



Fridley

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



MARCH/APRIL 2025
NO. 252

WE BELIEVE FRIDLEY WILL BE A SAFE, VIBRANT, FRIENDLY AND STABLE HOME FOR FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES.

7071 University Avenue NE
Fridley, MN 55432
phone: (763) 571-3450
FridleyMN.gov
email: info@FridleyMN.gov

Mayor – David Ostwald
Councilmember-at-Large – Patrick Vescio
Councilmember 1st Ward – To be Appointed
Councilmember 2nd Ward – Ryan Evanson
Councilmember 3rd Ward – Ann Bolkcom
City Manager – Wally Wysopal



MAYOR OSTWALD AND HIS FAMILY



COUNCILMEMBER VESCIO AND HIS FAMILY

Councilmembers Take Oath of Office

On January 6 the City’s new Mayor and Councilmember-at-Large took their Oath of Office. Dave Ostwald was elected as Mayor and Patrick Vescio was elected as Councilmember-at-Large, both four-year terms.

Get to know Mayor Ostwald

With roots stretching back 48 years in Fridley, our new mayor brings a rich history of community involvement and public service to City Hall. After graduating from Fridley High School (FHS) in 1984, he served 10 years in the U.S. Marines as a helicopter mechanic before returning home to raise his family in the community that shaped him.

His Fridley connection runs deep – he met his wife in the halls of FHS, and both their sons followed in their footsteps as FHS graduates. The family’s ties to the city date back to 1958 when his parents purchased their home.

His path to public service began in 2010 as a commissioner serving on the Appeals, Charter, Planning and HRA commissions. He later stepped up as Councilmember-at-Large for five years, replacing retiring Bob Barnett. Currently, he also serves on the Fridley Lions board of directors. Professionally, he’s built a career in aircraft maintenance, spending the last 20 years as lead maintenance technician/director of maintenance for a private flight department.

“Helping residents who feel frustrated or ignored is my favorite part of the job,” he shares. “Being able to have conversations with them and helping others is what public service means to me.”

When he’s not serving the community, you might spot him at local car shows with one of his hotrods, exploring the region on his motorcycle with his wife or hunting in surrounding states during the fall season.

Get to know Councilmember Vescio

Though he grew up in neighboring Columbia Heights, Patrick Vescio’s connection to Fridley started early through friendships with local residents. His dedication to public service began in his youth, serving as Student Council President and Regional President, even representing Minnesota at the National Student Council Convention in Oregon – an experience that shaped his understanding of community leadership.

After graduating from St. Cloud State University in 1996 with a degree in history and education, he met his future wife, a Fridley native from the Melody Manor neighborhood, while coaching JV soccer at Columbia Heights. The couple first made Fridley their home in 1998 and have two children.

Though work briefly took their family away, they knew Fridley was their ultimate destination. Since returning in 2009, they’ve been deeply involved in the community through their children’s activities in youth sports, high school theater and community theater. Their faith community at St. William’s Church has also helped forge lasting connections with fellow residents.

Now in his tenth year with Minneapolis Public Housing Authority maintaining single-family homes, Vescio brings practical experience to his new role. His wife works for the school system in Osseo helping students plan their futures.

“I’ve been happy with Fridley’s direction but wanted to take the opportunity to be active in the decision-making and future of our city,” he shares. “Listening and forming plans to help the greater good of our community is what I carry with me every day into this position.”

When not serving the community, you might find Vescio and his wife exploring the off-road trails across Minnesota, Wisconsin and beyond.

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Stay Connected!

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- Follow Us on X: @CityofFridley
- Watch City Programming: Search Fridley Municipal TV
- Sign up for email notifications on FridleyMN.gov

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Save the Date! Homeowner Programs Open House

Join fellow Fridley Homeowners at an Open House on Wednesday, March 19 from 5-7 p.m. to learn about available resources. Featured Open House topics include Grants, Loans, Home Energy Squad Services and Homeowner safety.

The Open House will be held at Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue NE. Attendees are welcome to come to the event any time from 5-7 p.m. There will be no formal presentations given. More information about programs can be found at FridleyMN.gov/HomePrograms.



AVERAGE NUMBER OF TORNADOES THAT HIT THE U.S. AND CANADA EACH YEAR: 1,300

MAKE SURE YOU **DUCK** DURING A TORNADO:
Down – get down to the lowest level
Under – get under something
Cover your head
Keep in the shelter until the storm has passed

A public safety message from the International Association of Fire Fighters



Stay Safe in Severe Weather: Tornado Safety Tips

Fridley Fire Division wants you to know that the safest place to be in the event of a tornado is an underground shelter, such as a basement. If you don't have a basement, pick a small, windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), tornado season in the United States lasts from March through July. Fridley Fire Division wants to remind you to DUCK when a tornado warning is issued or if threatening weather is forecasted.

- DUCK stands for:**
- D** - Down to the lowest level
 - U** - Under something sturdy
 - C** - Cover your head
 - K** - Keep in shelter until the storm has passed

It's also important to know your community's tornado alert system, this is critical since tornados often occur suddenly with little or no warning. In addition, know how to recognize an approaching tornado by watching for these signs:

- A dark or green-colored sky
- A large, dark, low-lying cloud
- Large hail
- A loud roar that sounds like a freight train

Fridley Fire Division also stresses the importance of taking the necessary precautions before tornado season begins and developing a plan of action following a tornado.

- Before the Tornado:
- Develop and practice a tornado drill
 - Listen to the NOAA Weather Radio
 - Prepare a natural disaster emergency kit, including batteries, flashlights, food, water, copies of personal documents and a first aid kit.
 - Consider purchasing a generator in case of a power outage.

After the tornado, if you have been evacuated from your home, return only when officials say it is safe to do so. Following any significant natural disaster, it's also important to have a licensed professional check the gas system and electrical wiring of your home for damage. Always remember, if you are in immediate danger and need emergency help, call 9-1-1.

Codes to Know Zoning: 205.07.06 – Vehicle Parking

Fridley City Code requires that all vehicles be kept on an approved hard surface (concrete or asphalt) if they are parked outside. **Grass and gravel are not approved hard surfaces.** Properties must repair ground cover if parking or driving a vehicle on the grass has caused erosion to the ground cover. City Code States that sodding and landscaping shall extend across the entire front yard and side yards, including the boulevard.



Reserve a Park Facility for Your Next Gathering

Park Shelters
The City of Fridley has park shelters available for rental between May 3 - October 26. Shelters are located at Flanery, Moore Lake and Locke parks. Reservations can be made online now at [FridleyMN.gov/Rentals](https://www.fridleymn.gov/Rentals). Note: Commons Park will not be available in 2025 due to construction of park improvements.

Moore Lake Community Building
This beautiful, year-round, indoor gathering place is perfect for your next event and conveniently located near I-694 and Central



Avenue. Reservations can be made six months in advance and a minimum of two weeks prior at [FridleyMN.gov/Rentals](https://www.fridleymn.gov/Rentals).

Springbrook Nature Center Shelter and Facility
Springbrook Nature Center offers four indoor classrooms and an amphitheater for rent between 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily. We are a great venue for family gatherings, showers, birthday celebrations, business meetings and more. Picnic shelter rentals are available on weekends from May 1 - October 1. Call 763-572-3588 to schedule your rental!



2026 Valuation Notices and 2025 Tax Statements Coming Soon

Valuation Notices

Each year in March, Anoka County mails property owners the valuation notice for estimated market value of their property. The estimated market value is used to determine what your property taxes could be in 2026. Now is the time to review the document to ensure you are aware of the estimate and have specific remedies to appeal it.

Appealing Your Valuation Notice

If you choose to appeal, the first step is to call the Fridley Assessor’s office at 763-572-3536. The assessor will work with you to schedule a full inspection of your property and verify all

the information used to estimate market value. They are also happy to review information that you provide such as an appraisal, a broker’s price opinion or your own research. If you can’t come to an agreement with the assessor, you can appeal to the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization, held in April.

Tax Statements

Also included with the valuation notice is your tax statement for taxes payable in 2025. This is the document you will need when filing for a property tax refund. This statement provides an itemized list of how your tax dollars will be distributed by taxing authority (i.e. City of

Fridley, Anoka County, School District). It also includes the same itemization from the previous year which is useful for comparing year to year. Take the time to check the classification which can be found under the estimated market value for each year and located in the upper right-hand corner. There are tax benefits available for homestead properties, so be sure you have the homestead classification if you own and occupy your residence. There is also a relative homestead, so be sure to check that if you have a home where a qualified relative lives. If you are unsure or have any questions, call the Assessor’s office at 763-572-3536.

Camp Springbrook’s Junior Leader Program

Junior Leaders help bring Camp Springbrook to life! From singing camp songs around a fire, dressing in costume, play games, participating in “magic” or encouraging our nervous campers; they are what helps to hook our campers into the adventure and imagination of summer camp.

We asked some of our previous junior leaders what they thought about being a part of this long-running volunteer program. Judge, who participated as a junior leader in 2024, explains the experience, “You spend four days a week getting to know a wonderful group of kids while also watching them learn new skills and try new things.”

A 2023-24 Junior Leader said, “Being a junior leader was an experience that taught me a lot

of things like taking initiative, quick thinking and good communication, and it’s also really fun. Everyone at Springbrook is so nice and welcoming, and it’s a great environment.”

Interested in becoming a Junior Leader?

If you are between the ages of 13-18 and want to be a part of a fun summer program that will help to develop useful skills for the future, applications will be available in February on the nature center’s website: SpringbrookNatureCenter.org.

Don’t take our word for it – listen to Liam who says, “I have lots of fun with the kids, and it is a great place to meet nice people and get outside.”

Spring Spree

Saturday, April 12

Save the date and get ready to celebrate Springbrook Nature Center while enjoying delicious food, silent and live auctions and fundraising games. This event is intended for those 21 and older. Tickets go on sale on February 15 at \$55 per ticket. On April 1 ticket prices will increase to \$65 per ticket. Catering by Banquets of Minnesota.

Stay up to date by following Springbrook Nature Center on social media or visiting the nature center website at SpringbrookNatureCenter.org.

March Recycling and Paper Shredding Event

March 8 | 8 a.m. - noon

In March, Fridley residents will have an opportunity for free and reduced recycling of bulky items such as mattresses, appliances, electronics and more! You can receive \$50 off your total with proof of Fridley residence (driver’s license, mail or utility bill). See a full pricing list at FridleyMN.gov/Recycling.

All drop-off events will be held at Recycle Technologies Inc. Enter at 1525 99th Lane NE, Blaine.

Citywide Garage Sale: June 6 - 7

Save the Date for this year’s Citywide Garage Sale! The sales will be held on June 6-7, and Trash to Treasure Day will be held on June 8.

Registration to host a sale is free and will be open May 1-30.

Visit FridleyMN.gov/CitywideGarageSale for more information.

Save the Date: 2025 Town Hall Meeting

Saturday, April 26 at 10 a.m.

Location: TBD

Join us for our annual town hall meeting. You will hear from city leaders with updates on projects, developments and other initiatives. It will also be a great opportunity to provide community input through a question and answer session.

More information will become available on our website at FridleyMN.gov and our social media channels.

Recycle Smart: Scrap Metal

While aluminum and steel cans can be recycled over and over again, random metal items such as hangers, pots, pans, pipes and auto parts can’t be recycled in your curbside recycling container. These metal items can damage recycling sorting facility equipment and harm workers. Scrap metal can be brought to all Recycling Drop-Off events as well as the Coon Rapids Recycling Center and Columbia Heights Recycling Center for no cost. Find a full list of locations at FridleyMN.gov/Recycling.

Thank You for Attending Winterfest

On Saturday, January 25 from noon - 3 p.m., the community braved the chilly winds to come to Springbrook for a fun celebration of winter. We estimate that 400 people came through to enjoy the many activities including: fat tire biking, ice safety demo, campfires, photo ops, K9 demo, storytime, arts and crafts, snow games, scavenger hunt, sauna demo, winter gear grab, s’mores and hot chocolate, and the always popular medallion hunt.

This event would not be possible without our many volunteers and partners. A huge thank you to the Fridley Lions for their financial sponsorship and for volunteering the day of

the event. In addition, we had 15 student and adult volunteers that helped with activities. We are grateful for the following community partners that joined us to provide an activity or information at the event: Anoka County Library Mississippi Branch, Bliss Mobile Wellness, Fridley Boy Scouts, Fridley Environmental Planning, Fridley Girl Scouts, Fridley Police, Rum River Art Center, Three Rivers Park District and Trailhead Cycling.

It was a blast for the Parks and Recreation Department to host Winterfest this year. The community came together and enjoyed all that winter has to offer here in Fridley’s parks!



Street Sweeping This Spring

Spring is on the horizon, and our street sweepers are eager to get the salt and sand off the roads. Due to the unpredictability of Minnesota weather, we are unable to provide an except date for street sweeping. Our Public Works team tries to clear the streets after the last snowfall but before the “April showers.” Typically, streets are cleaned in late March or early April.

Street sweeping is essential to remove winter debris buildup before the rainy season arrives to avoid washing salt and other debris into the city’s storm sewer system. We do this to reduce stormwater pollution and maintain the water quality. Ways you can help include picking up dog poop, sweeping near your storm drains or installing a raingarden on your property.

Hydrant flushing

After we finish street sweeping, we move onto hydrant flushing in April. Hydrant flushing occurs twice a year, in the spring and fall, when the City flushes its water mains through the fire hydrants. This helps clear the water of small amounts of sediment like iron or manganese that settles over time, and it verifies that the hydrants are in good, working order.

During the hydrant flushing, deposits from the water lines may create yellowish-brownish discoloration of water in homes near the flushing area. While this water is safe for drinking, it may discolor laundry. If discoloration lasts longer than two days, call us at 763-572-3566. You can also call the same number for current flushing locations and updated information.



Fridley Community Seed Swap

March 15 | 10 a.m. – noon | Moore Lake Community Building

Start a garden or grow something new to you this year with seeds from the Fridley Community Seed Swap.

- Bring your extra viable veggie, herb, flower and native plant seeds to share (not required) and take home new seeds
- Get gardening and seed starting advice from local experts
- Learn how to make your own newspaper pots for seed starting
- Attend a native plant germination demo
- Free native plant seeds from Minnesota Native Landscapes and Anoka Conservation District

All Welcome, No Registration Required.

ENVIRONMENTAL FUN FAIR

Saturday, May 17, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. • Springbrook Nature Center



Mark your calendars! A variety of outdoor and environmental exhibitors will be present to help us appreciate our wonderful natural world.

Join us for the fun:

- Event Passport and Prizes
- Environmental and Educational Exhibitors
- Games, Crafts and Activities focused around Environmental Stewardship
- Pop-Up Community Toy Store
- Bouncy Castle
- Food Trucks
- And More!

This event is FREE!





New! Boulevard Tree Planting Program

Help grow Fridley’s urban canopy by requesting a free tree to be planted in the boulevard area in front of your property along City-owned streets. The public boulevard is the section of your property adjacent to the roadway that typically extends 15-feet behind the curb, even if you don’t have a sidewalk. The City’s forester will visit all sites to determine that there is adequate growing space for the tree. The property owner is responsible for watering the tree to ensure its

survival. The City will provide a 20-gallon watering bag and tree care instructions.

A limited number of trees are available; unfulfilled requests will be placed on the waitlist for next year. Visit FridleyMN.gov/Forestry or call 763-572-3594 to view species and request your trees.

This program is funded with support from a DNR Shade Tree Bonding Grant.

Lawns to Legumes Pollinator Pathways

Help Anoka Conservation District (ACD) create a pollinator pathway! ACD is now accepting applications for residential pollinator habitat cost share projects through the Lawns to Legumes “Pollinator Pathways” program. Homeowners interested in adding a native pocket planting, flowering trees or shrubs or pollinator-friendly lawns to their yard are encouraged to submit an interest form. Applicants within the program’s priority areas will have priority for funding. Properties in highly residential areas or adjacent to waterways are additional funding priorities. If selected, landowners will be reimbursed up to \$750 for native plant materials and essential project supplies. Materials other than native plants and seed may not exceed 50% of your reimbursement. Landowners will match 25% of reimbursable project costs with cash or in-kind

installation labor at a rate of \$25/hour. Participants will receive project guidance from ACD staff or volunteer mentors from the Master Gardener and Master Naturalist programs. These mentors can assist with garden design and project maintenance guidance. Act now - ACD will begin reviewing applications mid-March!

Submit an Application

Applications can be submitted via google forms: <https://bit.ly/40vJzja>. Questions can be directed to Logan Olson, Logan.Olson@AnokaSWCD.org. Applications are also open for the Lawns to Legumes “Individual Support” program at BlueThumb.Org/Lawns-to-Legumes/Apply.



Income-Qualified Ash Tree Removal and Tree Planting Program

The City of Fridley received funding through the DNR ReLEAF grant program to improve our community forest by supporting tree planting and ash tree removal on properties owned by income-qualified residents. Grant funds can be used to:

1. Remove and replace ash trees impacted by emerald ash borer
2. Plant new trees on properties owned by residents at or below the following annual income levels:

Household Size	Income
1	\$68,500
2	\$78,250
3	\$88,050
4	\$97,800
5	\$105,650
6	\$113,450
7	\$121,300

Removal of ash trees in the backyard will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis depending on access. Learn more and request an application by visiting FridleyMN.gov/Forestry or by calling 763-572-3594.



RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES
FOR CREATIVE KIDS IN THE SUMMER

JUNE 16 - AUGUST 15

SUMMER ROCKS REGISTRATION WILL OPEN ONLINE AT 8 A.M. ON MARCH 5

Kids currently in grades K-6 will have a blast at our Monday-Friday day long camp at Hayes Elementary School.

Program Schedule:

- Mornings: A variety of indoor scheduled activities including sports, arts and crafts and STEM
- Afternoon: Play time at Commons Park and outside activities
- Weekly: Special Events or Field Trips

NEW THIS YEAR! Kids ages 4-5 can get a taste of Summer ROCKS through our Little Pebbles Preschool camps.



Summer ROCKS Pre-registration

Make your registration faster and easier by completing pre-registration online! Update your account and complete a short questionnaire now and save time on registration day.

Note: to guarantee a child’s spot in camp, you will still need to complete registration when it opens.



Join the Team!

Looking for a fun way to spend the summer and earn some money? The City of Fridley has several openings for seasonal positions in Recreation and Public Works. Learn more and keep an eye out for open positions at FridleyMN.gov/Jobs.





Get Involved with Public Safety

Looking to make a difference in your community? The Fridley Public Safety Department offers several exciting programs that connect residents with public safety professionals while helping to build a safer community. From crime prevention to emergency services, there’s an opportunity for everyone to get involved!

Block Captains: Block Captains serve as vital links between Fridley Public Safety and their neighborhoods. These dedicated volunteers help create safer communities by sharing important safety information with their neighbors and reporting concerns to public safety officials. Block Captains receive regular updates about crime trends and safety issues, organize neighborhood watch meetings and help coordinate Night to Unite events for their area.

Police and Fire Explorers: The Fridley Police and Fire Explorer programs offer young adults aged 14-21 hands-on experience in public safety careers. Explorers learn essential skills through training exercises, community service projects and ride-a-longs with officers and

firefighters. These programs help develop leadership abilities, teamwork skills and professional knowledge that participants can use in any future career path.

Citizens Academy: The Citizens Academy offers local area residents an inside look at how Fridley Public Safety operates. During this 11-week program held on Thursday evenings in the fall, participants experience hands-on demonstrations of police and fire operations, learn about investigation techniques and gain understanding of emergency response procedures. Graduates leave with a deeper appreciation of public safety work and strong connections with department members.

Reserve Unit: The Fridley Public Safety Reserve Unit consists of trained volunteer members who support full-time officers and firefighters. Reserve officers assist with patrol duties, special events, emergency scene management and community outreach programs. Members receive specialized training in law enforcement procedures and emergency response, making this program ideal for those interested in public safety

careers or community service. The team consists of both aspiring law enforcement students and community members that want to help Fridley Public Safety with no interest in a career change. We have reserves officers that 18 years old all the way up to reserves in their 70s!

Fire Corps: Fire Corps welcomes community members who want to support emergency services beyond traditional firefighting roles. Volunteers assist with fire prevention education, emergency preparedness programs and administrative tasks. This program is perfect for older adults with public service experience or anyone passionate about community safety who prefers behind-the-scenes support roles. Members receive training in emergency management and fire safety while helping make Fridley a safer place to live.

[Learn More](#)
Learn more about how to get involved in these programs and others online at FridleyMN.gov/PublicSafetyPrograms.

Help Stock the Pop-Up Community Toy Store

Swap out your gently-used, under-utilized toys this year. Help us promote reuse in our community by dropping of your lightly-loved children’s toys, puzzles, games and art supplies to be redistributed during the Pop-Up Community Toy Store at the Environmental Fun Fair. We will be collecting toys in the lobbies of Fridley City Hall and Springbrook Nature Center during business hours from April 15-May 15.

- Please:
- Ensure all items are clean and in good condition
 - No broken, ripped, damaged or recalled toys
 - No Items with missing or broken pieces
 - No Clothing or stuffed animals
 - Include working batteries for all electronic items

Internship Success with the Fire Division: A Year of Growth and Impact

In 2024, the Fridley Fire Division proudly hosted eight interns, all of whom were hired at no cost to the city through two key programs: the County Workforce Empowers Program and a grant from the United Way focusing on Career Pathways. These programs provided a valuable opportunity to expand paid internship options, particularly for students involved in the Opportunities in Emergency Care programs at both Spring Lake Park and Fridley High Schools.

This partnership has proven to be an excellent way to support students in advancing their careers in emergency services. After completing their Emergency Medical Technician training, joining the Fridley Fire Department on calls and gaining valuable on-the-job experience, these interns serve as an important role for the department. Many of them also complete additional firefighter courses through the Spring Lake Park Opportunities in Emergency Care program,

hosted each year by Fridley Fire and taught by Fire Corps member John Lindstrom.

These interns, all nationally certified Emergency Medical Technicians, provide direct patient care. Their contributions have been instrumental in enhancing our emergency response capabilities, with many instances where their insight and interventions were vital in enhancing emergency care outcomes.

Beyond emergency response, the interns played an important role in supporting various projects vital to the Fire Division, adding unique perspectives to the team. Their presence provided opportunities for our current staff to serve as role models and mentors to the next generation of Firefighter/EMTs. This internship program continues to demonstrate the positive impact of building strong relationships between our local schools, the community and emergency services, and we look forward to seeing the continued growth of this initiative in the years to come.

Keep Your Family Safe from Household Chemicals

The chemicals you use in your home can be dangerous to your health and the environment.

To keep your family safe, follow these safety tips identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):

- Follow the instructions on the label when you use and store household chemicals.
- Don't mix products. This can cause deadly gases or cause a fire.
- Store products in their original containers.



- Store anything that can catch on fire away from your home.
- Only fill portable gasoline containers outdoors in an airy area. Make sure to place the container on the ground when you fill it.
- Never store materials that can cause a fire in the sun or near an open flame or heat source.
- Store these materials out of the reach of children and pets.
- Use safety locks and guardrails on shelves and cabinets when you store materials. This will prevent them from falling or tipping.
- Wear gloves or goggles when you use these materials.

Enjoy Recreational Fires Safely

Now that spring is here, Fridley Fire Division wants you to enjoy your recreational fires safely. Here is a reminder of Fridley's Recreational fire rules:

- No fires are allowed between Midnight and 9 a.m.
- Only clean wood or charcoal may be burned. This means no burning of trash, leaves and brush.
- The ground within five-feet of the fire pit or other contained area must be cleared of all combustible material.
- The fire pit or other contained area must be at least 25-feet away from a structure.

This distance may be reduced to within 15-feet of a structure when contained in an outdoor fireplace or container approved by the Fire Chief.

- Recreational fires may not be started on windy days when smoke may create a nuisance for neighbors.
- The fire must be attended by an adult from the time it is ignited until it is fully extinguished.
- Fire extinguishing equipment, such as a garden hose, must be readily available to put out the fire.

Fridley Community Calendar

March

- March 3 | Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- March 3 | Charter Commission Meeting
- March 3 | Public Arts Commission Meeting
- March 4 | Special City Council Meeting at 6 p.m.
- March 6 | Housing and Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- March 10 | City Council Meeting
- March 11 | Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting
- March 19 | Planning Commission Meeting
- March 24 | City Council Meeting

April

- April 2 | Public Arts Commission Meeting
- April 3 | Housing and Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- April 7 | Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- April 7 | Charter Commission Meeting
- April 8 | Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting
- April 14 | City Council Meeting
- April 16 | Planning Commission Meeting
- April 28 | City Council Meeting

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

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

Daylight Savings Time:

TIME TO CHANGE THE CLOCK **AND** CHECK YOUR SMOKE ALARMS

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

WHERE TO INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS IN YOUR HOME

Brought to you by the International Association of Fire Fighters

For best protection, *interconnect all smoke alarms.* When one alarm sounds, they all sound.

2025 Community Concert Series

Save the date! Our popular **free** summer concert series returns for its fifth year. Concerts will take place at Springbrook Nature Center, and Civic Campus Plaza/Amphitheater. Concerts take place on select Tuesdays from 7-8 p.m. and feature a variety of genres, activities and food trucks. Keep an eye out for the complete lineup to be announced soon!



Springbrook Summer Camp Registration

We can't wait for a fun-filled summer of making new friends, spending time outdoors, using our imaginations, and maybe learning a new skill or two with Camp Springbrook!

Registration for our weekly summer camp programs is now open! If you are unable to get into the camp you want, please add yourself to the waitlist. We will contact you if a camp spot becomes available.

If you have questions, contact the nature center staff at 763-572-3588. More information and the register online button can be found on our website: springbrooknaturecenter.org. We can't wait for summer; we hope you can join us!



Commons Park Design Promotes Park as Community Hub

The word hub is defined as the effective center of an activity, region or network. Wheels, computer networks and airports all have a hub as a central connecting point.

This concept has been central to the updated design of Commons Park in Fridley. In the middle of the park design is a beautiful new park building that serves as the park hub and supports the new fields, courts, play areas and trails. Pickleball and baseball players will stop in for water, sledders and ice skaters will warm by an outdoor fireplace, and those enjoying the playground can cool off and have a picnic lunch inside.

The design promotes circulation and activity within the park, giving users a sense of connection and convenience. And while the recreation building will serve as the center of the park itself, Commons Park also will serve as the hub of recreation within the City of Fridley.

The park will attract visitors from through our community and beyond with a destination playground and splash pad. New ball fields will host teams from Fridley and across the State of Minnesota. The park design offers something for everyone with plenty of space for community gatherings and celebrations. In this way, it will serve as the central point for many ideas, gatherings and meetings, building a

stronger and more connected community.

This park space will transform Fridley for generations and is scheduled for construction to begin the second half of this summer.

Three other parks will be reconstructed this year including Oak Hill, Jubilee and Sylvan Hills Parks. While these smaller neighborhood parks may not serve the entire community, they also have the potential to transform communities as a place to play, gather, celebrate, learn and build community.

Please visit FridleyMN.gov/ParkPlan for the latest updates on park planning and construction.

Join the Rice Creek Watershed District Citizen Advisory Committee

Are you passionate about protecting and improving water resources (lakes, streams, wetlands, etc.) in our community? The Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) is seeking new members for its Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). As a committee member, you'll have the opportunity to make a direct impact on water quality and stormwater management efforts in our area. What is the CAC? The CAC is a group of volunteers who meet once a month to review grant applications, discuss local issues, learn about how to improve water quality in the watershed and more. Committee members play a role in helping shape water management in the watershed and ensuring that RCWD's programs are effective and beneficial to the public.

Why Get Involved?

- Influence decisions on water quality, stormwater management and grant projects.
- Learn more about local water resource issues and how to address them.
- Meet like-minded community members and engage with RCWD staff.

Interested in joining?

Please contact Kendra Sommerfeld at ksommerfeld@ricecreek.org or apply online: RiceCreek.org/About/Citizen-Advisory-Committee/.

Help Protect our Waterbodies

In Fridley, our storm sewer system drains to local waterbodies including Moore Lake, Rice Creek, and the Mississippi River. To prevent pollution from entering these waterbodies, only stormwater should enter storm sewer drains. Anything else, including oil, chemicals, grass clippings or sediment is usually an illicit discharge. Help us protect our waterbodies by reporting illicit discharges to our Public Works Department at 763-572-3566.



Fridley '49er Days JUNE 12 - 14, 2025

Join us for a weekend of fun this summer to celebrate Fridley '49er Days!
City Wide Medallion Hunt: June 8 - 15



**THURSDAY
JUNE 12**

Pre-Parade Party with DJ, Inflatables, Food Trucks and more!
Annual Fun Run | Fridley Lions Club Parade

**FRIDAY
JUNE 13**

New this year! Ninja Anywhere and Trivia Mafia
Music, Food Trucks, Car Show and more!

**SATURDAY
JUNE 14**

Live Music by Salsa Del Sol and Power of 10
Ninja Anywhere, Kid's Activities, Vendor Market, Food Trucks, and more!
Fireworks!



More information can be found at FridleyMN.gov/49ers.
We'll see you in June!