

# *Annual Report*



# Persevering Through a Global Pandemic

In 2020, there were many changes and considerations put into place at City facilities and with City services, as everyone adapted to a rapidly-changing environment that started in March. The COVID-19 pandemic forced many City staff to adjust to swift changes in their work environment by working from home, serving alongside new crews, working alternate shifts, or providing services under new restrictions and guidelines. While some of those changes may have been difficult to manage, staff continued to provide effective and exemplary services to our residents, businesses, and visitors.

The Public Safety Department still answered calls for service directly, but under new protocols and guidelines. Both the Police and Fire Divisions created modified work schedules and staffing models to limit potential exposures to COVID-19. Patrol staff were divided up into three different groups that worked 12-hour shifts five days in a row. The Fire Division's shifts were primarily filled by full-time staff or paid on-call firefighters who could fulfill longer shifts. While call volume decreased during Minnesota's Stay at Home Order, Public Safety staff stayed prepared to answer in-person calls for service with the proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), many of which were donated by local businesses like Walmart, Sam's Club and Home Depot.

Public Works augmented cleaning practices with staff and contractors and coordinated installation of bipolar ionization units at City Hall, Public Safety, Public Works and Fridley Liquor locations. These units provide an active disinfection process by releasing charged atoms that attach to things like viruses, breath droplets and dust particles. Staff worked staggered shifts to reduce potential exposures while providing essential services to maintain our utilities, streets and parks. The work by the Facilities Management team allowed for the City to remain stocked with increasingly hard to find items like toilet paper, sanitizer, and cleaning products.

Many City Hall staff transitioned to remote work locations and moved services primarily online or by phone, when possible. The IT Division brought in new equipment and software to assist with bringing services online. Microsoft Teams was implemented which allowed City staff to remain connected with one another by chat, virtual meetings and interactive file sharing. Plexiglass was installed at City Hall to accommodate safe face-to-face interactions with the public, and masks were readily available for visitors and staff. Employee Resources quickly implemented policy changes in response to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFC) that allowed for up to 80 hours of paid leave to employees who contracted or were caring for someone with COVID-19.

Due to the pandemic having an impact on the Fridley community as a whole, the City worked to provide relief and assistance to residents and businesses. The Finance Department automatically waived all public utility late fees to residents as well as applied for \$2.17 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to assist with 19 City projects, including business assistance loans for small businesses who were affected by the pandemic. Temporary changes to the outdoor dining policy were also implemented in the summer to allow restaurants the ability to provide in-person dining services when indoor capacities were limited.

Maneuvering through the year 2020 required flexibility and quick adjustment by City employees, residents, businesses and visitors to ensure the safety of our community. Reading ahead you will learn how despite the uniquely interesting year 2020 was, City staff persevered through it all and continued to provide high caliber service to everyone in Fridley.

# Community Development

In 2020, development within the City was brisk. By year end, there is likely to be permits issued for \$129M in new value on the Fridley landscape. These permits will either come in before year-end or in early January of 2021. To put this number in perspective, the year-end value addition to the eventual tax base was \$91,601,072.17 in 2018 and was \$97,761,585 in 2019. Numbers like these have allowed Fridley to pass cities like Woodbury for added tax base in the last four years.

## Developments

Major developments in 2020 include the following:

- Continued work on the Train Station Village with the third building to start by year-end.
- Demolition and grading completed at the former City Hall site.
- Lennar Homes have completed 50 of their 72 townhomes.
- Hilltop Trailer is redesigning/re-building their storefront on University Avenue.
- Two Caribou Cabins were approved, and one is open for business as of October.
- The old Midas building was remodeled and is now ready for occupancy.



## Community Development by the Numbers:

**720**

rental violations  
found

**93**

rental properties  
were licensed

**36**

abatement  
issued

**1,230**

Code Enforcement  
cases managed

**14**

apartments participated in  
the Multi-Family Building  
Efficiency Program

**1**

energy webinar  
hosted for Fridley  
residents

**91**

residents subscribed  
to 100 percent  
renewable energy

# Community Development



- **40 home energy squad visits** through August with 18 more estimated to be completed by end of year.
- **2,393 metric tons of CO2 reduced** through Partners in Energy Program. This is equal to the annual emission of 516 cars.
- **118,400 pounds of organics** diverted from the landfill through September with an estimated of 154,4000 total pounds by end of year.
- **One Renewable Energy Breakfast** held for Fridley businesses.
- The City's bimonthly paper shredding and drop-off events at Green Lights Recycling had **1,802 participants**, with 2,162 estimated by end of year.

**\$34,000**

Estimated annual savings on the City's electric bill for the Civic Campus after subscribing to a Community Solar Garden for the City's energy use.



**Rachel Workin**

**2020**

*For her leadership and efforts in community health improvement by continually looking for data, resources, and partnerships to build green initiatives and showcase environmental benefits.*

Environmental Planner Rachel Workin was awarded the Public Health and the Environment Award from Anoka County. Rachel was nominated by several members of the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission for all her work in promoting community health through green initiatives.

# Housing & Redevelopment Authority

The Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) created a taxing district to allow assistance for extraordinary expenses involved with the redevelopment of the Holly Center site. The Holly Center Site was identified by both the City's Comprehensive Plan and the HRA as a potential redevelopment site. A private sale purchase of this site occurred this year. Based on permit applications received, it appears demolition of the center will occur. New footings and foundation will be installed for a 261-unit residential complex and 10,000 square foot commercial site.

## Holly Center Redevelopment



Before



After (Summer 2022)

Complicated negotiations continued for the former City Hall site to assure that development would occur in the best possible manner for the City, Fridley HRA, and the developers. Site closing on the purchase and building commencement is anticipated to happen in November of this year.

## Former City Hall Redevelopment



Before



After (Summer 2022)

# Employee Resources

The Employee Resources Division spent much of the year creating protocol and resources for City employees and visitors. It was a challenging year due to the pandemic but overall, the City has been able to maintain a high level of service to our employees. The following are some key accomplishments from the Employee Resources Division:

- 592 job applications received for City positions.
- Enhanced NeoGov usage with the introduction of candidate text messaging, online interview scheduling, and removal of personal identifying information.
- Brand new parental leave policy launched that allows full-time staff to take off up to four weeks of paid leave with the birth of a baby, adoption of a child, or placement of a child in employee care through foster care. Since launch there have been four employees that have utilized this new policy.

## New Wellness Program during COVID-19

The Wellness Program was changed to accommodate COVID-19 precautions. This year, the program focused on staying active by walking, running, biking, paddling, swimming - whatever type of activity worked best for each employee. To celebrate Fridley being established as a city for 63 years, employees were challenged to complete 63 miles.

Participation increased this year by:



63 Miles to Celebrate



63 Years As a City

# Marketing & Communications



The Marketing and Communications Division continued to provide resources and information to our residents, business owners, volunteers, elected officials, and staff. The content of the communication took a big shift while going through the COVID-19 pandemic and social unrest in the Twin Cities metro as timely and accurate information was counted on more than ever during this time. Communications on social media were fast and swift, and video content ramped up

as well. Over 40 COVID-19 related materials were created, including signage for City properties, posters, graphics for web and social, web pages, MailChimp marketing emails, and videos.

# Marketing & Communications

Other key accomplishments in 2020 from the Marketing and Communications team include:

- Continued work on master parks planning and created new content for promoting the parks.
- Completed many design, web, and social projects, including a 3-month advertising campaign for Fridley Liquor.
- Launched an all-new "Fridley For You" e-newsletter.
- Video productions of 24 City Council meetings, eight Planning Commission meetings, and seven HRA meetings.
- Seven council meeting update videos, which is new in 2020, and features City Manager Wally Wysopal giving a brief overview of key items from council meetings.
- 12 Community Connection videos and six print Community Connection newsletters, including six Recreation/Springbrook brochures.
- 24 Family Friendly Fridays which features old public domain movies shown on the Fridley cable channel.
- Launched the Marketing & Communications Service Desk, which allows staff to formally request social media, design work, video product, email marketing and more. As of mid-November, there have been more than 150 service requests submitted since launch in July.
- Over 30 programming videos combined for the Recreation Division and Springbrook Nature Center.
- Over 35 design projects for various City departments and divisions.



The City's social media, websites, and email marketing continue to grow year after year. Instagram pages were launched for Fridley Liquor and Fridley Recreation Division to help grow followers to their unique programs, encourage participation, and highlight promotions.

Digital communication key metrics in 2020 include:

- 776 social media posts including 440 Facebook posts (City of Fridley and Public Safety), 257 Twitter posts, 52 Instagram posts, and 27 LinkedIn posts.
- 764,686 impressions across all our social platforms and 4,798 followers.
- 403,926 web page views as of mid-November
- 15 Fridley For You e-newsletters to roughly 1,400 people with an average open rate of 26% and an average click-through-rate of 5 percent.
- 10 Fridley Business Connection marketing emails and 10 Fridley Liquor Digests.

## Most Visited Webpages

- |   |                                   |   |                                |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Springbrook Nature Center         | 4 | Building Permits               |
| 2 | Pay Your Utility Bill/Water Meter | 5 | Public Safety Alerts & Reports |
| 3 | Fridley Liquor                    | 6 | Recycling Drop-Off Days        |

# Community Engagement

Despite the setbacks of the pandemic, community engagement within the City made great progress connecting City programs, opportunities, projects and more with our residents. The following programs occurred in 2020:

## Adopt-A-Park & Rain Garden

A program that allows residents and friends of Fridley to adopt a park or rain garden. A total of 16 parks and one rain garden were adopted.

# of Parks/Gardens Adopted	Total # of Clean-up Visits	Total # of Volunteers	# of Volunteer Hours	# of ERC Staff Clean-ups
16 parks, 1 garden	132	78	More than 125	5 clean-ups, 19 staff, 19 hours

## Volunteer Quotes

What did you enjoy about the Adopt-A-Park program?

*"We liked feeling like we were giving back to the community and taking care of our town."*

*"Opportunity to keep parks clean and help city, and getting to experience a park we had not visited before."*

*"We loved taking care of our park regardless, but making it 'official' just made it more fun and held us accountable!"*

## Other Achievements

- Creation of interactive City maps.
- Blood drive at the Civic Campus.
- Commission training and on-boarding project initiated.
- Fridley Community Network, a group made up of members from multiple community organizations in Fridley and Anoka County. This group was formed to build connections and relationships between Fridley and Anoka County community organizations for the purpose sharing resources, collaboration, and partnering on community programs, projects, and events. Fridley Community Network held six meetings which included 23 community association partners.
- Engaged residents to attend an open house for Locke playground. Community members attended and provided feedback on playground designs and helped choose some of the playground elements. Construction on the playground concluded in the fall.



In addition to other community engagement programs that were launched this year, Specialist Alyssa Kruzel spent many hours promoting and engaging with community partners, residents, and business owners promoting the 2020 Census. Alyssa and City staff worked closely with 31 partners to ensure an accurate count of Fridley residents. Census outreach was conducted at over 20 City functions and events throughout the community.

# Recreation

2020 was a year of creative thinking as the Recreation division was challenged to rethink the way we live, work and play. New activities and games were distributed using social media and the City website. The Recreation team still offered traditional programs and events for all ages when possible throughout the year. Some of these programs were:

- Winterfest
- After-school Programs
- Youth and adult instructional classes
- Adult basketball and softball leagues

Some of the fun digital based activities launched were:

- Finding Hope in Fridley coloring contest
- Lawn of the Week
- Photo contests



Another big addition to the City is the new Rec 'n Roll truck! The Recreation and Marketing divisions, along with the help of Mark Foster and his team, partnered to repurpose an old Ford Fire truck into a fun, eye-popping Rec 'n Roll vehicle that includes games, storage, sound system, and more.

During a time of social distancing, the PerfectMind registration platform installed in early 2019 allowed registrants to stay up to date on programming through its email function and allowed them to register for events from their home using their computer or mobile device. The program continues to be used by both Recreation and Springbrook Nature Center for online registrations, point of sale transactions and event ticketing.

## Recreation by the Numbers:

**655**  
registrations through  
PerfectMind

**70 percent**  
of registrations completed  
online by participants

**3,809**  
Clients enrolled in the  
PerfectMind System

**52**  
shelter rentals  
issued

**816**  
new clients enrolled  
in PerfectMind

**37**  
youth activities  
took place

**32**  
adult activities  
took place

**13**  
special events  
held

**34**  
adult sports  
teams registered

# Springbrook Nature Center

Despite multiple months of Springbrook's Interpretive Center being closed to the public due to COVID-19, the Nature Center team continued to care for the wildlife and create new out-of-the-box programming. Some key achievements and activities in 2020 include:

- Receiving grants from Xcel Energy Foundation and International Paper Foundation to fund new exhibits, purchase GPS units and snowshoes, and provide access to winter programming.
- Providing unique and engaging distance learning tools for schools and the community.
- Two Eagle Scout projects completed at Springbrook including the construction of a new boardwalk and design and installation of new interpretive signs along the Beaver Pond Trail.



After many years of planning and fundraising, the Springbrook Nature Center Pavilion Activity Center was completed in 2020. It features open air seating with picnic tables, drinking fountains, restrooms, a concessions kitchen and an enclosed activity room.

The project was completed through the hard work and contributions of many organizations and businesses in our community - including various divisions at the City.

## Recreation & Springbrook Team Up for New Event

Another unfortunate cancellation due to the pandemic was Springbrook's annual Pumpkin Night in the Park. In its place, however, Springbrook and Recreation launched a fun and new weekend-long team activity called Pumpkin Pursuit in the Parks.

Pumpkin Pursuit was an interactive app-based scavenger hunt that was offered as a new fall event and was enjoyed by 30 teams consisting of over 150 participants. There were over 300 challenges with over 3,000 submissions of answers, videos, and photos.



# Springbrook Nature Center

The event took place over MEA weekend and was open to teams of up to eight people. Participants used the Goose Chase app on their mobile devices to view missions and submit their answers and photos.

Missions included trivia questions about the oldest Fridley park, photos of teams hugging a tree, checking in at a specific park location or a video of their team members singing their favorite Journey song while standing on one leg.

Participants were able to choose from any of the missions to complete and receive points. Different missions equated to a different point value, and a real-time leaderboard of the teams was available for the app. It was a great weekend to get outside and explore Fridley through this new program!



"Salamander Balance"



"Be Superman"



"Squirrel Impressions"

## Participant Quotes

What did you enjoy about the Pumpkin Pursuit in the Parks event?

"Rolling down the sledding hill at Commons Park was one of my favorite challenges"

"We were so happy for the chance to be outside enjoying this experience with extended family! We will definitely jump at the chance to do it again!"

"Getting with my team, acting silly, goofy, and just having a blast!"

# Accounting

The Accounting Division had many accomplishments this year as they dealt with typical responsibilities in addition to resources received and distributed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A new Position Budgeting Module was implemented for the organization, as well as a new Paperless Accounts Payable System.

The Finance Department celebrated the retirement of Jean Michaels - who retired after 24 years with the City!

## Accounting by the Numbers

<b>\$2,171,600</b> received and managed from federal government to respond to the outbreak of COVID-19	<b>236</b> new customer accounts processed for utility billing	<b>\$250,000</b> issued in business assistance grants to support local businesses during COVID-19 pandemic.
<b>\$32,530,000</b> (approx.) in new debt and interfund loans for capital projects and conduit financing	<b>3,900</b> (more than) invoices processed as of October 22	<b>147</b> new employees entered into the payroll system
		<b>\$45,800,000</b> managed in an investment portfolio with interesting earning of approximately \$7,000,000 through September.

# Assessing

- Inspected and updated the files of **1,796 single family properties**, **30 apartments** and **120 Commercial & Industrial properties** for the required 2020 Quintile review.
- Inspected and updated the files of **838 single family properties**, **39 apartments** and **105 Commercial & Industrial properties** for new permits in 2020 and completion of 2019 permit work.
- Observed a **4.6 percent increase** in the average selling price of single family homes in the City of Fridley.
- 27 Tax Court petitions** were resolved with four cases dismissed and one case withdrawn.



# City Clerk

This year the City Clerk's Office successfully administered three elections with 12 polling locations run by 120 Election Judges.

## Presidential Nominating Primary

March 3, 2020

## Primary Election

August 11, 2020

## General Election

November 3, 2020

In March, staff recognized the accommodations required to safely welcome Fridley's voters to polling locations in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

City staff designed customized room layouts for each space to ensure all voters and judges were able to stay at least six feet apart, set up all polling locations with wayfinding signage and supplied all voters and judges with personal protective equipment.

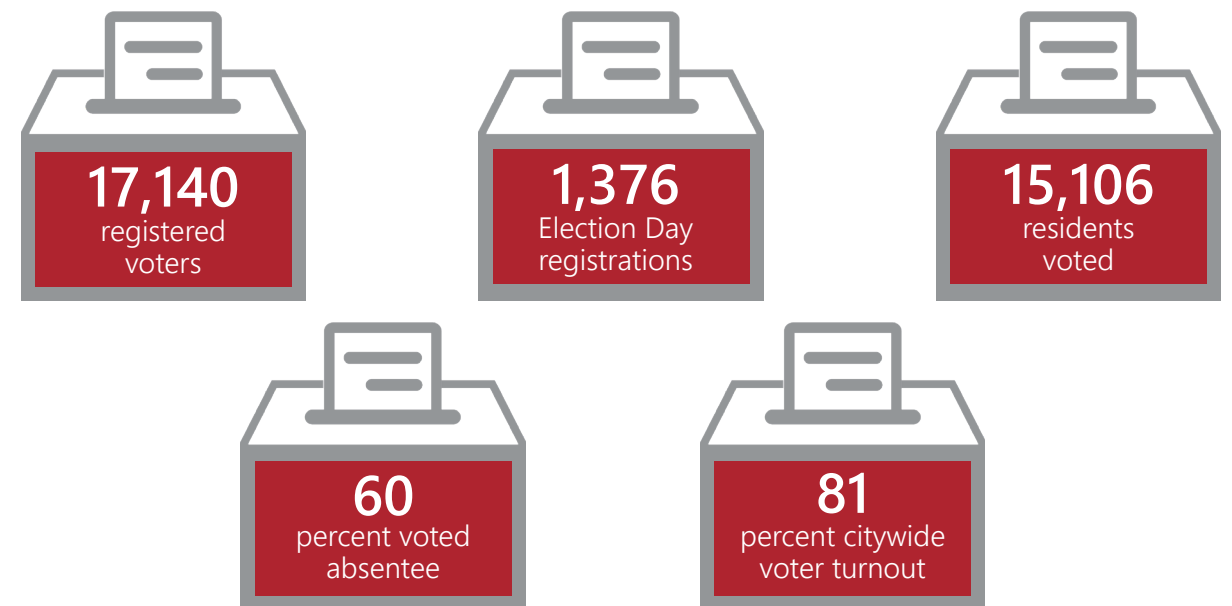


## General Election

General Election Day on November 3, 2020 had a two percent increase in voter turnout than the last presidential election in 2016. Results of the City Council election included the re-election of Scott Lund as Mayor and David Ostwald as Councilmember-at-Large.



Other highlights include:



# Fridley Liquor

In 2020, Fridley Liquor worked tirelessly to bring a new level of service to its customers starting 2021. They partnered with Big Commerce to build their own e-commerce website – [FridleyLiquor.com/Shop](https://www.fridleyliquor.com/shop). This new site will allow customers to purchase products online and pick them up curbside at Fridley Liquor.

## Additional Highlights:

- 2020 sales were over \$6.7 million, which is an 8 percent increase over 2019.
- Transferred \$338,500 back into the City's equipment and park fund.
- Over 300,000 sales transactions completed.
- Partnered with Fridley Lions for the Winter Warm up Tasting Event.
- Installed protective COVID-19 barriers at both store locations.
- New shelving installed at the Fridley Market location.
- Repurposed old shelving at the Moore Lake location.
- New HVAC system at the Moore Lake location.
- Collaborated with RISE to provide job training experience and evaluation for some of their clients.
- Worked with the Fridley Historical Society to curate a new selection of historic photos to display at the Fridley Marketing location.
- As of December, over 700 online orders were fulfilled from over 400 different customers.



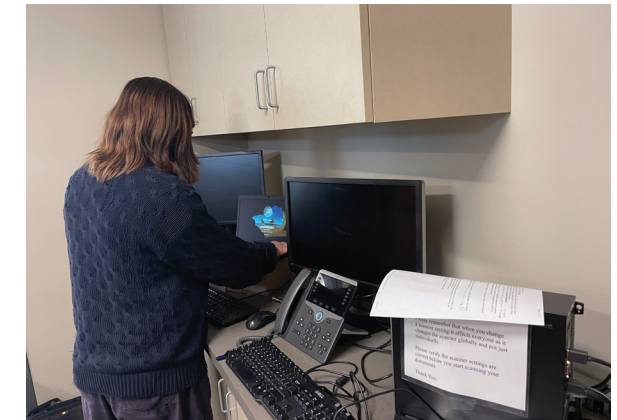
# Information Technology

The Information Technology team acted swiftly this year by deploying multiple remote work laptops and ensuring fast service during a time when most City employees were working remotely from their homes due to the pandemic and state-issued Stay at Home Order.

The team managed to maintain IT services at all City facilities while also ensuring staff was setup safely and securely to work remotely.

Other IT accomplishments in 2020 include:

- Replacement of helpdesk software
- Replacement of firewalls and City Hall and remote sites
- Replacement of City backup system
- 990 helpdesk tickets fulfilled
- 71 PCs and laptops were deployed
- Installation of a new server and additional equipment for Fridley Liquor
- Implementation of a new multi-factor authentication system



# Fridley Throughout the Year



Please practice social distancing.

Keep at least 6 feet apart.

Thank you!



## Customer Service during COVID-19

Customer service at its core changed in March when a peacetime emergency was declared in Minnesota. Both Fridley Liquor locations closed for a period of time to restructure the stores to allow for safe customer service practices.

Fridley Liquor Market began fulfilling orders with the new Curbside Pick-Up service. Customers were able to view a current inventory list online and then place orders via an online form or over the phone. This was a popular service utilized by the community and is still available.

Additional sanitation and social distancing measures were put into place at both Fridley Liquor Market and Fridley Liquor: Moore Lake to allow for in-person shopping. Measures included:

- Plexiglass windows at the registers
- Wayfinding signs throughout the store to create one-way shopping lanes
- Used/Clean cart differentiation
- Limited product handling



# Fire

The Fire Division, along with Public Safety and all City staff, mourned the loss of Fire Chief and Deputy Director of Public Safety Mike Spencer. Chief Spencer served Fridley Fire in a variety of capacities, including paid on-call, Fire Captain, Fire Marshal, and Chief. His memory will live on in Fridley.

## Fire by the Numbers:



<b>3,004</b> fire calls were answered	<b>763</b> fire inspections were conducted		
<b>108</b> fires were responded to	<b>192</b> false alarms/false calls	<b>1,987</b> rescue/emergency medical service incidents	<b>323</b> good intent calls received
<b>3</b> special incident type calls	<b>2</b> severe weather/natural disaster calls	<b>142</b> hazardous condition (non-fire) calls	<b>247</b> service calls answered

\*Stats are based on numbers calculated mid-November 2020.



# Fire

Beyond calls for service, the Fire Division also participated in several events throughout the year, including:

- COVID-19 Mask Drive that collected over 900 masks
- Fire Station drive-thru Open House that brought in 50 vehicles
- Night to Unite which included eight trucks visiting 24 parties
- Fire extinguisher training for local businesses
- Fire truck birthday drive by parade
- Virtual fire safety and cooking safety presentations
- Over 820 hours of fire training as of mid-October
- School presentations
- Station tours
- Fire truck demos
- Fire Prevention Week



## Awards & Recognition

Recognition was given to a different firefighter each month by awarding them a Golden Nozzle Award. Additionally, Chief Spencer awarded the 2019 Chief's Award to the entire Paid On-Call team for going above and beyond to help with staffing challenges.

# Police

While the world battled the COVID-19 crisis, locally within the Twin Cities, civil unrest took place unlike any other seen in recent years. Fridley Police went above and beyond to keep Fridley safe and assist neighboring communities. Due to ongoing riots in Minneapolis and other unrest in the area, the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) was activated for a short time in May. Police staff did a remarkable job managing the EOC and using the tools and resources available to them to better protect our community.



Other key highlights for Police this year include:

- **26,271 calls for service** including **5,936 traffic stops**.
- Participation in events like Coats from Cops, Night to Unite, Polar Plunge, and Bikes for Kids where **16 bicycles were donated**.
- Public Safety Swearing in Ceremony.

The Police Division said goodbye to Officers Jennifer Fetrow and Bridget McBride, as well as Lieutenant Jim Mork. We congratulated Lieutenant Mork as he took on a new role of Police Chief of the Centennial Lakes Police Department. Welcomed to the team were Officers Melissa Stephens, Marcus London, and Christopher Spaulding and Community Service Officers Alexis Peach, Emma Wangen, and Christy Wilson.



# Public Works

The Public Works Department had a busy year, and despite the 2020 pandemic, operations staff never ceased essential onsite work throughout the year. The team started and completed many projects, including:

- Several street projects, including 3.52 miles of streets and 1.5 miles of new trails.
- Removal of the fencing and established new landscaping buffers along University Avenue.
- Final work completed on the Civic Campus trail bridge, security, firing range, and mechanical systems, including installation of upgraded state-of-the-art air filtration systems.
- A new solar lighting/security system was piloted for our parks.
- The Locke Park Water Treatment Plant project was completed within budget.
- Staff performed a deep cleaning of Public Work's outside storage yard and relocated it to the new Hickory Street site.
- Coordinated much private development and utility work in the City that included construction activity in most Fridley neighborhoods.
- Removed and replaced 36 poor quality ash trees and treated 225 high-quality ash trees in the third year of our Emerald Ash Borer plan implementation.
- Achieved Tree City USA status for the third consecutive year.
- Advanced from Step 2 to Step 3 in the GreenStep City program.
- Installed two new pollinator gardens and made major improvements to the Eisenhower Memorial at the south end of Moore Lake.
- Outreach efforts connected 11 participants in the Lawns to Legume's Mississippi River Corridor Demonstration Neighborhood.
- Built relationships with our partners, resulting in a collaborative plan with Anoka County for future Mississippi Street improvements amongst other efforts.



The Public Works team had to wish long-time Utility Manager Greg Kottsick happy trails in 2020 as he set off into retirement.

Mel Kocinski also retired this year for the second time in his City of Fridley career. He had returned from his previous retirement to help transition to the Civic Campus from old City Hall.

# Public Works

Public Works ended 2020 with honors by winning the American Public Works Association (APWA) award for Project of the Year. This Public Works garage project earned this award for the team. Special recognition goes out to the entire operations staff who guided the design of their new facility. Special thanks to Jeff Jensen, Mark Foster, Greg Kottsick, and Jeannie Benson who spent many additional hours working out the details of the new facilities with the architect, engineer, and general contractor.



## Public Works by the Numbers:

<b>4,001</b> Feet of Water Main Reconstructed	<b>13,400</b> Tons of Asphalt Used for Street Repair	<b>475</b> Dump Truck Loads of Sweepings Collected	
<b>81</b> Storm Drains Adopted	<b>201,000</b> Gallons of Water Saved by Water Efficiency Grant	<b>196</b> Fleet Service Vehicles Serviced	<b>3,966</b> Utility Located Performed
<b>68</b> Right-of-Way Permits Issued	<b>1,198</b> Fleet Services Repair Orders	<b>66</b> Miles of Sanitary Sewer Cleaned	

# Fridley Throughout the Year



# Employee Relations Committee

During a year of so much uncertainty and separation from one another, the City's Employee Relations Committee played a vital role in keeping spirits high by creating virtual and in-person activities for staff to engage in. The ERC is not funded by any official City budget, so all the money needed to put on events is fundraised by selling beverages and snacks to employees. This year, the fundraising efforts were elevated with ERC's participation in the Wellness Program. The "63 Miles for 63 Years as a City" program helped raise funds for 2021 events.

Activities led by the ERC in 2020 include the following:

- "Big Games" winter event.
- Ice cream and socially distant Bags on the Civic Campus plaza.
- Virtual Fall Fling that had staff participating in virtual guessing contests and a virtual performance from the City band.
- Supported and promoted the employee participation in the new Adopt-A-Park Program.

A big thank you goes out to the following staff members for their participation on the ERC:

- Mary Dooher – Community Development
- Korrie Johnson – Finance
- Matt Mraz – CSER
- Mikey Oman – CSER
- Nick Ousky – Public Works
- Mai Vang – Finance

# New Employees

## Community Development

Trisha Lindahl, Licensing and Permit Technician

## Public Works

Sean Donovan, Building and Grounds Maintenance  
Jacob Wessel, Public Services Worker - Sewer

## Recreation

Jennifer Graham, Recreation Program Coordinator

## Finance

Dara Northfield, Accounting Technician/Accounts Payable

## Fridley Liquor

David Armstrong, Jr., Part-Time Liquor Sales Associate  
Nathan Calkins, Lead Liquor Sales Associate  
Terrance Halvorson, Part-Time Liquor Sales Associate  
Alexis Johnson, Part-Time Liquor Sales Associate  
Tyler Irvin, Part-Time Liquor Sales Associate  
Marcia Picard, Lead Liquor Sales Associate  
Paul Tillberry, Part-Time Liquor Sales Associate

## Police Division

Alexis Peach, Community Service Officer  
Christopher Spaulding, Police Officer  
Emma Wangen, Community Service Officer  
Christy Wilson, Community Service Officer

# Promotions

Keven Becklin, Water Lead  
Mary Dooher, Rental Division Manager  
Patrick Faber, Sergeant  
Nick Knaeble, Lieutenant  
Marcus London, Police Officer

Mike Maher, Assistant Director of Community Services  
Melissa Stephens, Police Officer  
Jason Wiehle, Operations Manager - Utilities  
Brian Williams, Fire Inspector

# Retirees

## Retired

Bob Barnette, City Council-member  
Mel Kocinski, Building Maintenance, 27 years  
Greg Kottsick, Operations Manager-Utilities, 38 years  
Nadine Lee, Police Technician, 39 years  
Jean Michaels, Accounting Technician, 24 years  
Patricia Wolfe, Rental Housing Manager, 42 years

## Fire Division

Gabriel Barraro, Recruit POC Firefighter  
Steven Drost, Recruit POC Firefighter  
Jared Evans, POC Firefighter  
Jason Foltynski, POC Experienced Firefighter  
Jeremy Grandstrand, POC Experienced Firefighter  
Aaron Knott, POC Experienced Firefighter  
Matthew Kruc, Recruit POC Firefighter  
Jarod Kruse, POC Experienced Firefighter  
Jacob Lee, Experienced Shift Firefighter  
Mark Lucht, POC Experienced Firefighter  
Reice O'Keefe, Experienced Shift Firefighter  
Calvin Schoen, POC Experienced Firefighter  
Matthew Stallings, POC Experienced Firefighter  
Steffan Weidenbach, Experienced Shift Firefighter  
Royce Wetterhahn, Experienced Shift Firefighter  
Christopher Wright, Recruit POC Firefighter

## Interns

Spencer Kleinschmidt, Business Operations Intern  
Kevin Rudd, Engineering Intern

## Seasonal

20 Public Works/Maintenance  
11 Recreation and Nature Center  
121 Election Judges

## Retirees Who Have Passed

John Flora, Director of Public Works/  
City Engineer, 20 years  
Gary Larson, Firefighter, 34 years  
Donald Ososki, Parks Maintenance, 24 years

# Years of Service

## 35 Years

### Fire

Sherrée Smith, Fire Administrative Assistant

## 30 Years

### Fridley Liquor

Kyle Birkholz, Liquor Operations Manager

### Marketing and Communications

Brian Strand, Cable Administrator

### Public Works

Mark Foster, Fleet Services Coordinator  
Bruce Koopmeiners, Utilities Maintenance

## 25 Years

### Police

Brian Weierke, Director of Public Safety

## 20 Years

### CSER

Deborah Dahl, Director of Community Services  
and Employee Resources

### Police

Jennifer Fetrow, Police Officer  
Jeffrey Guest, Sergeant  
Debra Braaten, Police Technician

### Public Works

Scott Bradseth, Streets Maintenance

### Springbrook Nature Center

Tara Rogness, Program Supervisor, Nature Center

### Community Development

Stacy Stromberg, Planning Manager

## 15 Years

### City Council

Krista Peterson, Council Administrative Assistant  
Denise Johnson, Council Administrative Assistant

### Police

Zak Chlebeck, Sergeant  
Ryan George, Deputy Director - Police  
Chris McClish, Sergeant  
Randi Oman, School Resource Officer  
Andy Todd, Sergeant  
Nicholas Knaeble, Lieutenant

### Public Works

Wendy Hiatt, Public Works Administrative Assistant  
Brian Benesch, Public Services Worker – Streets  
Richard Perron, Public Services Worker – Parks Lead

## 10 Years

## 5 Years

### Fire

Adam Hopp, Paid, on-call Firefighter

### Police

Tyler Abrahamson, Police Officer  
Patrick Faber, Police Officer  
George Jensen, Public Safety Data Systems Manager  
Erik Johnson, Police Officer  
Enis Vatres, Police Officer  
Jason Elasky, Police Officer  
Peter Mueller, Police Officer  
Nico Wallat, Police Officer

### Public Works

Jon Lennander, Assistant Public Works Director  
Aaron O'Connell, Utilities Maintenance  
Beth Kondrick, Administrative Assistant, Engineering

