



# Fridley

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

NOV/DEC 2020  
NO. 227

Parks and Recreation  
Brochure Enclosed

We believe in a Fridley that is a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.

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

## What's Inside

Fridley Commission Member Retires.....	2
Home Improvement Loans.....	2
Homestead Classification.....	2
Where to Skate in Fridley.....	3
InterCity Energy Challenge.....	3
Development Updates.....	4
Save on Energy (and cost!) this Winter.....	5
Adopt a Hydrant This Winter!.....	5
5 Winter Driving Tips.....	5
Getting Around Town: Bump Outs.....	5
Winter Parking.....	5
Focus on Fridley.....	6
Stay Up-to-Date on City News.....	6
Home Alone Safety Tips for Kids.....	7
Fall Hikes in Fridley!.....	7
Snow and Ice Control in Fridley.....	7
Organics.....	7
November 14 Recycling Drop-off.....	7
SNC Foundation Welcomes New Directors..	8
Rental Applications for the New Pavilion Activity Center.....	8
Scoop the Poop!.....	8

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## Year in Review: A Message from Mayor Scott Lund

I feel thankful for our great community when I look back at this past year. COVID-19 has been one of the most life-changing events we have experienced in 2020. It has changed the way we live and interact with others. I am, however, very appreciative of the way our city has handled these changes through the Stay at Home order and Stay Safe MN phase. Our healthcare workers, Public Safety personnel, Public Works and other essential workers have worked tirelessly on the front lines to keep our community safe and healthy. Our businesses have made modifications in order to continue providing their services under new guidelines. The Fridley community has come together to support one another – from sharing basic essentials, to inventing new ways of connecting. Throughout, Fridley has stuck together, even when we have had to be apart. I am not sure what exactly the future holds with COVID-19, but I know our community will continue to persevere.

The social unrest that took place in Minneapolis following the death of George Floyd deeply affected our Fridley community. I heard from many residents who voiced their concerns and fears during this difficult time. Our City Council is grateful for the leadership and participation from the Citizen Advisory Group, which is made up of 20 individuals who either live or work in Fridley and are from diverse backgrounds, professions, ethnicities and experiences. The group has been meeting monthly since 2018 with our Public Safety Director Brian Weierke to learn about public safety, and to discuss crime, policies, and community needs. In addition to reviewing and commenting on important processes and policies like body cameras, they continue to provide important feedback and input, which makes a difference in how we can better serve our community.

I am so very proud of the volunteers that serve on our commissions and advisory groups like the Citizen Advisory Group and the Cops and Clergy Group. They dedicate their time and talents to help our community continue to dialogue over difficult topics, they help us to stay informed, remain relevant, and are a great part of what makes Fridley so very special.

In September, another hardship was brought upon our community when Fire Chief Mike Spencer unexpectedly passed away. We extend our deepest gratitude to Mike and his family for his many years of service to the Fridley community. As many have said, Mike will live on in the Fridley Fire family, and he will be with them in everything they do. He was a great leader who left his staff prepared for the future, but he will be greatly missed by the City and this community.

Even with hardship, there was still good that came out of 2020. In February, we gathered with the community at the Civic Campus as we celebrated a cherished piece of Fridley history, Columbia Arena. The event brought up old stories and memorabilia of past games, open skating and the Hollywood filming that took place there. At the event, there was a public art unveiling to showcase a new commemorative sculpture built with letters from the Columbia Arena sign. It is located in the lobby of the Fridley Civic Campus for all of us to enjoy.

This year also continued the trend for successful developments and redevelopments in Fridley. More businesses were welcomed to the community, such as Boot Barn and Caribou Coffee, with additional housing developments built by Pulte Patio Homes and Lennar Townhomes adjacent to the Civic Campus. We are excited as more business owners and residents are welcomed into our vibrant community. Many of us celebrated the fence coming down on University Avenue thanks to the input our community provided to the Minnesota Department of Transportation during the Highways 65 and 47 corridor study.

The *Finding Your Fun in Fridley* initiative has not slowed down, even with the pandemic. The abundance of our parks and outdoor spaces have never been more in demand. Our staff was inspired to find new and creative ways to have fun and social distance. At the same time, they continued to work on the Parks Master Plan by developing plans to revitalize and reimagine our parks and recreation opportunities throughout our community.

In November 2019, the Fridley Lions Club donated the last \$50,000 needed to complete the new picnic pavilion and activity center at Springbrook Nature Center. Construction of the pavilion was completed this summer and has already provided additional opportunities for programming, as well as a popular spot for outdoor picnics and gatherings. Thank you to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for a large grant, as well as the many donors and community partners like the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation who contributed so much to make this project possible!

Thank you again to the great Fridley community for working together to rise above the challenges of 2020 and to persevere with pride.

Stay safe and healthy. Happy New Year!

Mayor Scott Lund

Written Friday, September 25, 2020

## Remembering Chief Mike Spencer

As stated in the Mayor's article above, the City received the sad news of the unexpected passing of Deputy Director of Public Safety/Fire Chief Mike Spencer on Sunday, September 13.

Chief Spencer served the City of Fridley from October 1, 2006 to the time of his passing on September 13, 2020. He served Fridley Fire in a variety of capacities, including paid on-call, fire captain, fire marshal, and chief.

Thank you to the amazing Fridley community for your continued support during this difficult time. So many of you reached out to give your condolences, shared your stories of Mike, or honored him with red lights outside your homes in September.

Chief Spencer's funeral service was held on September 22 at Kozlak Radulovich Funeral Chapel. A recording of his service is available online at <https://youtu.be/7-wPjr3cU4>. His obituary can be found at [KozlakRadulovich.com](http://KozlakRadulovich.com).

Thank you for your service, Chief. Rest in peace – we will take it from here.



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## Fridley Commission Member Retires after 37 Years of Service

In our September/October edition, we recognized Roy Oquist for 46 years of service to Fridley Commissions. This edition, we highlight another long-time commission member, Brad Sielaff, on his retirement after 37 years of service.

We would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to both Roy and Brad for their many years of service to the City! Read on to learn more about Brad and check out our last edition for information on Roy.



### Tell us about yourself!

I retired from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in 2011 after 34 years. After retiring, I worked 7 years as gambling manager for the Fridley Lions. My wife and I have two grown sons who attended Fridley Schools.

### When did you move to Fridley?

We have lived in Fridley since 1981.

### How did you become involved in Fridley Commissions?

I first responded to an opening on the Energy Commission in 1983. I served on this commission through its merger with the Environmental Quality Commission until 2000. A few years later I joined the Cable Commission, followed by the Appeals Commission. By virtue of chairing the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission and the Appeals Commission, I served on the Planning Commission.

### What was your experience as a Commission member? What are some of the most memorable things you worked on?

On the Energy Commission, it was gratifying to promote energy conservation and help in the planning of energy fairs during times of accelerating energy costs. On the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission, it was satisfying to assist the City in applying and receiving State funding to restore Springbrook Nature Center wetlands. Finally, it was interesting to be involved in the planning of the Fridley Civic Complex while serving on the Planning Commission.

### Why is being part of a local commission important?

I believe commissions are important in promoting and advising the City on quality of life issues. The Planning Commission also has the important mission of seeking public input in creating a future vision of Fridley through comprehensive planning.

### What would you say to someone who is considering joining a Fridley commission?

I would say joining a commission would be a great opportunity to contribute and make a difference in their community. The more citizens that serve their community, the more it makes for a better and stronger community.

Learn more at [FridleyMN.gov/Commission](http://FridleyMN.gov/Commission).

**Thank you, Roy and Brad, for your many years of service!**



## Home Improvement Loans Available!

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

### Loan types

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

- **Low-interest Loan:** Available for single-family homes, eligible improvements include most interior or exterior maintenance or remodeling
- **Multi-family Exterior Loan:** 1-12 unit properties are eligible, improvements include corrections to code violations and exterior structure improvements
- **Emergency Deferred Loan:** 1-4 unit residential, owner-occupied properties are eligible, for properties who face emergency home repairs and are unable to obtain funds for repair through traditional loans
- **Mobile Home Improvement Loan:** Residential owner-occupied mobile homes are eligible. Most permanent interior and exterior improvements are included.

Visit [mncee.org/fridley](http://mncee.org/fridley) or call 612-335-5858 to learn more about the loans and how to apply.

### Free Remodeling Advisor Visits

Not sure where to begin? This FREE service for Fridley homeowners includes a visit to your home to assist with remodeling ideas, evaluate necessary repairs and improvements, and assist with reviewing bids. Call 651-328-6220 to schedule an appointment.

### Home Energy Squad Enhanced Visits

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

What to expect:

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

Visit [mncee.org/fridley](http://mncee.org/fridley) or call 612-328-6220 to schedule a virtual Home Energy Squad Visit. This program is provided by CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy in partnership with Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), a local non-profit, and supported by the Fridley HRA.

## Have You Applied for Homestead Classification Yet?

Over four hundred new homeowners will have become residents of Fridley before year's end, so we wanted to extend a friendly reminder to make timely application for homestead classification if you have not already done so. Homestead classification qualifies your property for a lower tax rate, a lower taxable market value, property tax refund, and/or special program eligibility. You must be a Minnesota resident to apply, occupy the home as your primary residence, and own the home. You can also apply for a Relative Homestead classification if a qualifying family member occupies the home. Visit [www.revenue.state.mn.us](http://www.revenue.state.mn.us) for more details.

To qualify for the 2021 taxes payable, you must occupy your home on or before December 1, 2020,

and make application before December 15, 2020. If you purchased your home this year, the title company that closed your sale usually will have prepared a package to assist you with homesteading that includes an application, a copy of your deed and a copy of the eCRV filed with the Minnesota Department of Revenue. All you need to do is carefully fill out the application and then drop the application, the deed and the eCRV off at the Anoka County Assessor's office located at 2100 3rd Avenue Room 119, Anoka, MN.

Residents can also check with the County Assessor to be certain that their home is currently homestead or not. You can check online at [AnokaCounty.us](http://AnokaCounty.us) or call 763-323-5400.



## Where to Skate in Fridley

Did you know the City of Fridley creates and maintains the general skating rinks and hockey rinks throughout the city? Ice skating is a great way to spend time outside with family and friends! Use the rinks as an opportunity to brush up on your 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 3 to 4 inch even layer. Warm weather, freezing rain and even snow can slow the process, but we will get those rinks ready as soon as possible.

Hours are weekdays 4:00 - 9:00 p.m.; weekends, and school-out days 12:00 - 9:00 p.m.; and holidays (Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day) from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

### Cold Weather Guidelines

As a general guideline, we suggest cancelling outdoor activities if temperatures fall below 10 degrees Fahrenheit or there is a wind chill of -25 degrees.

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

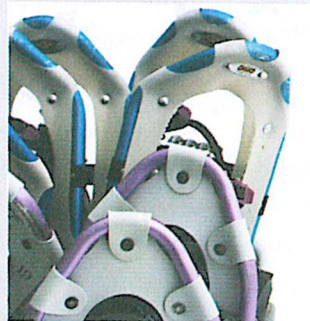
### Explore Springbrook Nature Center – Snowshoe Style!

Snowshoeing is the perfect way to enjoy the winter season at Springbrook Nature Center. We have several options for your next snowy adventure. Groups of up to nine people can sign up for a naturalist-led snowshoe hike by signing up for our Snowshoeing Outdoor Adventures program. It is perfect for friends and family, scout groups, or kids ages 5 and older.

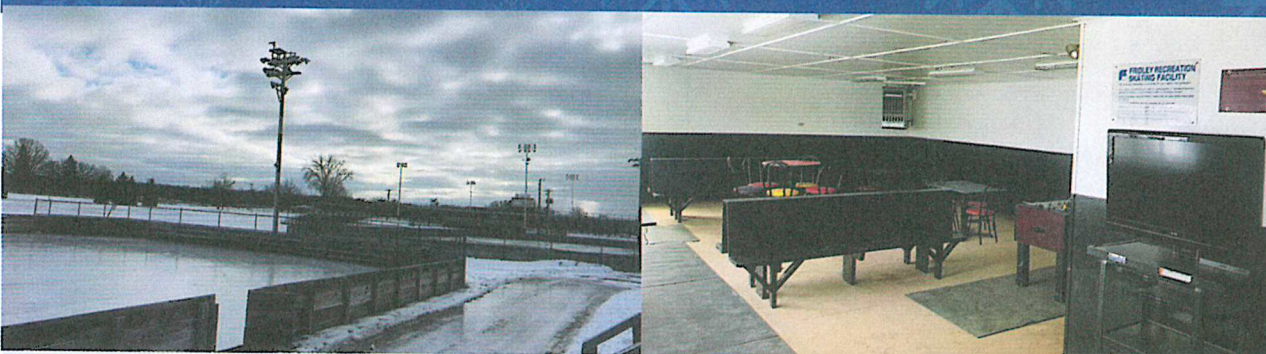
If you want to explore the Nature Center on your own, a variety of snowshoe sizes and styles can be rented for \$5 per pair. We do require a base of at least 3" of snow in order to offer classes or rentals.

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	✘	

\* Due to construction at Hayes, the rinks may be removed from this location.



## Stop by the Commons Park Warming House



The Commons Park Warming House will open at the end of December as ice/snow permit! Stop by for sledding and ice skating!

Hours will be:  
Weekdays: 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
Weekends, Holidays and School-out Days: 1:00 to 8:00 p.m.

## InterCity Energy Challenge

The 2020 InterCity Energy Challenge to complete the most Enhanced Home Energy Squad Visits is wrapping up at the end of December. At the time of publication, Fridley was in third place out of the 16 participating cities.

Get ready for winter with a Home Energy Squad visit to reduce your energy bill and push us higher in the standings. Free options are available, including a virtual visit open to all residents and an income-qualified visit that also includes connections to weatherization and appliance replacement services. Learn more at [FridleyMN.gov/Energy](http://FridleyMN.gov/Energy).





## Redevelopment of the Holly Center Receives Approval

The following land use items for Holly Center (6530 University Avenue NE) were approved by the City Council on September 28, 2020:

- **Rezoning Request to S-2, and Subsequent Master Plan** – The property is currently zoned C-3, General Shopping and the petitioner is requesting to have the property rezoned to S-2, Redevelopment District. When a property is zoned S-2, Redevelopment District, a master plan also needs to be approved for the site.
- **Plat** – In order to accommodate the redevelopment of the property, the petitioner would like to create two new lots.

Roers Companies was asking for approval of the above referenced land use items to allow for the construction of a 261-unit multi-family rental housing development and a 10,000 square foot free-standing commercial building.

The City’s 2030 Comprehensive Plan designates the subject property as redevelopment and the 2040 Comprehensive Plan further defines the redevelopment of the site as a mixed-use development of multi-family and commercial.

As described by the petitioner, the University Redevelopment is a transformation of an existing aged retail strip center into a new mixed-use development. The many on-site and in-unit amenities, the proximity to retail and recreational attractions, and the ease of access to transportation will make this

project stand out in the market. It will include a four-story workforce apartment community comprising of 261 residential apartments, 189 underground parking stalls, and 202 surface stalls.

A free-standing 10,000 square foot commercial building is also proposed to be constructed along the west side of the property, with 87 surface parking stalls.

As approved, the project will involve the construction of a 261-unit multi-family housing building which will be a mix of studios, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, and 3 bedrooms. A 10,000 square foot commercial building will also be constructed. Based on the City Code, 454 parking stalls are required for both uses. The petitioner is showing 478 total stalls on site, of which 189 of those will be underground; therefore meeting code requirements for parking.

The existing site is 366,588 square feet in size, and 86 percent of that is currently covered with impervious surface (building, parking areas). The proposed development includes the construction of two storm water ponds and an open space area, which reduces the impervious surface area to 60 percent of the overall site.

Access to the site will continue as it is today, with the slip-off from University Avenue and two access points on Mississippi Street. The slip-off from University Avenue has been redesigned and widened to allow fire truck access to the site. The location of the Mississippi Street access points will be modified slightly, but there will continue to be two. The one

that is furthest west will be a full intersection and the one to the east will be a right in/right out only.

The proposed multi-family building will be 4-stories with a height of 42 feet 6 inches. The R-3, Multi-Family and the C-3, General Shopping zoning districts requires a maximum height of 65 feet or 45 feet when within 50 feet of an R-1, Single Family zoning district. The petitioner is placing the building to abut the corner of University Avenue and Mississippi Street to achieve a similar feel of the other projects recently approved in the City’s Transit Oriented Development District. The building is this location also places the building further away from the residential homes to the north, which will create a nice buffer. The petitioner plans to keep and repair the existing fence and save as many trees as possible along the northern property line.

The petitioner proposes to mimic the fencing across the street at Christenson Crossing, with the brick bollards and iron fencing, on the corner and along University Avenue. Landscaping will also be installed along the edges of the development to add visual interest along this prominent intersection.

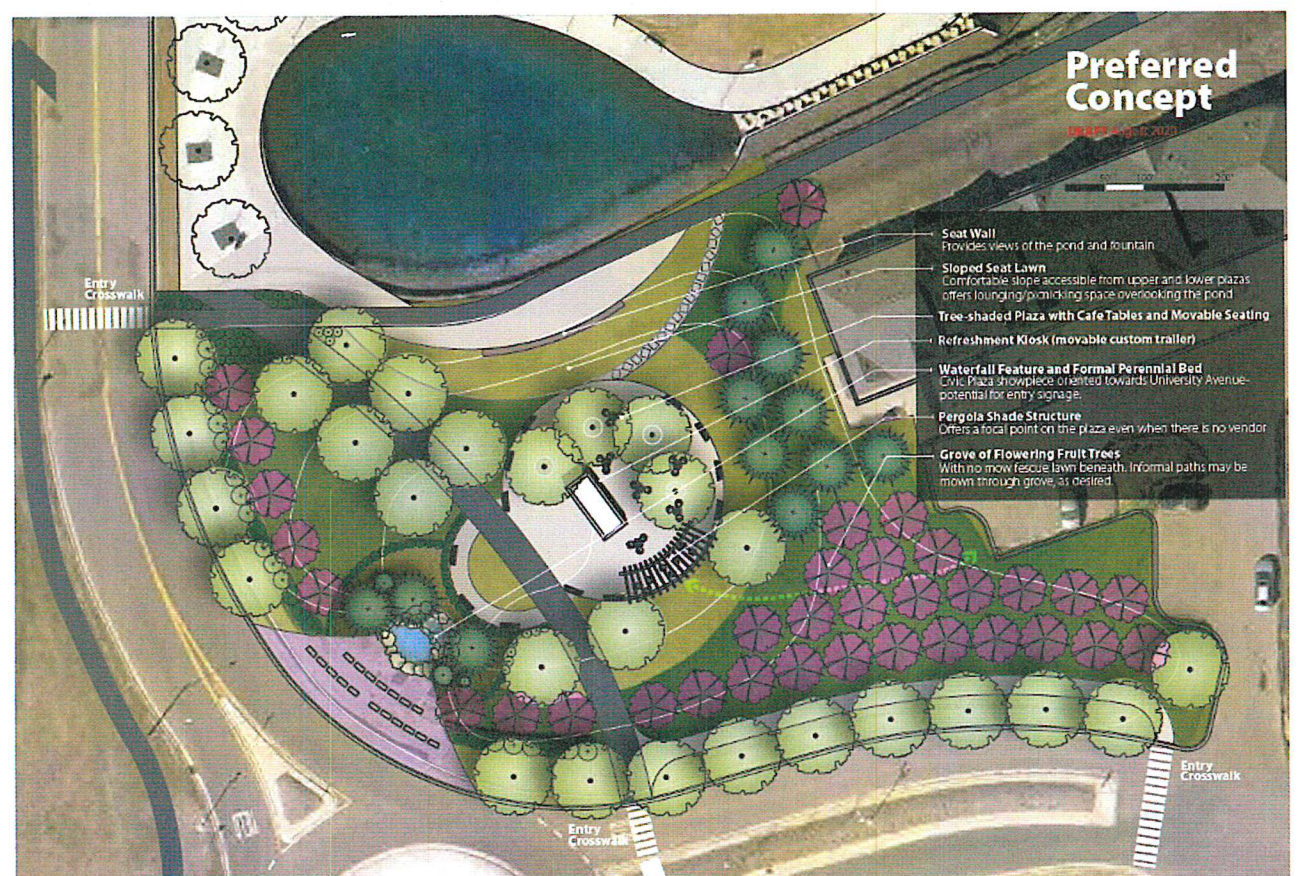
Council approved the second reading of the ordinance to rezone the property from C-3, General Shopping, to S-2, Redevelopment District at their September 28, 2020 meeting. Final Plat Approval occurred at the October 26, 2020 regularly-scheduled Council meeting and demolition of the Holly Center and site preparation for this project will occur in November.

### West Plaza on Civic Campus

As the street project near City Hall steps into high gear, so do the final concept plans for the west plaza open space on the Civic Campus. This space will serve as a resting spot, exercise area, gathering spot for friends, and eventually a spot to buy an ice cream treat or a cup of coffee. In the City’s 2021 Capital Investment Program (CIP), funds were set aside for the purchase of an ice cream concession trailer. It is our intent to provide the space and to seek a lease arrangement for the trailer with a business who is a purveyor of ice cream and refreshments.

The space itself will be planted with a variety of trees and flowers, an edible orchard (possibly), a variety of seating options from benches to sloped lawn, a water feature facing the roundabout, and Civic Campus identification signage.

Trails will be connected at this plaza also and whether on bike, in sneakers looking for a spot to rest, or even with no shoes at all, there will be surfaces to trek. One pathway into the plaza will be a series of stepping stones, similar to those between the two ponds nearby. Watch for more as this area develops.



## Save on Energy (and Cost!) this Winter: Check Out these Tips

During the winter, we tend to use more energy to keep us and our homes warm. Below are a few tips to save energy and money – all while still keeping your home comfortable during the cool months.

- Adjust the temperature, when you are asleep or out of the house. Turn your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours and save around 10 percent a year on your energy bill. A smart or programmable thermostat can make it even easier to adjust the temperature of your home.
  - o Xcel Energy offers rebates through their AC Rewards Smart Thermostat Program. Visit [XcelEnergy.com](http://XcelEnergy.com) under the Programs & Rebates section for more information.
- Turn the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120 degrees F) and save six percent a year on your energy bill compared to the default setting (140 degrees F).
- Cover drafty windows. Use window treatments such as a heavy, clear plastic sheet, or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frame. You can also schedule a Home Energy Squad visit which includes installation of weather stripping, an inspection of your insulation, and analysis for leaks, among other items – all for just \$50! Visit [FridleyMN.gov/HomeImprovements](http://FridleyMN.gov/HomeImprovements).



## Adopt a Hydrant This Winter!

When it comes to fighting fires, seconds can save lives. Make a difference by adopting a fire hydrant in your area this winter! It is easy to register online and maintain a hydrant. Fire hydrants must be cleared of three feet of snow to the left and right of the hydrant, and then cleared to the street.

Clearing a hydrant allows firefighters to quickly reach the water source and fight the fire. If a hydrant is not cleared, firefighters spend valuable time shoveling snow to be able to hook up their hose. If you want to make a big difference in a small way, here are two easy steps:

1. Register to adopt a hydrant in your area. Fill out a registration form online at [FridleyMN.gov/Hydrant](http://FridleyMN.gov/Hydrant) or during business hours, call 763-572-3613.
2. Keep your hydrant clear each time it snows. If you are already clearing your sidewalk or driveway, make a quick trip over to your hydrant and clear that, too!



## 5 Winter Driving Tips for a Safer Commute

1. Before you head out, check the news for weather conditions to determine if travel is safe.
2. Check road/traffic conditions before you head out with MnDOT 511 and take the safest route.
3. Brush all the snow off of your vehicle and make sure all of these apply:
  - a. You have full visibility out of your windows.
  - b. Headlights and tail lights are cleared to allow other motorists to see you.
  - c. Top of your car, hood and trunk are cleared so there is no snow blowing off your car to distract you and other drivers.
4. Increase following distances between your car and the car in front of you.
5. Slow down. The speed limit is the maximum speed of travel. Adjust your speed accordingly on icy or snow-covered roads.

For more information about driving safety tips, go to [mnsafetycouncil.org](http://mnsafetycouncil.org). To find out road conditions, go to [dot.state.mn.us](http://dot.state.mn.us) or [511mn.org](http://511mn.org).

## Getting Around Town: Bump Outs

In *Getting Around Town* we feature road projects and safety tips here in Fridley. Is there a road or traffic topic that you would like to learn more about? Let us know! This edition we are featuring bump outs.

### What's a bump out?

Bump outs, aka curb extensions, are a way to visually and physically narrow the roadway by extending the curb into the parking lane at strategic areas.

### What's the benefit of a bump out?

As we shared in last edition's *Getting Around Town* on road diets, overly wide streets can lead to increased rates of speeding, more distracted driving, and more

severe crashes. Bump outs can make the road feel narrower, which calms the traffic and reduces speeding down the street.

### Are there any other benefits of bump outs?

Bump outs at intersections create shorter crossings for pedestrians and improve safety by making them more visible. Bump outs can also be used to better define the parking lane versus the travel lane.

### What do you put in a bump out?

Bump outs can be paved or landscaped. Some bump outs in Fridley are planted with trees, or excavated to capture and infiltrate stormwater.

### Where can I see a bump out in Fridley?

Bump outs were used for traffic calming and stormwater management in the 2015 street project on 3rd Street between 49th Avenue and 53rd Avenue.



## Winter Parking in Effect November 1 – April 1

Friendly reminder: Fridley does not declare snow emergencies. From November 1 through April 1, however, it is a violation to park any vehicle on city streets between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.

It is a violation to stop, park or leave standing a vehicle in such a manner as to impede the plowing or removal of snow, ice or waste from public streets or highways regardless of date or time.

Violators will be tagged and towed, and subject to storage charges.

Fridley City Code, Chapter 506.05



## Vibrant neighborhoods and places

### Financial Stability and Commercial Prosperity

### Organizational Excellence

### Community Identity and Relationship Building

### Public Safety and Environmental Stewardship

## Focus on Fridley: Financial Stability and Commercial Prosperity

At the end of 2019, we announced the City Council's new *Focus on Fridley* initiative in which they identified five key focus areas for the City Council, City staff and the community to focus on moving forward. Throughout 2020, we have been covering each area in a separate, more detailed article. In this edition, we will be talking about Financial Stability and Commercial Prosperity.

Financial stability is an important area as it maintains the success of local government and reinforces a trusting relationship with the community. One measurable aspect of financial stability is the City's credit rating. On a regular basis, or upon the issuance of debt for a larger capital project (e.g. Fridley Civic Campus), the City seeks a credit rating. The rating generally describes the creditworthiness of the City as a borrower. This is very similar to your own personal credit score. An external rating agency helps the lender understand the likelihood that the City will be able to honor its financial commitments and repay the loan. At present, three organizations provide credit rating services. The City utilizes Moody's Investors Services.

Ratings are evaluated by several criteria, including the local economy/tax base, finances and reserves of the organization, management practices of the City Council and City staff and outstanding debt/pension obligations. Using these criteria, Moody's rated the City an Aa2, which is the third highest credit rating. The rating indicates the agency considers the City and its debt to be of high quality and subject to a very low risk to default. Generally, a local government aims to be in one of the top four ratings to be considered a prime investment opportunity. Moody's noted that they gave the City a high rating because of the large and growing commercial and residential tax base, strong management and operating performance, consistently balanced budget, and healthy financial reserves.

Just as importantly, the City was able to maintain its financial position and support an expanding tax base while also preserving competitive property tax and public utility rates. "The City Council and staff strive to maintain these competitive rates. We actively consider changes in the property taxes and public utility rates as part of any budget or financial discussion," explained Councilmember Stephen Eggert.

The City's municipal liquor stores also contribute to financial stability by investing profits back into the community. In 2019, Fridley Liquor provided almost \$390,000 for City operations, park improvements, and equipment purchases. Fridley Liquor has retained a strong position in the marketplace through excellent service, programming and product selection. For the third year, Fridley Liquor is on track to have record-breaking sales. As profits increase, so do the opportunities for Fridley Liquor to expand its role in the community. Currently, Fridley Liquor is providing educational opportunities with a Business Operations Internship, working with the state and a non-profit organization to provide employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, dedicating a percentage of net profits to be invested back into the community for social responsibility-related programs and partnering with local non-profit organizations to assist with fundraising.

The second part of the focus area related to success in our commercial industry. Over the past several years, the City of Fridley has had an incredible run of development and more commonly, redevelopment. Fifty years ago, Fridley was experiencing a similar situation as the community developed around the rail system and major industries made their homes in Fridley. Fridley is currently experiencing development and redevelopment as business spaces are being revitalized.

Fridley is also home to many older, established businesses. A few examples of long-standing businesses within our community include:

- APG Cash Drawer provides cash register drawers and money management solutions for nearly every checkout location, as well as manufacture sanitary items such as sneeze guards. They have been located in Fridley for 42 years.
- Minco Industries is another success story that first started in Fridley 64 years ago and has since grown its campus in the area. They are in the medical device industry and have clients all over the world. In late September 2020, Governor Walz awarded Minco with the Large Manufacturer, Manufacturer of the Year award.
- EJ Ajax made its home in Fridley 75 years ago and created a multi-building entity as it expanded. They are a metal stamping, metal fabricating, tool and die industry that has a global client base.

Our community continues to be an industrial powerhouse in the region. As Fridley remains a place to establish or grow a business, it also drives the demand for residential housing. In the last 25 years, the City of Fridley has added \$1.06 billion in building valuation to its tax base. People who were contemplating bringing their businesses or developments to Fridley have been encouraged by recent successes that they have seen. Simply put, development brings other development. Our history and continued success have given Fridley a strong market identity today.

We realize we are covering two large topics in just a few paragraphs. If you have questions or ideas about anything stated in the article, please reach out to [info@FridleyMN.gov](mailto:info@FridleyMN.gov) or call 763-571-3450.

## Stay Up-to-Date on City News – Connect with the City of Fridley!

- Like us on Facebook (City of Fridley, Springbrook Nature Center and City of Fridley Public Safety)
- Follow us on Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn
- Watch City Programming – Search Fridley Municipal TV on YouTube
- Sign up for email notifications on [FridleyMN.gov](http://FridleyMN.gov)
- Find job opportunities at [FridleyMN.gov/Jobs](http://FridleyMN.gov/Jobs)



## Home Alone Safety Tips for Kids

1. Post emergency phone numbers where children can see it. Include 9-1-1, the parents' work and cell numbers, numbers for neighbors, and anyone else who is nearby and trusted.
2. Have and practice a fire evacuation plan. Make sure that all of the smoke detectors work. Review emergency exits and discuss pathways to safety from each room in the house. In the event of a fire, children should 1) get out of the house immediately, then 2) call 911 from a neighbor's house or cell phone.
3. Schedule check-ins. Make it a rule that your children call a parent (or other adult that you designate), or leaves you a message at designated times throughout the day and if they leave/return home.
4. Your children should not leave the house unless it has been cleared with you first or there is an emergency such as a fire.
5. Remove or safely store weapons and ammunition in locked areas.
6. Have a first aid kit handy and review it with your children.



7. Lock the doors, and if the home has an electronic security system, children should learn how to turn it on and have it on when home alone.
8. Never open the door to strangers. Always check before opening the door to anyone, by either looking out through a peephole or window.
9. Children should not talk about being home alone on social media.
10. Keep them busy. Children are less likely to get into trouble if they are occupied with homework, chores and other activities.

## Fall Hikes in Fridley!

Our Recreation team put together a list of some of their favorite fall spots in Fridley. Check them out!

**Innsbruck Nature Center:** Get away for the suburbs and into nature in just minutes. The Innsbruck Nature Center is a 24-acre space filled with walking/hiking trails that are primarily a wooded area, flourishing with fall colors. The park is located at 5815 Arthur Street.

**Riverview Heights:** Hike/walk along the Mighty Mississippi with the .4-mile trail in Riverview Heights. There are beautiful fall scenes that will make you stop and admire the surroundings. Park here and continue walking on the Mississippi River Trail, which connects with Riverview's trail. Riverview Heights Park is located at 487 79th Avenue.

**Meadowlands:** Meadowlands Park is a 9.9-acre neighborhood park with playground equipment, a picnic shelter, and open play area. With short walking trail that surrounds you with fall colors, it is a perfect area for a fall picnic with the family. Meadowlands Park is located at 6641 Kennaston Drive.



## Snowplow Safety Tips

- Call 511 or visit 511mn.org before leaving on your trip to get current road conditions. Plan for longer trip times during and after storms.
- Turn on your headlights, wear your seat belt, and avoid distractions and devices when driving.
- Slow down! Conditions require more space for you to stop.
- Never drive into a snow cloud.
- Do not stand or allow children to play near the roadway when a snowplow is approaching.
- Give plow operators a lot of room—they must turn, stop, and back up frequently.

## Fridley Community Calendar

### November

- 2 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- 3 Election Day for General Election
- 5 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 9 City Council Meeting
- 10 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission
- 11 City Offices Closed for Veterans Day
- 16 Charter Commission
- 18 Planning Commission Meeting
- 23 City Council Meeting
- 26 & 27 City Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

### December

- 3 Housing and Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 7 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- 8 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission Meeting
- 14 City Council Meeting
- 16 Planning Commission Meeting
- 21 City Council Meeting
- 24 & 25 City Offices Closed in Observance of Christmas

**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.

## Organics – Just \$10.30 per month!

Give thanks, not waste! Sign up for the organics recycling program in November and receive a credit for three free months on your second bill. Participants in the organics recycling program send their food waste (including turkey bones, potato peels, half-eaten cranberry sauce, and more!), paper towels, and certified compostable products to a commercial composting program instead of the landfill.

On average, each household in the program is keeping more than 500 pounds of trash out of the landfill each year. Learn more at [FridleyMN.gov/Organics](http://FridleyMN.gov/Organics). Make sure to sign up by November 16 so that your cart arrives in time to collect all of your Thanksgiving leftovers.

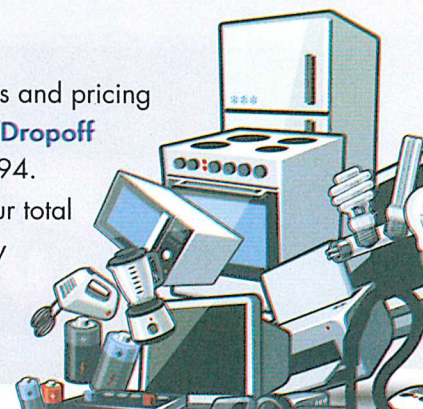
## November 14 Recycling Drop-Off

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Join us for our last 2020 Recycling Drop-Off 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.

View accepted items and pricing at [FridleyMN.gov/Dropoff](http://FridleyMN.gov/Dropoff) or call 763-572-3594.

Receive \$15 off your total with proof of Fridley residency (license, water bill, etc.).



## Springbrook Nature Center Foundation Welcomes New Directors



Did you know that Springbrook Nature Center has a non-profit group, the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation? The foundation is a non-profit, tax exempt organization that is dedicated to enhancing Springbrook Nature Center. Board members are volunteers and serve three-year renewable terms.

This group of talented and dedicated community members provide service as volunteers to help with fundraising, planning events and representing the Nature Center at community events.

The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation recently welcomed seven new Board members to their ranks, and is moving forward with many exciting projects and initiatives.

One way to support the efforts of this group is to make a donation on GIVEMN.org on Give to the Max Day on November 19, 2020. Contributions help the Nature Center purchase education materials, as well as provide scholarships to underserved youth to attend summer camps.

Board members include:

- Gary Bank – New Brighton
- Amy Collura – South St. Paul
- Jill Genaw – Shoreview
- Jerry Hartlaub – New Brighton
- Neal Hayford – Brooklyn Center
- Ed Meyer – Vadnais Heights

- Kathryn Olson – Lino Lakes
- Julie Richardson – Dresser, WI
- Pushkar Vaidya – Blaine
- Renae Wrich – Blaine
- Hatice Bligic-Lim – New Brighton
- Jami Bornetun – Ramsey
- Allison Egan – Fridley
- Amy DeNoyer-Hickey – Columbia Heights
- Ross Meisner – Fridley
- Kim Tillberry – Fridley
- Richard Walch – Fridley
- Jan Wright – Fridley
- Mary Wright – Fridley



## Springbrook Nature Center is Now Accepting Rental Applications for the New Pavilion Activity Center

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

This project was completed through the hard work and contributions of many in our community. The City of Fridley, Minnesota DNR, Springbrook Nature Center Foundation along with a variety of community groups, local business and individuals all chipped in to turn the pavilion from vision into to reality.

Thank you to the many sponsors that contributed to the construction of the Pavilion Activity Center:

- BNSF Railway Foundation
- Bolton & Menk
- City of Fridley
- Fridley Lions Club
- J.J. Taylor Distributing Co. of MN Inc.
- McGough Construction Co.
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Park Construction Co.
- Parsons Electric
- RAO Manufacturing
- Springbrook Nature Center Foundation
- Total Air Inc.
- United Surface Preparation
- Vision Woodworking

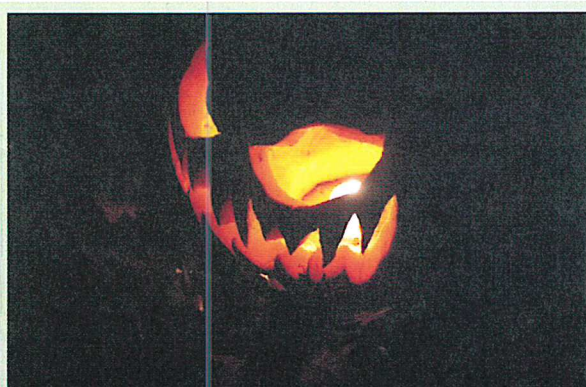
## Scoop the Poop!

### Prevent Bacteria in Our Waterways

Pet owners, help keep our waterways free of bacteria by remembering to “scoop the poop.” While no one enjoys picking up after their pet in the cold, waiting until the spring thaw results in E. coli bacteria and other pollutants from pet waste washing into our stormsewer system with the snowmelt. Storm sewers can discharge the pollutants into our lakes, creeks, and the river where they harm aquatic insect and fish communities. The bacteria can also cause problems for recreation like swimming and fishing and are the primary cause of beach closures. Help do your part by “scooping the poop” through the winter.



**Did you know?** Coon Creek Watershed District has installed an experimental filter at Springbrook Nature Center using a weir across Springbrook Creek near the railroad tracks. This filter tests how effectively different materials remove pollutants like bacteria and phosphorus from the water. While you are out near the floating boardwalk at the Nature Center, look for the sign that explains how the filter works!



## Pumpkin Recycling

November 1 - 19

Springbrook Nature Center Parking Lot

The pumpkin dumpster will be back at Springbrook Nature Center from November 1 - 19. Toss your pumpkins in the dumpster, and they will be recycled into compost. Our goal this year is two tons of pumpkins!

## Holiday Lights

December 1 - January 29

Fridley Civic Campus

We will be collecting broken and non-working holiday lights for recycling December 1 through January 29. 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.