



# Fridley

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Parks and Recreation Brochure Enclosed

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024  
NO. 249

WE BELIEVE FRIDLEY WILL BE A SAFE, VIBRANT, FRIENDLY AND STABLE HOME FOR FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES.

7071 University Avenue NE  
Fridley, MN 55432  
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FridleyMN.gov

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Mayor – Scott Lund  
Councilmember-at-Large – David Ostwald  
Councilmember 1st Ward – Tom Tillberry  
Councilmember 2nd Ward – Ryan Evanson  
Councilmember 3rd Ward – Ann Bolkcom  
City Manager – Wally Wysopal

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## PUMPKIN NIGHT IN THE PARK / OCT. 19 | 5-9 P.M.

Tickets | \$12 per person (ages 2 and under are free)  
Visit [FridleyMN.gov/PumpkinNight](http://FridleyMN.gov/PumpkinNight) to purchase tickets.

### FEATURING:

- More than 1,000 carved and lit pumpkins
- Entertainment
- Campfires
- Food trucks
- Costumed characters

SCAN ME



[FridleyMN.gov/PumpkinNight](http://FridleyMN.gov/PumpkinNight)



TWIN CITIES  
GATEWAY

## Voting in the General Election

2024 has been a busy election year. The General Election is up next on November 5, 2024. In addition to casting votes for President, State and County representatives, Fridley residents will also be selecting a new Mayor and Councilmember-at-Large.

Beginning September 20, Absentee Balloting is available at City Hall from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will continue until Election Day. Expanded voting hours prior to Election Day are as follows:

- Saturday, October 26: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 29: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Saturday, November 2: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Sunday, November 3: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Monday, November 4: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Polling places will be open on Election Day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you are uncertain of where your polling location is located, you can visit [MNVotes.org](http://MNVotes.org) and enter your address to find your polling place.

If you have any Election-related questions you can contact the City Clerk's Office at [CityClerk@FridleyMN.gov](mailto:CityClerk@FridleyMN.gov)



**Ash Tree ID**  
 Not sure if you have an ash tree on your property? Look for Diamond shaped bark; Opposite compound leaves with seven to nine leaflets.

LEAF PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MINNESOTA DNR

## New! Income-Qualified Ash Tree Removal and Planting Programs

This fall, the City is launching income-qualified ash tree removal and tree planting programs. Eligible residents with ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) may have their ash trees removed and replaced through the program for no cost.

**Plant a new tree for no cost**  
 Residents meeting the income-requirements may be eligible to have a new tree planted on their property for no cost, even if no tree is removed. A range of trees species will be available to choose from. These programs are funded through a DNR ReLEAF grant to mitigate the financial impact of EAB for income-qualified residents and protect Fridley's urban forest. Grant funding is only available for a limited time on a first-come, first-serve basis. To learn more, visit [FridleyMN.gov/Forestry](http://FridleyMN.gov/Forestry) or call 763-572-3594.

All residents with ash trees on their property that are not undergoing chemical treatment should plan for their removal due to the pervasiveness of EAB in the area. Removal costs generally increase as the tree becomes more impacted by EAB, so it is recommended to act soon. A list of City-licensed tree management companies can be found at [FridleyMN.gov/Forestry](http://FridleyMN.gov/Forestry). The City strongly recommends replacement of all removed trees for all the amazing benefits that trees provide.

**Reporting a Hazardous Tree**  
 Fridley City Code requires the removal of hazardous trees that pose a risk to life or property. If you notice a damaged or diseased street or park tree or are concerned about a tree on private property that appears hazardous, please use the "Report a Concern" feature on [FridleyMN.gov](http://FridleyMN.gov) or contact Fridley Public Works at 763-572-3566.

### 2024 Income Qualifications

The income-qualified ash tree replacement program is only available to property owners meeting one of the following qualifications:

Household size	1	2	3	4	5	6
Annual household income at or below	\$68,500	\$78,250	\$88,050	\$97,800	\$105,650	\$113,450

Rental properties with monthly rents at or below the following amounts:

Number of Bedrooms	Efficiency	1	2	3	4
Amount		\$1,739	\$1,864	\$2,235	\$2,584

## Recycling Drop Off Event

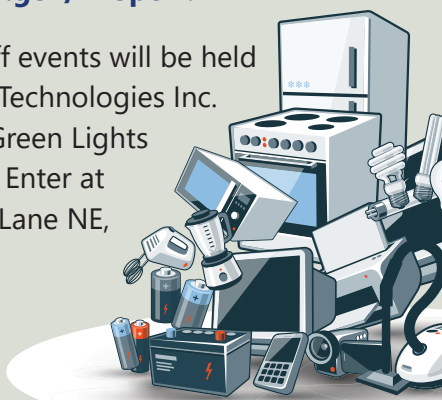
**September 14 from 8 a.m. - noon**  
 On September 14, Fridley residents will have an opportunity for free and reduced recycling of bulky items such as mattresses, appliances, electronics and more! You can receive \$50 off your total with proof of Fridley residence (driver's license, mail or utility bill).

What can that include?

- Two appliances
- A large 60" TV
- A small TV
- Four tires
- And more!

See a full pricing list at [FridleyMN.gov/Dropoff](http://FridleyMN.gov/Dropoff).

All drop-off events will be held at Recycle Technologies Inc. (formerly Green Lights Recycling). Enter at 1525 99th Lane NE, Blaine.



## Recycle More Items Than Ever Before!

The Coon Rapids Recycling Center is accepting more items than ever, especially items that are hard to recycle elsewhere! Some common items that you can bring to be recycled include:

- Books
- CDs, DVDs and VCR tapes
- Clothing/Textiles (Usable and Unusable) and Shoes
- Plastic film
- Styrofoam (Food grade and Rigid, check website for specifications)

Additionally, the Center has recently expanded to include and Odds and Ends Trailer which accept a wide range of toiletry, food packaging and miscellaneous items. Since many of these programs are sponsored by specific brands, accepted items can change without much notice. Examples of items that may be collected include toothpaste tubes, sauce packets, and Brita filters. Find a current list of items on the Center's website.

**Coon Rapids Recycling Center**  
 1827 111th Ave NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433  
[CoonRapidsMN.gov/390/Recycling-Center](http://CoonRapidsMN.gov/390/Recycling-Center)  
 763-767-6485

# A Look Behind the Scenes at Testing Elections Equipment

It is election season! Did you know that the City of Fridley oversees all the elections happening within the City? And before every election, City staff test all election equipment to ensure ballots are being correctly counted? To share a little about this process, below is an overview of the various steps taken to ensure our elections are accurate and secure.

## Pre-Election Testing

The City conducts thorough testing of voting equipment before each election. This process, determined by the Minnesota Secretary of State and facilitated by Anoka County, includes:

- **Logic and Accuracy Testing:** Anoka County provides pre-marked ballots that are marked 'test ballots' to test the ballot counters (DS200s). These test ballots cover every possible voting scenario, ensuring accuracy for each race, party and candidate.
- **Zero Tape Verification:** Voting machines print results on "zero tapes." Staff then meticulously compare test election results with these tapes to ensure exact matches.
- **Error Correction:** If any discrepancies are found, staff rerun tests to identify and correct errors.
- **Equipment Security:** Security measures are in place to protect the integrity of voting equipment:
  - **Paper Ballots:** Minnesota uses paper ballots for all elections. Voters mark their choices on paper, which are then counted by machines. This crucial practice ensures a verifiable paper trail for review and auditing
  - **Tamper-Evident Seals:** After testing, each machine receives a numbered seal that is unique to each machine. Those numbers are documented and certified to ensure no tampering took place before or after the transfer of machines from City Hall to the polling place.
  - **Network Security:** City ballot counters connect only to a double encrypted, isolated network that is solely

maintained and accessible by the Anoka County elections staff.

- **Physical Security:** Voting machines are stored in a locked, video-monitored room with limited access.
- **Public Transparency:** A Public Accuracy Test occurs before each election, allowing residents to observe testing procedures and ask questions. Tests take place one to two weeks before the day of the election. The date of the test is posted on the City website and in the Star Tribune.

## Election Day Safeguards

There are multiple built-in protections against errors on election day:

- **Poll Pads:** Election Judges use Poll Pads to locate a voter in the State of Minnesota's election database. This database is updated in real-time automatically. Polls Pads are used to confirm voters are registered to vote, are voting at the correct polling place and that a voter has not already voted.
- **Ballot Errors:** The ballot counter checks for mistakes. It alerts voters if they've selected too many candidates in a race (over-voting) or if they've missed voting in any races (under-voting). Voters can then choose to correct their ballot if they wish.
- **Jurisdiction-Specific Ballots:** Each precinct has a unique ballot, which contains a specified code read by the ballot counter. If a ballot were to be placed into a counter that it was not programmed for, the ballot would be returned to the voter and Election Judges notified.

## Post-Election Review

After the polls close, election results go through a review process before becoming official. On election night, the County receives the results from the City election through the ballot counter. The County then shares those results with the Secretary of State. These results are preliminary and subject to verification. Canvassing boards are who certifies those results.



Canvassing boards are made up of:

- **Local Canvassing Boards:** For municipal and school district races, local canvassing boards typically include city council members or school board members. They review and certify the results.
- **County Canvassing Board:** This board, composed of elected officials including county commissioners, certifies results for county-level offices and races within the county. They also review and approve results for higher-level races before sending them to the state.
- **State Canvassing Board:** For statewide and federal offices, as well as legislative districts crossing county lines, the State Canvassing Board makes the final certification. This board includes the Secretary of State and appointed judges.

Each canvassing board meets in public sessions within seven days to review results, address any discrepancies, and officially certify the election outcomes. This process, with checks at different levels, ensures election results are correct and trustworthy.

These comprehensive safeguards ensure that our voting equipment is secure and results are accurate. We continuously review and update our processes to maintain the highest standards of election integrity.

For more information, please visit the elections website at [FridleyMN.gov/elections](https://FridleyMN.gov/elections) or contact the City Clerk's office at [CityClerk@FridleyMN.gov](mailto:CityClerk@FridleyMN.gov).

## 2023 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR)

The City's 2023 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) is now available. The PAFR is intended to increase knowledge of the City's financial condition in a simple, easy-to-read format. It contains valuable, summarized financial information and showcases various City programs and services. Through more user-friendly financial reporting, the PAFR exemplifies Fridley's commitment to the community to maintain transparent communication and preserve public confidence. The PAFR can be found at [FridleyMN.gov/2023PAFR](https://FridleyMN.gov/2023PAFR).



## Fridley Awarded for Financial Excellence

Fridley has recently received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. This shows the City's commitment to being sound stewards of the City's financial resources and the commitment to transparent communication.

## Fridley Community Calendar

### September

- September 3 | Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- September 4 | Public Arts Commission Meeting
- September 5 | Housing and Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- September 9 | City Council Meeting
- September 10 | Charter Commission Meeting
- September 10 | Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting
- September 18 | Planning Commission Meeting
- September 23 | City Council Meeting

### October

- October 2 | Public Arts Commission Meeting
- October 3 | Housing and Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- October 7 | Charter Commission Meeting
- October 7 | Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- October 8 | Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting
- October 14 | City Council Meeting
- October 16 | Planning Commission Meeting
- October 28 | City Council Meeting

NOTE: City Council and Commission meetings start at 7 p.m. Meetings are held at the Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Avenue NE. The public is welcome.

Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in any City of Fridley services, programs, or activities. Hearing impaired persons who need an interpreter or other persons who require auxiliary aids should contact the City at 763-572-3450.



**Chores and More**

## A Couple Hours of Your Time can Make a Difference!

ACCAP Senior Chores and More is looking for volunteers and paid independent contractors to assist our seniors who need help maintaining their yards and homes. ACCAP is in need of individuals or groups that can help with Fall Raking and Snow Removal. Please contact ACCAP at 763-783-4767 to find out how you can help.

## Transportation Planning Updates

### Highways 65 and 47

Planning efforts are underway for many Fridley roadways. MnDOT, in partnership with MetroTransit and local jurisdictions, is continuing to advance the Planning and Environmental Linkages for University Avenue (TH47) and Central Avenue (TH65) to determine the vision for these corridors. Following extensive collection of data and public feedback, MnDOT developed multiple concepts for the roadways for community review and performance analysis. Currently, the study team is working on the final PEL study report, which will recommend which roadway and intersection concepts to carry forward for consideration in future studies, and which concepts can be eliminated from consideration. Join MnDOT for a public meeting to share your feedback to refine concept designs on September 17 from 5-7 p.m. at the Fridley Civic Campus. You can stay up to date on PEL efforts at [Talk.DOT.State.MN.US/Hwy-47-Hwy-65-Study](http://Talk.DOT.State.MN.US/Hwy-47-Hwy-65-Study).

### Bus Rapid Transit

MnDOT and Metro Transit are leading efforts to develop a 2030 redesign of University Avenue in Fridley, which will provide for the F line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). Interim improvements along the corridor will begin in 2025.

### Safe Streets and Roads for All

Additionally, the US Department of Transportation is providing funding to local



jurisdictions through the new Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program to develop action plans that achieve the goal of zero traffic deaths. Anoka County is currently soliciting feedback to develop its plan which will guide roadway safety strategies throughout Anoka County to make streets and roads safer for all users. Residents are encouraged to share their feedback at [AnokaCountyMN.gov/4452/SafeStreets-and-Roads-for-All-SS4A-Plan](http://AnokaCountyMN.gov/4452/SafeStreets-and-Roads-for-All-SS4A-Plan). The City of Fridley was also recently awarded funding through the SS4A program to create its own local action plan to improve safety for all users. Efforts to develop the plan will begin this winter.



## 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 and other yard waste are not allowed to be blown into the street or deposited within 25 feet of a waterbody. Yard waste blown into the street can enter the storm sewer system and pollute downstream waterbodies such as Rice Creek, Moore Lake or the Mississippi River. If you notice a property dumping yard waste or other unauthorized materials in the street or storm drains, please call 763-572-3566 to report it as an illicit discharge.

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.
- 🍁 Bagged yard waste must be placed in compostable bags.



## More than 150 Homes Participated in Citywide Garage Sale

On June 7-8, more than 150 garage sales participated in Fridley's Citywide Garage Sale! This year, the City of Columbia Heights hosted their citywide sale the same weekend, creating double the shopping fun.

Thank you to those who participated in this year's sale. We are already looking ahead to next summer! Keep an eye on [FridleyMN.gov/CitywideGarageSale](https://FridleyMN.gov/CitywideGarageSale) for more information about next year's sale.



## 2024 Street Rehabilitation Project

The 2024 Street Rehabilitation Project includes pavement rehabilitation, concrete curb and gutter spot replacement, watermain replacement and other miscellaneous work along five streets throughout the City: Lucia Lane, Channel Road, 66th Avenue, Norton Avenue and Buchanan Street. The project also includes traffic calming and stormwater quality improvements along Channel Road. In April, the project was awarded to North Valley, Inc., of Nowthen, Minnesota. Construction is underway with completion slated for September 2024.



## Adopt-A-Drain

Looking for a low-commitment way to help protect Fridley's lakes, creeks and river? Adopt-a-Drain volunteers help keep the City's storm drains clear of debris to keep pollutants from washing into our ways. Fall is a great time to adopt a drain through [MN.Adopt-A-Drain.org](https://MN.Adopt-A-Drain.org). Volunteers in the Twin Cities have adopted over 23,000 drains and kept more than 749,000 pounds of debris from our water bodies!

## 2024 ADA Improvements Project

The 2024 ADA Improvements Project includes accessibility improvements to four existing pedestrian corridors throughout the City. The project is part of the City's ADA Transition Plan, adopted in 2019, which was implemented to systematically evaluate, maintain and improve pedestrian facilities within the City. In June, the project was awarded to Concrete Idea, Inc., of Maple Lake, Minnesota. Construction is underway, with completion slated for November 2024.

## COMMUNITY PUMPKIN CARVING

**October 13 - 17 (various times available)**

Help carve the more than 1,000 pumpkins along the trail at Pumpkin Night in the Park. Pumpkins, tools, and patterns will be provided, you bring the person power. (Lucky you, all the pumpkins are pre-gutted)! Sign up for your time slot at [FridleyMN.gov/PumpkinNight](https://FridleyMN.gov/PumpkinNight). All pumpkins will be placed on the trails (make sure you attend the event to see if you can spot your creative creation)!



**RESERVE YOUR TIME SLOT TODAY!**



## 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



## Pumpkin Recycling

**November 1 - 7**

Springbrook Nature Center Parking Lot

Save the Date! The pumpkin dumpster will be back at Springbrook Nature Center from November 1 – 7. 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.\*\***



## Park System Improvement Plan Update

### Completion of Moore Lake Park

A grand opening was held for Fridley's Moore Lake Park on June 1, 2024 to highlight the many improvements that were made to one of Fridley's signature parks. From picnics to pickleball to fishing or flying down the playground slide, a great time was had by thousands at this renovated park – just one of many that will get new playgrounds, courts, trails and amenities through Fridley's Park System Improvement Plan, a \$30 million, 8-year project to modernize and enhance Fridley's parks.

### Neighborhood Parks

As the finishing touches were put on Moore Lake Park in 2024, summer construction was underway at Edgewater Gardens Park, Plymouth Square Park and Logan Park. Sylvan Hills Park construction will go through the fall season. Each of these four parks will reopen for 2024-2025 with amazing new playgrounds, courts, park shelters, amenities and trails.

Park staff also met with residents to gather feedback on plans for 2025 construction

projects at Oak Hill Park, Jubilee Park and Commons Park.

### Plans for Commons Park

The Commons Park project will be the largest park project in Fridley history. This \$12 million renovation will include a recreation building, splash pad, inclusive playground, pickleball court complex, ballfields, expanded parking, trails and winter recreation area.

The recreation building will include activity rooms for a variety of events and programs as well as rental space for small-group gatherings such as youth birthday parties. This space will serve as the amenity hub for the park, with restrooms, drinking water and unique gathering spaces.

A destination inclusive playground will be a highlight of the new park space. This park will be designed to allow for individuals of all ages and abilities to play and interact with one another. This feature is supported by a \$500,000 State of Minnesota grant and will be Fridley's first inclusive play space.

The outdoor splash pad is an amenity that Fridley residents have been asking for since we began our conversations about improved parks in 2019. This area will be enhanced through funds from the Minnesota DNR outdoor recreation grant program and will be a favorite for hot summer days for many years to come!

The Commons Park project will impact three ball fields on the south end of the park and through discussions with the Fridley Youth Sports Association, a plan will be implemented to include two new fields on the north end of Commons Park as well as to convert one softball field at Community Park to a baseball field. Soccer fields will also be expanded at Community Park.

Please plan a visit to one of our recently completed neighborhood parks such as Ed Wilmes Park, Skyline Park or Creekview Park and be sure to keep an eye on [FridleyMN.gov/ParkPlan](https://FridleyMN.gov/ParkPlan) for the latest news and updates on park improvements.

## Preschool Enrollment with Fridley Public Schools is Now Open!

Fridley Public Schools (FPS) is thrilled to announce their Preschool has been awarded 55 additional seats, and enrollment is now open! Give your child a great start on their learning journey with their highly acclaimed program.

### Why Choose Fridley Public Schools Preschool?

- **Flexible Options:** Half-day and full-day options for three- and four-year-olds.
- **Top Rated:** 4-star Parent Aware rating

- **Certified Teachers:** All teachers are state-certified
- **Small Class Sizes:** 20 students per class, with one teacher and one classroom assistant
- **Kindergarten Ready:** FPS preschoolers are fully prepared to thrive in kindergarten
- **Unique Program:** FPS offers the full International Baccalaureate Program Continuum from PreK through grade 12

Enroll now at [FridleySchools.org](https://FridleySchools.org)



## Get Ready for This Year's Winter Light Tour

It is time to get those lights and decorations out of storage and ready for the 2024 Winter Lights Contest! All entries will be placed on a map so that residents (and visitors) can create their own custom lights tour around town. Judging will take place December 9 - 10. Winners will be announced, and maps will be available on December 13. Tour maps will be available in person at City Hall and at [FridleyMN.gov/Rec](https://FridleyMN.gov/Rec). Registration is open online from Nov 4 - Dec 8.

## Upcoming Heartsaver Classes

Fridley Police and Fire want to make Fridley a Heart Safe Community. Sign up for one of our upcoming classes to learn CPR and first aid skills. Classes are open to ages 16 and older. The cost is \$60 per registrant. Learn more and register online at [FridleyMN.gov/HeartSafe](https://FridleyMN.gov/HeartSafe).

**HeartSaver CPR:** September 21, October 17, December 1

**HeartSaver First Aid:** November 21 | 6 - 10 p.m.

## Night to Unite 2024

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Night to Unite a success! On August 6, more than 70 block parties were hosted throughout the City!

Police officers, firefighters and City staff stopped by these parties and shared information on a variety of topics. Parties received insight on projects and initiatives happening within the Public Safety Department, ways to get involved and how the Public Safety Department is working with the

community to keep Fridley's neighborhoods safe.

Thank you to AAA and the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association for sponsoring this event. Thank you to Trio Supply, Business Essentials, Target Distribution, Walmart, Forgotten Star, Shortstop and Fridley Public Schools for their generous donations and partnerships to help make this a successful community event!



## BABY GEAR SWAP AT THE ECFE FALL FESTIVAL

*Join Fridley Public School's Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) Program and the City of Fridley in promoting the reuse of baby and young children's (ages 0-8) gear at our upcoming swap!*

### Dropoff:

**Fridley City Hall Collection Box:** October 8- November 7  
**Fridley Community Center:** November 8 from noon- 4 p.m.

**Accepted Items (Please ensure all items are ages 0-8, clean, working, and in a good enough condition that you'd bring into your own home):**

*Wraps and Carriers*

*Toys:* Toys, books, games, balls, activity centers, push walkers

*Miscellaneous:* Diaper bags, other small and gently used items

*Winter Gear:* Hats, gloves, jackets, snowsuits/pants

**Not Accepted:** Broken or recalled items, car seats, furniture, stuffed animals, bottles, clothing except winter gear, blankets, bulky items.

### Shop

Stop by the ECFE's Fall Festival at the Fridley Community Gym from 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. to shop the swap and enjoy a fun fall-themed party with your little ones. Activities include bounce house, games, crafts, and more \$5 at the door covers all the activities and all proceeds go to the Fridley ECFE Board to fund future activities and community events.

*Questions on acceptable items? Call 763-572-3594*



## Save the Date: Fire Open House

Save the date for our annual Fire Open House! Stop by Fire Station 1 (7071 University Avenue NE) on October 12 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. to get a behind-the-scenes look at the Fridley Fire Division. Open house activities include vehicle tours, demonstrations, games for kids and safety information for all!

## Resident Survey Results

In April, the City of Fridley conducted a telephone survey of 400, randomly selected, Fridley residents. The survey was designed to assess the quality of life in Fridley, and measure resident satisfaction with current City services and City staff. The work was contracted through the Morris Leatherman Company.

Visit [FridleyMN.gov/ResidentSurvey](https://FridleyMN.gov/ResidentSurvey) to learn more and view the survey results.



## New Osprey Home Available at Springbrook Nature Center

Springbrook Nature Center recently installed an osprey nesting pole near the Lions Amphitheater along the Oak Savanna trail. The pole was donated by Gary Bank, a volunteer and Springbrook Nature Center Foundation board member. Installation of the pole, completed in early June, was an engineering feat involving sinking a pole into the ground more than 12 feet. The nesting platform on top is designed to attract a nesting pair of Osprey with its height above the surrounding tree line, its predator guard at the base of the pole, and its proximity to shallow water with delicious fish.

Fans of the osprey have some time to wait to see if this nesting pole will have inhabitants. The nesting season for these birds begins in mid-April. So, while we wait for the osprey to find this prime location, it seems a good use of time to learn a little more about these fascinating birds.

Osprey often pair for life and share in nest building activities with the male finding nesting materials and the female building the nest. Nests can be built in as little as seven to ten days, and once established will likely be used by the same pair year after year, by adding layers of nesting materials on top of

the previous year's nest. Successful nesters will incubate eggs for approximately 32 days before hatching, with the male bringing food to the female while she remains on the eggs. It will take the chicks nearly two months to learn to fly, and another two months before fledging the nest.

Until next spring, we will wait and hope for a nesting pair of osprey to find this new nesting site.



## After-school Activities

The Parks and Recreation Department is offering classes after school at Hayes Elementary again this school year. Classes are open to all: there is transportation for students enrolled at Stevenson and parents/caregivers can also drop children off for the programs. Classes take place from 4-5:15 p.m. and a snack is provided each day. The following activities are offered this fall: Soccer, Outdoor Games & Halloween Fun, Ninja Warrior, Ho Ho Holiday Fun, Tae Kwon Do, and Track & Field. Registration is available at [FridleyMN.gov/Rec](http://FridleyMN.gov/Rec).



## Fridley Environmental Bike Tour

Join Fridley's Environmental Planner, Rachel Workin, and Springbrook Naturalist, Cody Rossetti, for a bike tour of Fridley's



most exciting environmental projects. Learn about how these projects benefit the community and the environment. The tour will be about 8 miles in length. Bikes, helmets and high visibility vests can be provided. Participants are welcome to bring their own bike and helmet if desired. Lunch is included.

Ages 15+ M Sep 16 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. \$15  
Civic Campus

## Thank You for Attending the Moore Lake Grand Opening!

The Grand Opening of the newly improved Moore Lake Park and the City Open House was held on Saturday, June 1. It was a beautiful day to enjoy the new amenities at the park and the event hosted a crowd of about 300 people! The afternoon kicked off with a ribbon cutting ceremony with Mayor Scott Lund, Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Peter Borman and the City Council. Throughout the event the new playground was buzzing, and attendees were able to try out fishing with the Boy Scouts, pond dipping with Springbrook Nature

Center, dancing with Zumba instructor Lenka, playing pickleball with instructor Will, and playing sand volleyball, basketball and yard games with the Fridley Recreation Staff. In addition, all City Departments were represented with updates and information inside the new Moore Lake Community Building. The public was able to engage with City Staff and ask questions about services and upcoming projects. The Flamingo's Ice Cream Truck was also onsite with delicious treats for all to enjoy!