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## **Fridley – A city in transition: Joint meeting of the City of Fridley & League of Women Voters ABC**

6:30 pm on Tuesday, **October 19**, Fridley City Hall

**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021

**Time:** Social time begins at 6:30 pm (There will be packaged snacks.)

Presentation is from 7:00-8:00

**Location:** Fridley City Hall, Council Chambers\*, 7071 University Ave NE, Fridley, MN

**October Monthly Program Meeting**

**Note date change!**

*We won't be meeting on our traditional second Monday of the month. Rather, check out our special program below with the City of Fridley!*

**Program:** Learn about Fridley's transition from a city with an aging population to a city that's welcoming to young families and providing varieties of housing and other amenities to make Fridley a vibrant community for the future. Presentation topics will include 2021 Resident Survey results, community development updates, and Park System Improvement Plan updates. **Fridley's experience with this transition will be applicable to other cities in our area as we move from development to re-development.**

\*For those in the City of Fridley, the program will also be broadcast on Fridley Municipal Television, Channel 17 and will be shared on the LWV ABC website when available. We will not have a virtual attendance option for this meeting.

Our thanks to Alyssa Kruzel who was the Community Engagement Specialist at City of Fridley, for making these arrangements. Alyssa will soon be on to a new position with MN DOT, so we will be hosted by Scott Hickock.





**Upcoming Program Meeting  
On Monday evening, November 8**

Our guest will be Anoka County Sheriff James Stewart. Stay tuned for more information about options to meet in person or via Zoom – as well as to watch the program later via video-taping by QCTV.

**Last Month's Program - Redistricting: What to Expect and Why it Matters  
With Kathy Tingelstad and Paul Huffman**

Great presentations at our September 13 program meeting by Paul Huffman, LWV Minnesota Redistricting Coordinator, and Kathy Tingelstad, member of LWV ABC and former state representative and speaker-educator on redistricting.

Following our meeting, Paul shared information about upcoming hearing dates with the Court's Special Redistricting Panel. See schedule of hearings on LWV MN's Redistricting page at:

<https://www.lwvmn.org/redistricting-2021>

If you missed our September program, **you can watch a video of the program** on the *Spotlight on Issues* page of our website, <https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/lwv-abcs-spotlight-issues> -- or on our LWV ABC You Tube channel.

**Friend of League Award Presented to Paul Linnell and Anoka County Elections Staff**

The Friend of League award is presented annually by LWV ABC to recognize an individual or organization making an impact on our communities through cooperation and support of LWV goals. This year we were proud to honor Paul Linnell and the Anoka County Elections staff. As noted in our letter to Paul Linnell and his staff:

*As our Friend of League recipient, we recognize your outstanding accomplishments and service to the electorate of Anoka County, ensuring safe and accessible elections for voters. We appreciate your work with educating the public, promptly answering questions, and partnering with local organizations to promote voting. Your work has been transparent and encourages the trust critical to our democracy.*



Paul Linnell attended our September program at Andover City Hall to receive the Friend of League award in person from President Gretchen Sabel.

## A Greeting from Geri and Darby Nelson

To our LWV friends—

Darby is now living in memory care at Champlin Shores, 1 mile from our home. I kept him home absolutely as long as I could. He has 24 hour care, but is happiest when I am there. The nurses appreciate it when I am available to help with meals and medications crushed in ice cream. He knows family and good friends and perks up with someone new to talk with. Our daughter, Robin, visits twice a week and makes a point of caring for her mother.

I am adjusting to living alone. I enjoyed moderating a forum for Minneapolis Ward 11 City Council and taking a shift at the Northtown Library on National Voter Registration Day, but that's enough right now. Friends have been sending notes remembering Darby's accomplishments and legacy and they have created moments of joy.

Thanks for your thoughts and expressions of concern. Being surrounded by friends buoys our spirits.

Geri Nelson

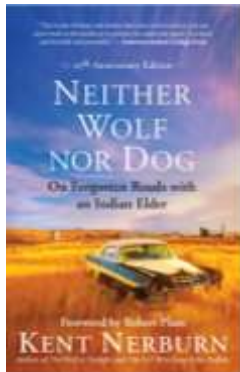
*Send your greetings to Darby and Geri, and remembrances of all of Darby's accomplishments, to Geri Nelson, 1013 Vera Street N, Champlin, MN 55316. Geri will make deliveries during her visits to Darby.*



## Book and Film Discussions

### Join us on Zoom!

Gather with LWV ABC members and friends to enjoy conversations from the comfort of your home – expand your knowledge and delve into topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion.



### Upcoming Films:

- Weds, October 6 – *Neither Wolf Nor Dog* (your choice of book or film)
- Weds, November 3 – *Black Panther*

### Upcoming Books:

- Weds, October 6 – *Neither Wolf Nor Dog* (your choice of book or film)
- Weds, November 17 – *Rez Life: An Indian's Journey Through Reservation Life* (2012) by David Treuer

**6:15 Social time, 6:30 Discussion**

**Link to the Calendar on our website for book/film description and where to obtain:**

<https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/calendar>

## National Voter Registration Day great success for LWV ABC!

*A Note to LWV ABC members from Cindy Wetzell, Voter Registration Coordinator*

Our valued partner, Anoka County libraries, worked with us to create on-site voter registration opportunities. Between the volunteers at the Rum River and Northtown Libraries, we registered 10 new voters. Glenda Meixell\* is our newest cable TV sensation! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uhhl5vDyN0>

Public Service Announcements were recorded with QCTV and CTN-Community Television in Coon Rapids by Cindy Wetzell and Linda Rodgers, respectively. We are obtaining links to these recordings and will post to our website when they're available.

Digital billboards located at the intersections of 694/252 and 65/10 displayed our National Voter Registration Day message nearly 500 times. Thanks to Rachel Mero for her leadership in making this happen!

**National Voter Registration Day**  
**9/28/2021 mnvotes.org**



Thanks to the work of many, we had coverage on all of the community cable channels and in the community newspapers. And all of this in an "off" year!

None of it would have happened without your commitment, support and participation. Just imagine what we can do next year!





## Meet the Candidates Forum for School Board Candidates

By Linda Rodgers, LWV ABC Voter Services Chair

**There is no longer a contested election in the Spring Lake Park school district.** One of the candidates is no longer pursuing the office, according to the superintendent's office. Though that name will still be on the ballot, the reality is that there is no longer a contest, and the superintendent didn't see a reason to hold **Meet the Candidates**. Our LWV ABC board agreed.

**So, the Anoka-Hennepin School Board forum is the only one we will be conducting this fall.** The format will be candidates-only, appearing together in the school board room. QCTV and Anoka-Hennepin staff will work together to tape the forum, and Pat Kennedy will connect with YouTube and cable companies to create web access.

**The public is invited to submit questions for the Meet the Candidates forum to our website:**

- Click on this link: <https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/meet-candidates-forums>
- Or, go to our website [www.lwvabcmn.org](http://www.lwvabcmn.org) – and click on *Candidate Forums* on the left-hand side. Follow the link to the form for submitting

**Forum organizers will ask a variety of questions from those submitted.**

**To help solicit questions for the candidates and to advise of the forthcoming video of the forum,** we've sent out press releases, posted information on our Facebook, and shared information with the school district for their social media feeds and (we hope) their message on their homepage. Anoka-Hennepin Parent Involvement has sent an email to all PTO and booster club leaders explaining the process for submitting questions. We're hoping this outreach will prompt an influx of questions and encourage views once the forum is posted online.

Bruce Pomerantz has agreed to moderate the forum. Roger McCulley will time. Linda Rodgers will host with the help of Paula Mohr and Sue Dergantz. Pat Kennedy has promoted the event on the ABCLWV website and has set up user-friendly online submission of questions.



## September LWVMN Voter Services Zoom meeting

Reported by Linda Rodgers

Voter Service reps from across the state shared their plans for National Voter Registration Day activities. They were blown away by ABC's promotion of National Voter Registration Day using Blip electronic billboards!

Updated guidance for forums has been posted on the Volunteer Services Handbook on the state website. There are no mandates because circumstances vary so greatly across the state. The locals who participated in this call reported a variety of approaches they are considering. Paul Huffman counseled that we keep safety, health, and integrity in mind as we make our local decisions.

## **Update – ABC Members Study Anoka County Government**

Submitted by Julie Trude, LWV ABC Vice President

*As reported in our last newsletter, members of LWV ABC are participating in a study by Council of Metropolitan Leagues (CMAL) on metro area county governments. Participating members are Julie Trude, Dee Ann Christensen, and Wes Volkenant. Their recent task was to interview commissioners and administrative staff to learn more about topics that they delved into last month. Following is a summary of their interviews.*

### **Anoka County Transparent?**

Citizens cannot address the full county board at regular meetings. Citizens may only address commissioners at the beginning of committee meetings. Committees often have a quorum of commissioners, but not the entire board. All meetings occur during the daytime. The only evening public hearing is the Truth-in-Taxation hearing held just before the levy is adopted. Once the ongoing CMAL LWV study of metro area county government is complete, the practices of other counties will be known.



Regular Board meetings are televised and can be viewed through a link on the county webpage <https://www.anokacounty.us/693/Board-of-Commissioners>, or on their You Tube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/user/AnokaCountyMN/featured>. Committee meetings are where discussions occur that lead to decisions recommended to the full board. These meetings are not televised, recorded. No minutes are taken. The only way to follow what occurs is to attend these meetings. The agenda, location and time for committee meetings is posted on the online county calendar. <https://www.anokacounty.us/calendar.aspx?CID=25>

Interviews with county administration and county commissioners by our local County Study Group revealed the philosophy that commissioners learn from citizens during their campaigns, when they are at their businesses, when they attend events and through calls and emails. These contacts form the basis for their decisions on setting the budget, their priorities in lobbying state and federal legislators, policies they set or change, buildings they construct and all things that affect the public.

The interviews revealed the commissioners understand this contrasts with their experiences at the city level where public participation is available at all regular meetings and invited and welcomed for many projects and policies. The Study Group heard that commissioners believe the public doesn't really care about the matters they decide and they are able to fairly represent the public without input at meetings.

By contrast, commissioners seemed proud to share that up to 1,000 residents attended Zoom meetings on county road projects when remote attendance was offered during Covid.

## Anoka County Commissioner Fun Facts



Commissioners are considered full-time. Some commissioners still hold other jobs as there is no prohibition on other employment and they explain they have flexibility from owning their own businesses or working with an employer allowing them flexibility in performing their duties. Several commissioners work for the residents and themselves or another employer.



Commissioner pay is set by resolution at \$73,028.80. Commissioners declined the most recent raise, so draw slightly less.



Contacting a commissioner is best done through email or phone call to their posted contacts found on the county website: <https://www.anokacounty.us/693/Board-of-Commissioners> Commissioners decide how to reach out to the public for input.



Residents may only address the county commissioners formally at the beginning of committee meetings. There is no resident forum at regular board meetings. All meetings are held in the daytime. An online calendar is posted with agenda links for each meeting. See: [www.anokacounty.us/calendar.aspx?CID=25#previousToCurrentMonth](http://www.anokacounty.us/calendar.aspx?CID=25#previousToCurrentMonth)



Commissioners make appointments to advisory committees when an opening occurs requiring someone from their district. There is no process. An online application is available. County administration will send applications with a commissioner who has an opening to fill. See: [www.anokacounty.us/3122/Citizen-Advisory-Boards-and-Commissions](http://www.anokacounty.us/3122/Citizen-Advisory-Boards-and-Commissions)





# October 2021

**October 16, 2021; 10:00-11:30 AM – via Zoom – sponsored by CMAL – the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues**



Co-sponsored by the LWV Woodbury-Cottage Grove Area



**Lanya Ross – Regional Water Supply Planner & Analyst, Metropolitan Council**

Lanya Ross, a geologist and environmental analyst, has spent 20 years working on water supply planning in the metro area. At the Metropolitan Council she collaborates with communities and public utilities on regional water supply planning, policy development, groundwater modeling and community engagement.

**“Setting the (Water) Table”** – information on the sources, uses, demand and pricing of the water in the metro area.

**Paul Gardner – Administrator, Clean Water Council**

Paul Gardner is the Administrator for the Clean Water Council, which recommends how to spend the Clean Water Fund. The Fund is derived from the dedicated sales tax increase approved by the voters in 2008 through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy amendment. Paul has also worked in the recycling industry for many years and served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from Shoreview 2007-2010.

**“Strategies for Agencies & Individuals”** – water governance, clean water funding, water reuse & what we can do to make an impact.

### Zoom Information

Click here for: [Meeting Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 860 3741 2430 Passcode: 210102

One tap mobile: +13126266799, 86037412430#



## **A National Community Forum -- Health Reform and Social Justice**

**Offered by LWV Davis Area,  
California**

Dr. Rogers's presentation will include an overview of the U.S. health care system through a social justice lens, followed by a discussion highlighting disparities resulting from our current policies and opportunities to improve inequities through health reform. The forum will conclude with an audience Q&A.

## **Health Reform & Social Justice: Opportunities for Reducing Inequity and Addressing Health Disparities**

*An Evening with Dr. Susan Rogers, President, Physicians for a National Health Plan (PNHP)*



**Wednesday, October 6th  
6:00PM - 8:00PM**

Register at:



**Register and view a flyer** with more information about the program: <https://lwvdaforum.eventbrite.com>

## **Highlights of our September Board Meeting**

**September 27, 2021**

Voter Services reported that because there is only one school district in our area that has contested seats, we will be holding only one Meet the Candidate forum this Fall. It will be held on October 14th without a live audience, as we did last year. Questions can be submitted on our LWV ABC website and Facebook page, as well as other Anoka County publications.

The Program Committee reports that our October meeting will be a joint meeting with the city of Fridley in their city council chambers, on Tuesday, Oct. 19th. They will be discussing how Fridley is working to transition to a city that is welcoming to young families. Fridley TV will broadcast the meeting.

Our November meeting will be held in the community room at the Anoka County Sheriff's office, in their community room, on Nov. 8th. Sheriff James Stuart will discuss issues in the Sheriff's department. It will be held as a zoom hybrid, with QCTV available for taping.

Three interviews with County Commissioners were done for the CMAL study of County government, and were reported on at the Board meeting. County Administrator Rhonda Sivarajah was interviewed by Julie Trude, Wes Volkenant interviewed Commissioner Mike Gamache, and Commissioner Scott Schulte was interviewed by DeeAnn Christensen. They all reported that the interviews went well, and were very interesting. Julie Trude said that she has some ideas on how to organize all the interview materials.

Submitted by  
Arlene Gillett, Secretary

## **North Suburban Center for the Arts**

**At Banfill-Locke House (NSCA)**

*An update from September 24 from NSCA Executive Director Abby Kosberg*

Dear NSCA community,

As some of our neighbors already know, **last night there was a fire at decommissioned Fire Station #3**, where we recently signed a 5-year lease to occupy and renovate as our new home.

Around 8 p.m., the Fridley Fire Division was dispatched to a blown transformer and downed power lines near the building that were on fire, which in turn caused a fire on the roof of the building. Fridley Fire reacted quickly and efficiently and were able to put the fire out before it spread. **Thankfully, no one was at the building when the fire occurred, and no one was injured while the fire crew worked to put the fire out.**

At this time, **we are unsure if this fire will affect our renovation timeline; I will communicate that as soon as I know more.** There was mild to moderate damage done to the attic space, roof, eave, exterior soffit, and to the building's electrical system. I am currently working with the City of Fridley and their insurance (the City insures the physical building per our lease) to facilitate the necessary repairs to the building.

**I'm confident that we will work through this quickly and efficiently and be back on track as soon as possible. These past few months have proven how strong and supportive our community is. And although this might seem like yet another setback, I'm thankful everyone is safe and that we have a clear path forward.**

In the meantime, we are still working towards our goal of raising \$100,000 by the end of this year to facilitate renovations. Now more than ever we need your help to reach our goal! **If you are able, please donate to our capital campaign, attend events, or share our cause with your friends. [See article below.]**

I hope to see you around the Banfill-Locke House in the coming weeks and will communicate any next steps when I know more! All my best,

**Abby Kosberg**

Executive Director, North Suburban Center for the Arts

### **There's also good news from North Suburban Center for the Arts!**

Check out all the energy of this organization to transition to a new location and their increased and ongoing programming:

**Link to the capital campaign to raise funds** in order to fund the transition of this organization to a new location, complete necessary renovations of our new home, support our staff, and ensure our programming remains accessible during this time.:

[www.northsuburbanarts.org/new-home](http://www.northsuburbanarts.org/new-home)

**Link to all the ongoing events and exhibitions:**

[www.facebook.com/northsuburbanarts/](https://www.facebook.com/northsuburbanarts/)



## August Academy -- Presented by League of Women Voters Minnesota Recordings Now Available

We shared information last month about Zoom orientation sessions for LWV members and leaders. If you were unable to attend you can catch up on what you missed by watching recordings of each session and/or reviewing the slide presentations on the LWV Minnesota website: [www.lwvmn.org/august-academy](http://www.lwvmn.org/august-academy)

Most all of the resources shared during the August Academy can be found in these two locations:

- LWVUS: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management>
- LWVMN: <https://www.lwvmn.org/member-resources>

Please take time to familiarize yourself with all the great guidance and support provided to members and League Leaders on these websites. If you have any questions about where to find something that was covered in a session or about LWVMN training in general, please email [info@lwvmn.org](mailto:info@lwvmn.org).

## Do you have Information to share with LWV ABC?

Get in touch with LWV ABC

Visit our public website:

[www.lwvabcmn.org](http://www.lwvabcmn.org). If you need a refresher on accessing the Members Only section of the website, send an email to [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com). We will reply with the link for you to bookmark.

Check out the LWV ABC blog:

<https://www.lwvumrr.org/lwv-abc-blog>



**We're on Facebook:** Just search for "LWV ABC Facebook". **Instagram, too!**

**Our monthly newsletter, *The Voter*:** Members and other interested persons receive our newsletter by email in the early part of each month. Issues are also available on our LWV ABC website, [www.lwvabcmn.org](http://www.lwvabcmn.org).