



Fridley

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

SEPT/OCT 2021
NO. 232

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

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Fire Prevention Week

October 3-9 is Fire Prevention Week! This year's theme is "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety", primarily focused on the sounds smoke alarms make, what those sounds mean, and how to respond to them.

Smoke alarms have played a leading role in reducing fire death rates over the past 40 years, but we still have more work to do.

Did you know?

The Fridley Fire Department offers free smoke alarm installations as well as battery replacements. More information about Fire Prevention Week can be found by visiting the City of Fridley Public Safety website at FridleyPublicSafety.org.



Fridley Fire Open House

Saturday, October 2 from 11 am - 2 pm

The Fridley Fire Division welcomes you back to this year's Open House at the Civic Campus Fire Station #1. Rain or shine!

Join your community firefighters for a day of family friendly demonstrations, presentations, giveaways, and activities. Stay tuned to the City of Fridley website and social media platforms for demonstration teasers and detailed information.



Paid-On-Call Firefighter Recruitment

Your Fridley Fire Division is looking for everyday heroes to serve as part-time firefighters. No experience or training is required.

Serve your community and join our outstanding friendly culture. Weekday, weeknights, overnights, and weekends available. All training and equipment is provided. Hourly pay starting at \$15.67 with an excellent pension provided.

Contact us to learn more or check us out at the Fire Division Open House on October 2.

Important Dates:

- 10/2/2021 Fire Division Open House 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- 10/5/2021 Firefighter Informational Session 6:00 p.m. City Hall
- 10/10/2021 Application Deadline 11:59 p.m.

Longtime Councilmember Bob Barnette Leaves Lasting Legacy

On Thursday, July 15, retired Councilmember Bob Barnette passed away. Many people knew and respected Bob for his longtime dedication to the community as a Fridley Council Member and educator. Councilmember Barnette spent a total of 32 non-consecutive years on the City Council and 40 years as an educator. Bob loved his community and used his talents to make it a better place to live for all Fridley residents. Fridley is truly a better place because of him, and he will be deeply missed.

A celebration of life was held on Monday, July 26 from 6-9 p.m. at the Bunker Hills Event Center, 12800 Bunker Prairie Road NW, Coon Rapids.



Read Councilman Barnette's obituary: startribune.com/obituaries/detail/00003972404



Park System Improvement Plan Advisory Committees

On Saturday, June 6, the City of Fridley held the annual Town Hall Meeting and the primary topic discussed was the future of our park system. In 2019, City staff launched an initiative called “Finding Your Fun in Fridley” to engage our residents in reimagining Fridley parks. Due to budget limitations, we have been unable to make upgrades and modernize our aging park system. This has limited opportunities for play, recreation, community gatherings, and to be fully ADA compliant.

Our community told us that they want parks that feel safe and connected, provide high-quality access to nature, and provide unique experiences and places to gather. With these themes in mind, the City enlisted the help of WSB Engineering to develop a concept plan to revitalize each of Fridley’s 38 City parks. These park improvements, which would cost a total of \$50 million dollars to complete, were made available on the City website for several months in 2021 to gather community input.

City staff compiled more than 1,000 comments from residents on the park plans and held dozens of meetings in neighborhood parks and with stakeholder groups such as City commissions and partner organizations.

After the June Town Hall meeting, the City Council passed a resolution directing the formation of two citizen advisory committees; one to provide guidance

on funding future park improvements and one to advise City staff on priorities and refinement of the park system plan to not exceed \$30 million dollars.

Mayor Scott Lund and the Council provided recommendations of residents representing the City’s three wards to serve on these task forces. At the June 28 City Council meeting, a slate of volunteer committee members was selected to serve on the Park System Improvement Plan Refinement and Public Finance Advisory Committees. City of Fridley staff are grateful for the participation of the 15 community members serving on the Refinement Advisory Committee and eight members serving on the Public Finance Advisory Committee.

Public Finance Advisory Committee

The Public Finance Advisory Committee will be responsible for recommending an appropriate financing method(s) to support the cost of the plan. It is staffed by the Finance Director and comprised of seven residents appointed by the Council. The work of the committee should take approximately three to four months to complete and will result in a report to the Council.

The public is welcome to attend the task force meetings. The first two were held in August, with two additional meetings scheduled for September 14 and 28 from 6-7:30 p.m. An additional meeting is

tentatively scheduled for October 12, if further discussion is needed. Questions about this resident advisory group or the upcoming meetings can be directed to Daniel Tienter, Director of Finance, at Daniel.Tienter@FridleyMN.gov or 763-572-3520.

Refinement Advisory Committee

The Refinement Advisory Committee will evaluate plan concepts and refine them based on the interests of the community and the limits established by the Council. It will recommend a final implementation plan to the Council for consideration in six to eight months. The group is staffed by the Community Services Director and comprised of Parks and Recreation Commissioner and other residents.

This Refinement Advisory Committee will participate in a series of advisory meetings to provide recommendations to City staff on refinements to the Park System Improvement Plan with a primary focus on three of our largest community parks; Commons Park, Community Park and West Moore Lake Park. The public is welcome to attend the task force meetings. The first one was held on August 12. There will be four more meetings held at the Fridley Civic Campus at 7 p.m. on September 9, October 14, November 10 and December 9. Questions about this advisory group or the upcoming meetings can be directed to Mike Maher, Director of Community Services, at Mike.Maher@FridleyMN.gov or 763-572-3575.

Recycling Dropoff

September 11 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Recycle your mattresses appliances, electronic, 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
- 4 Tires
- And more!

See a full pricing list at FridleyMN.gov/Dropoff.



53rd Avenue Lift Station Improvements Project

The City of Fridley’s 53rd Avenue Lift Station was originally constructed in 1959. This project included timely upgrades and relocation of the aging lift station which was located immediately adjacent to 53rd Avenue, west of Highway 65. The old location made maintenance difficult for City staff. It also put the lift station at risk by vehicular traffic and vandalism.

In addition to addressing the safety and reliability concerns, a major project for a turnaround/roundabout feature to improve traffic safety has been proposed for this area next season in 2022. As such, now was a strategic time to relocate the new 53rd Avenue Lift Station to a more suitable location.

Pember Companies of Menomonie, WI, began construction in June and start-up was successfully conducted by mid-July.

Historical Society Reopening & Events

The Fridley Historical Society is off to a good start since the re-opening on May 8. The History Center is back to its regular schedule of being open on all second and fourth Saturdays.

September 11 & 25 | 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
October 9 & 23 | 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In addition to the October open house dates, there will be a Fall Potluck and Annual Meeting on Monday, October 11 at 6 p.m. at the Fridley History Museum, located at 611 Mississippi St., Fridley.

The “Reveal” event sponsored by Fridley Liquor that had to be cancelled last year because of the pandemic,

is now rescheduled for Thursday, October 14 starting at 6 p.m. Fridley Liquor is located on University Avenue at 264 - 57th Ave. N.E., Fridley. The Fridley Historical Society is proud to bring some of Fridley’s history to you! Come and get the first look at the most recent photos of many long-standing Fridley businesses and learn the history of each. Enjoy having a taste of some new beverage and the possibility of winning a prize!

Save the Date: Fridley Hall of Fame inducting Mark Bonesteel, Bill Burns, Ricky Rickenbach, Sr. and Joe Rickenbach on Saturday, November 6 at noon in the Fireside Room at the Fridley Civic Campus.

Development Update

Train Station Village, Building 3

Great progress is being made on Building 3 in the Sherman Development, otherwise known as Fridley Station Village. The building will be available for occupancy in early 2022. The “central park” landscape features to be enjoyed by all three buildings are being planted and the land readied for the pergola and other elements that will round off the finished appearance and provide outdoor casual areas. The holding pond south of the senior building now has a nice, groomed edge and the walking path has been installed. A community garden has also been planted south of the senior building so seniors can get out and enjoy gardening.



For anyone concerned that the building is too close to the railroad tracks to be quiet and enjoyable, several staff have now toured the completed project to find just the opposite. The building is very quiet and though you can see the trains going by through the windows, the noise from the train is quite muffled by the design features built into the structure.



Former City Hall Site - Willows Bend

First floor framing is now evident and has helped define the space and the shape of the building for people who have wondered how the building will sit on the site. Three more floors of living area and a hip roof (slope on all four sides to be more durable) will top off the architectural character of the complex.

A fall 2022 opening is anticipated for this complex.

Former Holly Center Site

Heavy grading will soon be completed on the site of the former Holly Center, now the site of the Axle Apartments and Commercial Center. The building is really taking shape as windows and doors begin to fill the openings. It is the developer’s plan to have guest

parking, the office, model units, and the finished lobby/common area finished and open to future tenants in the very near future, even though framing on the last wing’s upper floors is still very much underway. By opening the office and providing a finished building in this area, it will give the owners a jump on rentals for when the building is complete. Models should be available starting late summer/early fall 2021.

Red Bull

Red Bull has now occupied a major portion of the Northern Stacks Building 4. The City is very excited to welcome Red Bull to our business community.



58th Avenue and Main Street

The nine-unit apartment building at the corner of 58th Avenue and Main Street was a source of many development questions. COVID-19 and material availability had an impact on the small construction crew. Building Official Tony DeForge reports that the work being done is quality work, but the progress has slower than anyone had anticipated. Architectural consistency is also being maintained between the new and existing buildings.

The developer hopes to have the new nine units available for fall 2021.

Sherwin Williams

The awnings are on and the landscape and parking are going in! This project will be turned over to the owner, from the contractor, within the next month (July/August).

Caribou Coffee, Hwy 65

Same developer as Sherwin Williams, Java Properties and the status is nearly identical.

Jersey Mike’s

Scheduled to open late August and will be another food option on the North end of University Avenue.



Bank of America

Located on the former Embers site at 5400 Central Avenue, the bank building has started to be built. This site has required a fair amount of sub-surface work, which is not evident to those that drive by, but it is work that has progressed quite well for the builder. The bank is planning to have all the site improvements done on its exterior and the building buttoned up before winter, so interior work can proceed. Bank of America plans on opening in late 2021 or early 2022.



Dollar Tree

Footings and foundations are in and the walls are beginning to rise at the Dollar Tree, 755 53rd Street. This building was designed to look similar to those around it. The Dollar Tree developer will also stabilize the slope with vegetation and the bank’s west face will be clearly visible from the west.



The Harbors at 53rd Ave. and 4th Street NE

The building shell is completely up and enclosed. Finish work on the interior is commencing on schedule and the exterior siding and landscaping will be being completed in the very near future. A 2021 completion is the target, and the developer is on track to meet that deadline.

For more information on any of these projects, please call 763-572-3592.

Citywide Clean-Up
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
9 TO 11:30 A.M.
 THIS COMMUNITY-WIDE VOLUNTEER EVENT ENCOURAGES COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND GROUPS TO CLEAN UP FRIDLEY PARKS, TRAILS, NEIGHBORHOODS, STREETS, AND OTHER PLACES AROUND THE CITY.

The City of Fridley is looking for residents, neighborhood groups, community organizations, and local businesses to organize and host clean up locations as a part of the Fridley Citywide Clean-Up.

You can participate in the Citywide Clean-Up three ways.

- 1 Organize and host a clean-up site.**
 Learn more about hosting and organizing a clean-up site online. Register your host site by Friday, September 10 online, or by calling 763-572-3579.
- 2 Join a clean-up site.**
 A list of clean-up sites will be on the website a couple days before the event.
- 3 “DIY” (Do it Yourself) style.**
 Community members can also participate in the Citywide Clean-Up on their own, as “Do it Yourself” style. Head out anytime on Saturday, September 25 or Sunday, September 26 to pick up trash and litter in parks, on trails, or in your neighborhood.

Learn more about participating in Fridley’s Citywide Clean-Up including how to register a host site by visiting FridleyMN.gov/CityWideCleanUp.

For more info or questions, contact Alyssa, Community Engagement Specialist at 763-572-3579 or at Alyssa.Kruzel@FridleyMN.gov.

Fall Clean-up: Street Sweeping and Hydrant Flushing

Our street sweepers will be heading out this fall to clean 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. Ways you can help include: pick up pet waste, sweep near your storm drains, and/or install a rain garden on your property.

Hydrant Flushing

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

During the 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 mainline at 763-572-3566.

Street Project Updates

7th Street and 57th Avenue Trail Project

This project has been moved to 2022 and will include the addition of a 10-foot multi-use trail on the east side of 7th Street from 53rd Avenue to 61st Avenue and on the north side of 57th Avenue from 7th Street to University Avenue.

53rd Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements Project

In 2021, the cities of Fridley and Columbia Heights were successful in receiving grant funding for this project through the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) grant application process. The project includes adding a 10-foot multi-use trail on the south side of 53rd Avenue from Main Street to Central Avenue and the addition of sidewalk on the north side of 53rd Avenue from University Avenue to Central Avenue. The project will also include pavement rehabilitation and utility improvements. This project is a part of the City's Active Transportation Plan which emphasizes pedestrian and bicycle routes throughout the City. The trail and sidewalk along 53rd Avenue will connect to existing biking and walking facilities at Main Street, 7th Street and Central Avenue. Construction for this project is slated to start in 2023.



Reminders for Your Fall Yard Clean-up

Fall is in the air, the 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 through your next pick-up day.
- 🍂 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 and Yard Waste Drop-off Site

13285 Hanson Blvd NW, Coon Rapids
(763) 767-7964

Hours of Operation:

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 sunset, if earlier than 7 p.m.

December - March, weather permitting

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. only

Turf Alternatives: Low Maintenance, Pollinators and More

A lush lawn can be the hallmark of your yard; however, maintaining that lawn can require a lot of water, fertilizer, and time. Many residents are becoming interested in "turf alternatives" that are more drought tolerant, require less mowing, or provide more food for pollinators while still allowing an open, playable space. Check out some of these options for turf alternatives:

Low Maintenance Turf

Low maintenance turf blends are comprised of grass species such as fine fescues that require less water, fertilizers, and mowing than traditional Kentucky bluegrass. These blends are often referred to as "low mow" or "no mow" seed mixes since they only need to be mowed a few times per season. They are also very drought tolerant and do not need to be watered after establishment. You can purchase low maintenance seed mixes at many garden centers or nurseries. These seed blends thrive best when planted in sunny to partially shaded areas with non-intensive foot traffic.

Pollinator Lawns

Pollinator lawns include low-growing plants such as Dutch white clover, self heal, creeping thyme, and ground plum whose flowering height is below the mower blade. As a result, your lawn can provide pollinator forage while still withstand mowing and



moderate foot traffic. A study by the University of Minnesota of a pollinator lawn established in a Minneapolis Park found 56 different species of bees feeding on Dutch white clover alone. Pollinator lawns can be established in traditional turf or incorporated into low-maintenance turf blends. Some pollinator lawn species establish on their own following cessation of herbicides.

Establishing turf alternatives

Fall is a great time to plant most turf alternatives! Check your seed mix for best seeding dates. Depending on your existing vegetation, seed mix, and timing, turf alternatives can be established by overseeding your existing lawn or as part of a new lawn renovation. Many landscaping companies are also equipped to establish turf alternatives.

Learn more at BlueThumb.org/Turf-Alternatives or Beelab.umn.edu/learn-more/beelawn. City code requires that ground cover in landscaped areas be kept shorter than 10 inches in average height except for trees, shrubs, gardens, and designated natural areas that have not been disturbed or are intentionally planted with native perennial plants. All landscaped areas must be kept free of listed noxious weeds.



Winter Lights Contest

It's time to get those lights and decorations out of storage to prepare for the 2021 contest! Submissions will be accepted November 15 - December 6. All entries will be placed on a map so that residents can create their own custom light tour around town. Maps will be available December 13. Learn more at FridleyMN.gov/Recreation or call 763-572-3570.



Get to Know: Anoka Conservation District

This year, we are interviewing the different organizations that manage water and natural resources in Fridley. In this issue, we are interviewing staff with the Anoka Conservation District (ACD) on their work managing natural resources in Anoka County. Learn more about ACD at AnokaSWCD.org or follow them on Facebook.

Can you tell us about the Anoka Conservation District?

The Anoka Conservation District (ACD) works throughout Anoka County to assist private landowners to do voluntary conservation projects. ACD serves all of Anoka County's 357,000 residents spanning 284,000 acres, 72 recreational and natural lakes, 446 miles of streams and rivers, and a regionally critical groundwater resource. ACD's mission is to holistically conserve and enhance Anoka County's natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations through partnership and innovation. We do this by conducting monitoring and analysis, informing landowners and local government in natural resource management, and leveraging technical and financial resources to promote natural resource stewardship practices. As the character of Anoka County changed, so has ACD. We now offer a wide variety of programs and services in all areas of natural resource management in the county. Our staff of 11 have a wealth of expertise in natural resource management and are happy to assist Anoka County residents with any questions related to conservation. "When it comes to natural resources stewardship, I've found over the last 30 years that people are intentionally part of the solution, or accidentally part of the problem. Most people want to be part of the solution and our job is to help them get there with technical know-how, financial support, or simple encouragement," Chris Lord, District Manager, said.

What are some projects that you have done in Fridley?

ACD has been involved in several projects in the City of Fridley including pollinator garden installations

through the Lawns to Legumes program, invasive species removal and treatment, streambank and lakeshore stabilization projects, pond modifications including an iron-enhanced sand filter, and rain garden installations to treat street-side runoff. We are currently partnering with landowners and staff from the City of Fridley and the Rice Creek Watershed District to design and install up to six curb-cut rain gardens in conjunction with a street reconstruction project. The rain gardens will help improve water quality in Rice Creek and downstream waterbodies like Locke Lake and the Mississippi River. See ACD's Virtual Project Tour on our website for additional details.

In 2013, we analyzed the 573-acre Oak Glen Creek watershed located in the City of Fridley, bounded by Highway 65 (east), the Mississippi River (west), Osborne Road (north), and the rail road tracks (south). As a result of that analysis, the stabilization of the open stream channel west of East River Road was completed in 2014. Stabilizing the ravine protected 21 private properties along a 1,400 foot ravine, reduced sediment and phosphorus discharge to the Mississippi River by 633,600 lbs/yr and 507 lbs/yr respectively, protected drinking water supply intakes, and improved wildlife habitat. A variety of methods were used including cross vanes (rock check dams), vegetated riprap, brush bundles, revetments, and live stakes. Following that project, we worked with the City to expand an existing wet pond at the confluence of much of the stormwater infrastructure for the watershed. In 2014, we secured a Clean Water Fund (CWF) grant to assist the City of Fridley with the construction of the pond expansion coupled with an iron-enhanced sand filter (IESF) to remove dissolved phosphorus and a vegetated swale to further improve water quality. The project was completed in 2017 and has an anticipated life of 25 years.

Why should Fridley residents care about our natural resources?

The City of Fridley is situated in a prime location adjacent to the mighty Mississippi River. Several

streams and creeks cross Fridley on their way to the Mississippi River including Rice Creek, Oak Glen Creek, Springbrook, and Stonybrook. Many city parks and outdoor areas are associated with these water features, as well as Moore Lake and Locke Lake. The quality of these recreational areas depends on what is happening in the area that drains to them. That means that every resident who enjoys these natural areas will make them better or worse by the decisions they make and the actions they take. Every little decision, each day, across thousands of homes and businesses throughout Fridley adds up to cleans lakes and rivers, nasty lakes and rivers, and everything in between. Also, even though Fridley is fully developed, wildlife remains. Even small backyard or roadside wild spaces provide habitat for little critters like butterflies to leap-frog across the metro or for larger wildlife like deer to travel along stream corridors between parks.

What is one of your favorite tips to help protect the environment?

Protecting our natural resources often feels like a daunting task. However, when we work together, our individual small actions add up to make a big positive impact on our environment. Some of the simplest tips we share with residents include: planting a small pollinator garden or adding native plants to your yard, aligning sprinkler heads so they don't water the pavement, directing downspouts from your roof into the grass instead of onto the sidewalk or driveway, and keeping your grass clippings on your lawn when you mow.

Another action many people in Minnesota are getting involved in is the Adopt-a-Drain volunteer program, which asks residents to clear trash and other debris out of the storm drains in their street. This helps prevent flooding and reduce pollution entering our lakes and rivers.

We encourage everyone to take one action to help protect our natural resources that fits your lifestyle and your household and then tell a friend to do the same. Together, we can make a big difference!

Thank You to All Our Garage Sale Hosts & Participants!

Thank you to everyone for making our first annual Citywide Garage Sale a huge success!

There were over 100 sales throughout the City that brought in hundreds of shoppers. We look forward to bringing this fun, community-wide event back next summer. Watch for details in early 2022! Reach out to Alyssa Kruzel, Community Engagement Specialist, at 763-572-3579 or at Alyssa.Kruzel@FridleyMN.gov with any questions about the event.





Halloween Safety Tips for Residents

1. Look Both Ways

Use traffic signals and crosswalks and always cross streets at corners. Look both ways. Never dart out into the street, especially between parked cars.

2. Slow Down – Eyes Up

Eliminate distractions (cell phones, loud music) when driving. Take extra time and pay close attention, particularly at intersections, in residential areas, and at driveways and alleys.

3. Safety in Numbers

Children under 12 should not be out alone at night without adult supervision. Those older should stay in groups, and stick to familiar, well-lit areas. Never enter the home of someone you do not know.

4. Smart Costumes

Make sure costumes fit well to avoid trips and falls. Choose light colors and/or use reflective tape or stickers to decorate outfits. Use face paint or makeup;

masks can obstruct vision. Carry glow sticks or flashlights to be better seen by drivers.

5. Candy Double Check

Look for tampering and faded or torn wrappers. Also, only eat treats in original, unopened packaging. Throw away anything that is unwrapped.

6. Snuff-Out Your Candles

Never leave a burning candle unattended or placed near anything that might catch fire. Be sure to keep candles out of reach from children and pets. Use a candle snuffer to extinguish a candle. It is the safest way to prevent hot wax from splattering.

7. Plan Ahead

Determine the route you plan to take, a meeting point if you get separated and pre-determined time you are expected to return home. Someone in your group should have a cell phone and dial 911 in case of an emergency.

8. Light-Up the Night

If you are handing out candy, make sure you have a well-lit walking path for trick-or-treaters. If you are going out in search of candy, bring a flashlight or glow stick. This will light-up your path and make you more visible to drivers.

9. Quitting Time

Agree on a specific time children should return home. Also, be considerate of neighbors when trick or treating. If their lights are off, they are done handing out candy for the night.

10. Report Suspicious/Criminal Activity

If someone is harassing you or you observe people damaging property, report it to police immediately by dialing 911.

Crime Prevention Month: Slow Down

According to the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), this year, the initial summer travel fatality figures “demonstrate an ongoing traffic safety crisis.” Preliminary reports by the OTS show 229 fatalities on Minnesota roads in 2021 (as of July 19) compared with 169 this time last year (a 36% increase).

OTS Director, Mike Hanson states “I’m running out of words to describe what is taking place on our roads right now. The lack of responsibility some are taking behind the wheel is causing a death toll on our roads that’s hard to comprehend. It’s time for all of us to look in the mirror. It’s time for all of us to take responsibility for our actions. It’s time for all of us to drive smart, slow down, be kind on the road and help everyone get home safely at the end of the day.”

We need to curb the problem before we reach the winter months, where slippery roads and reduced visibility will add yet another hazard if drivers do not reduce their speeds.

Fridley Police and other neighboring departments are part of the Towards Zero Deaths (TZD) initiative. We will have extra traffic enforcement on our streets, including DWI enforcement. We ask that all Fridley residents do their part to keep our roads safe by slowing down.

Neighborhood Crime Watch: Fridley Police Partnering with the Community

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 Department 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 his/her 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 Division 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, many of which 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, contact 763-572-3626.

2021 Night to Unite

65 neighborhood block parties were hosted throughout Fridley during this year's Night to Unite celebration on Tuesday, August 6.

This year, the night included a theme: Park Safety. Fridley has 38 neighborhood parks! The Police Division shared information about common crimes that occur in parks and what may be suspicious activity a resident should report by calling 911. They also shared information about the anonymous tip line the department uses called Tip411. Fridley parks now have posters sharing information about using the tip line to report crime or suspicious activity in parks.

The Fire Division also shared fire prevention tips and rules regarding recreational fires in City parks. Other



City staff were out visiting parties and discussing the Park System Improvement Plan that is in the works for the City. It was a great night to come together as a community and celebrate our city.

A special thanks goes out to AAA and the Minnesota Crime prevention Association who sponsor this event, as well as Forgotten Star Brewery and Minco for their generous donations to this year's event.



Help Fridley win the Community Adopt-a-Drain Challenge!

Help Fridley advance up the ranks in the Community Adopt-a-Drain Challenge; adopt a street storm drain or report a drain cleaning today through mn.adopt-a-drain.org!

Fridley is currently third in the Community Adopt-a-Drain Challenge, a competition with Andover, Blaine, and Columbia Heights to see which city can get the most storm drain adoptions and drain cleaning reports from March to October. As we head into fall, drain cleaning and adopting will be especially important because of fallen leaves. Leaves contain nutrients that fuel algae growth and can lead to algal blooms next summer. Removing leaves from drains keeps our waters healthy and can reduce street flooding.

Removing leaves from drains in September could also mean you win a prize through the individual Community Adopt-a-Drain Challenge! Every month there is an individual prizewinner selected in each competing city, and the winning categories change each month. The September category is most debris removed from drains. Support your city and local waters this fall by adopting drains or reporting cleanings through mn.adopt-a-drain.org!

For more information, contact Britta Dornfeld at bdornfeld@cooncreekwd.org or 763-258-7305. Follow Fridley and your local watershed organization and conservation district on social media for updates on the challenge!

Recycle Smart

There are some items that just do not belong in your recycling cart. For details about what cannot go in your cart and why, read on. Find how to properly recycle or dispose of some of the common items listed below in the Recycling Directory at FridleyMN.gov/Recycling.

Tanglers refers to any item that can become wrapped around equipment at a recycling sorting facility, such as plastic bags, hoses and chains. These items become tangled in sorting equipment and workers can spend hours each day removing them, causing costly processing delays.

Plastic Bags, Wrap and Film



Plastic bags and wrap can be recycled if brought back to a retail drop-off location. Recycle Smart and do your part to reduce and recycle plastic bags and wrap. Bring reusable bags with you when shopping and recycle plastic bags and wrap at drop-off locations including grocery stores, food co-ops, retail stores and community recycling centers. Search the Recycling Directory to find drop-off locations.

Metal Chains and Garden Hoses



Metal chains can be brought to a scrap metal drop-off including the City of Fridley drop-off days. Many community recycling centers accept scrap metal. Search the Recycling Directory for locations. Unfortunately, garden hoses are not recyclable and should be placed in your household garbage.

Plastic Items Small and Large



Some items are too small or too large to be recycled properly at a recycling facility. Anything smaller than your fist (such as straws, fountain soda lids, plastic caps and pill bottles) tends to fall in between the equipment at sorting facilities. Anything larger than an ice cream bucket (cat litter tubs, laundry hampers, large plastic toys, lawn chairs) could damage the recycling facility equipment and are not recyclable. These items must be thrown away in your household garbage.



Well Sealing Grant Available to Residents

The City of Fridley has grants of up to \$1,000 to seal unused private wells through 2021. Find out if your property has a higher likelihood of a well and learn more about well sealing at FridleyMN.gov/Groundwater.

The presence of an unsealed well may delay the sale of your home, as wells must be put back into use, receive a maintenance permit or be sealed prior to sale. Take advantage of limited-time funding and seal your well today. Learn more at FridleyMN.gov/Groundwater or call 763-572-3554.

Fridley Community Calendar

September

- 2 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 6 Offices Closed for Labor Day
- 7 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- 13 City Council Meeting
- 14 Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting
- 27 City Council Meeting

October

- 4 Charter Commission Meeting
- 4 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- 7 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 11 City Council Meeting
- 12 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission Meeting
- 20 Planning Commission Meeting
- 25 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.



Play (Pickle) ball!

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the country. Pickleball is a paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis. Paddles are made from wood or composite materials to hit a plastic pickleball (which resembles a wiffleball) over a net. Pickleball can be played either as a single's or double's sport and is great for all ages.

The City of Fridley has three different pickleball courts located at Commons, Flanery, and CreekrIDGE parks. These are shared pickleball/tennis courts. For those looking for others to play pickleball with in Fridley, join the open pickleball email list! By joining this list, Fridley Recreation will connect you with other pickleball players in Fridley of varying skill levels. We have gathered information from the interested participants and asked them about their play preferences. This way, everyone on the list can find another player/group to play or refine your skills at the beginner, intermediate, or expert level.

In addition, Fridley hosts several introductory pickleball clinics, including an upcoming clinic on the weekend of 9/11 & 9/12. This clinic will be a great place to try out the game for any first time pickleball players.

Finally, the cities of Fridley and Spring Lake Park are bring together players from both cities for our first every Pickleball Ladder League. This league welcomes players of all skill levels to enjoy this great game. Ladder play ensures that opponents of a similar skill level play each other as the league progresses. So no matter your skill level, you can be paired up for a fun competitive game.

If you have any questions about pickleball programs, please call Fridley Recreation at 763-572-3570 or email at Recreation@FridleyMN.gov. See you on the court!

Fridley Resident Survey

In 2021, the City conducted a random sample survey of 400 Fridley households. The Morris Leatherman Company out of Minneapolis was contracted to complete this survey. The survey was designed to assess the quality of life in Fridley and measure resident satisfaction with current City services. A random sample survey produces results that are accurate within 5% of the community 95% of the time. Information about the survey was shared in the July/August City Newsletter including the survey methodology, key themes and results. Learn more about the resident survey, and view the full results and analysis at FridleyMN.gov/ResidentSurvey.

What the City has done with the results

The results from the 2021 Fridley Residents Survey were presented to City Council and Department Directors in April.

At the Town Hall in June, City staff kicked off a process to inform and educate the public, commissioners, and community partners, of the results of the resident survey. City staff has continued to share the results of the resident survey with the public via social media posts, videos, the Community Connection newsletter, and in-person meetings.

City leaders have informed and educated their staff on the results of the resident survey. Departments are taking additional steps to use the results of the survey to influence their respective work plans, such as continuing to invest in Fridley services and programs that are highly regarded by the community, as well as determining processes to address any concerns or aspirations presented in the results.

Below is a snapshot of the actions each City department is taking as a result of the resident survey results.

City Departments

Community Development

- Re-examine housing maintenance and code enforcement policies, as well as the process for educating and informing residents about these policies.
- Continue to look for opportunities for redevelopment in the City that are aligned with the results of the survey, as well as the goals of the City's Comprehensive Plan

Community Services

- Influence decisions for the Park System Improvement Plan, including park design concepts and funding mechanisms.
 - Results were shared with the Parks and Recreation Commission and Park System Improvement Plan Refinement Advisory Committee.
- Will use the results this fall to plan Recreation and Springbrook programs and events for 2022.



Employee Resources

- Use the demographic data collected from the survey to examine and make updates to recruitment and hiring practices to increase diversity among City staff and build a workforce that reflects the diversity of the Fridley community.
- Work with Parks & Recreation staff on additional staffing needs as it relates to the Park System Improvement Plan, such as additional staffing needs for parks maintenance and for additional programs, events, and facility usage.

Finance

- Exploring offering certain information, such as applications, in different and applicable languages.
- Revise customer service standards for Fridley Liquor and Utility Billing.
- Provide additional information and education regarding City finances, in particular, property taxes and user fees.

Public Safety

Police

- Newly-formed Police Districts leaders will be working with staff within each District to develop approaches and initiatives that address speeding and distracted driving, the highest areas of resident concern.
- Results were shared with the Citizen Advisory Committee and other community partners.

Fire

- Using data to align and help plan future community risk reduction education, programs, and initiatives.

Public Works

- Work collaboratively with Public Safety Department to implement improvements that will reduce traffic violations and speeding.
- Apply additional resources funded by the City Council to address aging pavement condition and increase repair mileage.
- Continue making improvements to drainage systems to provide flood resiliency.
- Continue removing barriers to trail connections and provide additional off-street mileage.
- Continue to commit to providing the safest drinking water possible for the community.

Connect

The results of the Fridley resident survey are helpful to the City Council and City Staff as they continue to work on projects, and monitor and improve services. If you have feedback, please feel free to contact a member of our City staff. A full directory can be found at FridleyMN.gov/Directory. For specific questions regarding the survey, contact Alyssa Kruzel, Community Engagement Specialist, at Alyssa.Kruzel@FridleyMN.gov or 763-572-3579.



Pumpkin Night in the Park is back!

Bring the whole family to Springbrook for a celebration of fall, fun, and PUMPKINS, lots of Pumpkins! Experience enchanted trails, costumed characters, kids dance with a DJ, 1,000 glowing pumpkins, delicious food, and more.

More information can be found in the Recreation brochure or at SpringbrookNatureCenter.org.

Saturday, October 23 5-9 pm (New time!)