov/Dogs](https://www.fridleymn.gov/Dogs) to download a dog license application. If you have any questions, please contact us at 763-571-3450 or info@FridleyMN.gov.