



Fridley

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Parks and Recreation
Brochure Enclosed

JAN/FEB 2020
NO. 222

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
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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 – Steve Eggert
Councilmember 3rd Ward – Ann Bolkcom
City Manager – Wally Wysopal

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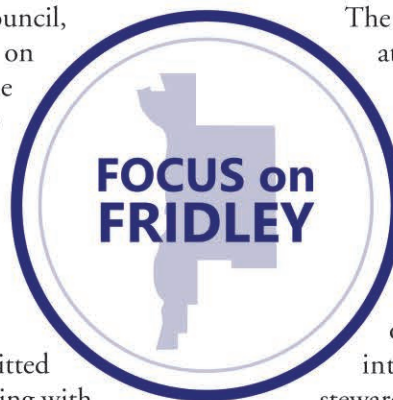


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Focus on Fridley: Public Safety and Environmental Stewardship

In our previous newsletter, we introduced City Council's new Focus on Fridley initiative in which they identified five key focus areas for the council, city staff, and the community to focus on moving forward. We will cover one of the focus areas in each of the 2020 newsletters and provide greater detail into what the area means and how we can all strive to achieve our focus goal. In this article we will talk about the focus area: Public Safety and Environmental Stewardship.



Our Public Safety Department is committed to serving residents and visitors by partnering with them to provide professional and impartial services while promoting a sense of peace and safety in our community. When discussing the future of public safety in our community, Ward 1 Councilmember Tom Tillberry stated, "In Fridley, the safety of our residents, businesses and visitors are of utmost importance, and we want to open up the lines of communication to make it easier for our residents to receive important public safety information and connect with our Public Safety Department." The department's mission will be fulfilled through leadership, safety education and incident response in the community.

To emphasize the focus on public safety in Fridley, the newly created FridleyPublicSafety.org and City of Fridley Public Safety Facebook page will become the go-to spots to receive information about safety, prevention and response to public safety situations such as house fires, medicals, flooding, storms, and more. We will also

communicate incident data and recaps from community events our firefighters and officers are involved in. The Public Safety Department will be looking at new opportunities to engage with the public to get to know residents on a more personal basis and to hear their feedback about public safety in the Fridley community.

Public health through environmental stewardship is another important facet of our community's safety. The city council intends to guide us on environmental stewardship and ensure residents are informed and engaged in plans to protect the quality of our natural resources. This includes outreach on topics such as clean air and water, invasive species, energy reduction and general natural resource management. The Environmental Quality and Energy Commission (EQEC) will continue to provide an advisory role in ongoing sustainability efforts. Starting in 2020 we will share community meeting highlights and milestones with residents via our social media platforms, Fridley 4U e-newsletter, and the city newsletter.

The ability to gain strides and create success in this focus area is on all of our shoulders. If you have public safety concerns or would like to get more involved with the city's environmental initiatives, please email info@FridleyMN.gov or call 763-571-3450. We also invite you to provide us your thoughts on public safety and environmental stewardship by visiting www.Polco.us/Fridley and take a short survey.

New Event:

Candlelight Hike at Springbrook Nature Center

Friday, February 14 - 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Bring yourself, a friend, or your whole family on an evening stroll through the trails of Springbrook Nature Center! We will guide your way with the cozy glow of lanterns and candlelight on the trails, and let you warm your hands over a bonfire.

If snow conditions allow, bring your own snowshoes!

The cost is \$5 per person and pre-registration required. Register online at FridleyParksandRec.PerfectMind.com, call 763-572-3588, or stop by in person at the Nature Center. Additional \$5 for snowshoe rental available from the Nature Center (while supplies last).



Apply to be an Election Judge

Visit fridleymn.gov/elections



Serve Your Community: Election Judges Needed

Election judges are responsible for the administration of election procedures in each polling location on election day. They are people protecting the rights of voters by ensuring the election process is fair and in accordance with Minnesota and federal laws.

Election judges are an integral part of making the election process work smoothly for voters. Fridley Election judges administer the City's 12 polling locations in several different capacities such as greeting voters, registering new voters, demonstrating how to mark a ballot, maintaining accurate ballot counts, and certifying polling location results.

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

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

Fridley Election Judges are paid \$10 per hour. Students who are at least 16 years of age may serve as Student Judges. Student Judges perform all job functions of a polling place and are paid \$10 per hour.

For more information you may visit us on the web at www.FridleyMN.gov/elections, email elections@FridleyMN.gov or call 763-572-3523.

2020 Elections

2020 will be a busy year for Fridley voters. There are three election days in 2020:

- March 3, 2020 - Presidential Nominating Primary (PNP)
- August 11, 2020 - Regular Primary
- November 3, 2020 - General Election

Presidential Nominating Primary (PNP)

In 2016, legislation was passed establishing the PNP. The PNP will include all four major political parties in Minnesota: Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis Party, Legal Marijuana Now Party and the Republican Party.

On election day, voters will be required to declare their political party when checking in to vote. Each of Minnesota's four major political parties will have separate ballots. The ballot choice of each voter will become a part of their official voting record; however, the candidate the voter chooses does not. A voter's political preference will be considered nonpublic data under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, except that the voter's party preference will be made available to the four major political party chairs.

Early Voting

If voters are unable to vote on election day, they may want to vote by Absentee Ballot. Fridley residents are welcome to vote early at the Fridley Civic Campus (7071 University Avenue) beginning January 17 for the PNP. Voting hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, February 29, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Voters may also vote at the Anoka County Courthouse (2100 3rd Avenue, Anoka, MN 55303).

In addition, voters may request that ballots be mailed to their home. To apply for a mailed Absentee Ballot, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's web site: www.sos.state.mn.us, or call 1-877-600-VOTE (8683).

Important Dates

- Early Voting for the PNP: January 17, 2020 through March 2, 2020
- Candidate Filing for Fridley offices begins May 19, 2020
- Early Voting for the Regular Primary: June 26, 2020 through August 10, 2020
- Early Voting for the General Election: September 18, 2020 through November 2, 2020

Local Candidates

For Fridley City Council, the following vacancies will be on the ballot: Mayor and Councilmember-at-Large. Terms for these Council positions are four years beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2024.

Door Knocking for Political Candidates

With election day around the corner, residents may experience political candidates knocking on their door. City Code exempts political candidates from being licensed. Normally, most people visiting door-to-door need to have a Solicitor's License and go through a background check with the City.

For more detailed election and voter information, including where to vote, please visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.mn.us or contact the City Clerk's office at elections@FridleyMN.gov.



Save the Date, Save on Water

The City was recently awarded a Water Efficiency Grant from the Metropolitan Council to issue rebates of \$150 - \$250 for EnergyStar washing machines and WaterSense toilets and irrigation systems. Check back in our March issue to learn how you can qualify!



2019 Recap: BY THE NUMBERS

Springbrook Nature Center had a very successful summer camp program in 2019. We had **over 450** enrollments for our weeklong summer day camps, providing an exciting and fun nature experience for kids ages 5-12. The non-profit Springbrook Nature Center Foundation provided scholarships for **21 students** in need to enjoy a week of summer camp.

Thanks to sponsorship by the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation, **678** community members enjoyed free, family-friendly music and educational programs at our summer concert and Friday Night by Firelight series of programs.

RECREATION

469

individual field rentals booked

3,297

registrants for youth recreation activities

49

adult teams participated in recreation sports

HUMAN RESOURCES

808

employment applications received (through 11-15-19)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Organized first ever New Resident Welcome Mixer:

15 new residents attended

7 signed up for Home Energy Squad visit

15 community groups and organization attended

FINANCE

900 helpdesk tickets completed

Fridley Liquor:

\$6,200,000+ in sales

WeCount Fridley, Minnesota | 2020 Census

Census Day - April 1, 2020



2020 Census Employment Opportunities

The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring hundreds of people across Minnesota for a variety of positions to help with the 2020 Census. There is a critical need for workers, including bilingual speakers. To be eligible, you must be 18 years old and have a valid Social Security number. *Note: The previous requirement of being a U.S. Citizen has been removed.*

It is a great way to earn some extra income while helping our Fridley community receive accurate levels of federal funding and government representation. These temporary, flexible, part-time positions are available in every county and pay between \$14 and \$20 per hour.

Census jobs are great for college students, semi-retired and retired individuals, stay-at-home parents, and anyone looking to make some extra income. Census workers will be working out of their own neighborhoods and local communities. Hiring for Census workers will continue until the end of February.



To learn more or apply, visit 2020census.gov/jobs or 2020census.gov/es/jobs (Español).

To learn more about how the 2020 Census impacts our community, visit FridleyMN.gov/2020Census.

Fridley Public Safety hosts Rental Housing Training

In November, the Fridley Public Safety Department held an eight-hour educational course for owners and managers of rental properties in Fridley. The course allowed attendees to fulfill the certification required by the City to have all licensees or managers of rental property complete an education course related to crime-free rental housing. Upon completion of the course, they received a certificate.

Thirty people participated in the course. Sessions included information from a variety of resources:

- Fire Safety – Fridley Public Safety
- Mediation and Restorative Services – Anoka County
- Applicant Screening – Fridley Public Safety
- Crime Prevention – Fridley Public Safety
- Human Trafficking – BCA
- Environmental Planning – City of Fridley Community Development
- Leases, Evictions, and Legal Issues
- Enforcement of City Code
- Inspections and Licensing

We thank all the property managers who attended for their support in making Fridley a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.

Hiring Timeline	What to Expect
Sept. 2019 - Feb. 2020	Recruit for Census Workers
Jan. - April 2020	Make job offers and conduct background checks
March - April 2020	Census Worker Training
March - July 2020	Conduct Census Work

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Video productions:
10 Community Connections
1 Community Development Journal

Social Media posts:
457 - Facebook
224 - Twitter
21 - LinkedIn
22 - Instagram

Number of impressions:
1,313,036 - Facebook
105,348 - Twitter

Website:
395,182 pageviews

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- **1,533** rental inspections completed
- **4,681** violations found and repaired
- **903** rental properties licensed
- **7** recycling events and paper shredding events, plus two pop-up events
 - **1,772** participants
- **247** public trees protected against emerald ash borer
- **48** tons of organics recycled
- **48** new subscribers to renewable energy programs in first half of 2019

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **24,509** calls for service (through 11/1)
- **8,074** traffic stops (through 11/1)
- **2,271** fire calls
- **1,152** fire inspections

PUBLIC WORKS

1,800 hydrants were flushed and inspected (including private hydrants) as part of the annual spring flushing program

Utility Division jetted and cleaned **358,998** linear feet of sanitary mains (67.9 miles), which equates to roughly 2/3 of our sanitary program

18 percent increase in curbside recycling tonnage between 2018-2019 (first half data only)

Awarded a **\$251,000** grant for information and infiltration mitigation improvements



Home Improvement Loans: An Affordable Way to Create Your Dream Home



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

Loan Types

What home project have you been putting off? Maybe it is updating your windows, revamping your outdated kitchen or finishing up that basement bathroom. Fridley partners with Center for Energy and Environment to provide low-interest financing for your home improvement projects. They also offer flexible terms to help make monthly payments affordable. It is fast and easy to apply!

- **Low-interest Loan:** Available for single-family homes. Eligible improvements include most interior or exterior maintenance or remodeling.
- **Multi-family Exterior Loan:** 1-12 unit properties are eligible. Improvements include corrections to code violations and exterior structure improvements.
- **Emergency Deferred Loan:** 1-4 unit residential, owner-occupied properties are eligible. This loan is for property owners who face emergency home

repairs and are unable to obtain funds for repair through traditional loans.

- **Mobile Home Improvement Loan:** Residential owner-occupied mobile homes are eligible. Most permanent interior and exterior improvements are included.
- **Senior Deferred Loan:** One borrower must be over 62 years of age, for 1-4 unit, owner-occupied properties. Improvements include most interior and exterior projects.

Visit mncee.org/fridley or call 612-335-5858 to learn more about the loans and how to apply.

Free Remodeling Advisor Visits

Not sure where to begin? This FREE service for Fridley homeowners includes a visit to your home to assist with remodeling ideas, evaluate necessary repairs and improvements, and assist with reviewing bids. Call 612-335-5856 to schedule an appointment.

Home Energy Squad Enhanced Visits

Save money and energy in your home! A \$50 investment in your home could save you hundreds of dollars!

What to expect:

- Install energy saving materials such as: door weather-stripping, a programmable thermostat, LED light bulbs, a water heater blanket, and high efficiency water fixtures.
- Perform a blower door test to measure your home for air leaks.
- Complete an insulation inspection.
- Perform safety checks on your heating system and water heater.
- Recommend cost-effective energy upgrades.
- Leave you with a report that serves as a road map for next steps you can take to make your home more energy efficient.

Visit mncee.org/fridley or call 651-328-6220 to schedule a Home Energy Squad Visit. This program is provided by CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy in partnership with Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), a local non-profit agency, and is supported by the Fridley HRA.

Fridley Public Safety Participates in Lights On! Program

The Fridley Public Safety Department has been participating in *Lights On! Minnesota* since September. The program provides vouchers for a free service to repair a headlight, tail light, brake light or turn signals. When a Fridley police officer makes a traffic stop for a light out, they can give drivers a voucher instead of a ticket. Officers handed out 22 vouchers in the first month alone.

MicroGrants, a Minneapolis nonprofit, raises money from individuals and foundations to pay for the program in the Twin Cities metro area.

How it works:

- Local police/public safety departments commit to providing the program in their city
- Participating auto service providers donate labor
- People make donations to pay for the bulbs

Interested in learning more? Visit LightsOnUs.org.



Recycling: Plastic Film

For weighing so little, the common plastic bag has created quite a stir in the recycling world. Plastic bags are included in the plastic film recycling category. The best place to dispose of them—if there is no home reuse option—is to take them to a plastic film collection bin at places such as at Walmart, Cub, or Target.

Why not throw plastic bags in your curbside recycling bin or the recycling cart at your apartment complex?

Turns out these flimsy bags wreck the sorting machines at the recycling center. They can get wrapped around cogs in the conveyer belt sorter requiring a system shut-down for workers to cut the bags off, reducing overall productivity of recycling centers and driving up the cost of recycling. Sometimes, there is not time to open recycling tied in plastic bags, so it gets tossed. **Always place your recyclables in the bin loosely or in paper bags and keep the plastic bags out.**

Plastic film collected at the grocery store is sent directly to a plastics recycler that can melt all the plastic film together, since it is all the same material, instead of a mix of things like in your curbside recycling bin. The plastic film is then made into

plastic lumber or remade into more plastic bags or plastic film products.

Here are a few items that cannot be placed in your curbside recycling bin, but can be collected for the plastic film recycling bins at local grocery stores (please note that only clean, dry plastic bags and films are acceptable):

- Retail, produce, newspaper, bread, and dry-cleaning bags (clean, dry, and free of receipts and clothes hangers)
- Zip-top food storage bags (clean and dry)
- Plastic shipping packages (remove labels), bubble wrap and air pillows (deflate)
- Plastic wrap on cases of water/soda bottles, paper towels, napkins, disposable cups, bathroom tissue, diapers, and female sanitary products
- Furniture and electronic wrap
- Plastic cereal box liners (but if it tears like paper, do not include)

For more information and a list of local collection sites for plastic film, visit this website: www.plasticfilmrecycling.org.

2020 Street Rehabilitation Project

The Springbrook neighborhood has been designated for street rehabilitation this upcoming construction season. The area is a mix between residential and commercial properties and is bounded by East River Road to the west, the railroad to the east, Ironton Street to the north and 79th Way to the south. Streets proposed for reconstruction include 79th Way, Ashton Avenue, Ely Street, Hugo Street, Ironton Street, Liberty Street, Longfellow Street, and Ruth Street. The total project length is approximately two miles.

At the November 25 public hearing, the Fridley City Council approved the resolution ordering final plans, specifications and calling for bids for the project. Public bids and award of the project is anticipated for March 2020 and construction could begin as early as May 2020. The project will include asphalt reclaiming, asphalt paving, concrete curb repairs,

watermain replacement in select street segments, aging fire hydrant replacements, storm sewer improvements, and miscellaneous utility maintenance. Surface water quality improvements being considered include reducing the overall impervious area in the neighborhood by 4,000 square feet. This will be accomplished by removing the cul-de-sac at the intersection of Ironton Street and Ashton Avenue. New rain gardens are anticipated to be constructed in the removed cul-de-sac area and in Ruth Circle Park. Costs for this project will be paid using Minnesota State Aid System funding, utility enterprise funds and special assessments.

If you are a property owner within the project area, keep up-to-date by visiting the project webpage at FridleyMN.gov/2020Street or contact the City of Fridley Engineering Division at 763-572-3554 if you would like additional information.



Lawns to Legumes

Have you heard of Lawns to Legumes? This new program by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources will be providing residents (both renters and homeowners) cost-share grants to install pollinator-friendly native plants, trees, shrubs and bee lawns. Pollinator friendly lawns turn your yard into an important part of the urban ecosystem, provide great wildlife watching opportunities, and often require less work than other types of lawns. Learn more about this program at bwsr.state.mn.us/Lawns-Legumes.



Additionally, Anoka Conservation District, in partnership with the cities of Fridley, Coon Rapids, Anoka and Andover are applying for a demonstration grant to create a pollinator corridor along the Mississippi and Rum Rivers.

If you live west of the BNSF railroad, you may be eligible for technical assistance and funding to install a pollinator patch or bee lawn, including site design, plant purchasing, or installation you may be eligible for additional technical assistance and funding. To receive more information about the demonstration grant, visit Bit.Ly/Anoka-Lawns-Legumes.



New Things in Town: Development Updates

Midas – Caribou Coffee

The Midas building at 8094 University has recently been sold to Java Companies. The existing building will receive a facelift and will be reduced in size to make way for a multi-tenant commercial building. Redevelopment of this site will also include construction of a new free-standing Caribou Coffee “cabin-like” building, similar to the photo below. It will have no in store seating, but customers can walk up to a window to order or go through the drive-thru.



Boot Barn added to Fridley Market

Boot Barn will be the newest tenant at Fridley Market at 250 57th Avenue. The store will be in the main building, next to Duluth Trading Co. Boot Barn is the largest western and workwear retailer in the nation. They carry the broadest selection of full-grain leather boots, comfortable and durable jeans and clothing, workwear, including flame-resistant boots and clothing, and western-inspired fashion. Boot Barn is expected to open the early part of 2020 and is excited to bring the western lifestyle to Fridley.

Forgotten Star Brewery Now Open



Fridley’s first brewery opened its doors on November 16, 2019, at 38 Northern Stacks Drive. Visit www.forgottenstarbrewing.com for more information on hours and product availability.

Lennar Townhomes

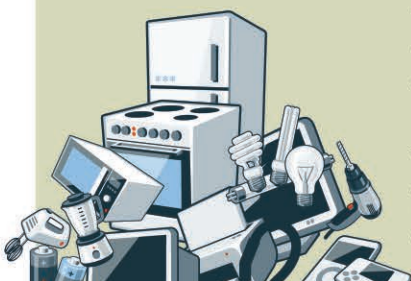
Construction of the first two model buildings in the Lennar Townhome development have started south of the Civic Campus. Two styles of townhomes will be constructed: the Colonial and the Carriage. It is expected that models for both styles will be open in time for the Spring Parade of Homes.

Train Station Village

Construction is underway at the Fridley Station Village on the corner of 61st Avenue and Main Street. The first phase of the project includes constructing the new Northstar Transit parking lot. Once that is complete, the second phase will include construction of the 95-unit market rate building. The third phase is the 107-unit senior building, which will be constructed along the railroad tracks. The fourth and final phase will be the construction of the mixed income building, which is expected to start fall 2020.

2020 Recycling Drop-Off Dates

Join us for our 2020 Recycling Drop-offs 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.



- January 11, 8 am-12 pm
- March 14, 8 am-12 pm
- May 9, 8 am-12 pm
- July 11, 8 am-12 pm
- September 12, 8 am-12 pm
- November 14, 8 am-12 pm

View accepted items and pricing at FridleyMN.gov/Dropoff or call 763-572-3594. Receive \$15 off your total with Fridley residency, as well as disposal of one appliance and one mattress for free.

Fridley Community Calendar

January

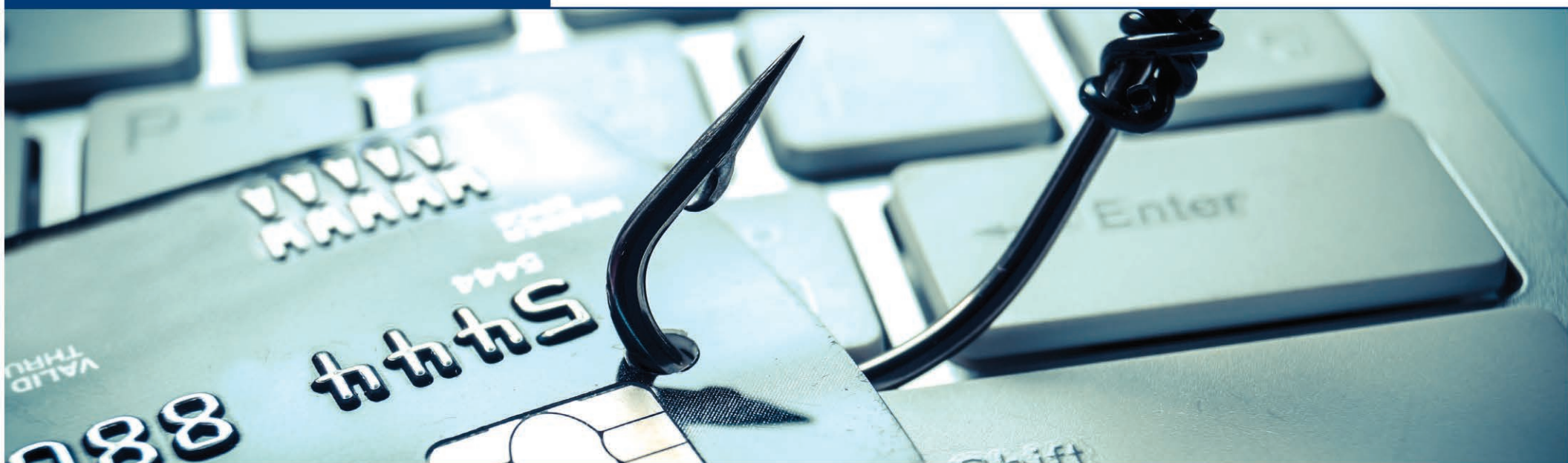
- 1 City offices closed for New Year’s Day
- 2 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 6 Charter Commission Meeting
- 6 City Council Meeting
- 6 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
- 14 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission Meeting
- 15 Planning Commission Meeting
- 20 City offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 27 City Council Meeting

February

- 3 Charter Commission Meeting
- 3 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
- 6 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 10 City Council Meeting
- 11 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission Meeting
- 17 City offices closed for Presidents’ Day
- 19 Planning Commission Meeting
- 24 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.



Cybersecurity Tips

New technology and software can make information easily accessible – for you and, unless protected, hackers or scammers. Here are some tips to better protect your information:

Keep software up-to-date

Install available updates for your operating system and applications. Turn on Automatic Updates for your operating system and use web browsers, such as Chrome or Firefox, that receive frequent, automatic security updates.

Beware of unsolicited emails and phone calls

Phishing scams are a constant threat. Scammers will attempt to trick you into divulging personal information such as your login, banking, or credit card information. Phishing scams are most often carried out by email, but can also be carried out by phone, text message, or through social networking sites.

Be suspicious of any official or scary sounding email message that asks for personal or financial information, or that links you to a website asking for

this information. If you receive a message or call that concerns you, contact the company directly (not via the information provided in the suspicious message) to see if they were really trying to contact you.

Practice good password management

Passwords should be easy to remember, but hard to guess. Longer is better – 20 characters or more is recommended. Never use the same password for multiple sites.

Do not share your passwords and do not write them down. Use a password management program to keep track of them, if necessary.

Enable multi-factor authentication

Many sites allow the use of additional authentication methods, such as text messages, that enhance your security and can stop hackers even if they learn your password.

Be careful what you click on

Avoid visiting unknown websites or downloading software from untrusted sources. If attachments or

links in an email are unexpected or suspicious for any reason, do not click on them.

Be careful of what you share on social networking sites.

Scammers often use information from social media sights to tailor their scams to make them seem more legitimate.

You are a target to hackers

Don't ever say "It will not happen to me." Everyone is at risk and the stakes can be high.

Back up your data

Back up regularly – if you are a victim of malware, the only guaranteed way to repair your computer is to erase and re-install the system.

Use mobile devices safely

Lock mobile devices with a PIN or password, never leave it unprotected in public, and only install apps from trusted sources. Keep your device's operating system updated.



Fridley Fire Station 1 Receives Award

In October 2019, *Firehouse Magazine* announced the winners of its sixth annual Station Design Awards program. The program recognizes outstanding design and architecture nationwide. The awards allow readers to learn about the latest trends in designing fire stations to be more efficient and safe.

Fridley Fire Station 1, designed by BKV Group, won the bronze award in the Mixed Use category.

Fun with Fridley Public Safety



Shop with a Cop

During our annual Shop with a Cop event in December, officers took 30 students shopping thanks to a community grant from the Fridley Walmart. Students were picked up at their schools by Fridley Police and brought to Walmart for shopping, gift wrapping and dinner was provided by Subway. Santa stopped in to meet the kids and take photos.

This was another great Shop with a Cop event! It would not be possible without the generous donations from Walmart and Subway, and volunteer efforts from Fridley Police and school staff.

Coats from Cops

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2nd Annual Coats from Cops event on November 1. We were able to provide winter gear to roughly 300 kids!

Special thanks to Target Store Fridley for donating clothing vouchers, Omnetics Connector Corporation for their large donation of items, and everyone in the community who donated to this cause.

Fire Open House

Thank you to everyone who came out to our fire safety open house to celebrate Fire Prevention Week in October!

Kids explored the fire apparatus, learned about fire safety, saw Dalmatians from The Greater Twin Cities Dalmatians Club and more.

Utility Billing Changes – What Residents Need to Know

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

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

Utility Rate Changes

Water Utility Fund: Based on the current revenue and expenditure projections, and to maintain the equitable treatment of the various user classifications, usage rates for residential users will increase by 3 percent. Also, based on the reduction in water consumption over time, a 5 percent increase was determined for the quarterly fixed charge for residential users from \$20.00 in 2019 to \$21.00 in 2020. Additionally, the State of Minnesota recently increased the drinking water service connection fee by \$0.84 per quarter (increase from \$6.36 in 2019 to \$9.72 in 2020 annually).

Sanitary Sewer Utility Fund: Generally, Sanitary Sewer Utility Fund revenues are dependent upon water consumption or use. With the continued decline in water usage, and the approximately 11.3 percent increase in the Municipal Wastewater Charge (MWC) imposed by the Metropolitan Council over the past two years, the Sanitary Sewer Utility Rates continue to change accordingly. At present, the MWC accounts for about 76 percent of all Sanitary Sewer Utility Fund expenditures proposed for 2020.

Based on these and other changes, the quarterly usage rates for all user classifications will increase by 3 percent from \$5.95 in 2019 to \$6.13 in 2020. Additionally, the quarterly fixed charge will increase by 2 percent for residential and smaller multiple family users.

Storm Water Utility Fund: Over the past three years, the City expended approximately \$3,105,000 on storm water system improvements, and plans about another \$4,528,000 in capital investment over the next five years, including \$1,513,000 in 2020. Given this level of investment, the increase in the per acre/per

quarter Storm Water Utility Fee is 3 percent, going from \$28.71 in 2019 to \$29.57 in 2020, resulting in a Residential Equivalency Factor (REF) (i.e., one-third of the per acre rate) of \$9.85 per quarter. The REF would increase about \$0.29 per quarter compared to the previous year.

Recycling Fund: The City's recycling fund is used to cover the cost of the City's residential recycling program. Currently, the City has a contract with Republic Services Inc. to provide city-wide curbside recycling. Due to prevailing market trends and the increase in the cost of recycling, the quarterly recycling fee will increase from \$9.02 in 2019 to \$9.83 in 2020 (9 percent). This is an increase of \$0.81 per dwelling unit, per quarter for residential units of 12 users or less.

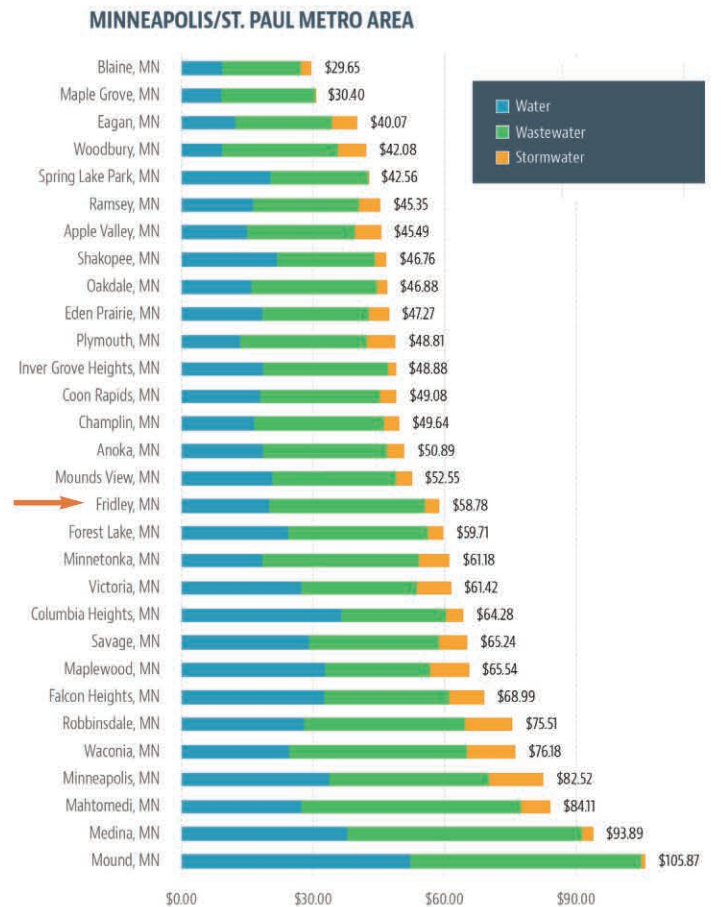
What does this mean to your utility bill?

The total impact of these proposed changes will result in an increase of \$4.41 per quarter or 2.95 percent to a residential customer using 18,000 gallons of water a quarter.

Residential - 18,000 Gallons Used					
	2019	2020	Increase (\$)	Increase (%)	
Water Utility					
Fixed Charge	\$ 20.00	\$ 21.00			
Usage	\$ 46.32	\$ 47.72			
Subtotal	\$ 66.32	\$ 68.72	\$ 2.40	3.62%	
Sanitary Sewer Utility					
Fixed Charge	\$ 50.00	\$ 51.00			
Usage	\$ 23.80	\$ 24.52			
Subtotal	\$ 73.80	\$ 75.52	\$ 1.72	2.33%	
Storm Water Utility					
Fixed Charge	\$ 9.56	\$ 9.85	\$ 0.29	2.33%	
Recycling Utility					
Fixed Charge	\$ 9.02	\$ 9.83	\$ 0.81	8.98%	
Total	\$ 158.70	\$ 163.92	\$ 5.22	3.29%	

Average residential quarterly utility bill

How does Fridley compare with other cities?

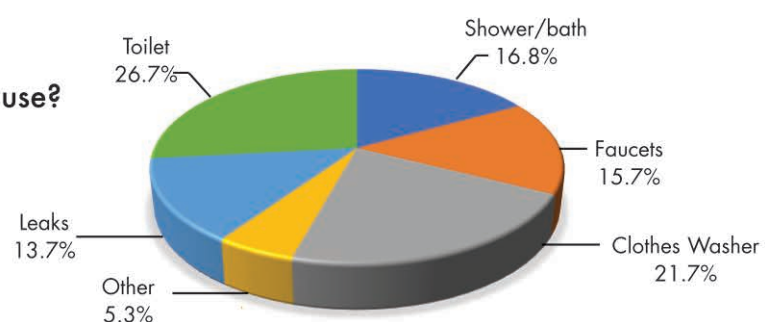


Typical Household Water Use and Ways to Reduce Water Consumption

According to the American Water Works Association, about half of household water use is for flushing and laundry. The pie chart below illustrates average household water consumption.

No one likes rate increases, but they are sometimes a necessity. The City believes in a Fridley that is safe, friendly, and vibrant and provides stable homes for families and businesses. If you have any questions on your Fridley utility bill, you can reach us at 763-573-3529.

Please consider enrolling in our automatic payment plan. A cut out form is included below.



Source: American Water Works Association Research Foundation, "Residential End Uses of Water," 1999

Attention Utility Customers!

You can have your Fridley utility bill paid automatically with our free Direct Payment Program!

- Save money (no stamps, no processing fees)
- Save time (no checks to write)
- No late fees, no worries!

Direct Payment is a free service and enrollment is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Simply complete the form to the right.
2. Attach a voided check or savings withdrawal slip.
3. Return it to us with your current City of Fridley utility payment or mail anytime.

Once you are enrolled, your utility bill will state *** Bank Draft***. It's that simple!

Bills are paid automatically from your checking or savings account on the due date. You can withdraw anytime by contacting us at least 10 days prior to your due date.



Utility Bill Direct Payment Program Form

Mail completed forms to:

City of Fridley, Attn: Utility Billing
7071 University Ave NE, Fridley MN 55432

Questions? Call us! 763-572-3529

Name: _____

Address: _____

Utility Account #: _____ Daytime Phone#: _____

Financial Institution: _____ Checking Savings

By signing below I am authorizing the City of Fridley Utility Department to automatically withdraw my utility payment from my checking / savings account.

Signature _____ Date _____

Attach voided check or savings withdrawal slip here.

Springbrook Spree Fundraiser at Springbrook Nature Center

The annual Springbrook Spree fundraiser is scheduled for March 7, 2020, at 5 p.m. in the Interpretive Center! There will be good food and enjoyable conversation. The theme this year is Nature's Stories. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased at the Nature Center, from any Board Member or online at SpringbrookFoundation.org/tickets. You'll receive a buffet dinner, participate in various activities, have the chance to meet with local politicians and support the Nature Center.

Featured this year are live and silent auctions, including the hugely popular Mystery Wine Cabinet. The live auction, including the popular Restaurant Run, is boisterous and fun, and includes higher value items. The larger silent auction is where people can browse the auction items and enter their bids on a sheet near the item.

Enjoy the Nature Center exhibits, bring friends and enjoy the evening together!

Springbrook Spree is the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation's annual fundraiser. Money raised at each Spree directly benefits the Springbrook Nature Center programs and facilities.



Last Donation Received by Fridley Lions Club to Complete Springbrook Pavilion



In November 2019, the Fridley Lions presented the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation with the last \$50,000 needed to complete the new pavilion project. This new amenity will allow for more programming such as family gatherings, community meetings, classes and more. The pavilion is almost complete and will be ready to open in spring 2020.

We would like to thank all of our generous donors and community partners for making this project possible:

- Fridley Lions Club
- McGough Construction Co.
- J.J. Taylor Distributing Company of MN Inc.
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Springbrook Nature Center Foundation
- Park Construction Co.
- Parsons Electric
- Total Aire, Inc.
- Vision Woodworking
- Bolton & Menk
- United Surface Preparation

Did you know? Prescription Drug Take-back Site

You can bring prescription drugs you no longer need or use to one of Anoka County's Drug Take-Back Sites. There is no charge to drop off the items and you can remain anonymous. Drop-offs at each site can be done during normal work hours.



Sites in or near Fridley:
Fridley Public Safety Department –
7071 University Avenue NE
 Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Call 763-572-3629 for questions.

Spring Lake Park Police Department –
1301 81st Avenue NE
 Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Call 763-792-7200 for questions.

Columbia Heights Police Department –
825 41st Avenue NE
 Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Call 763-706-8100 for questions.

The take-back box can be accessed outside of normal business hours if an officer is on duty. Go into lobby, use the red phone to call, and an officer will assist.

Note: Sharps can be dropped off at the Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

Winter Tree Pruning

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

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

Keep in mind:

- To avoid oak wilt, do not prune from April to October. If you must prune during this time, immediately spray with wound dressing or use latex paint over the wound.
- Winter is the dormant season for the emerald ash borer, so it is the best time to remove a poor-quality ash tree.

If you are interested in learning more, please visit our website at FridleyMN.gov/Forestry.



Codes to know:

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

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

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

winterfest
12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Saturday, January 18

Indoor and Outdoor Family Fun
Springbrook Nature Center, 100 85th Avenue NE



See Parks & Recreation Brochure for details