

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS



Weekly Newsletter:
5/8/23 - 5/12/23

2077 Larpenteur Avenue West, Falcon Heights, Minnesota 55113
| 651-792-7600 | <https://www.falconheights.org/>

Community Updates

Community Park Purchase

The City officially closed on the purchase of Community Park on May 4th!

The City has leased the 15.5 acre Community Park property from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities since the early 1970s. With the lease expiring in 2024, both parties felt it was in their mutual best interest for Falcon Heights to own the property.

With the purchase completed and the long-term ownership secured for the property, the City will undergo our long anticipated renovation of the park, which will include new amenities and a brand new park building. The existing park building was constructed 40 years ago and is currently not accessible to the public due to the unsafe state of the building.

2023 PMP Update

The City Council approved a contract on April 26th with Northwest Asphalt, Inc as the winning bidder for the 2023 Pavement Management Project. The low bid of \$1.16 million came in 23.4% lower than the Engineer's estimates.

As part of the bid approval, the City Council also voted to include alternate bids for the project. These included the striping of Garden Avenue, and for the winning bidder to pave the Ruggles Pathway with permeable pavers. The decision to pave the pathway came after a review of legal opinions regarding the pathway's liability in its current state. The choice of permeable pavers over the alternative of a concrete walk reflected the desire to improve the path with a surface that mitigates stormwater while maintaining the character of the pathway.

Community Updates

No Mow May returns

At its meeting on April 26, the City Council passed an ordinance to make the "No Mow May" initiative a permanent addition to the City Code. The amendment temporarily suspends local ordinances regarding lawn maintenance from the beginning of May until the beginning of June for residential properties.

No Mow May is a voluntary participation program, and those who want to mow their yard may continue to do so. No Mow May is a community initiative to raise awareness of the importance of creating habitats and can increase the abundance and diversity of wildlife, including bees and other pollinators. The main goal is to allow grass to grow unmown in May by creating habitat and forage for early-season pollinators. With that being said, it is still the property owner's responsibility to maintain noxious weeds.

Ramsey County Cleveland Avenue Reconstruction

Cleveland Avenue from Buford to Larpenteur is closed. The Buford intersection is also closed. Follow signed detour. For more information, click [here](#)

Public Works Updates

Street Sweeping

Public Works resumed spring street sweeping, completing sweeping in the Northeast Quadrant and Northome (with the exception of alleys). Areas that were initially missed due to parked cars will be revisited.

Watch our [Facebook page](#) for updates and to see when your neighborhood is scheduled for cleanup.

Potholes

Public Works will address any remaining potholes once street sweeping has been completed. Residents can report potholes by calling City Hall at 651-792-7600 or by email at mail@falconheights.org

Tree Trimming

Uppercut Tree Services will begin tree trimming in the Northeast Quadrant on May 8. Watch our [Facebook page](#) for progress updates.

See a Streetlight Out?

Residents can report outages directly to Xcel Energy using an online form. To report an outage click [here](#). Please call City Hall to report any outages to the decorative lighting on Larpenteur Avenue.

City Council Upcoming Meetings

The next Falcon Heights City Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10 at 7:00 PM

Presentations:

1. Year-End 2022 Audit Report
2. Peter Lindstrom, Metropolitan Council Member, District 10
3. Xcel Energy - Partners in Energy Program

Agenda:

- General Disbursements, Payroll and Wire Payments
- ARPA Funding Plan
- 2023 Pay Equity Report Notice of Noncompliance Correction
- Resignation of Andrea LaDouceur from the CEC

Policy Items:

1. Planning Commission Findings of Fact - Amber Union PUD Amendment and City Code Amendment to Allow for Drive-Through Coffee Shop

City Council Meeting Recap

UNOFFICIAL REPORT OF THE CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING OF MAY 3, 2023

Called to Order: 6:33 PM

Present: Mayor Gustafson
Councilmembers: Leehy, Wehyee, Meyer and Wassenberg
Staff: City Administrator, Jack Linehan

Agenda

Presentations: None

Policy Items: Planning Commission Findings of Fact – Amber Union PUD Amendment and City Code Amendment to Allow for Drive-Through Coffee Shop
(Councilmember Wehyee motions to direct City Administrator to draft letter to applicant, to extend time period allowing City Council to work on the Findings of Fact; approved 5-0)

ADJOURNMENT: 7:46 PM



WE'RE HIRING!
**-Public Works Senior
Maintenance Worker-**

The City of Falcon Heights is seeking applicants for the position of Public Works Senior Maintenance Worker (FT, non-exempt). This position carries out a wide variety maintenance activities without requiring oversight. These duties including mowing parks and boulevards, fertilizing city grounds, street and sidewalk repairs, snow and ice control activities including snow plowing and shoveling. Candidates with a Class C CDL or greater are preferred, or candidates with a Class C CDL in progress. Experience working in construction, landscaping or trades required. Experience in public works preferred.

The complete job description and application is available by clicking [here](#). Send resume and city application to "Public Works Maintenance Worker", City of Falcon Heights, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave., Falcon Heights, MN 55113 or by email to jack.linehan@falconheights.org. The position is open until filled, with review of applicants occurring on May 12, 2023.

WE'RE HIRING!
-Summer Program Coordinator-

The City is currently hiring for a Summer Program Coordinator. The position will be responsible for planning, organizing, and coordinating a variety of recreational programs for children (ages 3-13) in an outdoor setting.

The position will also help hire and train other summer programming staff. The ideal candidate will be able to work with no direct supervision, excel in leading group activities, have experience working with children and have a background in Parks and Recreation or Elementary Education.

If this sounds like you, we highly encourage you to apply! The position will close on Monday, May 29 at 4:30 PM

Please visit [our website](#) to view the entire job description and review the application requirements.

WE'RE HIRING!
-Seasonal Laborers-

The City of Falcon Heights is seeking applicants for seasonal workers in our parks and public works department. These positions will assist the department in routine summer maintenance activities while reporting to the director of parks and public works. Typical duties will include mowing parks and boulevards, fertilizing city grounds, street and sidewalk repairs, and other duties as assigned. Starting hourly rate between \$18.00 - \$20.00. Minimum age of 18 years old and valid driver's license. Please visit our [website](#) to view the entire job description and review the application requirements.

WE'RE HIRING!
-Seasonal Recreation Staff-

The City of Falcon Heights is seeking candidates for the temporary/seasonal positions of Seasonal Recreation Staff. These positions will be responsible for assisting in the implementation of summer programming for children (ages 3-13) in an outdoor setting. The ideal candidates will be energetic, reliable, and have experience in coaching or working with children. Please visit [our website](#) to view the entire job description and review the application requirements.

UPCOMING CITY EVENTS

**Spring Together -
May 20**

The City will host a Spring Together event on Saturday, May 20 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM at Curtiss Field. Meet your neighbors and enjoy free ice cream and family fun! We hope to see you there!

**Ice Cream Social-
July 20**

The City will host its annual Ice Cream Social event on Thursday, July 20 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Community Park. Enjoy free ice cream treats, live music and outdoor games! More details to come, but please save the date.

**State Fair Policies and
Procedures Review Task Force**

The City of Falcon Heights is establishing a task force to review the city policies and procedures regarding the Minnesota State Fair and fairground events.

[If you are interested in participating, please fill out the interest form here.](#)

State Fairgrounds Events

Friends School Plant Sale May 12-14, 2023

DESCRIPTION:

This event is the largest fundraising plant sale in the United States! The sale features over one million plants in about 2,300 varieties. On Mother's Day, all plants are 1/3 off.

LOCATION: Grandstand

HOURS:

Friday, May 12: 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Saturday, May 13: 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Sunday, May 14: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

ADMISSION:

Free

For more information, visit

www.friendsschoolplantsale.com

Unless noted, event parking will be on the fairgrounds in lots and on streets surrounding the event venue.

- Fairgrounds access: Information on guidelines and restrictions regarding fairgrounds access, especially for pedestrians and bikers, will be updated here:
<https://www.mnstatefair.org/fairgrounds-access/>

For more MN State Fairgrounds events, click [here](#).

Ramsey County Master Gardeners' Annual Plant Sale

Date: May 20, 2023

Time: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Church of the Holy Childhood,
1435 Midway Pkwy, St. Paul

Find your favorite plants and new varieties:

- Vegetables, herbs and seed-trial winners
- Large selection of tomato plants
- More than 1,500 native perennials and pollinator-friendly plants Annuals and houseplants
- Garden gloves, journals and more

Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted.

Check out our plant selections at:
ramseymastergardeners.org/plantsale

Proceeds support Master Gardener community and youth education programs in Ramsey County.



Mother's Day Weekend

Let's get reel, moms! Join the DNR's and the Student Anglers Organization Fishing challenge

When: May 13-14, 2023

Where: Any lake in Minnesota

This year, like every year on Mother's Day weekend, all moms across Minnesota can fish for free without a license. (Kids under 16 can fish without a license all the time). Dad will still need a license to fish (unless you fish at a State Park, which you can usually do without a license any weekend of the year).

Participation in the fishing challenge is free on Facebook and open to moms statewide. Just join the Facebook group and get your bait and camera ready! Submit one photo of each fish that you catch -- all species and sizes welcome. Snap a photo and let your fish go, or keep it for dinner if it's in season.

All participants who submit a fish will be entered in a random drawing for prizes provided by the Student Anglers Organization, including SCHEELS gift cards and Onyx inflatable lifejackets.

Let's find out if Minnesota moms have what it takes to catch 10,000 fish in the land of 10,000 lakes.

Learn more and join the challenge!



Mother's Day Bonsai Show

When: May 13 - 14, 2023

10: 00 AM - 6:00 PM

Where: Como Conservatory

Instead of buying a bouquet for Mom, make memories at the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory!

Mother's Day weekend marks the return of the Minnesota Bonsai Society Show, an extravaganza of elegantly trained trees arranged throughout the Visitor Center. If you've been wondering what it takes to grow your own, don't miss the Mother's Day Bonsai Show, which will feature dozens of privately-owned trees all trained by members of the Minnesota Bonsai Society. Members will be on hand all weekend to answer your questions about everything from taking care of Bonsai, to which trees work the best. This is a unique opportunity to see beautiful privately owned bonsai, along with Como's vast collection

Summer Program Registration is Open!

The Falcon Heights Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of summer programs for children. Registration is now open and runs through May 25. For more information, please visit our [website](#).

Questions about programming or summer employment opportunities can be directed to Kelly Nelson at 651-792-7617 or kelly.nelson@falconheights.org.



Como Falcon Heights Block Nurse Program

WE NEED YOU!



Como Park/Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Nurse Program is looking for volunteers of all types – friendly visitors, driving seniors to doctor appointments, chore support, grocery delivery, dog walkers and more.

Make a difference in the lives of our neighborhood seniors! Even one hour will help greatly.

Call 651.642.1127 to let us know what and when you can help. We're stronger together!



Join a City Commission!

The following commission is currently accepting applications:

- Planning Commission (1 vacancy)
- Community Engagement Commission (2 vacancies)

If you are passionate about the City of Falcon Heights and want to make a positive impact on your community please apply today!

More information can be found [here](#).

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors

Lake Walk with St. Anthony Park Area Seniors! You'll learn from a certified instructor a safe and enjoyable way to make walking part of your everyday life while helping you increase balance and strength. Group will meet on Como Lake pavilion on Fridays from 10:00 -11:00 AM starting on May 12. Registration is required. Donations accepted, but not required. Contact SAPAS at sc@sapaseniors.org or call 651-642-9052 to register.

Start Saving Energy at Home!

Start saving energy at home this Earth Day with Home Energy Squad! Falcon Heights residents can sign up for a discounted HES visit or if you have already had a visit, get started on your recommended energy projects. mncee.org/hes

As we all know by now, the weather in Minnesota can be unpredictable, but you can make sure your home is equipped for all types of weather by having a Home Energy Squad (HES) visit! With a HES visit, an Energy Auditor will help you get instant energy savings by installing free, energy saving materials, inspect your home's insulation, heating and cooling systems, and water heater, and provide you with a customized report with recommended upgrades you can make to improve your home's energy efficiency.

An HES visit is beneficial anytime of the year, whether it is snowing and freezing or sunny or sweltering. That's why HES offers year-round visits, so the energy-savings never have to stop! Plus, thanks to Falcon Height's partnership Home Energy Squad, you can get a visit at a discounted price or free for income qualified customers. If you are ready to schedule your visit, go to mncee.org/hes or call 651-328-6220.

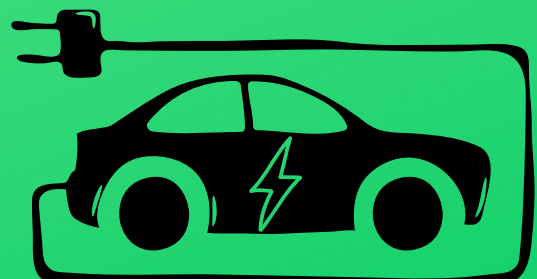
The Home Energy Squad is provided by Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy and delivered by the local nonprofit, Center for Energy and Environment (CEE)

Electric Vehicle Incentives

Thinking of buying a car? Consider an electric vehicle (EV). Compared to cars with combustion engines, EVs can save you money on fuel and maintenance (no oil changes required). They don't produce any direct emissions, and so by going electric, you will improve our air quality and diminish your carbon footprint. EVs are also a blast to drive.

Government incentives help make EVs more affordable. The federal government currently provides tax credits of up to \$7,500 for the purchase or lease of certain EVs, and up to \$4,000 for the purchase of a used EV. If you're interested, you'll want to check the IRS list for credits for different models: <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/manufacturers-and-models-for-new-qualified-clean-vehicles-purchased-in-2023-or-after>.

You'll also want to check on income restrictions: an individual's adjusted gross income must be under \$150,000 to qualify for the credit. In addition, if you decide to upgrade your home's EV charging station, you might qualify for another (\$1,000) federal tax credit. More information is available at: <https://ev.xcelenergy.com/>



City Hall Programming

REGISTER
NOW

Tae Kwon Do

Register for Tae Kwon Do sessions!

Tae Kwon Do Basic and Intermediate/Advanced sessions will be held on Tuesdays, with classes running May 9 - June 13.

Cardio Kickboxing classes will be held on Thursdays, running May 11 - June 15. All classes are held in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Classes are instructed by Joshua Jordan, a 2nd-degree black belt. These classes help develop self-defense skills, mental strength, focus, self-confidence, physical health and flexibility.

For more information and to register, click this link:
<https://www.falconheights.org/residents/tkd-information>



Yoga

Register for drop-in yoga classes today!

Classes run every Monday from March 13 - May 22 at 4:30 PM. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Classes are instructed by Shaila Cunningham, who has over 20 years of experience and was certified in 2001 in residence at Kripalu. Appropriate for healthy beginners or for those wanting to explore “deeper practices,” classes will combine classical yoga with best practices, served up with a side of humor. Shaila serves as instructor for North Oaks and Midland Hills Golf Clubs and offers additional classes at YogaHotDish locations.

For more information and to register, click this link:

<https://www.falconheights.org/residents/parks-recreation/yoga>



City Hall Programming - New Class!

Neighborhood Workouts

Registration opens on May 8th!

Join your neighbors for fun and friendly outdoor strength and conditioning workouts at Curtiss Field Park this summer!

Participants will use dumbbells, resistance bands, slam balls, and other implements to build overall strength, mobility, balance, and cardio endurance. All bodies are welcome here, regardless of age, size, and previous experience.

Classes will be held on Saturday mornings at 8:00 a.m. from June 17 - August 19 at Curtiss Field (1551 W. Iowa Ave.).

For more information, click this link:
<https://www.falconheights.org/residents/tkd-information>

First half of 2023 property tax payments due May 15

The first half of 2023 property tax payments are due Monday, May 15. If your tax is \$100 or less for real property or \$50 or less for personal property, it must be paid in full by May 15.

Payment options:

Payments will be accepted via U.S. mail, at secure form drop-off locations and electronically. An online payment portal for property tax is available now.

- Pay online
 - Pay by mail, in person or drop box
- Payments must be postmarked on or before May 15 to avoid penalty. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Ramsey County.

A one-time late payment penalty waiver program is available to taxpayers. It may be used one time every ten years. It applies even if a property owner has used the one-time waiver in the past, and it will not impact the ability to use the waiver in the future.

[More information on property tax payments](#)

Additional Community Resources:

Online BIPOC Support Groups

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has coordinated various online support groups to help BIPOC. Please click [here](#) for more information.



Blood Pressure Clinics

Sponsored By Como Park/Falcon Heights Block Nurse Program



Love your heart! Take advantage of these **free** Blood Pressure Clinics.



1st & 3rd Mondays from
2pm-3:30pm at Arbor Pointe
Apartments

2nd & 4th Mondays from
2pm-3:30pm at Falcon Heights
City Hall

Ramsey County

Rent Assistance:



Are you a renter who has fallen behind on rent due to COVID-19? Click [here](#) for more information that could help!

Food Assistance:



There are many meal and food assistance programs that are available in Ramsey County.

Visit the Ramsey County website for information regarding food resource guides, programming, emergency support and more! Use the interactive map to find resources near you, including delivery services, free dining and meal sites.

Protection & Crisis:



There are protection & crisis resources available that are provided by Ramsey County. Click [here](#) for more information regarding protection and crisis resources.

Energy Cents Coalition



Are you looking for help paying your Xcel bills or are you in need of a replacement furnace, water heater or refrigerator. Call 651 - 774 - 9010 to check if you are eligible

Follow us on Social Media!



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