



Fridley

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Parks and Recreation Brochure Enclosed

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023
NO. 245

WE BELIEVE FRIDLEY WILL BE 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 – Ryan Evanson
Councilmember 3rd Ward – Ann Bolkcom
City Manager – Wally Wysopal

WHAT'S INSIDE

Family Transforms Home with Fridley's Front Door Grant	2
Volunteers expand pollinator habitat	2
What Is It Like to Be An Election Judge?	2
Moon Plaza Site Redevelopment	3
Recodification Update	3
61st Avenue Parcel	3
Parking on the Grass	3
Public Art Initiative Meeting Series	4
Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries	4
Adopt-A-Drain	4
Summer Community Concert Series	5
Expanded Northstar Service	5
Recycling Dropoff and Paper Shredding	5
5 Year Celebration	6
Adopt a Hydrant this Winter!	6
Play in our Parks!	6
Add Energy to your Fall Checklist	7
Water Efficiency Rebates	7
Smart Salting this Winter	7
Park System Improvement Plan Update	8
Winter Fun in Fridley	8



Winter Parking Reminder: No Overnight Parking

Friendly reminder: Overnight parking on City streets is prohibited from November 1 until April 1, from 2-6 a.m.

Why Does the City Have Winter Parking Restrictions?

Snow plow drivers are often faced with challenges, including low visibility and poor road conditions. When cars or trash bins are on the side of the road, they create additional, unnecessary challenges. Please help keep your property and our drivers safe this winter by following the winter parking requirements.

By removing your vehicle off the street, you are:

- Avoiding a parking violation ticket.
- Making streets safer by allowing plows to clear the full width of the roadway.

- Ensuring there is no damage done to your vehicle from snow being cleared.
- Allowing routes to be more accessible for emergency vehicles.
- Helping snow plow drivers to be able to clear the streets quickly (and sometimes multiple times per day)!

Learn more online at FridleyMN.gov/Parking.

Fridley City Code, Chapter 506.05

From November 1-April 1 each year, it is a violation to park any vehicle on City streets from 2-6 a.m. It is also a violation to stop, park or leave standing a vehicle in such a manner as to impede the plowing or removal of snow, ice or waste from public streets or highways, regardless of the date or time.

Winter Lights

Help spread holiday cheer by decorating the exterior of your home! Entries will be judged on overall impact, visual appeal, uniqueness, variety and tidiness. Category winners and "Bright Spots" will be indicated on the map.

All entries will be placed on a map so that residents and visitors can create their own custom lights tour around town. Judging will take place December 11 - 12. Winners will be announced, and maps will be available on December 15. Tour maps will be available in person at City Hall and at FridleyMN.gov/Rec.



Register between November 6 - December 10

PRESORTED STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit NO. 92886

54 12297

*****ECRLOT**C 033

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



Pumpkin Recycling

November 1 - 6

Springbrook Nature Center Parking Lot

The pumpkin dumpster will be back at Springbrook Nature Center from November 1 - 6. Toss your pumpkins in the dumpster, and they will be recycled into compost. Our goal this year is two tons of pumpkins!
Only pumpkins in the Pumpkin Dumpster, please.



Holiday Lights!

December 1 - January 31

Fridley Civic Campus

We will be collecting broken and non-working holiday lights for recycling from December 1 - January 31. A labeled drop box will be in the lobby at City Hall. Remember to never put string lights, cords, hoses or other tangles in the recycling cart—it jams up the machines. Questions? Call 763-572-3594 or email Recycling@FridleyMN.gov.



BEFORE

AFTER

Family Transforms Home with Fridley's Front Door Grant

Adam and Brianna, a young couple who have been residents of Fridley for the past five years, have transformed their 1960 house into a charming abode with the help of the City of Fridley's Front Door Grant program. The program aims to enhance the "curb appeal" of homes and promote beautification within the city. Adam and Brianna have not only added value to their own property but have also become advocates for this initiative.

The couple fell in love with the Fridley area for its proximity to amenities, affordability and peaceful neighborhood. They bought their home in the Parkview neighborhood in 2018. Although initially unimpressed by the appearance of their new house, they recognized its potential due to its prime location near main interstates and Moore Lake.

Adam learned about the Front Door Grant and its benefits while talking with neighbors, who were previous recipients of the grant in 2022. Impressed by their friends' success and influenced by their glowing recommendations,

Adam and Brianna decided to apply for the grant. They were particularly excited that the program reimburses homeowners a portion of their project costs up to \$5,000 at 25 percent of the project cost, making the major home improvement process more affordable.

After being approved for the program, Adam and Brianna sought the expertise of a local contractor and paint consultant. They decided on a darker color to help withstand the direct sunlight and enhance the house's visual appeal. The construction team replaced soffits to prevent ice damming, updated the storm doors and improved the landscaping, creating a harmonious blend of aesthetics and functionality. Adam's friend, and professional painter, completed the painting of the exterior and windows.

One of the more challenging decisions for Adam and Brianna was selecting the perfect color for their front door. After careful consideration, they settled on the vibrant hue of Determined Orange. This bold choice

beautifully contrasts against the blue exterior, making their house stand out in the neighborhood.

The Fridley's Front Door Grant program has been a game-changer for homeowners like Adam and Brianna. Not only does it provide financial assistance for beautification projects, but it also fosters a sense of community pride and encourages homeowners to invest in their neighborhood.

To be eligible for the Front Door Grant, applicants must be: 1) owner of the property; 2) current on taxes; 3) property has to be valued less than \$425,000; 4) beautification must be visible from the street; 5) projects must include at least two items and at least \$4,000 worth of work from the Beautification project list, such as, front door, storm door and/or garage door replacement.

Discover more about the Front Door Grant at FridleyMN.gov/FrontDoor. Information on future grant opportunities will be available in January 2024.

Volunteers Expand Pollinator Habitat

Volunteers have been busy this fall helping our city's pollinators. Planting events were held



on September 21 at the Moore Lake Iron Enhance Sand Filter with fourth graders from North Park School for Innovation, and on September 23 at Commons Park with volunteers from the Fridley City Council, the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission, Fridley-Columbia Heights Rotary, Boy Scout Troop 167, Cub Scout Pack 20, and interested residents in partnership with Anoka Conservation District. This work supports the Pollinator Friendly Fridley initiative adopted by the Fridley City Council in 2018. Financial support for the Moore Lake Park planting was provided as part of a Clean Water Fund grant, and financial support for the Commons Park planting as part of a Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot grant. Both grants were provided by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers for their efforts!

What Is It Like to Be An Election Judge in Fridley?

You may have seen the requests from the City to be an Election Judge in 2024, and perhaps wonder what it is like to be an election judge. Brendan Bremener, one of the City's veteran election judges, has some answers to this question to help better explain the process and what keeps him coming back each election.

What does a typical day look like for you as an election judge?

"On Election Day, the day begins very early with a flurry of set up activities with your team. You often see a morning rush of voters followed by alternating busy/not-so-busy times during the day. It is always a perk getting to see friends, family and neighbors arrive at your polling place throughout the day and, of course, meeting new people too! Serving most voters is very quick, but some problem-solving can be required if technology does not cooperate or when certain registration details need to be entered. This can be challenging during busy times, but you always have the support of

your team and City/County election staff. Once polls close, we work through the closing process and get to be some of the first to know the results in our precinct! Overall, it is a fun, productive day and can be a nice break from your daily routine."

What do you enjoy the most about being an election judge?

"I like having a more involved role in the voting process and seeing what happens from start to finish. This helps me to serve voters more effectively by being better able to answer any questions. The best part is knowing that I helped my community be heard, and that hopefully, they had a good experience participating."

If you would like to have an active role in voting procedures and give back to the community like Brendan does, please consider serving your community as an Election Judge in 2024. For more information, visit us on the web at FridleyMN.gov/Elections, email Elections@FridleyMN.gov or call 763-572-3573.

Moon Plaza Site Redevelopment

The final tenants finished moving out of Moon Plaza Shopping Center at the end of August. Demolition of the building and site preparation occurred in September and October, and parking garage foundation work began a short time after. The developer anticipates this will be a 20-month buildout, and the grand opening will likely occur in early summer 2025.

The project is a 169-unit building that will have a mix of one-, two- and three-bedroom units. Each unit will include a washer and dryer, stainless steel appliances, quartz counter tops and 9-foot ceilings. Common area amenities include a community room, a game room, resident storage areas, an outdoor patio with a dog run and tot lot, and sidewalk and connections to existing sidewalks and transportation systems.

A new eight-foot trail will be constructed as part of the project to connect to the existing sidewalk on St. William's property to the south, which will then continue to 61st and University Avenues, and tie into the existing Route 10 bus line stop, and future F Line BRT bus station.

The proposed building will be five stories along the east elevation, and the building's mid-section, while the north and south sides of the building will be four stories. Orientation of the building on the site was given careful consideration. Instead of placing the building close to the University Avenue Service Drive, the developer's architect has designed this project as a backwards "C," which pushes the building closer to the eastern property line. The shared common space and parking area will be on the west side, in front of the building and visible from University Avenue



and the Service Drive. This building orientation was preferred by the City staff, Planning Commission and City Council, as it works better for a mid-block development, and was favored by the Public Safety Department for safety and security reasons.

Cranes overhead mean heavy building activity is underway. You can expect to see a crane or two on site as this building comes up out of the ground.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Stacy Stromberg at Stacy.Stromberg@FridleyMN.gov or 763-572-3595.

Recodification Update

The City Manager's Office and City Clerk's Office have continued work on the Recodification process of reviewing the City Code (Code) to see what areas can be updated to make the Code easier to navigate and make sure it meets the needs of those who live and work in Fridley. This process began in 2021, and staff from every department have been working on reviewing the Code. The latest Title to be approved by the City Council is the six chapters that make up Title 4, Public Nuisance.

Some chapters received an update to their content, while others simply received some modernized language. Some chapters were consolidated, such as all three chapters that pertain to vehicles: Abandoned Junk or Unsafe Motor Vehicles, Junk Vehicles and Vehicle Towing, into one chapter simply titled Vehicles.

The chapter on Abatement of Exterior Public Nuisances received the most updates to align with State Law, and includes procedural changes such as notifications residents will receive if an abatement of an exterior public nuisance is determined, and changes to the request for hearing timeline from 10 days to 14 days to ensure the deadline will not fall on a weekend.

Title 4 of the Code was adopted at the City Council meeting on August 28, 2023, and became effective on September 16, 2023.

The City has created a webpage for the project where all supporting documents may be viewed and it can be found at FridleyMN.gov/Recodification. Any questions on this project may be directed to CityClerk@FridleyMN.gov.

Parking on the Grass

Have you noticed any cars parked on the grass recently?

In Fridley, all parked vehicles must be kept on hard surfaces like driveways and parking lots. Gravel and dirt parking areas are not permitted. Boats, non-motorized RVs and empty trailers can be kept in your side yard or rear yard, but cars and other motorized vehicles cannot. In the winter, vehicles must still be kept on paved surfaces.

If you would like to report any vehicles on the grass or other code violations, visit CitizenServe.com/Fridley to make an anonymous complaint. For more information about vehicle regulations or other code questions, contact Dan Cahill, Code Enforcement Inspector, at 763-572-3598 or Daniel.Cahill@FridleyMN.gov.



Abandoned Gas Station Reimagined


Exciting changes are happening at the 6101 University Avenue parcel, which was previously an abandoned gas station. In 2020, after years of attempted redevelopment by commercial investors, the City received the parcel through tax forfeiture. Based on the site's location near housing, transit and sidewalks, it has the potential to serve as a gathering space and multi-modal transit hub. In September, the City received an Active Transportation Demonstration grant from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to install temporary amenities on the site. Permanent site changes will begin this year and be finished in early 2024. Funding for this project was awarded through the Anoka County Community Development Block Grant program. Planned amenities include improved sidewalks, drinking fountains, seating, bike racks and landscaping. These changes will complement updates to the adjacent bus stop planned for 2026 with the construction of the METRO F Bus Rapid Transit Line. We look forward to welcoming you to the reimagined site!

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant. Give blood.

City of Fridley Blood Drive
Wednesday, November 8
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Springbrook Nature Center

Contact information:
Fridley Recreation Department
763-572-3579 • Olivia.Gnadke@FridleyMN.gov
The event is open to the public.

To Schedule an Appointment:
redcrossblood.org (search for CityOfFridley)
or call 1 (800) RED-CROSS

 **American Red Cross**

Giving blood is a simple way to make a difference in someone's life.

Fridley Community Calendar

November

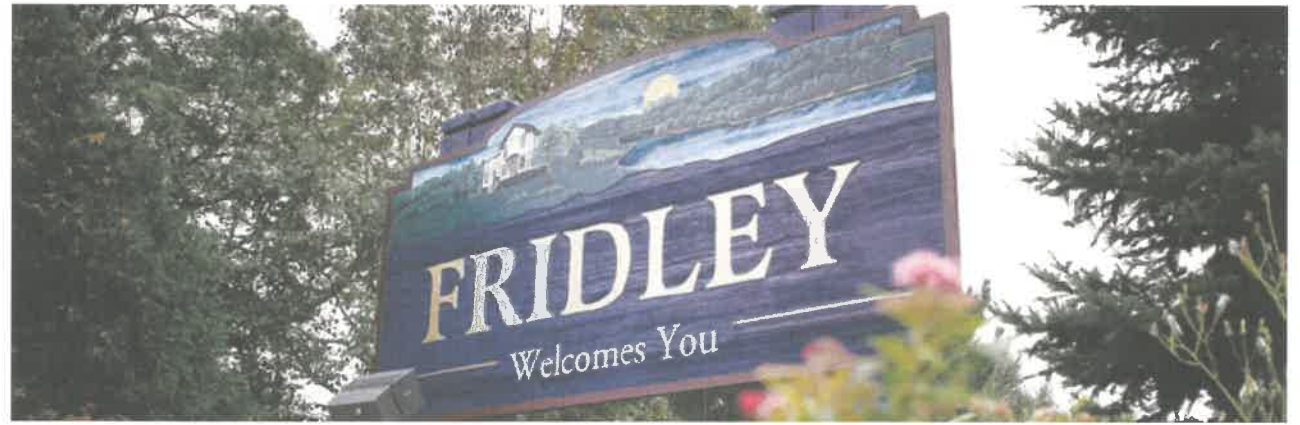
- November 2 | Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Meeting
- November 6 | Charter Commission Meeting
- November 6 | Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- November 10 | City Offices Closed in Observance of Veterans Day
- November 13 | City Council Meeting
- November 14 | Environmental & Energy Commission Meeting
- November 15 | Planning Commission Meeting
- November 23 & 24 | City Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- November 27 | City Council Meeting

December

- December 4 | Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- December 7 | Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Meeting
- December 11 | City Council Meeting
- December 12 | Environmental Quality & Energy Commission Meeting
- December 18 | City Council Meeting
- December 20 | Planning Commission Meeting
- December 25 | City Offices Closed for Christmas

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

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



Public Art Initiative Meeting Series

Thank you to all who participated in the public engagement process on Public Art. The City has long been interested in incorporating Public Art into public spaces, and like any good initiative, it starts with a plan. The Help Imagine Public Art in Fridley series of meetings were an opportunity to hear from you the people of Fridley what it is that you'd like to see in Fridley's Art Realm. People have different tastes and ideas and that is part of what makes art so interesting. If it inspires thought and discussion, it is doing what it should.

Gretchen Nicholls of Local initiative Support Corporation, the consulting facilitators to this process, said it well when she said, "Public art can be many things. An iconic and memorable sculpture, an engaging and interactive installation, a colorful and whimsical mural—the possibilities are endless. Public art can tell a story that connects you to the community."

The City of Fridley invited everyone, even those who did not live or work in Fridley, to offer ideas. It was an extremely important conversation to guide the development of a Public Art Plan. The Plan will ultimately find a home in the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Workshop I: Gathering ideas for a Fridley Public Art Plan was held on Thursday, September 7, 2023, and asked "When it comes to public art what do we already have, and what could further enhance the community?"

People learned about examples of public art and discussed potential themes, opportunities, and possible problems.

Workshop II: Panel Discussion: Learning from other city public art initiatives was held on Thursday, September 21, 2023, and included a panel of cities that have initiated their own public art plans who shared their processes, results, and lessons that were learned. There was also a discussion on what it would take to advance a public art plan that the community supports.

Workshop III: Create Final Recommendations was held on Thursday, October 5, 2023. In this final session, the consultant helped to define the recommendations for Fridley's public art plan, which will be submitted to the Fridley City Council and Planning Commission.

This initiative was sponsored by the City of Fridley, and all events were free and open to the public. A very generous offer has been made by an anonymous donor to purchase the first permanent piece of art to be added after creating the plan. More information about that piece of art will be shared as this process moves forward.

For more information, contact: Scott Hickok, Fridley Community Development Director, 763-572-3590 or Scott.Hickok@FridleyMN.com. Or visit FridleyMN.gov.

Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries

November is the time to "fall back" and change your clocks as daylight savings time ends. Fridley Public Safety recommends that November is a great time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

What You Need to Know

- Carbon monoxide alarms should be installed within 10 feet of each sleeping room or inside each sleeping room.
- Test alarm monthly.
- Follow the instructions on the package to properly install the CO alarm.
- If the battery is low, replace it.

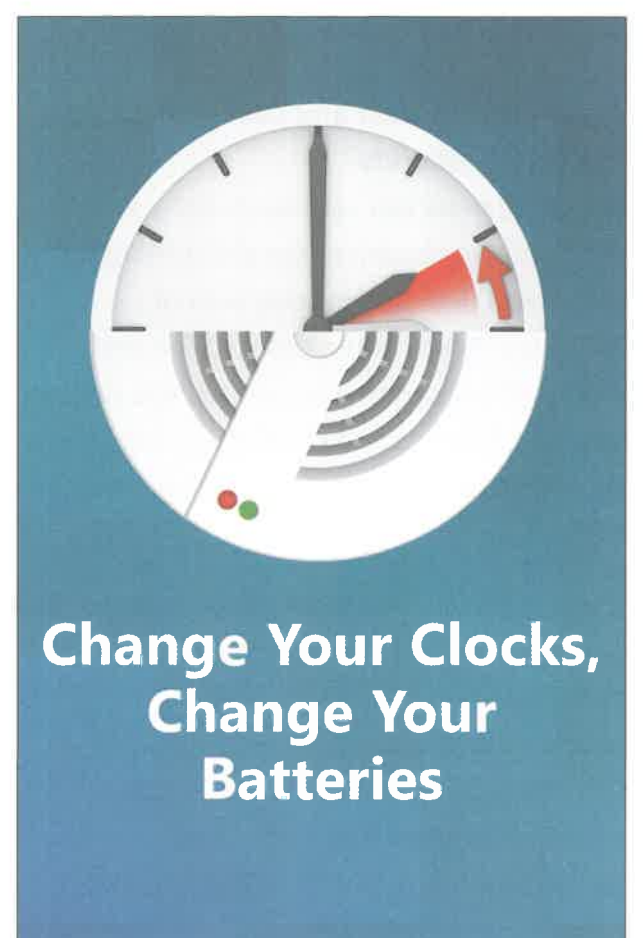
Prevent CO Poisoning

- When warming a vehicle, move it out of the garage. Opening the garage door is not enough.
- Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running

vehicle is not blocked by snow or anything else.

- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow buildup.
- A gas-powered generator should only be used outdoors and in a well-ventilated location away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Gas and charcoal grills can produce CO – only use them outside.
- Never use your oven or stove to heat your home.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional now, before the cold weather hits. Get yearly inspections.

For questions about fire safety and preventing CO poisoning, contact Fridley Fire division by email at FridleyFire@FridleyMN.gov or by calling 763-572-3613.





Summer Community Concert Series

The 2023 Fridley Community Concert Series was a success complete with music, food, activities and even dancing! Concerts were held June – August at the Civic Campus and Springbrook Nature Center, with an additional children’s concert held at the Fridley Middle School. Nine concerts were held with an average attendance of 200 per concert, a total of 1,820 concert-goers for the series!

Concert goers enjoyed the wonderful music, games from our Rec ‘N Roll mobile and food from local food trucks. The 2023 line up included a wide variety of genres from quality performers: Talking Strings Quintet, Anthony Miltich, Blue Groove Bluegrass, Mr. Winky Band, Craig Clark Band, The Inland Seas, The Everett Smithson Band, The Jolly Pops and

Madagascar JR (ETC Productions). Carlyne Naomi was scheduled to perform on August 22, but due to extreme heat the concert was cancelled—we hope to book her for next year.

This year a children’s musical joined the series. Madagascar JR, was held at Springbrook Nature Center in partnership with Anoka County Library Mississippi branch. The musical was performed by ETC Productions, which employs high school kids from the metro doing theatrical performances as their summer jobs. The show brought over 350 kids, adults and even a few summer care facilities to the park to watch this free event. It was a great time and we hope to have them back again next summer!

A few of the concerts this year partnered to bring some pre-concert activities. Fridley’s Public Safety Department joined the fun prior to July 11 concert offering free popsicles as part of Popsicles and Public Safety. The August 8 concert was themed, Music of the Mississippi with our community partners sharing information about Fridley’s connection to the Mississippi River, how to protect our water resources and even Zydeco dancing lessons!

We appreciate everyone who joined us for this year’s concerts! We look forward to welcoming you again at the 2024 Community Concert Series. Interested in performing for next year’s concert series? To be considered please submit an interest form at FridleyMN.gov/Rec.



Expanded Northstar Service

On October 2, Metro Transit began offering expanded weekly Northstar service, as well as service to Vikings home games through the Fridley Station. Learn how to ride the Northstar, purchase fares, and connect with other lines at metrotransit.org/northstar.

Southbound weekday schedule

Big Lake	Elk River	Ramsey	Anoka	Coon Rapids	Fridley	Target Field
5:30 a.m.	5:40 a.m.	5:46 a.m.	5:51 a.m.	5:55 a.m.	6:03 a.m.	6:22 a.m.
7:00 a.m.	7:10 a.m.	7:16 a.m.	7:21 a.m.	7:25 a.m.	7:33 a.m.	7:52 a.m.
7:50 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	8:06 a.m.	8:11 a.m.	8:15 a.m.	8:23 a.m.	8:42 a.m.
4:45 p.m.	4:55 p.m.	5:01 p.m.	5:06 p.m.	5:10 p.m.	5:18 p.m.	5:37 p.m.

Northbound weekday schedule

Target Field	Fridley	Coon Rapids	Anoka	Ramsey	Elk River	Big Lake
6:40 a.m.	6:54 a.m.	7:03 a.m.	7:07 a.m.	7:12 a.m.	7:17 a.m.	7:32 a.m.
3:38 p.m.	3:52 p.m.	4:01 p.m.	4:05 p.m.	4:10 p.m.	4:15 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
4:30 p.m.	4:44 p.m.	4:53 p.m.	4:57 p.m.	5:02 p.m.	5:07 p.m.	5:22 p.m.
5:50 p.m.	6:04 p.m.	6:13 p.m.	6:17 p.m.	6:22 p.m.	6:27 p.m.	6:42 p.m.

Recycling Dropoff and Paper Shredding Bonus Discounts in November!

Last Event of the Year:

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

Drop-off even more for free with bonus rebates in September and November. New: Free recycling of all small appliances + \$50 in discounts to get rid of mattresses, TVs, large electronics, appliances, tires and more. What can you recycle for free with \$50 in discounts?

- A queen mattress + box spring
- A treadmill
- Three large appliances
- 4 SUV tires
- A 31" inch TV

Plus, you can always recycle light bulbs, batteries, paper shredding, scrap metal, small engines, bicycles, electronic media, and handheld electronics for no cost. View a full price list at FridleyMN.gov/Dropoff.

- All Events are located at the Recycle Technologies Inc. facility from 8 a.m.- 12 p.m. Cash and Check Only. Drop-off entrance located at 1525 99th Ln NE.
- All Fridley residents receive \$50 off their total plus free recycling of many items including light bulbs, batteries, paper shredding and more.
- Visit FridleyMN.gov/Dropoff for a full list of items in pricing.



Fridley Civic Campus Celebrates Five Years

On Saturday, September 9, we held a celebration to commemorate five years at the Civic Campus! The event featured a touch-a-truck display with multiple vehicles, an electric vehicle showcase, live music performed by ROBOS, an inflatable bouncy house, food trucks and a variety of crafts and games for children and adults. During the celebration, City staff unveiled a bronzed medallion, designed by local artist Priya Rai, to mark the former location of Columbia Arena's center ice.

Thank you to Fridley ECFE, North Suburban Center for the Arts, Anoka County Library-Mississippi Branch, Fridley Girl Scouts, Schmitt Towing, White Bear Mitsubishi, electric vehicle owners, Great Plains Institute, Allina EMS,

Rustic Chef Food Truck, Mr. Taco and Flamingo's Ice cream for your contributions! You helped make this a great event for everyone.

Thank you to the 450+ community members who attended. It has been a wonderful first five years on this campus, and we are looking forward to many more!



Play in our Parks!

Each month, the Rec team invites you to get outside and play in our parks with a curated, FREE, family-friendly event.

November: All Ages Turkey Fun

All ages are welcome to join us for a fun afternoon as we play turkey bingo! We'll have turkeys, prizes and Thanksgiving food items to win! We will also have Turkey themed games and crafts. Get ready for a fun afternoon celebrating turkey day!

All ages Sat Nov 18 2-4 p.m. Free
Springbrook Nature Center

December: Skating, Sledding & S'mores

Join us for an afternoon of fun at Commons Park as we celebrate the start of winter skating season! Use free skates on the ice rink, sled down the giant hill and make a s'more over the fire. The warming house will be open for you to warm up, make a fun winter craft, and there will be music playing to keep the party festive (dancing is optional)!

All ages Fri Dec 29 1-3 p.m. Free
Commons Park Warming House

Adopt a Hydrant this Winter!

Fridley firefighters would like to remind residents about the importance of keeping neighborhood fire hydrants shoveled out and accessible to firefighters.

When fire hydrants become covered with snow, it can delay firefighters in securing a water source at a fire scene, when every second counts.

Keep an eye on hydrants.

Winter weather can create fire safety hazards, such as ice or heavy snowfall, that can obstruct fire hydrants. You can help reduce the risk by keeping fire hydrants accessible and clear of ice and snow.

Fire trucks carry a limited amount of water, so one of the first tasks upon arriving at a fire is to locate a water supply from the nearest hydrant. Hydrants covered in snow can be difficult to locate, and uncovering them can waste valuable time needed during the firefighting operations.

Keeping them clear can mean easier access to water and more time doing what really matters — fighting the fire.

How to keep fire hydrants clear.

In addition to removing snow and debris covering the hydrant itself, clearing a three-foot area around the hydrant for easier access is recommended.

Maintaining a shoveled path from the street, sidewalk or driveway to the fire hydrant is important so that it is visible from the road and firefighters can easily access it.

Who should clear hydrants?

Although there are few hard and fast rules concerning who should clear hydrants, it is generally considered the responsibility of the residents occupying the property near a hydrant.

Consider helping elderly friends, neighbors or those with medical conditions keep their fire hydrants clear. If you would like to adopt a fire hydrant in the City of Fridley, please visit our website at FridleyMN.gov/978/Adopt-A-Hydrant.

KEEP THEM CLEAR

Keep snow and ice 3 feet away from fire hydrants.

Every second counts. In case of fire, firefighters need to be able to get to hydrants quickly.

Add Energy to your Fall Checklist

Fall is a great time to complete some energy housekeeping tasks to make sure your home is ready for cooler weather.

Follow these tips to keep your home safe and efficient this winter:

- **Thermostats:** Review and update your programmable thermostat settings. Lowering your heat even a few degrees while you are away can result in measurable savings on your utility bills. **BONUS:** Looking for a smart thermostat? Buy one from the Xcel Energy store to get instant savings at PoweredByEFL.org/XcelEnergyMN. Sign up for AC Rewards Smart Thermostat Program and receive a \$25 annual bill credit for participating, plus a one-time \$100 enrollment bill credit. By participating, adjustments are made to your smart thermostat during the hottest summer days. Learn more about eligibility requirements at XcelEnergy.com/ACRewards.
- **Ceiling fans:** Reverse your ceiling fans' direction so that they rotate clockwise to push warmer air down.
- **Air filters:** Check and replace your furnace air filter.

- **Air leaks:** Check windows and exterior doors to drafts and air leaks. Seal them with weather-stripping.
- **Lights:** Replace any burned out bulbs with efficient LED bulbs.
- **Vents:** Check exterior dryer and heating vents to make sure they are clear of lint build up and debris.

Get help with all these tips and more from the Home Energy Squad and Energy Advisors!

Fridley residents who live in 1–4 unit homes get 50 percent off Home Energy Squad visits thanks to the City of Fridley HRA. Visits are free for income-qualified residents. Learn more and sign up online at XcelEnergy.com/HomeEnergySquad.

Following your Home Energy Squad visit, Energy Advisors will connect you with qualified contractors, specialized financing and utility rebates to make home energy projects easier. If you receive a recommendation to upgrade your insulation, the City of Fridley Housing and Redevelopment Authority is offering a bonus rebate for insulation projects (up to \$500)!



Water Efficiency Rebates

Time is running out to claim your water efficiency rebate. If you are purchasing a new washing machine, dishwasher, toilet or irrigation system this holiday season, make sure it is Energy Star or Water Sense labeled to get \$100-150 off your utility bill, and enjoy long-term water savings. Learn more at FridleyMN.gov/WaterRebate.

Are You Struggling to Pay Your Utility Bills?

The Energy Assistance Program can help pay for your electric or gas bill. Applications for the 2023-2024 Energy Assistance Program are now available through May 31, 2024. Contact Anoka County Community Action Program at 763-783-4747 or visit ACCAP.org. Recipients can also be referred for weatherization services, including improved insulation.

Smart Salting this Winter

Did you know one teaspoon of salt can permanently pollute five gallons of water? Salt and de-icers contain chlorides, which can enter our waterways as snow and ice melt. Springbrook Creek is already listed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as vulnerable to chloride contamination, and other Fridley waterbodies are close behind. Chloride contamination can kill fish and plants and cause drinking water to have a salty taste. If you use salt during the winter, please follow these smart salting tips from our partners at the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO):

- 1) More salt does not equal faster melting — just more pollution and wasted money. Shoot for a three-inch spread between salt granules. For \$10–\$20, a hand spreader can make the job easier and more accurate. To be more exact, try to apply no more than one pound per 250 square feet of pavement. (Tip: A regular-size coffee mug typically holds about 1 pound of salt.)
- 2) If you must apply salt or de-icer, clear off any loose and/or compacted snow first. Apply the product on ice only; do not apply it on dry pavement. Temperatures often drop after a snowstorm, so double-check the label on your salt or de-icer product to make sure it will work before you apply it (rock salt doesn't work below 15°F). You can use this table from the MWMO to check the lowest pavement temperature for different types of de-icers.
- 3) Sweep away any extra salt once the ice is gone to keep it from washing into the storm sewers.

Fridley businesses and institutions: Planning to store a large amount of salt this winter? All bulk salt storage must be located on an impervious surface and covered by a roof or securely fastened impermeable cover. Remember to sweep up any remaining salt or sand after the ice melts to help protect our water bodies.

Melting Agent	Lowest Melting Temp	Things to Know
Urea	20°F	Promotes algae growth in waterways; over-application can harm plants; slow-acting; relatively pet safe
Sodium Chloride (NaCl)	15°F	Harmful to plants; harmful to concrete; very corrosive to metal, cheap and abundant
Magnesium Chloride (MgCl2)	-10°F	Harmful to plants, corrosive to metal, relatively high cost
Potassium Acetate (KAc)	-15°F	Can cause surface slickness; lowers oxygen levels in waterways; biodegradable, relatively high cost
Calcium Chloride (CaCl2)	-20°F	Corrosive to metal; leaves slimy residue; less harmful to concrete
Sand	No melting	Provides traction only; potential pollutant; can be swept up and re-used



The City of Fridley is committed to reducing chloride pollution while ensuring the safety of our roadways. On September 20, all Fridley snowplow drivers received Level 1 Smart Salting certification through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.



Fridley Historical Society Presents Kindergarten Art Fair

On Saturday, December 9 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., the Fridley Historical Society is hosting their Kindergarten Art Fair at 611 Mississippi Street.

All kindergarten students from Stevenson and Hayes Elementary schools work with their school art specialists and display artwork from approximately 200 kids. There is an opportunity for photos with the artwork, refreshments and pictures with Santa.

SAVE THE DATE

winterfest



Saturday, January 20 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Springbrook Nature Center, 100 85th Avenue NE

Wander through our Winter Wonderland with activities for the whole family!

WINTER GEAR DRIVE:

Let's keep each other warm! We are accepting donations of gently used/new winter outerwear. Please make sure your items are clean and ready for their new home. All donated gear will be available free of charge during Winterfest. Donations can be dropped off at City Hall, Springbrook Nature Center or North Suburban Center for the Arts from December 1 - January 13.



Park System Improvement Plan Update

Moore Lake Park Building Progress

Moore Lake Park has served as a cornerstone of the Fridley community for decades and has provided a wonderful place to gather and enjoy the best of Minnesota's summer season. Through the public engagement process of Fridley's Park System Improvement Plan, staff heard that residents want unique places to gather and year-round recreation opportunities. The new Moore Lake Park has been completely reimagined and will deliver on what residents want from their parks.

A beautiful, new community building is well under construction, with completion expected in the spring 2024. This gathering space will offer the perfect location for meetings, celebrations and learning. The space will feature seating for about 70 people, with stunning views and access to all the necessary amenities such as restrooms, a kitchenette and audio-visual equipment.

Reservations are not yet available for this space, but staff is hard at work planning rental rates, hours and procedures for successful community use of this space. More information will be available soon!

In addition to the enclosed meeting and event room, the Moore Lake building will offer a covered plaza with informal seating and access to restrooms, water and park information. A vibrant new playground is adjacent to the building and will provide fun and excitement for park visitors.

Access to water will be provided for fishing and paddle sports and new courts will expand opportunities for basketball, pickleball and volleyball. Fridley Parks and Recreation will also host a variety of fun and engaging classes and events for youth, adults and seniors to enjoy.

2023 Neighborhood Parks Progress

The 2023 neighborhood park projects include Skyline Park, Ed Wilmes Park and Creek View Park. Each of these community spaces included new park shelters, playgrounds, courts, landscaping and more with input and inspiration from community members.

Thanks to the many who attended community engagement events over the summer to help plan our 2024 park projects including Logan, Edgewater Gardens, Sylvan Hills and Plymouth



Square Parks. It is clear that Fridley residents value their parks and that these spaces contribute to the quality of life in our community.

Next Steps

The next major park project after the completion of Moore Lake Park will be Commons Park. A robust community engagement effort will kick off in 2024 to reimagine this bustling park at the heart of Fridley. For current updates on all of our park projects, visit FridleyMN.gov/ParkPlan.

Winter Fun in Fridley – Skating, Sledding and Skiing

Did you know the City of Fridley creates and maintains nine general skating rinks and five hockey rinks throughout the city? It is a great way to spend time outside with family and friends! Use the rinks as an opportunity to brush up on your ice skating skills, learn to skate, play a pick-up game or to just have fun!

We need about 10 consecutive days of freezing temps in order to create safe and usable ice – a four inch even layer. Warm weather, freezing rain and even snow can slow the process, but we are on it and want to get those rinks ready as soon as possible.

Hours are weekdays 4 - 9 p.m.; weekends, and school-out days noon - 9 p.m.; and Holidays (Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day) from 12 - 4 p.m.

Cold Weather Guidelines

As a general guideline, we suggest cancelling outdoor activities if the temperature is 10 degrees below zero or colder or a minus 10 degree wind chill is present.

Sledding Hill – If you're looking for a great place to bring the sleds – try Commons Park! The sledding hill is located just beyond the playground and picnic shelter.

Warming House – The Commons Park Warming House will be open at the end of December (weather permitting)! Ice Skates of various types and sizes are available for the public to use FOR FREE! The warming house will be closed if unsafe ice conditions or extreme cold temperatures are present. Please check FridleyMN.gov/WinterParkUse for hours and opening day.

Location	General	Hockey
Briardale Park: 6171 Rice Creek Dr.	✘	
Commons Park: 555 - 61st Avenue NE		✘ (2)
Flanery Park: 1487 Onondaga Street		✘
Hackmann Park: 1071 Hackmann Circle	✘	
Hayes Elementary: 615 Mississippi Street		✘
Logan Park: 155 Logan Parkway	✘	
Madsen Park: 7358 - 73rd Avenue		✘
Ruth Circle Park: 9160 Ashton Avenue		✘
Sylvan Hills: 6205 Jupiter Dr	✘	
Plymouth Square Park: 4801 Main Street	✘	

