Everyday Moments

Laws, rules, policies—these things lay a groundwork for stability, but a community is defined by people. It is the small moments, those few minutes that make a difference and give our city personality.

As we reflect on 2017, we would like to celebrate those everyday actions and partnerships that give our community strength and success.

Care for all creatures, big and small

Tired of slow and steady, Zoom Zoom got a taste for life in the fast lane during a ride-along with Officer Steiger before being safely returned to his owner.

...and Firefighter Ben Knowles to yet another turtle rescue!

In this storm drain, these ducklings got quite a scare! Officer Faber safely returned them to their worried mom. When was this? Mother’s Day, of course.

When lightning struck a townhome, firefighters helped 6 residents and 2 cats to safety. One kitty needed a little oxygen but recovered just fine.

Inspiring Future Leaders

Firefighter Dean Knowles is always on the lookout for future recruits!

Officers Stevens and Magaña teach the power of kindness at Woodcrest.

Officers get in on the action at Safety Camp.

Captain Monsrud gets schooled by Fridley’s famous “Banana Man” Matt Bier.

Recreation Supervisor ClevMcCoy and his leadership team gear up for March Madness as they create afterschool fun at the Zone.

Recreation Leaders-in-Training volunteers packed 33,048 meals for Feed My Starving Children.

Police Explorer Brian Johnson paused his ride-along to join a game of b-ball. One of many traits he acquired from his sworn-officer mentors.

And the turtles, of course… all the turtles are free, as turtles and, maybe, all creatures should be.”

~ Dr. Seuss, Yertle the Turtle

Fun Connections

Stay Connected!
Like Us on Facebook: search City of Fridley
Follow Us on Twitter: @CityofFridley

We invite you to share your Everyday Moments with us. Post your picture and caption on your social media pages or on ours and tag it with #EverydayMoments.

Assessor Pat Maghrak jumps into action when a city hall visitor experiences car trouble.
Springbrook N ature C enter is abuzz w ith activity. 2017 marks the first full year of operation for the newly expanded interpretive center, with increased visitors, new programs and banquet room rentals.

- Summer camps welcomed over 400 kids who unplugged in nature as they explored prairies, forests and wetlands.
- Community gathering spaces grew in popularity for events and meetings as groups took advantage of incredible nature views, state-of-the-art audio/visual technologies and a caterer’s kitchen perfect for hosting celebrations. Fridley residents can even take advantage of a special rental discount for birthday parties, wedding receptions, anniversary dinners, baby showers or life celebrations.

New in 2017

- A new nature-based play area is an amazing addition to the park as thousands of families played and explored with fort building, splashing in the water, building with sand, scrambling across boulders and climbing across ropes. Look for more fun additions to this area coming in spring of 2018.
- With a seating capacity of 150, the outdoor amphitheater provides the perfect setting for education programs, performances and wedding ceremonies. This outdoor stage was home to a new series last fall called “Friday Night by Firelight.” Guests enjoyed a naturalist program and campfire s’mores during these free events.

What’s Next?

- A new picnic pavilion and outdoor learning space.

Springbrook Nature Center Foundation volunteers are currently working to raise money for this exciting project. The goal of $300,000 will complete construction of a pavilion featuring restrooms, a concessions area, covered seating for 100 and an enclosed activity room for programs, arts and crafts.

Yesterday and Tomorrow

The driving force behind the many changes that have occurred at Springbrook is a commitment to connect people with nature. Our staff and volunteers believe that time spent in nature exploring trails, discovering wildlife or taking a class is critical to fostering a stewardship ethic, promoting a healthy lifestyle, and maintaining a connection to the natural world. We are proud to help make Fridley a safe, vibrant and friendly place to call home.

Zeroing in on the Zone...

Tw eens and teens love this after-school hangout. In 2017, Zone participation climbed to over 9,000!

City staff and the Parks and Recreation C ommission also completed the 2017 Park Service Area Study. This detailed document will serve as a guide to development and improvements in all of the city’s 38 local parks.

The Many Uses of Community Park...

In April, Community Park was home to a Cricket tournament, sponsored by Medtronic! For those who are not familiar with this 16th century English game, Cricket is a bat-and-ball game played between 2 teams of 11 players each. At the center of the field is a 22-yard-long pitch with a target called the wicket at each end.

Food waste equals about 30% of your household garbage. The tim e is now for Orga nics Recycling!

C oming Soon... Curbside organics in Fridley! Plans are currently in progress and a program should be available this spring.

Visit FridleyMN.gov/organics for more information on this new program or other ways to recycle organics.

The n ew basketball court at Commons Park was already a popular goto spot this fall! It replaced the old one at Moore Lake Beach which closed in August. Speaking of Moore Lake Park, Public Works and Recreation staff, along with the Parks and Recreation Commission, worked closely with a landscape architect firm (Hoisington Koegler Group) to evaluate future plans for the area. This new master plan will serve as a guide to redevelopment and new uses to this very popular park located on the east shore of Moore Lake.
Partnerships

2017 saw enormous partnerships within the city, with outside organizations and local businesses, and with our citizens. More than ever before, people have stepped forward to work together to meet the needs of the community and make Fridley a friendly, safe, stable and vibrant city.

Volunteers...

Twelve residents currently serve the community as volunteer Reserve Officers. They assist sworn police officers by transporting prisoners and providing traffic control at accident scenes and events. They are issued a uniform, carry a full duty belt (minus the gun), and drive a marked patrol car.

Fridley also has over 30 residents who volunteer their time and expertise to serve as advisors on various commissions. Interested in getting involved? As commission spots open, we post them on the website, or you can contact us at info@fridleymn.gov.

Springbrook Nature Center engages hundreds of volunteers each year. Last January, regular volunteers were honored at an appreciation dinner and a Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Springbrook Foundation member Annette Mitchell. Groups from Xcel Energy, Medtronic, Cummins Power Generation, Totino-Grace High School, General Mills, Calvin Christian School, the Boy Scouts and area residents provided numerous hours of service at Springbrook Nature Center and Innsbruck Park.

Youth Projects: Local resident and Eagle Scout Joey Hatten constructed and installed 10 bat houses in Fridley parks in an effort to increase the bat population which in turn will lower the mosquito population. Sam, a local middle school student, donated a ton of toy cars to Fridley Police to be given out to children at holidays and events. Sam and Annette Mitchell worked tirelessly to arrange valuable resources to residents who need additional assistance. One of the local non-profit called “Bikes for Kids” now makes the process less time consuming for staff and benefits the community.

Outreach...

Fridley Police Department partners with many organizations to provide resources, assistance and services to those who need a little extra help. One of their newest partnerships is with Bridgeview, a drop-in center for adults living with mental illness. Fridley Officers, along with the Cops N Clergy program, provide and serve a monthly meal to residents.

This year, Police found a solution for the 70 to 100 lost, unclaimed or stolen bikes that come into their possession each year. A partnership with a local non-profit called “Bikes for Kids” now makes the process less time consuming for staff and benefits the community.

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CARE Resource Connection has formed a new partnership with Fridley firefighters to provide valuable resources to residents who need additional care or were calling 9-1-1 on a frequent basis. This partnership has already been an immense help to one local resident when lightning struck her townhome, leaving her without a safe place. Fire Marshal Mike Spencer and CARE worked tirelessly to arrange volunteers to help clean out her home, supply donations such as paint and boxes, and provide a safe environment in the interim.
Driven to Connect

Connecting with Youth

- **new PAL - Police Activities League:** Fridley police officers coached and mentored 50 kids for basketball and 20 kids for soccer. This free program is a great experience for both kids and officers. The goal of PAL is to encourage team building and foster positive relationships through educational, athletic and recreational programs.

- **Safety Camp** – a day of fun and learning for kids in 2nd through 4th grades.

- **Police and Fire Explorers** – career exploration and mentorship program for teens.

- **Springbrook naturalists** develop lesson plans, teach at schools and offer on-site field trips to educate kids on the critical importance of our natural environment.

- **Cops in the Café** gives elementary kids a chance to ask police officers questions and discuss important matters over a carton of milk during the most popular time of day—lunch and recess.

- **After-school sports and activities, Zone hangouts, and school's out field trips** offer safe options for kids to socialize and have fun at times when they might otherwise be home alone.

Connecting with You

- **Seasonal sports** give adults a chance to play, too, with options like softball, basketball, volleyball, boot hockey, and even martial arts and fitness classes.

- **Car seat and bike helmet clinics** help both adults and kids stay safe.

- **Fridley police officers** hosted 12 Coffee with Cops and Cops & Cones community meet-n-greets throughout the year.

- **New Chaplain Program:** Last spring, Police launched a partnership with local clergy to assist on sensitive calls or be available to officers or staff when needed.

- **Residents and business owners** are always welcome at council and commission meetings. In 2017, we had 77 meetings.

- **The digital connection:** social media posts, #ChiefChat – a live Facebook Q & A, online concern reporting, public service announcement videos, email alerts and newsletters, and a robust website are just a few of the ways we navigate the digital arena.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

- **123** dog licenses
- **53** sign permits
- **3,116** rental inspections
- **2,000+** on-site assessing visits
- **265** business licenses
- **1,196** code inspections

The results of a 2017 drive-by evaluation of every Fridley residence are calculated and **95%** of home exteriors are in good or excellent condition!
Driven to Make a Difference

Fridley hosted 3 recycling drop-off events.

1,309 cans - 110.51 tons of recycled materials in Fridley!

Fridley also hosted 8 paper shredding events = 16 tons

We saved 270+ trees!

Fridley hosted 3 recycling drop-off events.

Police officers, reserves, explorers and volunteers brightened the holidays for approximately 30 excited kids during Shop with a Cop. A special thanks to Walmart who donated a $75 gift card to every child that was part of this event. Kids are selected by teachers and school staff based on a combination of financial need and those who could benefit from a positive police mentorship.

Pouring Back:

Fridley Liquor held the debut of the Springbrook Autumn Sampler resulting in a donation to the Springbrook Foundation of approximately $5,000! Fridley Liquor also held 6 tasting events that collected non-perishable food items for the Southern Anoka Community Assistance food shelf, and they partnered with Fridley Lions for their Winter Warm-Up fundraiser.

Fridley Firefighters Light Up the Night!

We debuted a fire engine sound and light display during a December 8 collection drive for Toys for Tots and SACA. Fridley officers, firefighters and staff also supported a number of charity organizations throughout the year including Special Olympics, Toys for Tots, Granny’s Closet, Feed My Starving Children, and local food shelves.

Driven to Innovate

- Engineering installed 6 bioswales along 3rd Street. These reduce traffic speeds, treat stormwater and beautify the landscape.
- 3,100 water meters equipped for automatic reading were installed this year.
- A new high-tech fire simulator allows for fire training without the cost and danger of lighting things on fire. The device simulates flames, sounds and smoke for 3 types of fires: combustible, liquids and electrical.
- Speaking of training, firefighters participated in a train derailment and hazardous leak simulation.
- Look for new pollinator gardens in Fridley parks this spring.
- We launched a citywide electronic newsletter, Fridley 4U. In 2017, we sent 24 emails to over 1,100 subscribers. Not signed up yet? Stay informed! Submit your email online at FridleyMN.gov/connect.
- Way to crunch those numbers! The Finance staff received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Interested in numbers? The City budget and capital improvement plan can be found on our website, look under City Hall — City Documents.
- Fridley Liquor saw its 3rd straight year of record sales with $5.6 million and a gross profit margin of 7.9%. The rewards program, launched in 2016, now has over 6,000 members! Sales from Fridley Liquor are poured back into the community to help keep taxes low and purchase items like park equipment and public safety vehicles.
Responsive: Answering the Call

K-9 Jager joins the team! Officer Kyle Lustigian and K-9 Jager completed training on June 30. They have been busy ever since.

On August 30, 2017, tropical storm Irma developed off the coast of Africa in the Atlantic Ocean. On September 10, Irma made landfall in the Florida Keys as a category 4 hurricane with sustained winds of 130 mph. Irma resulted in 124 fatalities and over $62.87 billion in damage.

On September 7 at 9:21 p.m., Fridley Fire Chief John Berg was called to help, along with 15 other Minnesotans who are part of the Minnesota All Hazards Type III Incident Management Team. They departed the next day for what they thought would be Tallahassee, FL. As it turned out, they would instead travel to the Marathon in the Florida Keys.

Minnesota’s Incident Management Team is a group of professionals trained to assist agencies with planning and operations during times of disaster. They travel in self-sufficient vehicles, able to provide their own living quarters, power, communications and the technology to develop and produce incident action plans.

The area was in chaos: no power, no cell service, no internet, no working bathrooms and no drinkable water. There was food and water arriving but stuck at the airport. The team’s task: get those supplies to the residents who desperately need it, along an 89-mile stretch from Key West to Tavernier.

Chief Berg and his teammates worked tirelessly in humid temperatures over 90 degrees with a heat index over 120 degrees. Despite road blockages, lack of fuel, panicked residents, and other difficult conditions, over an 8-day period, they coordinated safe supply distribution to over 50,000 people, and were able to train civilian volunteers to continue these efforts.

Thank you to Chief Berg and all those who answered the call.

Responsive: Beyond Borders

“This was by far the most rewarding experience I have had in my 36 years in the fire service.”

~Fire Chief John Berg

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Safe Drinking Water: Commons Plant Upgrades

Control valves and actuators were replaced at Common’s Filtration Plant. These improvements are pivotal in filtering and backwash processes and play an important role to water quality. High service pumps and motors were rebuilt with new variable frequency drives and a new electrical service panel for more efficient flow rates and performance.

In 2016, 1.121 billion gallons of clean water were sold. (2017 numbers will be available in the next water quality report which is produced every year in June.)

Public Works staff cleaned 60 miles of sanitary sewer mains throughout 2017, ensuring an effective and efficient system that rushes the flush away from your home.

In June, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and Fridley detectives joined forces to stop local prostitution involving children – numerous arrests were made.

New Statewide Model: Fridley’s Senior Program held a Veterans Resource Fair and Seminar in March with 95 participants. This event is now a statewide model for the Veterans Administration.

Cyberworld: Fridley Police are helping parents understand the dangers kids face on the internet through programs like the Screenagers movie event and a presentation by the Wetterling Foundation.

Transportation Choices: Part of our commitment to make Fridley accessible to everyone includes finding solutions for getting around without a car. This fall, planning staff worked with Anoka County to pilot a new free shuttle service to connect Northstar riders with large Fridley employers.
Responsive: Empowering Citizens

We believe that a friendly, safe, vibrant and stable community is built through partnerships and sharing information. From crime prevention tips to city finance updates, knowledge is power, and when everyone has a solid understanding of the facts, we can work together towards a solution.

2040 Comp Plan Research:
MN law requires cities to develop long-range plans every 10 years. This Comprehensive Plan services as a guideline for future planning in key areas such as parks, housing, transportation, water, land use and economic development. Staff spent much of 2017 researching these areas and gathering feedback from you on how you would like to frame Fridley’s future. Now all that information is being combined into a comprehensive report that will get feedback from commissions, City Council and the Metropolitan Council throughout 2018.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to attend a neighborhood meeting, fill out a survey, send in suggestions or talk to us at a community event. Your ideas will help design a roadmap for Fridley’s future.

Civic Campus Progress:
Walls are going up! As early as November, progress on the new City campus is moving along right on time. Flatbed trucks hauling large wall panels are now being replaced by semi-trailers carrying 99 foot support beams for the roof.

Fridley’s Housing and Redevelopment Authority is also busy with discussions and negotiations for the development of residential housing. Some of the items being discussed include adding housing types that are new and needed in our City. This portion is still in early stages. We will be excited to discover and share what plans develop.

The exterior look will start to emerge in the coming weeks. The colors of the large panels for the Public Works building were selected to mimic the brick color of the Fire Station apparatus bays. The gray tones on the Public Works building will complement the metal panels of the Public Safety building. Once walls are framed for City Hall, a stone base and brick will be laid, creating the exterior of that building. Watch in the coming months as the colors and materials blend together for a new look to University Avenue.

Timing for service transition to the new buildings remains on track. We anticipate Public Works to move in early summer, and Police, Fire, and City services to move late fall.

Responsive: Building Solutions

Approximately 100 residents attended the Town Hall Meeting in May for updates and discussion on new developments, City finances, and future planning.

Main Street Pedestrian Bridge: connecting Fridley across I-694

The Framing Fridley Block Party on 7th Street in June invited residents to share ideas for street redesign options to provide a safer way for kids to walk or bike to school.

New resident packets welcome newcomers to Fridley and provide essential information on services, laws, events, and ways to contact us.

Fire Prevention & Education
• Fire extinguisher training for local businesses
• Fire Open House - approximately 500 guests
• Truck tours and Q&A at various community events
• Fire trailer and cooking safety demonstrations
• North Metro Fire Ops 101 - a day for local media and elected officials to participate in fire and rescue activities, 6 cities participated including Fridley
• School visits and station tours
• A recent $1,000 stipend award will help build a portable home fire sprinkler system display

Crime Prevention & Education
• Citizens Academy: 25 participants in fall 2017
• Dose of Reality and the Top Secret Project: working to alert residents to the growing Opioid and substance abusive epidemic
• Monthly Block Captain trainings and Neighborhood Watch Program
• Monthly Senior Safety Seminars
• Weekly Crime Alerts and Safety Tips on NextDoor.com
• PSA and social media posts on crime prevention topics and reminders
• Newsletter articles, website updates and video segments with helpful crime prevention tips and information

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a look ahead to Fridley fun in 2018

January
20 WINTERFEST at Fridley Community Center and Commons Park

March
3 SPRINGBROOK SPREE The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation invites you to the annual gala fundraiser.

May
5 ENVIRONMENTAL FUN FAIR AND FIX-IT CLINIC
at Springbrook Nature Center

June
14 FRIDLEY LIONS ‘49ER DAY PARADE near Commons Park

June
16 FRIDLEY ‘49ER DAY events at Commons Park including bands, kids activities and more.

July
22 HISTORIC HOME TOUR OF FRIDLEY
Fridley is partnering with the Anoka History Center and Fridley Historical Society to offer a tour of historic homes and lovely gardens within the City. Many of these homes have captivating stories from the 1965 tornadoes.

October
20 PUMPKIN NIGHT IN THE PARK at Springbrook Nature Center

Recycling Drop-offs and Free Paper Shredding

$15 OFF
Green Lights Recycling Facility
Valid January 13, 2018

You asked, we listened. We are introducing more opportunities for bulky item recycling in 2018 (plus shorter wait times). We will be hosting 6 recycling drop-off and paper shredding events at Green Lights Recycling (located at 1525 99th Lane Northeast in Blaine).

January 13
March 10
May 12 (cardboard accepted)
July 14
September 8
November 10 (cardboard accepted)

Join us for free and reduced pricing on recycling Appliances, Electronics, Mattresses, Scrap Metal and More. You can also securely shred up to 4 boxes of paper per event for free! Save even more with our coupons for Fridley residents. Check FridleyMN.Gov/dropoff or call 763-572-3594 for pricing, discounts, and more information.

We Take Old Holiday Lights
Recycle your old, tangled or broken holiday lights at Fridley City Hall! There will be a collection box in the lobby now through January 15.

Fridley City Hall, 6431 University Ave NE
parking and entrance off of 5th Street

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. After-hour drop-off available until 7:30 p.m. on January 8

Fridley Community Calendar

January
1 City offices closed in observance of New Year’s Day
4 HRA Meeting
8 City Council Meeting
8 Charter Commission
8 Parks & Recreation Commission
9 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission
13 Recycling Dropoff Event at Green Lights Recycling
15 City offices closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day
17 Planning Commission
20 Winterfest at Fridley Community Center
22 City Council Meeting

February
1 HRA Meeting
5 Charter Commission Meeting
5 Parks & Recreation Commission
7 Appeals Commission
12 City Council Meeting
13 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission
19 City offices closed in observance of President Day
21 Planning Commission
26 City Council Meeting

NOTE: City Council and Commission meetings start at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Municipal Center, 6431 University Avenue NE. The public is welcome.

Hearing impaired persons who need an interpreter or other persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids and who would like to attend a meeting, should contact Roberta Collins at (763) 572-3500 at least one week in advance.

Winterfest
12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Saturday, January 20
Commons Park & Fridley Community Center
6085 7th Street NE

Outdoors:
· Horse Drawn Hay Ride
· Dog Sledding Rides
· Ice Skating & Sledding
· Medallion Hunt with a $100 prize
· Huge Bonfire and S’mores
· North Metro Youth Hockey Mites Tournament
· Snow Shoe Demos

Indoors:
· Play BINGO and other games
· Visit the Instant Snow Booth
· Arts & Crafts
· Dance to music provided by a DJ
· Food and Refreshments (for purchase)

All activities are FREE thanks to donations from local groups and organizations. Questions? Give us a call at 763-572-3570.

Taking Flight
Saturday, March 3 … the fun starts at 5:00 p.m.

The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation invites you to this annual gala event! The evening includes dinner and an entertaining speaker, plus the excitement of a live auction and a robust silent auction. Cash bar available. This night is for adults.

Tickets are $45, available now at springbrookfoundation.org/tickets/ or in-person at the nature center. We hope to see you there!