

CORRESPONDENCE

HISTORY 21



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AnokaCountyHistory.org

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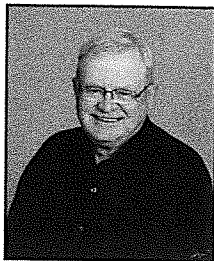
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Front Cover: Donald Weber and Henry Flascher, standing outside in the snow. There is a dog in the photo as well as a carriage that would have been pulled by horses. Donald Weber is the young child, less than 2 years old. Henry is holding a rifle over his head. Donald Weber is from Centerville, Minnesota.
Object ID: 2016.1726.001

From the President

Have you ever thought about writing your life story? That was my 2019 New Year's Resolution. My grandparents and great-grandparents had recorded in writing the hardships they encountered homesteading in Minnesota. This background knowledge of my ancestry encouraged me to also strive to make my life and community better.



Last winter I spent six-weeks on an emotional roller coaster writing my life story. I thought I was writing it for my family, but the reward was all mine. It made me realize how many times in my life God, family and friends had been there for me. The inner peace of having shared my story, including Viet Nam, has helped me become content with my life.

Writing my history was important to me because I wanted my grandchildren to have what I was given. I encourage everyone to write a letter recording the history of your life.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis D. Berg".

Dennis Berg, ACHS President



From the Director

If you count the one I was born in, I'm now closing out my fifth decade in this world. Right smack in the middle of an optimistic timeline, teetering on too young to be old and too old to be young. It's the no mans land of age where neither group really wants to claim ownership of you. I love the new ideas and technology, but find myself waxing poetic about memories and my childhood. I am energized by the teenagers and calmed by the elderly. I

drift between wanting to conquer the world and just wanting to go home for a good nap in the chair. I remember the Challenger explosion but not the Kennedy assassination. 9-11 changed my life.

I've committed to being a better steward of my personal experiences in 2020, to practice more what I preach about journaling and documenting. I know that by writing the story as I live, it will create a more full and accurate picture for when I die. I'll create my own history, and I invite you to think of the present as the past of the future.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Ebnet-Desens".

Rebecca Ebnet-Desens, Executive Director

Con Rantis, East Battle, Greeley, Han Lake, Hiltop, Lexington, Line Lakes, Linwood, Newlin, Oak Grove, Ramsey, Spring Lake Park, St. Francis



Play it again, um, Nate...

Nate Otto, owner and operator of Rum River Player Piano Restorations and self-proclaimed local Player Piano Nut, put on a toe-tapping show that morphed into an impromptu singalong during our members-only party held at ACHS on December 3. You missed it? You're in luck! Nate has agreed to make an encore appearance for our annual meeting, planned for March 29. Think you saw it all the first time? We have brainstormed some surprises for you including a theatrical interpretation of a silent movie—complete, of course, with a musical score from a player piano.

Simply stated, a player piano is an acoustic piano that contains a pneumatic mechanism, powered by suction, which plays perforated music rolls.

"The seed for my interest in player pianos was planted in the late 1950's by my grandfather who purchased a 1918 Packard Player Piano from a fellow churchgoer," said Nate. "He put masking tape on all of the bellows to help shore up some of the leaks in the then 30-year-old instrument so he could use it to make music for neighborhood dance parties."

The three uncles took turns pumping this piano in the family basement of their North Minneapolis home while the adults danced and sang to songs like "Dardanella" and "When I Take my Vacation in Heaven". Eventually, Nate's grandfather removed the pumping pedals and installed a vacuum cleaner motor to keep the aging player system limping along. In the mid 1980's, the family hoisted the piano out of the basement and brought it to an uncle's cabin in Richmond, MN, where Nate encountered the instrument and played songs from the "Lion King" and "Charlie Brown", still with the suction motor groaning in the background. It eventually fell out of service entirely, despite the masking tape.

About 10 years ago, when Nate had a job as a mechanic, he decided it was time to get the piano playing again. He found a "How-To" book, bought supplies and advice from a Player Piano shop in Minneapolis, and after 250 hours, a few mistakes, and a lot of learning later, he had the piano playing again *WITH* the foot pedals.

"For the first time I got to pump the piano just as my uncles did when they were

young,” said Nate.

The shop in Minneapolis noticed Nate’s knack for the restoration work and hired him on part time for about seven years. When the shop closed its doors in 2018 upon the owner’s retirement, Nate opened his own restoration practice in Anoka. The first year went well and he’s now entering his second year with many projects filling the calendar.

The “population density” of the player piano throughout the decades followed a typical “boom and a bust” schedule, reaching their height of popularity between 1908 and 1929. Prior to that, several companies manufactured piano playing devices called “push-up” players, so named because they could be rolled up to the existing family piano, and when pumped, the machine used its 65 fingers to play songs on 65 note rolls. These machines were cumbersome, however, and as soon as piano builders integrated the player system into the cabinet of the piano as one unit, the pushup players fell to the wayside.

The new inner-player units had all the features of a regular piano, plus levers in front of the keyboard to control tempo, loudness of the bass and treble sections, and sustain pedal control. They also played the full 88-note scale. However, various roll manufacturers were producing music rolls in at least five different sizes. The absence of a standardized format created a barrier to the growth of the overall industry. In 1908, a decision was made at a Buffalo NY Convention of Manufacturers that all makes of player pianos would play a 9-holes-to-the-inch 88 note format. This consensus helped avoid a Battle of the Formats, which has afflicted every type of music media to follow the piano roll.

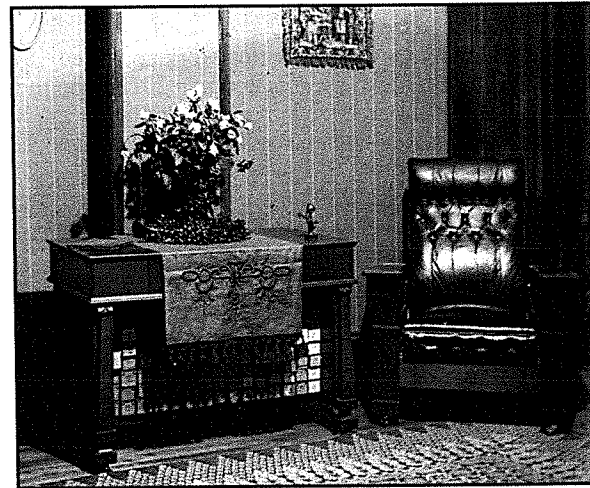
Now, with the familiarity of a given song and some musical mindfulness, almost anyone could sit down at the player piano and recreate the performance of the original roll artist. However, the foot-pumped player piano was not entirely automatic—the music coded in the roll was only a foundation. The player pianist needed to interpret those holes and create lifelike music using the playback controls on the machine as well as pumping force.

“Anyone who thinks a player piano is a soulless machine that pounds out tunes has the wrong impression of a proper player piano,” said Nate. “They say the piano roll just remembers the notes of a song, if you want to make true music the rest is up to you.”

From 1900 to 1931, over 2.5 million player pianos were manufactured and sold in the United States. From 1910 to 1925, 85% of pianos made in the States were player pianos. Sales of player pianos peaked in 1923 with over 347,000 players made in the US that year alone—valued at over \$104 million. (1.5 billion in today’s dollars). In that time there were almost a thousand different models of pianos from hundreds of makers, and nearly 100 different player system manufacturers. There were factories in many of the



This photo of a pushup player was taken at the Downs residence on 5th Avenue in Anoka in 1910. ID: 2005.1361.016



Player piano roll storage in the Downs' home.
ID: 2005.1361.086

large river towns of the US and larger metropolitan areas like New York, Ohio, and Illinois. Minnesota had three piano companies: Raudenbush and PS Wick, both in Saint Paul, and Schimmel in Faribault. To supply the music for all these machines, over 50 established roll manufacturers existed. One of the most popular piano roll arrangers, J Lawrence Cook, produced around 10,000 titles alone. One source estimates there are nearly one million total piano roll arrangements, representing the dawn of the commoditization of mass produced, pre-recorded music.

During the 1910's and 20's, these home players were not the only automatic musical instruments filling the air with popular music of the day. There were also what are called reproducing players, which generally fit into grand pianos and had coding in the piano roll to control dynamics, as well as the ability to rewind and replay rolls automatically. Since they were fit with an electric motor, they did not require foot pumping. Reproducing pianos were touted for their sophisticated, expressive abilities and therefore were marketed and sold to the wealthy, generally with classical music being preferred on these instruments.

In the 10's and 20's the public demanded its automatic music on the go! Many amusement parks, billiard halls, bowling alleys, clubs, dance halls, hotels, and restaurants had coin-operated pianos to entertain their guests. These machines had an electric pump and required no foot pumping. Their cabinets often featured elaborate art glass, which housed not only a piano, but often also drums, xylophone, wood block, triangle, and in some cases one or two ranks of organ pipes. Some of these units weren't even fitted with a keyboard because no one would be dropping nickels in the slot if there was someone sitting down playing the piano! These machines were built just as much to entertain as they were for profit.

The most likely place to find a nickelodeon in the twenties was undoubtedly the Speakeasy, followed closely by the houses of ill-repute. Nickelodeons offered lively music to stimulate the clientele - perfect for a trade dependent on a quick turnaround time!

Player pianos could also be found in movie houses. Silent films were all but silent, and the Los Angeles Film Music company produced player piano rolls arranged specifically for accompanying silent films. The instruments playing these rolls, called Photoplayers, were much more than just a piano—they usually had two spoolboxes, so the operator could play one roll while the other could rewind, keeping the theme of the music in line with what was showing on screen. Most models also featured organ pipes. Using cords, buttons, and pedals, the operator could play sound effects such as a car horn, siren, train whistle, crash cymbal, or baby cry, even a dog bark effect to match the action on the screen.

But with the advent of sound films in 1927, photoplayers quickly became obsolete. With that, electrical recording in the phonograph industry had drastically improved and phonographs were outselling player pianos - not only because of improved sound quality, but this technology was more inexpensive to produce than what was involved in manufacturing a player piano. A handful of inventive player manufacturers built pianos with a record player built into the piano cabinet, and sold records and piano rolls designed to be played together as a sort of duet, but by this time player pianos were quickly falling out of favor. Electrical recording and amplification was also improving for radios. These technological advances combined with the stock market crash of 1929 brought the close of the Golden Age of player pianos. There was a small revival of player piano production in the 1960's and 70's, but production numbers and build quality never quite came close to the Golden Age.

"Since I started my business over a year ago, I have added over 100 customers to my card file, all with pianos, mostly in the Metro area," said Nate. "I am thankful there are people out there also afflicted with the Player Piano bug, and that have an interest in keeping these players alive."

These instruments of living history represent not only the Golden Age of pianos 100 years ago, but retain the power to allow us to experience what its like to make captivating music just as the original owners did when the piano was new.



To me, sitting down and pumping a hundred-year-old player piano is the closest I'll ever come to actual time travel. Being able to play a piano roll just as it would have been played when manufactured long ago is a powerful experience. And, since player pianos allow the operator to control the dynamics of the music, I get to be involved in the artistry of the song as the piano reads the roll. This makes for a very immersive experience!

I grew up with a player piano that was owned by my grandparents. They purchased several rolls with popular Disney songs of my childhood to share with me. Hearing songs from The Lion King and Charlie Brown planted the seed for my interest in mechanical music at a young age. Now, as an adult, my

interest in these interests is multi-faceted. As a full-time restorer, I have the privilege of bringing heirloom pianos back to life for families that will pass their treasured instruments to their younger generations, just like my grandparents did with me.

I also get an inside look at how these pianos were designed and manufactured, uncovering secrets that haven't seen the light of day since the piano left the factory - each piano that comes through my shop is unique in this way, and I get to become part of that pianos story and journey.

And as a steward of my own piano roll and piano collection, I have had a first hand look and listen to the evolution of popular music and pianos from the Edwardian era and beyond the 1960's. I have really enjoyed being able to dive into the past through old songs and their lyrics, discovering music that is certainly old but very new to me.

Nate Otto, Rum River Restoration

???

Vol. 1, No. 1

NFC Engineering

Feb. 1965

Keenan New President

Joseph J. Keenan, Sales Manager, has been named President of NFC Engineering Company. James T. Koutson, former President, will now hold the position of Executive Vice-President in an advisory capacity. This change in management became effective January 1, 1965.

Keenan, 45, was born in Menasha, Wisconsin. Joe is a graduate of Menasha High School and Gustavus Adolphus College. He went on with graduate study at the University of Nebraska and is now a Master's Degree in business administration.



injection molding, where molten plastic is forced into a carefully made mold the shape of the desired product; the plastic then cools and sets in the desired shape.

Cornelius passed away in 1962 at the age of 46, but his family remained closely involved with the company for several years. Cornelius' wife, Ivadell, served as board chair following her husband's death and their son, David, also served on the board, as well as heading the engineering department. By that same year in 1962, the company manufactured more than 7 million separate items, and employed about 125 people.

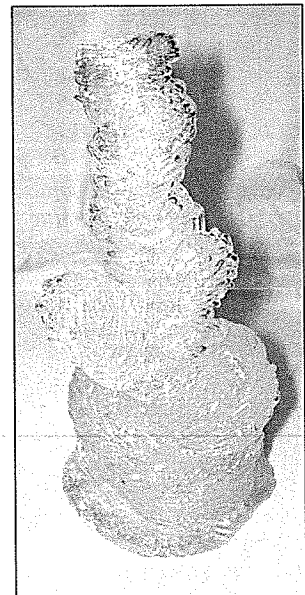
In 1965, West Bend Company of Wisconsin purchased the company and it became West Bend Thermo-Serv, Inc. Due to confusion over the names, the company changed to be simply "Thermo-Serv" in June of 1970, though they continued to be part of the larger West Bend Company. As reported in the employee newsletter at the time, "We are now proud to use our trade name as our company name."

ACHS has a fairly complete collection of this publication thanks to Madeline Betlach, a long-time employee of the company. The first issue of the newsletter was published with "???" in place of title. Employees chose "The Plastic Press" in a naming contest, a title that didn't change until at least 1987. Although the contents shift over the years, reports on long-time employees, information on the company bowling, softball, and golf leagues, and updates about new products or changes at the company are common throughout.

Another interesting piece in the collection is a small figure made of strings of clear plastic. The injection molding process created excess strings of plastic and the employees would use the strings to create small paperweights and other items. Although not presenting the same tidy appearance as the company's official products, this unique item seems to match the tone of the employee newsletters, indicating that Thermo-Serv was a place where employees enjoyed working.

The Thermo-Serv brand is still produced, though the company sold sometime after 1987 and the Anoka factory closed. We have been unable to locate a good source indicating the date of this final sale—please contact ACHS if you remember when this happened. The brand is currently manufactured in Dallas, TX.

Our current lobby exhibit features artifacts from several local county businesses, one of which is Thermo-Serv, makers of the iconic plastic drinkware. Begun in 1952 as NFC Engineering Company, they originally made parts for the defense industry. Manufacturing with plastic was a growing area and founder Nelson F. Cornelius turned his eye to this new market. The company's "first proprietary product" was the "THERMO-SERV 32 ounce insulated beverage server," 1956-57. This and later products were created using a process called



Archiving **TIPS** tricks

PRESERVING YOUR PAPER RECORDS

Now is a great time to think about your family papers
and ways you could improve their lifespan!

Family papers: this category can include a variety of materials (usually unpublished), such letters, diaries, certificates (achievement, birth, marriage, death), documentation of important life events (buying a new house, moving, career achievements), military records, or anything else that might tell about the life of a family member or ancestor.

Step 1: Where are your documents?

Just as we recommended for photographs, start by making a list to identify where your paper documents live and about how many there are. This gets the information out of your head and helps you avoid overlooking something. The list might look like this:

- 1 folder, filing cabinet
- 2 banker's boxes, attic
- 3 diaries, office bookshelf

Step 2: What condition are the documents in?

The target preservation conditions to aim for are the same as those for photographs:

- **Temperature:** *Steady* temperature, ideally 65°-70°F.
- **Relative Humidity:** *Steady* relative humidity, ideally 35%-55%.
- **Water and Sunlight:** Exposure to either of these things is damaging. Make sure to keep your family papers somewhere relatively dark (such as inside a box), and away from places that might be exposed to water.

Step 3: What should I do next?

- **Identify:** Figure out what kinds of documents you have; a quick once-over of everything might help before you dig into the details. Do some things belong together (such as several documents related to a wedding), or do some need to be in chronological order (such as a series of letters)? Work with family members as needed to identify people and places referenced in the documents, and make sure to write that information down.
- **Weed:** Consider removing unneeded duplicates, or papers that can't be preserved any longer (too crumbled or too faded).
- **Store:** Paper documents should be stored in acid-free folders. Related documents can be grouped together in the same folder as long as all are in stable condition. Folders are then labeled to indicate what is in them, possibly with date ranges and an identifying number if desired. With the archival folders being the immediate thing surrounding documents, they are better preserved even in regular boxes. Invest in archival, acid-free boxes if you can.
NOTE: Make sure the folders are held flat or upright even if the box is not full, to prevent documents from curving or bending.
- **Ask:** Feel free to contact us at the History Center. We are happy to help!

Political Devil Doll

By Chuck Zielin, ACHS Volunteer

Our Anoka County Historical Society on Third Avenue North in Anoka, houses many rarely-seen treasures. These gems are readily available to the interested public. If curiosity captures you, come on in and let us help you make a discovery! An example of a fun event is the curious find of an 1880's political token. Where did it come from? What was its purpose? How was it used, and did it have any significance? The following is what we found out about this token.

In 1879, at the age of 28, Edward L. Curial, a jeweler here in Anoka, was a political activist. Viewing the upcoming national election for the presidency between James Garfield and General Hancock, he set about designing, building and patenting a political token in the form of a watch fob (a fob being a small item attached to a pocket watch chain that dangled/hung in plain sight between the pocketed watch and the secured end of the chain.) It was a simple way for an individual to make a statement.

Curial's statement was quite interesting. Each fob came in three forms; nonmechanical, mechanical hand, and mechanical hand and tail. Pressing a foot upward activated the mechanical movement(s) raising the arm with its fingers spread. Was the candidate saluting or thumbing his nose at the other candidate? On the third model, with the tail coming up, did it represent the devil or, in combination with the hand influence, say the other candidate was the devil? Either way, it was a humorous message.

To see if his fob had market appeal, Curial secured a New York manufacturer to product 500 items. He then hired street vendors across the nation to sell them. The response was electric – they went like “hot cakes” and the vendors called for more inventory. Curial then asked his New York manufacturer to begin mass production of his creation. Unfortunately, the company was on strike and unable to fulfill the order in time for the election. In the next bi-year election another individual used a similar idea and Curial lost his market edge and did not produce new models using his patent rights.

Curial lived out the rest of his life in Anoka with his wife and two children. He became very active in the temperance movement, being a founding member of the Anoka Temperance Club in the year of 1888. At various times he was nominated for County Assessor, judge of Probate Court, the 6th Congressional seat (1890) and the newly-formed 7th District Congressional Seat (1908.) He always came in second.

When Anoka County took advantage of the new “county option” law in 1915, Curial was very active in having the county board vote to make Anoka County a dry county. Remarkably, this occurred four years before the 18th Amendment (Prohibition Act) was passed in 1919, demonstrating the power of the Prohibition Party at that time in Anoka County. Curial died in 1930 and is buried with his wife in Anoka.

Before his death, Curial also patented a small, plate-sized children's pull toy in 1905 (Patent No. 252,526). When you pulled the two strings, in opposite directions, the sphere would rotate. One could also describe it as whirling or spinning discs driven by twisted cords.



Exhibit Hall



While we work constantly to add new and interesting items to the exhibit hall so each visit to ACHS is different, every few years we plan to reimagine the displays.

Welcome to 2020 and with a new decade comes a new look to the hall!

The Veterans Voice project will take shape in the military gallery, replacing “Getting it Done: Anoka County’s Answer to WWII”. By Riverfest on July 11, you can expect to witness the experience of military families during their deployments beginning in the Gulf War. From the moment a service member brings home the news, through their train up and deployment, and into the never-ending reintegration period, we hope to represent the story of our county residents.

Sooner rather than later, we will introduce the first phase of our diversity exhibit in the school house. People around us in the county all move through life differently, some with hidden challenges and others with visible disabilities. What does it mean to run errands while navigating the bus as a blind person? How does living with dyslexia or colorblindness change your interaction with the world? What can we do for each other to support and encourage our neighbors?

Last but not least, look for the Halloween Centennial to take over the “We Are 100” exhibit space in partnership with Anoka Halloween. Come enjoy the story of Anoka’s favorite holiday told in mugs, buttons, shirts, and other collectibles as well as sparkling crowns, costumes, and photographs.

Have a story to tell? Use the “Tell Your Story” button on our website AnokaCountyHistory.org to tell us a little bit and we’ll get back to you for all the details!





With the rolling over of the calendar to 2020, I am looking ahead to what in the world is on the calendar for the upcoming year. In seeing the long list of things we do at ACHS, I am struck again by what a gift our volunteers are. We wouldn't be able to do even a fraction of our mission without your help. It's a help that comes in many different forms. For some it is researching and writing 600 words about a fun piece of local history for the newspaper. For others it is coming in every week to help Archivist Audra with whatever collection project we are working on that week. Still others advocate for us and share that smile with new friends at the Anoka County Fair, Nowthen Threshing Show or Lager Festival. We need the person sitting at the computer entering collection items into the computer, the person willing to hang out at the Farmhouse talking to people, and the person helping park cars at a large event.

Before things get crazy and those calendars start filling up, I'm calling out and making a blank invitation to all our volunteer hands, as well as your friends and relatives to help out this year. Maybe it's taking ownership of a regular project at the history center, maybe it's playing at one of our events over the summer/fall, or maybe it's even becoming a ghost tour guide. Sooooo, what events, festivals, projects and exhibits need our amazing volunteers' hands and brains, and when are they? Check out our upcoming year and save the date now!

Sara Given
Volunteer Coordinator
Sara@AnokaCountyHistory.org

SAVE THE DATE

Snip me out and save the date to make sure you
don't miss any of the fun.

All Year	Be part of rotating team researching and writing articles for local paper.
March 29	Annual Meeting refreshment table
July 11	Riverfest: refreshment table, tent on Jackson St., exhibit hall greeters, game leaders
July 21—26	Anoka County Fair—multiple days & shifts available
August 14-16	Nowthen Threshing Show—multiple days & shifts available
September 19	Ale & Lager Festival—parking attendants, check in table, ice-runners, game leaders
September/October	Ghost Tour Guides
All Year	Projects around the Anoka County History Center— get matched to your perfect project.

THE BEST GIFT
IS YOU!

General Donations

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 2018
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 Coon Rapids Historical
 Commission
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 Hammerheart Brewing
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 Nowthen Historical
 Power Association
 Peterson Shoes
 Pierce Refrigeration
 Plants & Things
 Rum River Restoration
 Ticknor Hill Bed &
 Breakfast
 Tomco Company

Visit the History Center! Open 5 days a week, FREE:

Tuesday 10 a.m.—8 p.m.

Wednesday-Friday 10 a.m.—5 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

ACHS Board Meetings

Second Thursday of each month. 6 p.m. at the Anoka History Center
Open to membership and the public.

Anoka County Genealogical Society Meeting

Meetings held at the Anoka County History Center.

Email questions or suggestions to acgsmn@yahoo.com**ACHS Board Application Deadline****WHEN:** Thursday, January 30

Members in good standing are encouraged to submit their name to the ballot for one of the open positions in this year's election:

- Three At large seats (no residency requirement)
- Commissioner district 3 (residency required)
- Commissioner district 4 (residency required)

ACHS Annual Meeting**WHEN:** Sunday, March 29**TIME:** 2-4 p.m.**WHERE:** Anoka County History Center

WHAT: Player piano concert by Nate Otto,
a brief business meeting, and annual report
(shenanigans promised!)

For more information on our
programs, check out the
Events section on the ACHS
Facebook page.

**ACHS Remembers**

To those members, volunteers, friends, and neighbors who are
no longer with us —you will be missed.

DeWayne Johnson
1943– 2019

William Sorenson
1927-2019

Sharon Woizeschke
1938-2019



Anoka County
Historical Society
2135 Third Avenue North
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(763) 421-0600
AnokaCountyHistory.org

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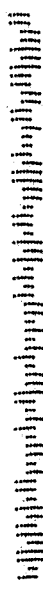
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City of Spring Lake Park
1301 81st Ave NE
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432-2188

5543232188 0093





505 Nicollet Mall
P.O. Box 59038
Minneapolis, MN 55459-0038

January 10, 2020

Dear Community Leader:

On October 28, 2019, CenterPoint Energy filed a request with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) for an increase in natural gas rates of \$62.0 million or approximately 6.8 percent per year. On December 5, 2019, the MPUC accepted our filing as complete and approved an interim (temporary) rate increase of \$52.7 million or about 5.8 percent more than current rates. This interim rate increase for CenterPoint Energy customers takes effect January 1, 2020, and continues until the MPUC issues a final order and the company implements new rates in 2021.

State law requires us to distribute a Notice of Application for Rate Increase and Notice of and Order for Hearing to all counties and municipalities in our service area (enclosed). We will send you the public hearing notices with details of the public hearing dates, times, and locations once they are scheduled. That information will also be advertised in the newspaper of record for each county seat in our service area and in the communities where hearings are to be held.

If you have questions or comments, please contact me or visit our Web site at www.CenterPointEnergy.com/RateCase.

Sincerely,

CenterPoint Energy

Enclosures: Notice of Application for Rate Increase
Notice of and Order for Hearing

FOR CENTERPOINT ENERGY CUSTOMERS
Notice to Counties and Municipalities
Under Minn. Stat. §216B.16, Subd. 1

FILED
JAN 14 2020
ST. PAUL, MN

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION – STATE OF MINNESOTA

In the Matter of an Application by
CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas for
Authority to Increase Natural Gas Rates in
Minnesota.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR RATE
INCREASE
MPUC Docket No. G-008/GR-19-524

NEW INTERIM RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020

CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas has asked the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to approve a rate increase for natural gas distribution service. The requested increase is for 6.8 percent or about \$62.0 million per year. If approved the requested increase would add about \$4.79 to a typical residential customer's monthly bill.

State law allows CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas to collect a temporary, higher rate on an interim basis while the MPUC considers the request. The interim rate increase is about 5.8 percent more than your current rate, or \$52.7 million. The temporary increase shows on your bill as "Interim Rate Adjustment."

The MPUC will likely decide on the requested rate increase by early 2021. If final rates are lower than interim rates, we will refund customers the difference with interest. If final rates are higher than interim rates, we will not charge customers the difference.

Why is CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas asking for an increase?

We continue to make significant investments to maintain the safety and integrity of our natural gas distribution system to benefit our customers and communities. These ongoing investments include infrastructure projects to replace or upgrade existing pipelines in order to prevent leaks, ensure safe and reliable service, and comply with federal pipeline regulations. We are requesting this rate increase for increased operating, maintenance and distribution expenses, and to allow an opportunity for a higher rate of return on our investments.

Here's how the rate change will affect monthly bills:

Customers' bills contain three parts: Basic Charge, Delivery Charge and Cost of Gas. The proposed Basic Charges and Delivery Charges cover the cost of delivering natural gas service to our customers and is about 50 percent of the bill, while the Cost of Gas itself is the other 50 percent of the bill. The Cost of Gas is billed directly to customers without mark-up. This rate increase does not affect the Cost of Gas. The proposed rate changes will affect individual monthly bills differently depending on natural gas use and customer type. Bills will also vary because the wholesale cost of natural gas changes each month.

The chart below shows an example of the current and proposed rates for each customer type:

Rate Type (usage in therms)	Average monthl y usage in therms	Average monthly bill: current rates	Average monthly bill: interim rates	Average monthly bill: proposed
Residential	75	\$55	\$59	\$60
Commercial/Industrial				
- up to 1,499/year	69	\$57	\$61	\$63
- 1,500 to 4,999/year	249	\$164	\$172	\$174
- 5,000 or more/year	1,519	\$891	\$929	\$919
Small Volume Dual Fuel				
- up to 119,999/year	3,896	\$1,709	\$1,783	\$1,752
- 120,000 or more/year	13,901	\$5,861	\$6,092	\$6,092
Large Volume Dual Fuel	38,836	\$15,298	\$15,796	\$15,968
Large General Firm Sales Service	53,808	\$24,796	\$25,644	\$25,804

What is the process for reviewing the request by CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas?

The MPUC, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, the Office of the Attorney General – Residential Utilities and Antitrust Division, public interest groups and customers have the opportunity to review and comment on our proposal.

The MPUC will hold public hearings for customers to speak and will ask for customers' written comments about our rate increase request. You may add verbal comments or written comments, or both, to the record. When scheduled, a notice of the public hearing will give dates and locations. The notice will be published in local newspapers, in bill inserts and at CenterPointEnergy.com/RateCase.

HOW TO LEARN MORE

Current and proposed rate schedules for CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas are available at:

CenterPoint Energy

505 Nicollet Mall

Minneapolis MN 55402

Phone: 612-372-4727 or 1-800-245-2377

Web: CenterPointEnergy.com/RateCase

Minnesota Department of Commerce

85 7th Place East, Suite 500

St. Paul MN 55101

Phone: 651-539-1534

Web: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> Select 19 in the year field, type 524 in the number field, select Search, and the list of documents will appear on the next page.

Questions about the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's review process?

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

121 7th Place East, Suite 350

St. Paul MN 55101

Phone: 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782

Email: consumer.puc@state.mn.us

Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Katie J. Sieben
Dan Lipschultz
Valerie Means
Matthew Schuerger
John A. Tuma

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of the Application by
CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a
CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas, for
Authority to Increase Natural Gas Rates in
Minnesota

ISSUE DATE: December 18, 2019

DOCKET NO. G-008/GR-19-524

NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR
HEARING

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On October 28, 2019, CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas (CenterPoint or the Company) filed a general rate case seeking an annual rate increase of approximately \$62.302 million, or 6.8%, together with a proposed interim-rate schedule.

On October 31, 2019, the Commission issued a notice requesting comment on whether the Commission should accept the filing as substantially complete and whether it should refer the case to the Office of Administrative Hearings for contested-case proceedings.

On November 7, 2019, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (the Department), filed comments concluding that CenterPoint's application complies with the filing requirements and recommending that the Commission refer the case for contested-case proceedings.

On December 5, 2019, the Commission met to consider this matter. By separate order, the Commission has accepted the filing and suspended the proposed rate change, and has set interim rates.¹ In this order, the Commission refers the general rate case to the Office of Administrative Hearings for contested-case proceedings.

¹ See Order Accepting Filing, Suspending Rates, and Extending Timeline; and Order Setting Interim Rates, both entered in this docket on this date.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

I. Jurisdiction and Referral for Contested-Case Proceedings

The Commission has jurisdiction over the proposed rate changes of public utilities under Minn. Stat. § 216B.16. If the Commission is unable to resolve all significant issues regarding the reasonableness of the proposed rates based on the filing alone, the Commission is to refer the matter to the Office of Administrative Hearings for contested-case proceedings.²

The Commission finds that it cannot satisfactorily resolve all questions regarding the reasonableness of the proposed rates on the basis of the Company's filing. The Commission will therefore refer the matter to the Office of Administrative Hearings for contested-case proceedings.

II. Issues to be Addressed

In the course of this case, the Commission expects the parties will thoroughly develop a full record addressing, at a minimum, the following issues:

1. Whether the test year revenue increase sought by the Company is reasonable or will result in unreasonable or excessive earnings;
2. Whether the Company's proposed capital structure and return-on-equity are reasonable;
3. Whether the rate design proposed by the Company is reasonable;
4. Whether the base cost of gas proposed in Docket No. G-008/MR-19-525 needs to be updated;
5. Prudence of all costs related to the 2018 and 2019 Metro Beltline Replacement Project construction services contract with Minnesota Limited and determine which costs are eligible for recovery;
6. Whether it is appropriate to use the proposed hypothetical capital structure or whether an alternative capital structure or other ratepayer protection mechanisms should be adopted;
7. Reasons for the significant changes of the following costs since the last rate case:
 - a. 100% reduction in Gas Storage Maps & Recs (FERC Account 8150);
 - b. 150% reduction in Compressor Station Expense (FERC Account 8180);
 - c. 92% reduction in Ops Fuel (FERC Account 8421);
 - d. \$1.6 million (107%) increase in Oper Superv & Engine (FERC Account 8701);
 - e. \$2.1 million increase in Mains & Services (FERC Account 8740);
 - f. \$1.6 million increase in Customer Install Expense (FERC Account 8790);
 - g. Sales Expense 63% decrease;
 - h. Administrative & General Expense \$5.96 million (20.0%) increase;

² Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 2.

- i. Maintenance Expense \$3.93 million (15.7%) increase; and
- j. 100% reduction in Gas Storage Maps & Recs (FERC Account 8150);
- 8. What interest rate should be applied to any prospective interim rate refunds;
- 9. Prudence of all original and subsequent costs related to the construction of the Shakopee regulator station;
- 10. Accuracy and adequacy of CenterPoint energy's billing system and the prudence of costs associated with the operation of the customer billing system; and
- 11. Appropriateness of CenterPoint Energy's application of customer bill payments to regulated and non-regulated services that appear on the same customer bill.

The Commission will also direct CenterPoint to file supplemental direct testimony on certain safety-related issues, as described in the ordering paragraphs. Although this information is likely to be discussed in the contested-case proceeding, the Commission prefers to receive the filing and be able to review the information earlier in the process.

III. Procedural Outline

A. Administrative Law Judge

The Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) assigned to this case is Eric Lipman. His address is as follows: Office of Administrative Hearings, 600 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota. His mailing address is P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620. He can be reached through his legal assistant, Andrew Hart, at 651-361-7900 or andrew.hart@state.mn.us.

B. Hearing Procedure

- *Controlling Statutes and Rules*

Hearings in this matter will be conducted in accordance with the Minnesota Administrative Procedure Act, Minn. Stat. §§ 14.57–14.62; the rules of the Office of Administrative Hearings, Minn. R. 1400.5100–1400.8400; and, to the extent that they are not superseded by those rules, the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, Minn. R. 7829.0100–7829.4000.

These rules and statutes can be accessed free of charge through the State of Minnesota's website at www.revisor.mn.gov/pubs. Copies of these rules and statutes may also be purchased from the Print Communications Division of the Department of Administration, 660 Olive Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155; (651) 297-3000.

The Office of Administrative Hearings conducts contested-case proceedings in accordance with the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct and the Professionalism Aspirations adopted by the Minnesota State Bar Association.

- *Right to Counsel and to Present Evidence*

In these proceedings, parties may be represented by counsel, may appear on their own behalf, or may be represented by another person of their choice, unless otherwise prohibited as the unauthorized practice of law. They have the right to present evidence, conduct cross-examination, and make written and oral argument. Under Minn. R. 1400.7000, they may obtain subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents.

Parties should bring to the hearing all documents, records, and witnesses necessary to support their positions.

- *Discovery and Informal Disposition*

Any questions regarding discovery under Minn. R. 1400.6700–1400.6800 or informal disposition under Minn. R. 1400.5900 should be directed to Jorge Alonso at (651) 201-2258, jorge.alonso@state.mn.us, or Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147.

- *Protecting Not-Public Data*

State agencies are required by law to keep some data not public. Parties must advise the ALJ if not-public data is offered into the record. They should take note that any not-public data admitted into evidence may become public unless a party objects and requests relief under Minn. Stat. § 14.60, subd. 2.

- *Accommodations for Disabilities; Interpreter Services*

At the request of any individual, this agency will make accommodations to ensure that the hearing in this case is accessible. The agency will appoint a qualified interpreter if necessary. Persons must promptly notify the ALJ if an interpreter is needed.

- *Scheduling Issues*

The times, dates, and places of public and evidentiary hearings in this matter will be set by order of the ALJ after consultation with the Commission and intervening parties.

- *Notice of Appearance*

Any party intending to appear at the hearing must file a notice of appearance (Attachment A) with the ALJ within 20 days of the date of this Notice of and Order for Hearing.

- *Sanctions for Non-Compliance*

Failure to appear at a prehearing conference, a settlement conference, or the hearing, or failure to comply with any order of the ALJ, may result in facts or issues being resolved against the party who fails to appear or comply.

C. Parties and Intervention

The current parties to this case are the Company and the Department. Other persons wishing to become formal parties shall promptly file petitions to intervene with the ALJ. They shall serve copies of such petitions on all current parties and on the Commission.³

D. Prehearing Conference

A prehearing conference will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., in the Large Hearing Room at the offices of the Public Utilities Commission, 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147.

Persons participating in the prehearing conference should be prepared to discuss time frames, scheduling, discovery procedures, and similar issues. Potential parties are invited to attend the pre-hearing conference and to file their petitions to intervene as soon as possible.

E. Time Constraints

The Commission is required to act on substantially complete rate case filings within ten months, although this ten-month period can be extended under certain circumstances. In this proceeding, the ten-month period will be extended by 90 days under Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, subd. 2(f). Additionally, CenterPoint has agreed to waive its right to a decision within the statutory timeline and the Commission will extend the ten-month period an additional two months.⁴

The Commission therefore asks the Office of Administrative Hearings to conduct contested-case proceedings in light of these time constraints and requests that the ALJ submit his final report on or before October 12, 2020, to permit adequate consideration of the case by the Commission.

IV. Application of Ethics in Government Act

The lobbying provisions of the Ethics in Government Act, Minn. Stat. § 10A.01 *et seq.*, apply to general rate cases. Persons appearing in this proceeding may be subject to registration, reporting, and other requirements set forth in that Act. All persons appearing in this case are urged to refer to the Act and to contact the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board, telephone number (651) 539-1190, with any questions.

V. Ex Parte Communications

Restrictions on ex parte communications with Commissioners and reporting requirements regarding such communications with Commission staff apply to this proceeding from the date of this order. Those restrictions and reporting requirements are set forth at Minn. R. 7845.7300–7845.7400, which all parties are urged to consult.

³ Minn. R. 1400.6200.

⁴ See Order Accepting Filing, Suspending Rates, and Extending Timeline, entered in this docket on this date.

VI. Notices Required; Delegation of Authority

Finally, the rate case statute and the Commission's rules require comprehensive notice of proposed general rate increases. Those notices are required in the ordering paragraphs below. To promote administrative efficiency, the Commission will delegate to the Executive Secretary the authority to approve notices, bill inserts, and bill format for the duration of this proceeding.

ORDER

1. The Commission hereby refers this case to the Office of Administrative Hearings for contested-case proceedings, as set forth above.
2. This Order will be served on the Company, which shall mail copies of the Order to all municipalities, counties, and local governing bodies in its Minnesota service area.
3. Public Hearings shall be held in this matter at locations within the service area of the Company.
4. The Company shall give the following notices of the evidentiary and public hearings:
 - a. Individual written notice to each customer, which may be in the form of a bill insert, and shall be served at least ten days before the first day of hearings;
 - b. Written notice to the governing bodies of all municipalities, counties, and local governing bodies in the area affected and to all parties in the Company's last two rate cases. These notices shall be mailed at least ten days before the first day of hearings.
 - c. Display advertisements in legal newspapers of affected counties and other newspapers of general circulation within the Company's Minnesota service area. These advertisements shall appear at least ten days before the first day of hearings. They shall include the heading **RATE INCREASE NOTICE**, which shall appear in bold face type no smaller than 30 points.
 - d. The Company shall submit proposed notices for Commission approval prior to publication or service.
5. Within 30 days, the Company shall file supplemental direct testimony on the adequacy of the Company's supervision of contractors and construction oversight practices to ensure the work they do is done correctly and whether it is prudent from a cost recovery standpoint for CenterPoint to use the contractors they have selected. This testimony must include the safety-related terms, conditions, and performance guarantees that are included in the Company's construction contracts with affiliated and non-affiliated vendors, and may include information on any performance-related outage payments to customers.

6. The Commission delegates to the Executive Secretary the authority to approve notices, bill inserts, and bill format for the duration of this proceeding.
7. This order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Daniel P. Wolf
Executive Secretary



This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

In the Matter of the Application by
CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a
CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas, for
Authority to Increase Natural Gas Rates in
Minnesota

NOTICE OF APPEARANCE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

1. The party/agency named below (Party/Agency) will appear at the prehearing conference and all subsequent proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

2. By providing its email address below, the Party/Agency acknowledges that it has read and agrees to the terms of the Office of Administrative Hearings' e-Filing policy and chooses to opt into receiving electronic notice from the Office of Administrative Hearings in this matter. **Note: Provision of an email address DOES NOT constitute consent to electronic service from any opposing party or agency in this proceeding.**¹

3. The Party/Agency agrees to use best efforts to provide the Office of Administrative Hearings with the email address(es) for opposing parties and their legal counsel.

Party's/Agency's Name: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Party's/Agency's Attorney: _____

Firm Name: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Respondent's/Opposing Party's Name: _____

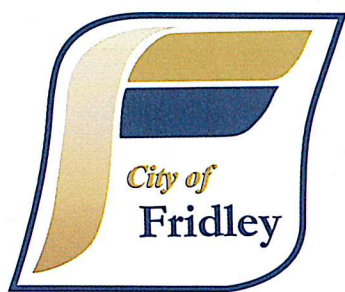
Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Dated: _____

Signature of Party/Agency or Attorney

¹ In order to opt in to electronic notice, this form must be emailed to OAH.efiling.support@state.mn.us. If the party does not wish to opt in to electronic notice, this form may be filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings via facsimile, U.S. Mail, or personal service. See Minn. Stat. § 14.58, Minn. R. 1400.5550, subps. 2-5.



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
phone: (763) 571-3450
FridleyMN.gov
email: info@FridleyMN.gov

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

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Stay Connected!



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@CityofFridley



Watch City Programming:
Search Fridley Municipal TV



Sign up for email notifications
on FridleyMN.gov

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.

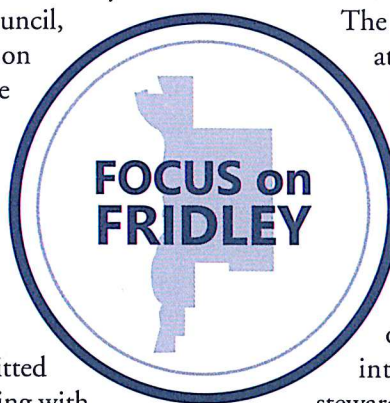
Our Public Safety Department is committed to serving residents and visitors by partnering with them to provide professional and impartial services while promoting a sense of peace and safety in our community. When discussing the future of public safety in our community, Ward 1 Councilmember Tom Tillberry 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).



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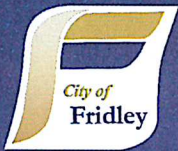
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City Administrator
City of Spring Lake Park
1301 81st Ave NE
Spring Lake Park MN 55432-2188



WeCount Fridley, Minnesota | 2020 Census

Census Day - April 1, 2020

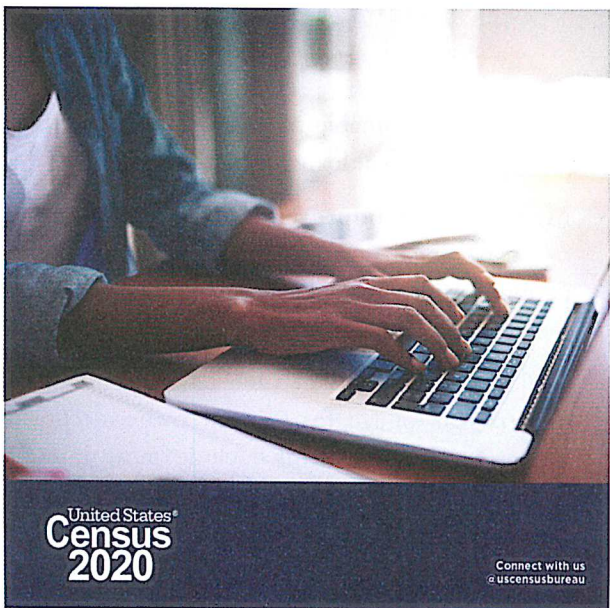


2020 Census Employment Opportunities

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](https://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

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.



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.

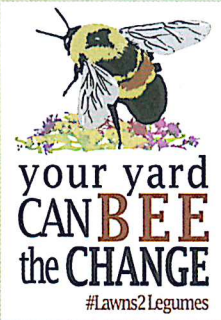
Train Station Village

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.



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](https://bit.ly/Anoka-Lawns-Legumes).

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

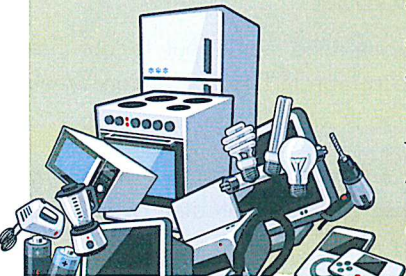
- 3 Charter Commission Meeting
- 3 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
- 6 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 10 City Council Meeting
- 11 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission Meeting
- 17 City offices closed for Presidents’ Day
- 19 Planning Commission Meeting
- 24 City Council Meeting

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.

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.

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.

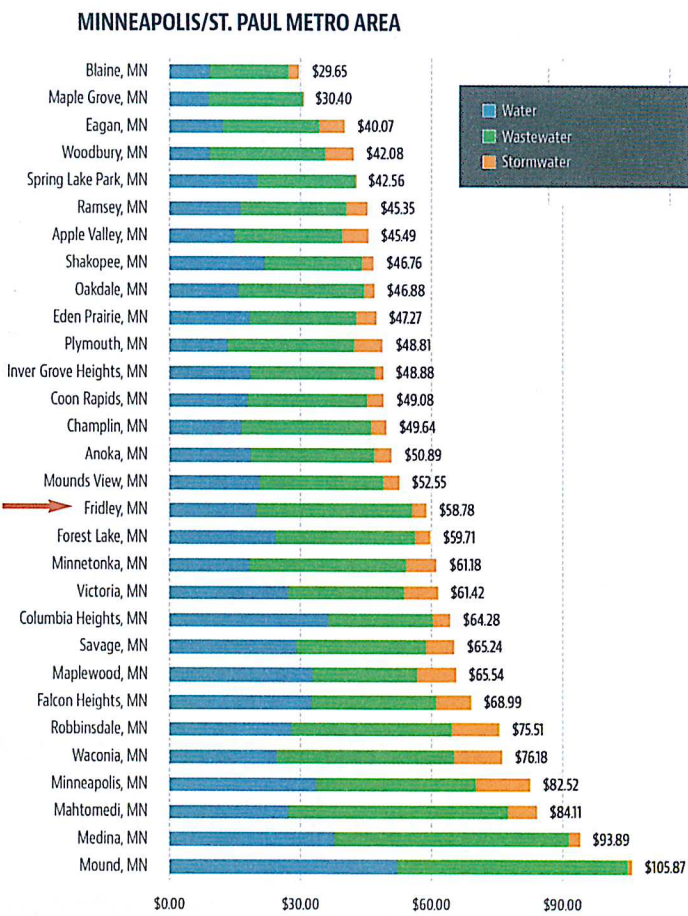
What does this mean to your utility bill?

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?

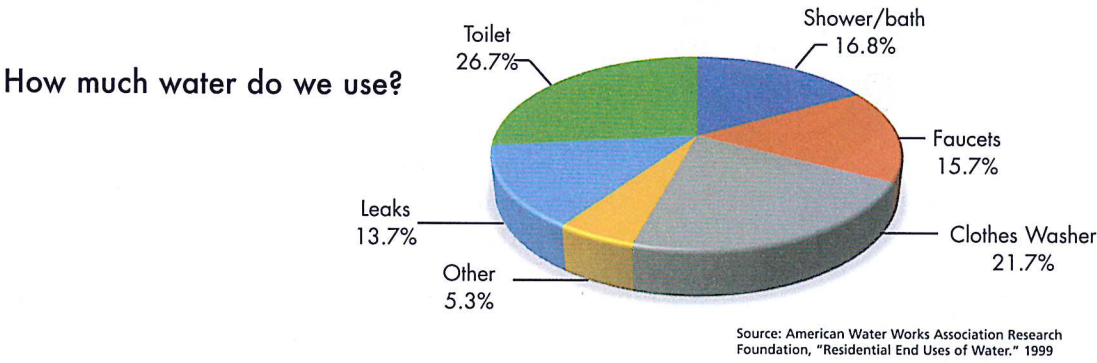


Typical Household Water Use and Ways to Reduce Water Consumption

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.



Attention Utility Customers!

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

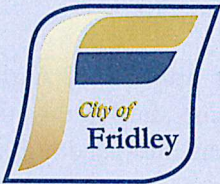
- Save money (no stamps, no processing fees)
- Save time (no checks to write)
- No late fees, no worries!

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.