



# Fridley

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Parks and Recreation  
Brochure Enclosed

JULY/AUGUST 2019  
NO. 219

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

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Fridley, MN 55432  
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Mayor – Scott J. Lund  
Councilmember-at-Large – Robert L. Barnette  
Councilmember 1st Ward – Tom Tillberry  
Councilmember 2nd Ward – Steve Eggert  
Councilmember 3rd Ward – Ann R. Bolkcom  
City Manager – Wally Wysopal

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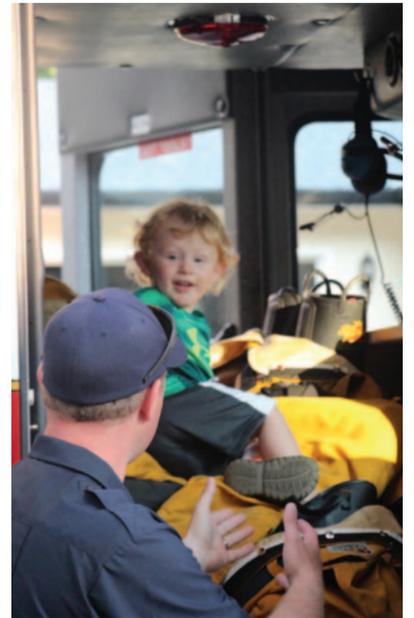
## Stay Connected!

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## Register Your Party for Night to Unite!

Save the date! Tuesday, August 6 from 6-9 p.m.

Registration forms are available at the Fridley Public Safety front desk or online at FridleyMN.gov/NightToUnite from July 1 at 8 a.m. until July 31 at 4:30 p.m. If you want the city to provide street barricades, you must submit your form with all the affected neighbors' signatures of consent, by July 23 at 4:30 p.m.

There will be a pick-up event on August 5 from 3-6 p.m. Registered block party hosts can stop by City Hall to pickup free giveaways to enhance their parties. This year, block parties are encouraged to collect food that will be donated to Southern Anoka County Community Assistance (SACA). If you have any questions, contact Crime Prevention Specialist Courtney Miller at courtney.miller@FridleyMN.gov.



## Help Develop the Future of Our Parks and Trails: Community Workshops

Attend one or all of our community workshops to help define the future of Fridley's parks and trails! You will have the opportunity to help guide the future of our outdoor recreation spaces. The City has hired Twin Cities LISC, the same contractor who organized the Highway 47 and 65 meetings, to create the public input process. By using a third-party contractor, the city is facilitating a more citizen-centered plan that takes into full consideration what residents want for their community. A series of four workshops was created for the public to attend, one of which took place in June. Three workshops remain. *We encourage you to attend any or all three remaining workshops.*

Each session focuses on a specific part of community engagement:

- **Workshop II, July 11** - Join your neighbors in an interactive workshop to consider options for different

types of parks located throughout the city. How can the parks system best respond to the needs of the community?

- **Workshop III, July 25** - A panel of experts will reflect on the options produced in Workshop II and consider what it will take to achieve our ideas. The panel will respond to questions from the community, and share their insights and experience.
- **Workshop IV, August 8** - Help define the recommendations for Fridley's Parks Master Plan, which will be submitted to the Fridley City Council and Parks & Recreation Commission.

\* Childcare will be provided by request only. Please RSVP to Gretchen Nicholls at 651-265-2280 one week in advance of each workshop if you would like to request childcare.

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## 2019 Real Estate Market Strong Again

The City of Fridley is enjoying another strong start in the real estate market of 2019. Year over year price gains for the first several months of 2019 indicate an increase in sale prices of 10 percent over the same period in 2018. The amount of time it takes for a house to sell remains the same as 2018, with an average of 18 days. Sellers also continue to receive slightly over the asking price with a list to sale price ratio of 101 percent. There are 24 percent fewer sales than the same period in 2018 and there are fewer listings than last year at this time. Homes below \$250,000 are driving the market and typically experience multiple offers at or above the listing price with some offsetting seller concessions for buyer closing costs. The \$250,000 to \$350,000 bracket is experiencing shorter marketing times than last year and sellers are getting at or above 99 percent of the listing price.

### How is Fridley doing compared with neighboring communities?

Blaine is seeing a 3.5 percent gain; Columbia Heights is at 6 percent; Coon Rapids is at 5.5 percent; Mounds View is at 3.5 percent; New Brighton is at 3.75 percent; Spring Lake Park is at 2 percent; Brooklyn Center is at 4 percent and Brooklyn Park is at a 7 percent gain over price levels for the same period in 2018. These communities are experiencing an average of 23 days to sell a home and sellers are most often getting 100 percent of the asking price.

As of mid-May, Fridley currently has 45 homes on the market and 28 already have offers. Of the neighboring communities, all except for Blaine have more pending home sales than active listings - which is evidence of a sellers' market and an indicator that the market is still driven by a diminished supply. Fridley has 41 pending sales at this time but is still considered short on supply of available homes to meet buyer demand. A six month supply of homes is considered a balanced market; the city currently has a two month supply.

### Does this thriving market have an impact on me if I am not in the market to sell?

Yes, for a number of reasons. The rising price of homes similar to yours provides additional equity which may open up new avenues of credit for needed repairs or desired updates. Increased equity can also be tapped to finance an education or purchase a new vehicle, but caution should be used and it is recommended that you consult with a financial advisor before tapping into your home's equity. Others can refinance their homes because they now meet desired loan to value ratios of their lender. Rising home values also promote home ownership, which usually has a stabilizing effect on a neighborhood.

## Adopt a Drain in Your Neighborhood!

Where does the rain go? Fridley storm sewers drain into our waterbodies such as Rice Creek, Moore Lake, and the Mississippi River. When leaves, sediment, and other debris wash down the storm drain, it can pollute these waterbodies, worsen flooding, and cause algal blooms.

A new metro-wide initiative called "Adopt-A-Drain" encourages residents to "adopt" their nearby storm drains and keep them clear. This fun volunteer activity takes just a few minutes per week and is great for individuals, neighborhood associations, or youth groups. Sign up to help protect Fridley's waterbodies at [adopt-a-drain.org](http://adopt-a-drain.org)!



## Madsen Park wins MN Timberwolves "Our Courts. Our Future." Competition

Thank you to our entire community and neighbors for supporting Fridley by voting and encouraging others to vote for Madsen Park! We are excited to announce that Madsen Park will be the recipient of a revamped basketball court through the Minnesota Timberwolves and U.S. Bank "Our Courts. Our Future." program. And, we could not have done it without you!

To get to the winner's circle, the City first submitted a thorough application and was then selected as a nominee to have the chance to win a new basketball court. Online voting was open for three weeks and allowed anyone to vote for one park per region, per day. Our community, the smallest of the three within

the Twin Cities region, churned out the largest number of votes! This is a huge testament to our community, friends, families, and networks!

The Timberwolves have released a press release and video announcing each of the four winning parks in Minnesota. In addition to Fridley's Madsen Park, the other winning basketball courts are in Thief River Falls, Little Falls, and Marshall. You can find the press release and video on the Timberwolves' Facebook account.

More details will follow in the coming weeks, but we can expect to receive this new basketball court by the end of September! Stay tuned for more information on an upcoming ribbon cutting celebration.

## 2019 is the Year of Energy: Fridley Residents' Testimonial on Electric Vehicles

Current Fridley residents, Justin and Amy Dritz own two electric vehicles. Amy also serves on the city's Environmental Quality and Energy Commission. Below is a question and answer session about their experience with electric vehicles.

### 1. What type of electric vehicles (EVs) do you own/have you owned?

Currently, we own a Chevy Volt (Plug-in Hybrid) & Chevy Bolt EV (Plug-in All Electric). Our past car was a Cadillac ELR (Plug-in Hybrid).

### 2. What motivated you to buy an electric vehicle?

In 2013, we had to replace one of our old gasoline-engine vehicles. We knew we wanted at least a hybrid for lower emissions and savings on fuel costs. The plug-in hybrid was a great option that gave us the flexibility to run our vehicle almost exclusively on electricity for trips around town, but had the convenience of using gasoline for long trips. Once we had some experience driving electric, we knew our next vehicle would be all-electric. The performance and overall all driving experience has been great!

### 3. What was the process like for buying an electric vehicle? How do you charge it?

We tend to do our research, and in 2013, EVs were fairly new and poorly understood (and still are today to some extent). We went in well prepared, having reviewed message boards and forums online, and ended up knowing more than the sales rep! Some dealerships have stepped up their game and now have at least one sales person who is knowledgeable on EVs to help answer questions.

Charging is primarily done at home. We just pull our cars into the garage, plug in, and have a full battery in the morning. Our daily driving is pretty low, so we could probably get away with using a standard 120V outlet to charge up overnight, but we did opt to get a 220V wall-mount station (also known as Level 2 charging) for faster charging. Our all-electric vehicle also has the option to use the DCFC (fast charging stations) which we have used occasionally for trips to Duluth.

### 4. What are the biggest differences between driving an electric vehicle and a gas-powered vehicle?

Quiet. There is no noise even with heavy acceleration. We have grown quite accustomed to how silent and smooth the drive is, and always get a bit sad when the back-up gasoline engine in our hybrid comes on. After all it is the future, cars do not have to go "Vroom..." they can go "Wooosh"! But really, it is a



car and drives pretty much like any other car... just quieter and cleaner.

There is also a lot less maintenance on electric vehicles. The first major service cycle on some EVs is not until 250K miles (other than standard tire rotations). It is nice to not have to deal with oil changes, and even the brakes have an extended life because much of the braking is done by the engine (regenerative braking) to recapture some of the energy.

It is also great to never have to pump gas - especially when the temperature drops below zero. Oh, and in case you are wondering, EVs start just fine (in fact better) in Minnesota winters, and they handle snow like any similar model car. They also have the added weight from the batteries, which can be a plus.

### 5. What would you recommend to someone considering buying an electric vehicle?

Think about how much you drive, both daily and occasionally. It is worth seeing if one or more cars in your household can benefit going electric. The average person's daily drive is only 40 miles, and with EVs now easily reaching ranges of 150-250 miles on a single charge and with costs coming down, the total cost of ownership is on par or below their gasoline counterparts.

EVs can save you money and create cleaner air for your neighborhood and everyone overall. EVs are also just plain fun to drive with quick acceleration and a low center of gravity.

### 6. Is there anything else about electric vehicles that you would like to share?

Go drive one! Visit a dealership or check out an EV owners' group. At least consider some type of plug-in vehicle the next time you are looking to purchase a car (new or used). A great local resource to find out more about electric vehicles, charging, models available, and a list of recommended sales people is [www.pluginconnect.com](http://www.pluginconnect.com).



## Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Fridley

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) confirmed the presence of emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation in the City of Fridley on May 7. Residents with ash trees in their yards should plan to chemically protect their tree against infestation or replace the tree before it becomes a safety hazard.

### What is Emerald Ash Borer?

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle from Asia. It was first discovered in the United States during the summer of 2002 near Detroit, Michigan, and was confirmed in Fridley in May 2019. EAB has quickly become one of the most destructive and costly insect pests in urban forest history.

EAB larvae feed on the inner bark of ash trees which disrupts the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. Once an ash tree is infested, it has almost zero chance of survival. EAB causes ash trees to die quickly, which results in the tree becoming a significant safety hazard.

### What do ash trees look like?

Ash trees have compound leaves, with all of the leaflets opposite each other. Bark on mature ash trees has a distinct pattern of diamond shaped ridges. Many ash trees were planted in Fridley after Dutch Elm Disease and the 1965 tornado. It is estimated that 30 percent of the City's shade trees are ash.

### What is the City doing?

The City Council approved an EAB Mitigation Plan in 2018. As part of this plan, the City began removing low quality ash trees in 2018 and replacing them with diverse tree species. The City will begin treating high quality ash trees in 2019 to prevent infestation, using

the contractor Rainbow Treecare. The City received a \$28,000 grant from the DNR to support EAB mitigation activities in 2018. The City has planted more than 500 trees in the past three years to preserve the benefits of the City's urban forest. When selecting trees, the City plants a diversity of tree species to create a more resilient forest.

### What are my choices if I have an ash tree?

If you have an ash tree, now is the time to decide what to do. Ash trees can be removed or protected. Trees that are removed should be replaced with a new tree to preserve our urban forest. The City is encouraging residents to treat large, well-placed, healthy, private ash trees as part of an EAB treatment program.

Residents interested in chemical treatment should contact a licensed arborist to chemically inject the tree. Non-injected forms of treatment are more likely to negatively impact pollinators and water quality. As part of the City's contract to treat high-quality ash trees, Rainbow Treecare is offering a bulk-rate pricing discount for chemical injections to Fridley residents. For more information, visit [RainbowTreecare.com/Fridley](http://RainbowTreecare.com/Fridley). A full list of licensed tree care companies can be found on the city's website.

### Considerations for Treatment:

- Tree size greater than 10" in diameter.
- Tree is not competing with other trees or infrastructure.
- Tree shows no more than 30 percent of canopy decline if infestation is suspected.

For more information on Emerald Ash Borer, visit [FridleyMN.gov/emeraldash](http://FridleyMN.gov/emeraldash).

## 2019 Election: November 5, 2019

**Note:** There are no city, state or federal elections in Fridley in November.

Three out of the four school districts in Fridley will have an election this fall. The school districts will be working with Anoka County for their elections. Absentee voting will be conducted by Anoka County. Because school districts can consolidate their polling places, not all city polling locations will be open this fall.

### Anoka Hennepin School District – ISD 11

Voting is at Springbrook Nature Center, 100 85th Avenue NE

For residents of Ward 3, Precincts 1 and 2

### Fridley School District – ISD 14

Voting is at Fridley Community Center, 6085 7th Street NE

For residents of the following Precincts:

- Ward 1 Precincts 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Ward 2 Precincts 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Ward 3 Precincts 1, 2, 3 and 4

### Blaine/Spring Lake Park – ISD 16

Voting is at Woodcrest Elementary School, 880 Osborne Street NE

For residents of the following Precincts:

- Ward 1, Precinct 1
- Ward 2, Precinct 1
- Ward 3, Precinct 1

To find out where you vote or how to vote by absentee ballot for the school district election, visit [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org).

## "I Count!" – 2020 Census



The 2020 Census is coming, mark your calendars for April 1, 2020! Help ensure a complete count in Fridley!

The U.S. Census occurs every 10 years and is mandated by the U.S. Constitution in order to count all people residing in the United States across all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and noncitizens. Areas of Fridley have been identified by the U.S. Census Bureau as being at risk for being undercounted. Getting an accurate count of Fridley's population is very important for a variety of reasons, including making sure Fridley receives appropriate levels of federal funding and has accurate government representation at the federal, state, and local levels.

The Census counts every person living in the U.S. only once and according to where they are living or staying on April 1, 2020. Every household will have the option of responding to the 2020 Census **online, by mail, or by phone**. The majority of addresses will receive their census invitation in the mail anytime between March 12-20, 2020.

Individuals are encouraged to respond to the Census right away. Additional reminders will be sent in the mail to households that have not responded and, if needed, with an in-person visit at the end of April. **Completing the census is mandatory.**

### Interested in helping promote the census?

The Census Bureau is also looking to fill jobs in the Twin Cities including office and field positions. These positions are great for college students, retirees, or anyone looking for temporary employment and flexible hours. Get paid to help ensure a complete count in Fridley and the state of Minnesota! Find more information at [2020census.gov/jobs](http://2020census.gov/jobs).

If you have questions about the Census or are interested in learning how you can get involved in ensuring a complete count in Fridley reach out to Alyssa Kruzel, Community Engagement Specialist, [Alyssa.Kruzel@FridleyMN.gov](mailto:Alyssa.Kruzel@FridleyMN.gov) or 763-572-3579.

Stay tuned to [FridleyCommunityTheatre.org](http://FridleyCommunityTheatre.org) and [MinnesotaPlaylist.com](http://MinnesotaPlaylist.com) for audition information.

Fridley Community Theatre presents

# URINETOWN

THE MUSICAL

Music and Lyrics Mark Hollmann Book and Lyrics Greg Kotis

Urinetown was produced on Broadway in September, 2001 by the Araca Group and Dodger Theatricals in association with TheaterDreams, Inc., and Lauren Mitchell

**July 19, 20, 25 26 at 7 pm**  
**July 27 at 3 pm**

Fridley District Auditorium - 6000 West Moore Lake Drive  
Tickets available on-line

[www.FridleyCommunityTheatre.org](http://www.FridleyCommunityTheatre.org)

or by calling 763-502-5100

Adults \$ 15 - Students through High School \$10  
Tickets go on sale June 17

Urinetown is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.MTIShows.com](http://www.MTIShows.com)



## Highway 47 and 65 Corridor Initiative Results in Established Goals

*“Fridley has excellent participation at its Corridor Development Initiative meetings, I am always impressed.”* —Barbara Raye, Center for Policy, Planning, and Performance

The Highway 47 (University Avenue) and Highway 65 (Central Avenue) meetings were no exception. The facilitators were impressed at the attendance and quality input they received. Fridley residents come out ready to share their insights and to make suggestions. That input is exactly what is needed in this type of meeting. Four meetings were held on February 21, March 7, March 21, and April 4, 2019. Each meeting focused on the corridors and was designed to draw out individuals' suggestions.

Through public input, goals were defined for our major corridors and are as follows:

- Improve safety for non-motorized (pedestrians and bicyclists) and motorized users at key intersections and along the highways (57th Ave, 61st Ave, Mississippi, 69th Ave, 73rd Ave, 81st Ave, and Osborne Rd)
- Improve the east-west roadways to better serve the community and invite greater mobility for all
- Enhance the sense of place and community identity - including but not limited to identifying one as a main street
- Better align Highway 47 and Highway 65 with redevelopment and evolving land uses and densities

- Provide better accessibility and connectivity to local businesses and community destinations
- Improve transit options and functionality (i.e. bus rapid transit currently being planned for Hwy 47)
- Work toward mitigating air, noise, water pollution and environmental impact

Recognizing that refinement and implementation of potential improvements will require on-going dialogue and collaboration. The City and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) are also committed to the following as opportunities for more detailed planning and implementation occur:

- Identify community standards for aesthetics along the corridors (e.g. lighting, fencing, barriers, landscaping, etc.)
- Provide opportunities for stakeholders to inform street design options during project planning
- Incorporate broad-based public involvement from stakeholder groups when considering design improvements
- Provide regular updates on upcoming studies, projects, existing status, etc. on the corridors at council meetings or in community newsletters
- Engage more with the Anoka County Highway Department so that the needs of residents and businesses are heard and can be incorporated into upcoming improvement projects/studies

- Incorporate goals and strategies outlined in the City's comprehensive plan as they relate to development/redevelopment along these corridors when considering highway improvements
- Metro Transit planning for expansion of bus rapid transit (BRT) service must include community stakeholders and transit users

The chain link fence was one focus of comments as aesthetics were discussed through the series of meeting. Based on comments received and subsequent discussion between the City and State, the fence (including removal of major portions and a more aesthetic replacement of other portions) will provide one of the first and most visible improvements that the City and MnDOT will make along University Avenue. MnDOT will advertise for bids for a contractor to remove and replace fencing by year-end 2019. Not only will the removal of the fence help the aesthetics along the corridor dramatically, the ability to mow without a fence will provide a much more manicured look. A public meeting will be held to share changes prior to implementation.

Thank you to MnDOT and their representatives, Melissa Barnes, North Area Engineer; and Sheila Kauppi, Area Manager, who have worked so closely with us on this process.

## Fridley Community Calendar

### July

- 4 & 5 City Offices closed for Independence Day
- 8 City Council Meeting
- 9 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission
- 11 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 17 Planning Commission Meeting
- 22 City Council Meeting

### August

- 1 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 5 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- 7 Appeals Commission Meeting
- 12 City Council Meeting
- 13 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission
- 21 Planning Commission Meeting
- 26 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.

## Development Update: Patio Homes Experience Brisk Sales

In 2018, you might recall that the Fridley HRA entered into a development agreement to develop 26 patio homes south of the newly constructed Locke Parkway, near the Civic Campus. These homes will have landscaping/lawn and snow removal service available through their association.

Pulte Homes, the builder of the patio homes, built a model home in time for the Fall Parade of Homes that occurred from September 8-30. Since the Fall Parade Model opened, 25 of the 26 lots have been sold and construction has started on all of those dwellings.

Pulte Representatives have indicated that this has been a very strong market and if we had the space available, they would have built more homes.

New owners have now begun moving into the neighborhood.

Park layout and equipment are being evaluated for a park that will be developed to the northeast of these new homes, along the parkway.

Parkway construction and the regional trail will be completed this summer. For more information, please contact Community Development at 763-572-3592.



# Update: Moore Lake Park and Beach

The City of Fridley has started work on the first stages of a Parks Master Plan to determine what our residents would like to see implemented and improved within Fridley's parks, trails and recreation programming. Our newly launched "Finding Your Fun in Fridley!" campaign focuses on gathering public input by way of public planning meetings, surveys, and interactive parks and trails tools. This input will help guide the development of a parks improvement plan that can be used for many years to come.

Moore Lake Park is a very important city feature and will be an equally important part of the parks master planning process. In 2016, City staff and the Parks & Recreation Commission surveyed residents and reviewed conceptual plans to redevelop the park with the help of a professional architectural firm. At that time, the ten-year plan was estimated to cost more than \$4.3 million.

Before moving ahead with Council action, some of the elements of the plan needed further review; such as studying environment impacts, identifying funding sources, gathering input from the affected watershed districts and Minnesota DNR, as well as safety and roadway considerations on Old Central (an Anoka County roadway). Given the additional work, no immediate funding established for the project, as well as its potential for impact on other parks'



improvement plans, it was decided that the city should step back and look at the entire parks and trails system and seek input from the public.

In the interim, the City will be making some modifications to improve aspects of the park's aesthetics this summer, including cleaning up the beach and grounds, removing the fencing, providing weekend garbage service and installing updated signage.

In 2018, the Parks & Recreation Commission made the difficult decision to not open the swimming beach. Survey results from the 2016 study showed that most residents (56 percent) would not swim there given the overall condition of the beach. Attendance of swimmers was tracked for several years and the results showed the swimming beach was declining in interest, except on extremely hot days or on the Fourth of July. The cost for staffing the beach house to monitor the beach, conduct water quality testing and to keep the facility open also came into consideration.

The fishing pier, volleyball courts, sand area, walking paths, picnic tables, shelters, playground and park will still be available for use and open to residents and visitors. Last year, East Moore Lake was named one of the top 50 "Mom-Approved" Places to Fish and Boat" by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation!

## West Moore Lake Drive Trail Construction Underway

Construction is underway for the West Moore Lake Drive multi-use trail that will connect the trail on Medtronic Parkway to the high school and 61st Avenue. The project also includes adding bike lanes on both sides of West Moore Lake Drive from 61st Avenue to Highway 65. This project is a part of the city's Active Transportation Plan which emphasizes pedestrian and bicycling routes throughout the city. The new multi-use trail will add a little more than a half mile to the city's existing trail network of approximately 17 miles of off-road trails. The construction is projected to be completed in August.



### Receive a car seat check-up – for free!

September 18, 2019 • 4-7 p.m.

Fridley Civic Campus

Public Safety Department

7071 University Avenue NE

Call 763-502-1981 to make an appointment. This must be done in advance of the clinic.

Visit [safekidsanoka.org](http://safekidsanoka.org) to learn the dates and locations of other Car Seat Clinics going on throughout the summer.

## Hands-Free Law goes into effective August 1, 2019

The hands-free bill was signed by Governor Tim Walz on April 12, 2019 and becomes a law on August 1, 2019. Below are a list of common questions and answers from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety regarding the new law.

### What's the new law?

The new law allows a driver to use his/her cell phone to make calls, text, listen to music or podcasts, and get directions, but only by voice commands or sign touch activation without holding the phone. Remember – hands free is not necessarily distraction free.

### What can't I do with my phone under the new law? What can I do?

Drivers may not hold the phone in their hands. They cannot use their phone at any time for video calling, video live-streaming, Snapchat, gaming, looking at video or photos stored in the phone, using apps, reading texts or scrolling/typing on the phone.

Hand-held phone use is allowed to obtain emergency assistance, if there is an immediate threat to life and safety, or when in an authorized emergency vehicle performing official duties.

### Can I use a GPS navigation device?

Yes – GPS and other systems that can only be used for navigation are exempt for the hands-free cell phone law. In-car screens and system are also exempt.

In both cases, most of these systems lock when the vehicle is moving.

### Is it against the new law to hold a phone in a hijab or other type of headscarf or wrap?

No – having a cell phone tucked into a headscarf or head wrap is not against the hands-free cell phone law. The phone must be securely situated to remain hands-free and must not block the driver's vision in any way. An example of a situation that would be illegal is if a driver removed the phone and held it in their hand while they were a part of traffic (unless to obtain emergency assistance, if there is a threat to life and safety, or when an authorized emergency vehicle is performing official duties).

### Will this make the roads safer?

Yes, in two ways. In 12 of 15 states that have adopted a hands-free law, traffic fatalities have decreased by an average of 15 percent (National Safety Council and Insurance Federation based on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration).

This law will also help law enforcement keep Minnesotans safe. Because drivers aren't allowed to have a phone in their hand, it'll be easier for law enforcement to see violations and take more effective action.

For more information about the law and how to go hands-free, visit Office of Traffic Safety website.

## Summer Recycling Drop-off

Saturday, July 13 & September 14  
9 a.m. to noon

### Green Lights Recycling

1525 99th Lane NE,  
Blaine



Residents can receive \$15 off, and recycle one appliance and one mattress for free. Residents just need to present proof of residency to receive the discounts and free drop-offs.

Recycle fluorescent lights, scrap metal, bicycles, TVs, printers and more! [FridleyMN.gov/dropoff](http://FridleyMN.gov/dropoff).



Jamie Jude



Matt Schroeder



Jeff Pribyl



Corey Hanley

## Serve Your Community; Join a Family

Fridley Public Safety is recruiting paid, on-call firefighters to protect our community. Our firefighters serve with compassion, integrity and professionalism. Whether you have thought of becoming a firefighter in the past or the idea has never crossed your mind, we encourage you to consider joining our great team! Paid, on-call firefighters are often people with jobs like yours – project managers, analysts, utilities workers, supervisors, engineers, etc. that also serve our community! Below are a few of our very own paid, on-call firefighters who work regular, full-time jobs:

### Jamie Jude - Joined in September 2014

**Full time job:** Owner of Vending Minnesota, a small, family-owned company that provides and services soda machines, snack and food machines, and coffee machines.

**Reason for becoming a firefighter:** In the spring of 2013, a storm came through Fridley blowing over many trees, blocking road ways and driveways. Jamie and his friend went out with chainsaws to free up and clear neighbors' driveways and the roadways.

After the storm he thought about how to contribute to the community with whatever skills he could, and decided to become a paid, on-call firefighter.

**What he likes about being a firefighter:** He loves the people he works with and being a part of a team. Every call is different and together, as a team, they work to resolve any situation that is thrown their way such as a train derailment, bridge collapse or flooding.

**Advice to future firefighters or those considering:** "Listen, take action and work hard. It is a very rewarding occupation."

### Matt Schroeder - Joined in 2011

**Full-time job:** Fire sprinkler fitter at Union Local 417

**Reason for becoming a firefighter:** Matt had always wanted to find a good opportunity to serve his community in an impactful way, so he became a paid, on-call firefighter.

**What he likes about being a firefighter:** Matt loves being a part of a team and helping others by responding to situations that happen in our community or surrounding cities.

**Advice to future firefighters or those considering:** "Be excited about learning the skillsets associated with fire service and having the opportunity to be a part of a great team."

### Jeff Pribyl - Joined in July 2009

**Full-time job:** Area Games Technician for Bowlero Corporation

**Reason for becoming a firefighter:** Jeff's mother worked in the medical field as a nurse anesthetist, which inspired him to consider something in a similar field. He also enjoys helping and working with the community. Jeff believes he has a firefighter mentality – if a problem arises, he begins thinking about a range of solutions.

**What he likes about being a firefighter:** He enjoys his family of co-workers. He knows he can be a part of someone's worst day, but likes being a part of the solution to hopefully make their day better. The situations are always different, which require you to think of various solutions.

**Advice to future firefighters and those considering:** "You never know what type of call you are about to go on. So you need to be a fast thinker, and ready for anything."

### Corey Hanley - Joined in February 2018

**Full-time job:** Baggage Handler Supervisor at major airline

**Reason for becoming a firefighter:** Corey had always wanted to be a firefighter since he was a kid but was concerned his tall height would be a disadvantage or disqualification. After he met a few firefighters who also work for the airline and after being involved with a very serious jet ski accident, he decided to go for it and see if he had what it took.

**What he likes about being a firefighter:** Every day is a new day that will be different from the last. He also likes making a difference in the community and someone's life.

**Advice to future firefighters or those considering:** "Be prepared to work hard and be patient. It's a long process. It's a big time commitment but well worth all of the effort. Don't get discouraged if things don't go exactly according to plan. Make the adjustment and keep going!"

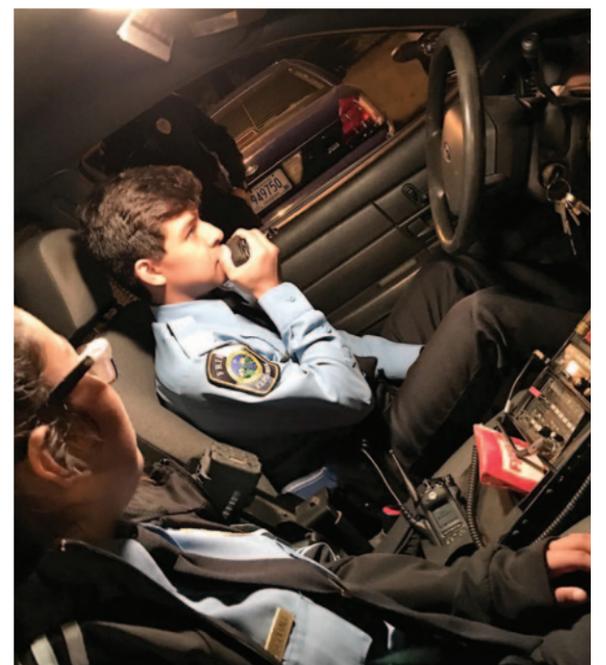
## Now Recruiting for Police Explorers!

The Fridley Police Explorer program is made up of teens ages 14 to 18 who train on a variety of law enforcement topics and scenarios including but not limited to:

- Domestic violence calls
- Bomb scene response
- Traffic stops
- Drill

These skills are put to test when the post competes against explorer posts from across the state (and sometimes from across the country) at annual competitions. In addition to competitions, the Explorers volunteer their time at many community events, such as '49er Days, Shop with a Cop and other Public Safety and city-sponsored events. Explorers also assist multiple agencies throughout Anoka County with their alcohol and tobacco compliance checks. In addition, they get to learn from current officers through ride-alongs. Participating in the Fridley Police Explorer program is a great opportunity to gain career experiences, leadership opportunities, and community service activities, regardless of whether you choose to pursue a career in law enforcement.

If you are interested in joining the program, contact Officer Shawn Murphy at [Shawn.Murphy@FridleyMN.gov](mailto:Shawn.Murphy@FridleyMN.gov).



# Hanging Up the Helmet:

## Chief Berg Retires after Four Decades of Service

After three decades with the Fridley Fire department, nearly 40 years of firefighting and a lifetime in the north metro, a familiar face retired at the end of June. Chief John Berg spent most of his career as a firefighter for the Fridley area – or as he would simply call it, “home”.



Even after almost four decades of firefighting, Berg still jumps up when a call comes in. “I love my job and that every day is different. It sounds cliché – but it’s true,” Berg explained. He also loves the comradery that comes from working with his fellow firefighters so closely and in difficult situations.

Berg’s love for firefighting and public service stemmed from his childhood and has only grown throughout the years. Growing up in Columbia Heights, Berg’s father worked closely with one of the city’s paid, on-call (POC) captains who later started the first Fire Explorer program in Columbia Heights. When the program launched in 1978, Berg became one of the first three Columbia Heights Fire Explorers. As explorers, they served as support staff for the firefighters during calls, received EMT training and had the opportunity to attend the Opportunities in Emergency Care (OEC) medical program through Spring Lake Park Schools. Looking ahead, all three of the original explorers would become fire chiefs for the metro area.

After graduating high school, Berg joined the Columbia Heights Fire Department as a POC firefighter and later transitioned into a full-time role. He also bought his first house in the neighboring city of Fridley. One evening, Berg heard a call go out over his radio for a vehicle fire in Fridley near his new residence. He stopped by the scene as an onlooker and two Fridley Chief Officers later teased him for arriving so quickly, but not showing up in his firefighter gear. They also challenged him to join the Fridley Fire Department. He gladly accepted a POC position with Fridley in 1987 and continued to serve the Columbia Heights community in a full-time role for the next two years.

Berg has always had a love for learning and developing new skills. In 1989, he decided to go back to school to be an aviation mechanic and worked for Northwest Airlines, while still serving in a POC firefighter position for Fridley. He was then promoted to a POC Captain position and began to gain command and supervisor experience while working for Fridley full-time.

The structure of the department changed in 2001 when Deputy Chief Larson announced his retirement. Two positions were implemented as a replacement – Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Marshal. Berg was selected to fulfill the Assistant Fire Chief position. He enjoyed the role because of its involvement in coordinating training, handling operations, executing performance reviews and working closely with staff. He gained a lot of administrative experience through “trial by fire” – both literally and figuratively - that prepared him well for his transition to Fire Chief in 2003. He continued to serve as chief for the next 16 years.

He enjoys the challenges of the job and figuring out ways to innovate. Over the years, he helped lead great advancements in how we provide fire service that makes the job safer and more efficient. A few of the notable achievements include:

- Implementing full-time captain roles to have leadership presence 24/7
- Prompting a space study and providing direction on the new Fire Station 1 at the Fridley Civic Campus which was built to accommodate full-time staffing
- Working with law enforcement and communications to implement a new public safety data system
- Making connections throughout the city to have public safety staff present during large city events

While his responsibilities have changed throughout the years, Berg has always been passionate about calls for service – and he has experienced quite a variety of them. His most memorable calls were when he had command of fire response to two large storms – the straight line winds in 2005 and a tornado that occurred in 2011. Fridley firefighters responded to gas leaks, downed power lines, hazards, and railcars that had turned over, as well as provided rescue and EMS services. He also had the unique opportunity of being part of the Minnesota Type III All Hazards Incident Management Team deployed to the Florida Keys for Hurricane Irma. Berg helped coordinate food and water distribution for all of Monroe County. Through that experience he gained skills in large-scale incident management that easily transitioned to help Fridley better prepare for major events.

As Berg reflects on his years with the city, he is glad to have helped provide safer and more efficient fire service to the Fridley community and train great firefighters to execute these services. “I’m really here to serve my team, who then protects our community. This is a fantastic group of firefighters. They do the job. They do the work.” He went on to explain how much he will miss his fire family, serving his community, and the adrenaline rush he still receives when going out on calls. Berg looks forward to the opportunity to travel and is excited to start a new, part-time job doing something else he loves – teaching scuba diving and leading group dive trips.

*Thank you, Chief Berg, for your many years of quality service to the City of Fridley!*

### New for Summer 2019! HeartSafe CPR, AED and First Aid Training

We continue with our Heart Safe CPR and AED trainings on the second Tuesday of each month, June through August from 5-6 p.m. in the Fireside room at City Hall. We are also adding First Aid training from 4-5 p.m. (right before the CPR training). You can come for one or both trainings.

Registration is not necessary. This training is great for all ages—especially for teens who will be home alone during summer break or taking care of younger children. If you have questions, contact [Heartsafe@FridleyMN.gov](mailto:Heartsafe@FridleyMN.gov).



## Summer has Arrived! Read These Quick Fire Pit and Grilling Reminders

Summer has (finally) arrived! Many of us enjoy breaking out our grills and having a fire outside with friends. Here are a few tips to remember:

### Backyard fire reminders

- Having a backyard fire? Use a fire pit or outdoor fireplace. It must be 25 feet away from your home, garage or any other structure.
- There are no fires allowed in Fridley after midnight or before 9 a.m.
- Burn only clean, dry wood or charcoal. Do not burn trash, leaves or brush.
- An adult must be present, and a garden hose or other fire extinguishing equipment must be readily available.
- Please be courteous of your neighbors and do not have fires on windy days.

### Grilling reminders

- BBQ grills should only be used outdoors and placed away from siding, railings, canopies or overhanging branches.
- Clean your grill regularly – grease is a major source of flare ups.
- Using charcoal? Let the coals cool completely before disposing in a metal container. Never put coals in a plastic container.
- Keep a fire extinguisher within a couple steps of your grill and know how to use it.

Visit [FridleyMN.gov/firesafety](http://FridleyMN.gov/firesafety) for more life-saving tips and fire safety advice.

*\*Minnesota State Fire Code does not allow apartment buildings, or any multi-family dwellings of three or more units to use grills on decks or within 15 feet of the building.*

Join us for the  
**SPRINGBROOK**  
*summer*  
**concert**  
**SERIES**

**TUESDAYS • 7-8:30 pm**

<b>JULY 16</b>	<b>AUGUST 20</b>
ROE FAMILY SINGERS	SWEET RHUBARB

Springbrook Nature Center  
 outdoor amphitheater

# 2019 Fridley '49er Days

We celebrated our community's annual '49er Days with a two-day festival this year! It kicked off on Thursday, June 13 with an evening parade filled with almost 90 floats from local businesses, ambassadors, marching bands and various other community groups. The Fridley Fun Run kicked off the parade as participants made their way through two miles of city streets. 2019 Grand Marshals were Don and Sue Meyers who are very active in the Fridley Community. Don also served as principal at Fridley High School and Middle School for a number of years.

It was a beautiful, sunny evening that was perfect for participants and onlookers. There were also pre-parade activities in Commons Park that included games, inflatables, vendors, a petting zoo and more.

The festival continued the next day in Commons Park with a FHS reunion, fireworks, live music from the

Dixie Kats Band, and an MSMA Car Show! Thank you to everyone who brought their cars out! The admission fee was a fundraiser for Fridley Tigers Wrestling and the Alexandra House of Anoka County. Due to possible weather restrictions, Jonah and the Whales was moved to Route 47 Pub & Grub which made for a fun night of music and dancing.

We appreciate everyone who came out to celebrate our wonderful community! We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all of our vendors, organizers and volunteers who made the festivities come together. This celebration is organized by the '49er Day Committee, a non-profit group of volunteers who need your help in continuing this tradition. If you are interested in helping out with next year's event or any community programs, please contact Alyssa Kruzel, Community Engagement Specialist, at [Alyssa.Kruzel@FridleyMN.gov](mailto:Alyssa.Kruzel@FridleyMN.gov).



## FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER UPCOMING EVENTS

**Open House – July 13 & July 27**  
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Come and experience Fridley's history!

**Military Exhibit Grand Opening:**  
**Saturday, November 23**

Open to all with a special invitation to all past and current service members to attend!

**Fridley Historic Home & Garden Tour: Roots & Ripples**

Don't miss the second annual Fridley Home & Garden Tour!

This year's tour is focusing on properties along the Mississippi River and Rice Creek, where Fridley's development all started. The tour is brought to you by the Fridley Historical Society, the City of Fridley, the Anoka County Historical Society and the generosity of homeowners who open their homes and gardens for the tour. Special activities are also occurring at the Banfill Center for the Arts in Manomin Park, which is at the center of Fridley's history.

Visit some beautifully remodeled homes and gardens filled with color and love! You will have a chance to chat with homeowners to learn about how they created their unique spaces.

This is a great opportunity to enjoy some of the best of Fridley and do a little research for your own property.

\$12 per person in advance  
\$15 per person day of tour

Purchase tickets in advance at Fridley City Hall or online at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) (search *Fridley Historic Home & Garden*).

## Parks Department Replaces Bridge at Springbrook

Our Parks employees had to get creative this spring while replacing one of the bridges along the trail within Springbrook Nature Center. The bridge had sunk two feet and started to collapse as a result of the heavy rainfall and large amount of melting we experienced as warmer temperatures began to arrive. Most of the dirt had washed away from under the bridge and the single board structure was being held up by the frozen ground.

The Parks team had the difficult task of raising this bridge and building a better support for the structure. In order to slow the water down so they could work, they constructed and installed a temporary dam. Staff then worked on developing a better cribbing (bridge support) and removed the dam every few hours to allow water to run through. The process of raising the bridge back to trail level and creating the support took about four days. To prevent the bridge from sinking again, they also put erosion fabric along the banks of the stream and filled in new rock and riprap.



Next time you are headed to Springbrook Nature Center, be sure to check out the new bridge! The Nature Center is one of the many parks maintained and paid for through the Public Works Department and Parks Division.

## Springbrook Nature Center Pavilion Activity Center Installation Underway

Over the past three years, Springbrook Nature Center has blossomed with the renovation of their interpretive center and addition of the amphitheater and nature play area. This year, the final component of the Sanctuary Protection and Renewal Into the Next Generation (S.P.R.I.N.G.) project master plan will be completed with the addition of a Pavilion Activity Center. The new building will replace the recently demolished picnic shelter and be constructed as a covered, open air structure. There will be seating on one side with plenty of picnic tables, and the other end will be an enclosed space featuring an activity

room, restrooms, drinking fountains and a small concessions area.

The new facility will be available for community events and celebrations and will host many Springbrook classes and activities such as summer camps, preschool classes and family programs. The concessions area will allow for service of refreshments during our summer concert series and other community events.

The project is funded by a matching grant from the Minnesota DNR with additional investment from the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation and City of Fridley. A number of local businesses have expressed interest in providing in-kind services for the project and will be recognized when the project is complete.

For questions, please contact Springbrook Nature Center at 763-572-3588.



### REMINDER: PICK UP YOUR PET WASTE

PET WASTE LEFT IN THE PARKS OR ON YOUR LAWN WASHES INTO THE STORMSEWER AND CONTAMINATES OUR LAKES AND RIVERS WITH E. COLI AND OTHER HARMFUL BACTERIA. PLEASE ALWAYS PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET!