FALCON HEIGHTS

THE CITY THAT SOARS

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<



CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS

2077 LARPENTEUR AVENUE WEST

FALCON HEIGHTS, MN 55113

651-792-7600

CONTACT US <<<

City Hall	651-792-7600
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Kelly Nelson Assistant to the City Administrator	651-792-7617
Elke van der Werff Administrative & Communications Coordinator	651-792-7621
Roland Olson Finance Director	651-792-7612
Hannah Lynch Community Development Coordinator/ City Planner	651-792-7613
Colin Callahan Interim Public Works Director	651-792-7618

FIRE

Fire protection is provided the by St. Paul Fire Department.

Emergencies	911
Non-emergency	651-266-8989

POLICE

Police protection is provided by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office.

Emergencies	911
Non-emergency	651-767-0640

CITY HALL HOURS:

Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

>>> CITY COUNCIL

The City Council meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Avenue. Meetings are streamed live from NineNorth (formerly CTV) and televised on public access channel 15.



MAYOR RANDY GUSTAFSON

RANDY.GUSTAFSON@FALCONHEIGHTS.ORG

COUNCIL MEMBER YAKASAH WEHYEE

YAKASAH.WEHYEE@FALCONHEIGHTS.ORG





COUNCIL MEMBER MELANIE LEEHY

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COUNCIL MEMBER JIM WASSENBERG

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COUNCIL MEMBER ERIC MEYER

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Wednesday, September 27 City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
- Wednesday, October 4 City Council Workshop Meeting - 6:30 PM
- Wednesday, October 11 City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM

>>> CITY COUNCIL UNOFFICIAL MEETING RECAP <<<

UNOFFICIAL REPORT OF THE
CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTMEBER 13, 2023

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:03 PM

ROLL CALL: MAYOR GUSTAFSON
COUNCILMEMBERS: LEEHY, MEYER,
WEHYEE AND WASSENBERG
STAFF: CITY ADMINISTRATOR
LINEHAN

AGENDA

PRESENTATIONS

- None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- None

MINUTES

- August 9, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- August 9, 2023 City Council Special Budget Workshop #1 Minutes

(Meyer; approved 5-0)

CONSENT AGENDA

1. General Disbursements, Payroll, Wire Payments
2. City Licenses
3. Accept Resignation of Mike Tracy from the Parks and recreation Commission
4. Appointment of Mike Tracy to Planning Commission
5. Accept Resignation of Joel Gerich from the Planning Commission
6. 2023 Pavement Management Program Pay Estimate #3
7. Ordering of Cannabis Business Moratorium Extension Public Hearing
8. Acceptance of Donation from Falcon Heights / Lauderdale Lions Club

(Wehyee; approved 5-0)

POLICY ITEMS

1. Ordinance Modifying Use of Tobacco, Cannabis and Hemp in City Parks

(Policy Item tabled, Wassenberg; approved 5-0)

CITY COMMISSIONS <<<

The City of Falcon Heights has four City Commissions, which serve the City Council in an advisory capacity. Commissioners are volunteers including Falcon Heights residents, local business owners, and business designees who have been appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION

The Community Engagement Commission advises the City Council on matters related to community needs and issues, crime and prevention, public awareness, community involvement, and human rights issues. The commission also helps plan and facilitate community events such as Human Rights Day and the Ice Cream Social.

The Community Engagement Commission meets on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

There are currently THREE vacancies. To apply, click here

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The Parks & Recreation Commission advises the Council on matters related to the operation of the City's public parks and the City recreation program.

The Parks & Recreation Commission meets on the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

There is currently ONE vacancy. To apply, click here

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission advises the City Council on matters related to planning, zoning, and land use. Meetings are streamed live from NineNorth and televised on public access channel 15.

The Planning Commission meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

There is currently ONE vacancy. To apply, click here

ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

The Environment Commission advises the City Council on matters related to environmental issues, including recycling and waste disposal, community gardens, and storm water runoff. The Commission also develops and recommends implementation of environmentally friendly initiatives such as rain barrels and solar panels, supporting and advancing the City's participation in the GreenStep Cities program.
The Environment Commission meets the second Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m., at City Hall.

There are currently NO vacancies.

PUBLIC WORKS & TRAFFIC UPDATES



Mowing

Public Works will continue mowing city-maintained grass, as needed.

Rain Gardens

Public Works has been working on the rain gardens at City Hall. They planted native plants and decorative grass and will be adding mulch.

Sidewalks

Public Works is continuing the sidewalk project in the Northome neighborhood, time and weather permitting.

Street Sweeping

Fall is here! Public Works will be starting street sweeping in University Grove and other sections as needed.

Lift Station

Public Works will coordinate efforts to get the auto dialer system functional for the lift station on Larpenteur Ave. and Coffman St.

Ramsey County Cleveland Avenue Reconstruction

The intersection at Larpenteur and Cleveland will be a 4-way stop configuration until approximately mid-October. Expect traffic delays. For more information or to sign up for alerts, click here

Roy Griak Invitational

The Roy Griak Invitational is back for its 37th year! This year's event returns to Les Bolstad Golf Course on Friday, September 22. For more information, click here.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & UPDATES

MN State Fairgrounds Events

Munchkin Market Children's Fall Consignment Sale

Description: You will find a variety of quality toys, books, high chairs, swings, exersaucers, strollers, nursery furniture, and so much more! Have some things to sell? Consignors earn up to 70% of the selling price of their items and have early shopping privileges.

Location: Education Building

Hours:
Friday, 9/22: 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
Saturday, 9/23: 9:00 AM. to 4:00 PM
Sunday, 9/24: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM (many items are 1/2 price this day)

Admission:
Friday: Early Bird tickets start at $5
Saturday: Free admission
Sunday: Free admission

Click here for more information.

Homework Help

Mondays, 5:30-7:30 PM
Ramsey County Library -Roseville

Appropriate for all ages. Homework Help starts September 18.

Need help with your homework? Starting September 18, students of all ages are welcome to stop by for assistance with completing assignments. A tutor will be on hand to help keep you on track. Service is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Community Park Planting Event Recap

Last Saturday, September 16, the City of Falcon Heights and the Monarch Joint Venture hosted a volunteer event to plant pollinator plants around the pond at Community Park as part of grant funds received from the St. Paul Garden Club. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped plant over 1,300 plants!





COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES



2024 Budget Taking Shape

City Council will vote on approving the preliminary property tax levy at the September, 27 meeting. State statute requires cities to set a preliminary tax levy before September 30 for the upcoming fiscal year. Once the preliminary tax levy is adopted it can be reduced, but not increased.

City Council and Staff are working on the budget ahead of the preliminary levy adoption next week.

The 2023 General Election will be on Tuesday, November 7th, 2023. The Mayor and two Council seats are up for election with the current terms expiring December 31, 2023. Roseville ISD 623 will also have three school board seats on the ballot.

Voter Registration

If you need to register to vote or update your registration, you may do so in-person at an Early Voting location, or on Election Day at your polling place. Voters may also register online, or download and mail a paper application. Visit MNvotes.org for more information, and to verify any ID documents you may need to bring with you to your voting location.

Important Dates

Early voting begins on October 20 and the nearest location is the Ramsey County Library in Roseville.
Library Hours:
Oct. 20 - Nov. 3 Weekdays: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Saturday, Nov. 4: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Monday, Nov. 6: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

September 22 – Absentee Voting begins for General Election.
October 17 – Last day to pre-register.
October 20 – Early Voting opens.
November 7 – Election Day.

Falcon Heights Polling Places

Falcon Heights has two election precincts. Properties west of Snelling Ave. are part of Precinct 1. Properties east of Snelling Ave. are part of Precinct 2.

- Falcon Heights City Hall (P-1) 2077 Larpenteur Ave. Falcon Heights, MN 55113
- Falcon Heights United Church of Christ (P-2) 1795 Holton St. Falcon Heights, MN 55113

For the most up to date information on elections and voting, please visit:
https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/elections-voting or MNvotes.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS & UPDATES

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors

Game Day

It's back! Come for coffee and board games!

When: Fourth Tuesday of each month, starting September 26th, from 10:00 AM. to noon.

Where: Fellowship Hall of Centennial United Methodist Church (2200 Hillside Ave.).

Cost: No charge, but donations are always appreciated.

Transportation is available with one week's notice. No RSVP is needed.
ALL are welcome regardless of age, ability or residency.

Sponsored by St. Anthony Park Seniors 651-642-9052.

Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection - Mobile Site

Drop off your household hazardous waste items for free on Fridays and Saturdays throughout September!

Location: 1660 Como. Ave. in St. Paul (across from the fairgrounds).

Hours: Fridays from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023	10 A.M.-6 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 23, 2023	9 A.M.-4 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 29, 2023	10 A.M.-6 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023	9 A.M.-4 P.M.

LIST OF ACCEPTED ITEMS

Enjoy Safe Backyard Fires

With the leaves starting to change colors, fall is just around the corner. Many of us look forward to this season. Backyard fires can be a wonderul way to enjoy the fall season. However, it's essential to practice safe burning, especially after a summer impacted by wildfire smoke.

The following tips can help you burn responsibly:

- Only burn seasoned, dry wood. The recommended drying time for wood is at least six months but wood can take longer to fully dry. Check to make sure it's fully dry before burning. This type of wood burns hotter and cleaner. Don't burn plastic, garbage or yard waste. These materials create more smoke and can make the air more toxic.
- Don't burn on bad air quality days. The US Environmental Protection Agency recommends not burning on days with air quality alerts.
- Let your neighbors know when you will have a backyard fire. They may choose to close their windows to avoid smoke exposure.

COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

LITTLE FRESH & FREE MARKET RETURNS!

Last summer's free local produce give-away at Garden Avenue and Pascal St. was suspended this summer due to road construction. With construction wrapping up, Falcon Heights Church has brought back the popular event.

The Little Fresh & Free Market is a Give or Take Event. This means you can:

- TAKE: Come by and choose local produce to bring home.
- Or GIVE: if you have excess produce to share, bring it to the church by 4pm that day so it can be distributed. (A sign for where to leave produce will be posted on the front door of the church that day.)

Upcoming dates for the Market Weds., Sept. 20 from 4:00-6:00 PM

Como Falcon Heights Block Nurse Program

Como Park/ Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Nurse Program is changing it's name to

ComoConnects
Resources and Support for Neighborhood Seniors

A new website will be available on September 23, 2023
www.ComoConnects.org

There will be a celebration of 30 years of community service on Saturday, September 23rd.
Location: Hoyt and Hamline
Phone: 651-642-1127
Time: 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

COMOCONNECTS
Resources and Support for Neighborhood Seniors (651) 642-1127

Ready to Save on Your Energy Bills?

One convenient Home Energy Squad® visit is your answer to years of energy savings. We offer two home visit options:

- For homes built after 2000, mobile homes, condos, and renters — Only $35 (normally $70)
- For older homes — Only $50 (normally $100)

To learn more and to schedule your visit call 651-328-6220,
or visit: mncee.org/hes

Free visits available to income qualified households.

HOME ENERGY SQUAD
Xcel Energy
CenterPoint Energy
cee Center for Energy and Environment

>>> COMMUNITY EVENTS & UPDATES

Fall Newsletter

The City's biannual (fall) newsletter will be mailed to residents this week. Look for it in your mailbox soon! Click here for a preview.

CODE <<< ENFORCEMENT CORNER

Remember, residential garbage and recycling is collected on Fridays in Falcon Heights. On days when these are not being collected, all trash and recycling containers must be stored so they are not visible from the street. Please ensure these are placed either in your garage or behind the house.

Fix-It Clinic

Get household items fixed for free and learn valuable repair skills at an upcoming Fix-It Clinic.

At Fix-It Clinics, residents bring in small household appliances, clothing, electronics and more to receive free guided assistance from volunteers with repair skills to disassemble, troubleshoot and fix items.

Check out the step-by-step guide to How Fix-It Clinics Work.

Saturday, September 30, 2023 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Newell Park Recreation Center
900 Fairview Ave. N.
Saint Paul, MN 55104

2023 Falcon Heights MN State Fair Survey

The City's State Fair Task Force was formed prior to the 2023 MN State Fair to provide recommendations to the City Council in an effort to improve the experience of residents during the fair. And, while they can't solve every issue, the Task Force is interested in hearing your feedback to better improve your experience in the future. Please click here and take the survey at your earliest convenience. The Task Force will begin discussing initial feedback at their meeting on September 21.



RECYCLING FUN FACT

A glass bottle can take up to 1 million years to decompose, and possibly more if it's in a landfill. Because of its long life cycle and because glass doesn't leach chemicals, it's important to repurpose and reuse glass bottles over and over.

>>> NATURE NEWSFLASH

BIODIVERSITY

What is Biodiversity?
Biodiversity or biological diversity is the variety and variability of life on Earth. Biodiversity is a measure of variation at the genetic, species, and ecosystem level. (Wikipedia)

Why is biodiversity important for us humans?
Biodiversity losses are a clear sign that our own life-support systems are failing. The ecosystems that determine the earth's ability to support us are run by the plants and animals around us.

- It is plants that generate oxygen and clean water, that create topsoil out of rock, and that buffer extreme weather events like droughts and floods.
- It is insect decomposers that drive the nutrient cycles on earth, allowing each new generation of plants and animals to exist.
- It is pollinators that are essential to the continued existence of 80 % of all plants and 90% of all flowering plants, and it is birds and mammals that disperse the seeds of those plants and provide them with pest control services. (https://homegrownnationalpark.org/not-in-our-yard-doug-tallamy/)

Want to learn more? Need inspiration?
Let me introduce you to Doug Tallamy. Biodiversity "guru", Doug Tallamy is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware and is cofounder of Homegrown National Park.
Doug makes our human relationship to biodiversity come alive! His website proposes solutions on how we can all help restore the loss of biodiversity.

Homegrown National Park:
"...a bottom-up call-to-action to restore habitat where we live and work, and to a lesser extent where we farm and graze, extending national parks to our yards and communities." Our initial goal is 20 million acres of native plantings in the U.S. This represents approximately ½ of the green lawns of privately-owned properties.

An interesting feature of the Homegrown National Park website is the map. "THE MAP" is an interactive community-based visual that will show each person's contribution to planting native by State, County and Zip Code.

Check out the Homegrown National Park website:
https://homegrownnationalpark.org/about-us/
https://homegrownnationalpark.org/not-in-our-yard-doug-tallamy/
https://homegrownnationalpark.org/videos/

Submitted by Les Rogers, Falcon Heights resident.

>>> PARKS AND RECREATION <<<

City Hall Programming

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 September 19. - October 24.

Cardio Kickboxing classes will be held on Thursdays, running September 21- October 26. 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 yoga sessions!

Classes will run every Monday from September 11 - November 20 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

>>> PARKS AND RECREATION <<<

Parks Programming

Neighborhood Workouts at Curtiss Field

Due to the popularity of summer workouts, Anne Schwalbe is offering fall workout classes! Join your neighbors for a fun and friendly outdoor strength and conditioning workout at Curtiss Field Park (1551 Iowa Ave. W.) on four Saturday mornings at 8:30 a.m. from September 16 - October 14 (no class on 9/30).

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.

You can still join and purchase one or all remaining sessions for $15 each.

For more information, click this link





CITY RENTAL FACILITIES <<<

>>> City Hall

Full Council Chambers

Full Capacity: 150 / 75 seated
Pricing: $125 + tax for 3 hours $200 + tax for a half day $275 + tax for a full day
A $200 refundable damage deposit is required and setup fees may also apply.

Partial Council Chambers

Half Capacity: 75 / 30 seated
Pricing: $60 + tax for 3 hours $115 + tax for a half day $175 + tax for a full day
A $200 refundable damage deposit is required and setup fees may also apply.

Conference Room

Capacity: 8 maximum
Pricing: $35 + tax for 3 hours $70 + tax for a half day $125 + tax for a full day
A $200 refundable damage deposit is required and setup fees may also apply.

Kitchen

Capacity: 10 / 6 seated
Pricing: $30 + tax for 3 hours $60 + tax for a half day $75 + tax for a full day
A $200 refundable damage deposit is required and setup fees may also apply.

City Hall reservations are only available for PUBLIC use; no private events may be held here.
Reservation Form

Field/Court <<<

The City has various courts and fields that can be reserved at Curtiss Field and at Community Park. For details and specific pricing, please see the reservation form

>>> Picnic Areas

Community Park

- Upper Picnic Area (against building): 5 picnic tables, trash bins
- East Picnic Area (near playground): 2 picnic tables, trash bins
- Lower Picnic Area (SW corner): 2 picnic tables, 1 BBQ grill, trash bins

Each picnic area is $20 + tax for a half day or $35 + tax for a full day.
A refundable damage deposit and setup fees may also apply.
The Community Park building is unusable. A portable restroom is available in the park.

Reservation Information and Forms Found Here!

RESIDENT <<< 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.



Energy Cents Coalition

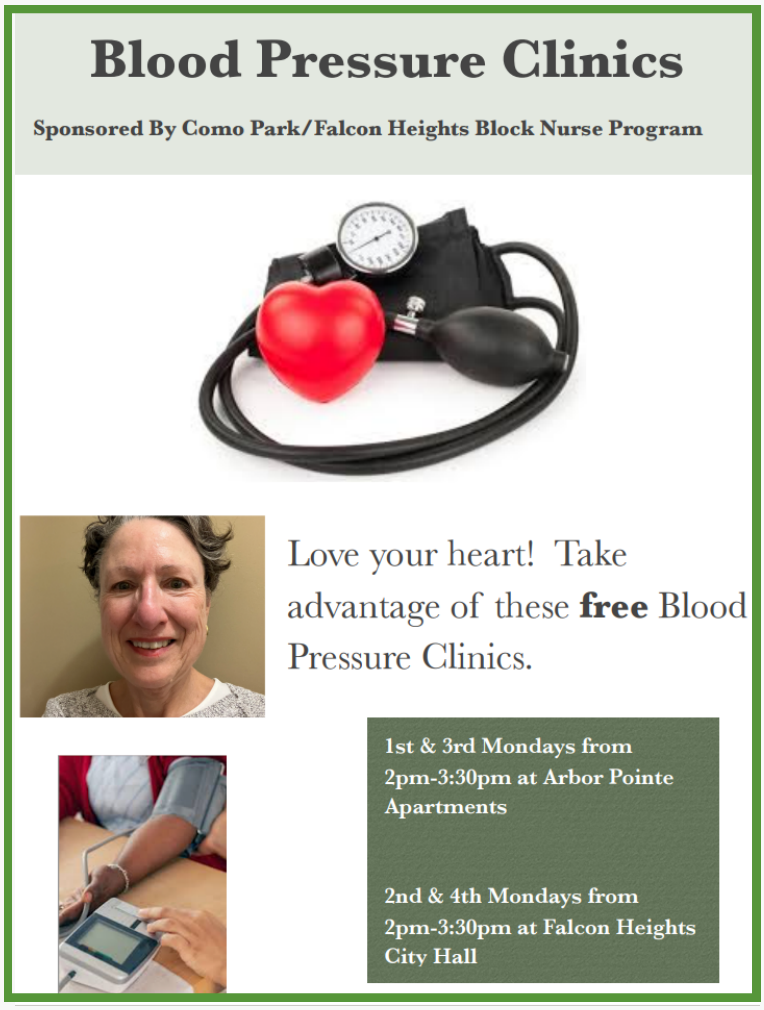
Are you looking for help paying your Xcel bills or are you in need of a replacement furnace, water heater or refrigerator. Call 651 - 774 - 9010 to check if you are eligible

Protection & Crisis:

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

Emergency Assistance:

Get help with shelter payments, such as past due rent, to stop evictions or foreclosure. 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.