



»» NEWSLETTER ««



CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
2077 LARPENTEUR AVENUE WEST
FALCON HEIGHTS, MN 55113
651-792-7600



CONTACT US <<<

City Hall

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Kelly Nelson

651-792-7617

Administrative Services Director /

Deputy Clerk

Elke van der Werff

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Finance Director

Hannah Lynch

651-792-7613

Community Development Coordinator/

City Planner

Colin Callahan

651-792-7618

Public Works Director

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

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COUNCIL MEMBER PAULA MIELKE

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Wednesday, January 24, 2024
City Council Regular Meeting
7:00 PM
- Wednesday, January 24, 2024
City Council Special Workshop
Meeting 7:30 PM



>>> CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING <<<

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2024
7:00 PM

AGENDA

PRESENTATIONS

MINUTES

- December 27, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- January 3, 2024 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

PUBLIC HEARINGS

CONSENT AGENDA

- General Disbursements, Payroll, Wire Payments
- City Licenses
- Resignation of Stephanie Skarolid from the Environment Commission

POLICY ITEMS

- I. Consideration of a Contract with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office for 2024

>>> CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING <<<

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2024
7:30 PM

AGENDA

POLICY ITEMS

1. Larpenteur Street Lights Discussion
2. Goff Public Proposal
3. Future Agenda Items

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 are currently NO vacancies.

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 are currently NO vacancies.

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 is currently ONE vacancy. To apply, [click here](#).



PUBLIC WORKS & <<< COMMUNITY UPDATES

Ice Skating

Public Works will continue maintenance of the ice rinks at Curtiss Field and Grove Park.

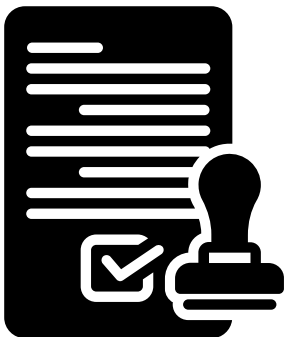
Maintenance

Public Works will perform scheduled maintenance on equipment.

2024 City Fee Schedule

The City Council approved a new fee schedule. The City Council adopts a fee schedule each year, which sets fees and charges for city services such as licenses, permits, facility rentals, and more.

You can view the full 2024 Fee Schedule [here](#).



MN DNR Ice Safety Guidelines

Ice is variable and people should be very cautious, including in northern Minnesota. Don't rely on reports alone, check it yourself.

If you are going out on the ice, check the ice and not just for thickness. White and rotten ice can be deceiving. If the ice is white, double the below ice thickness guidelines. In most places, people should wait before taking out ATVs or other vehicles out on the ice. The ice is just not ready yet.

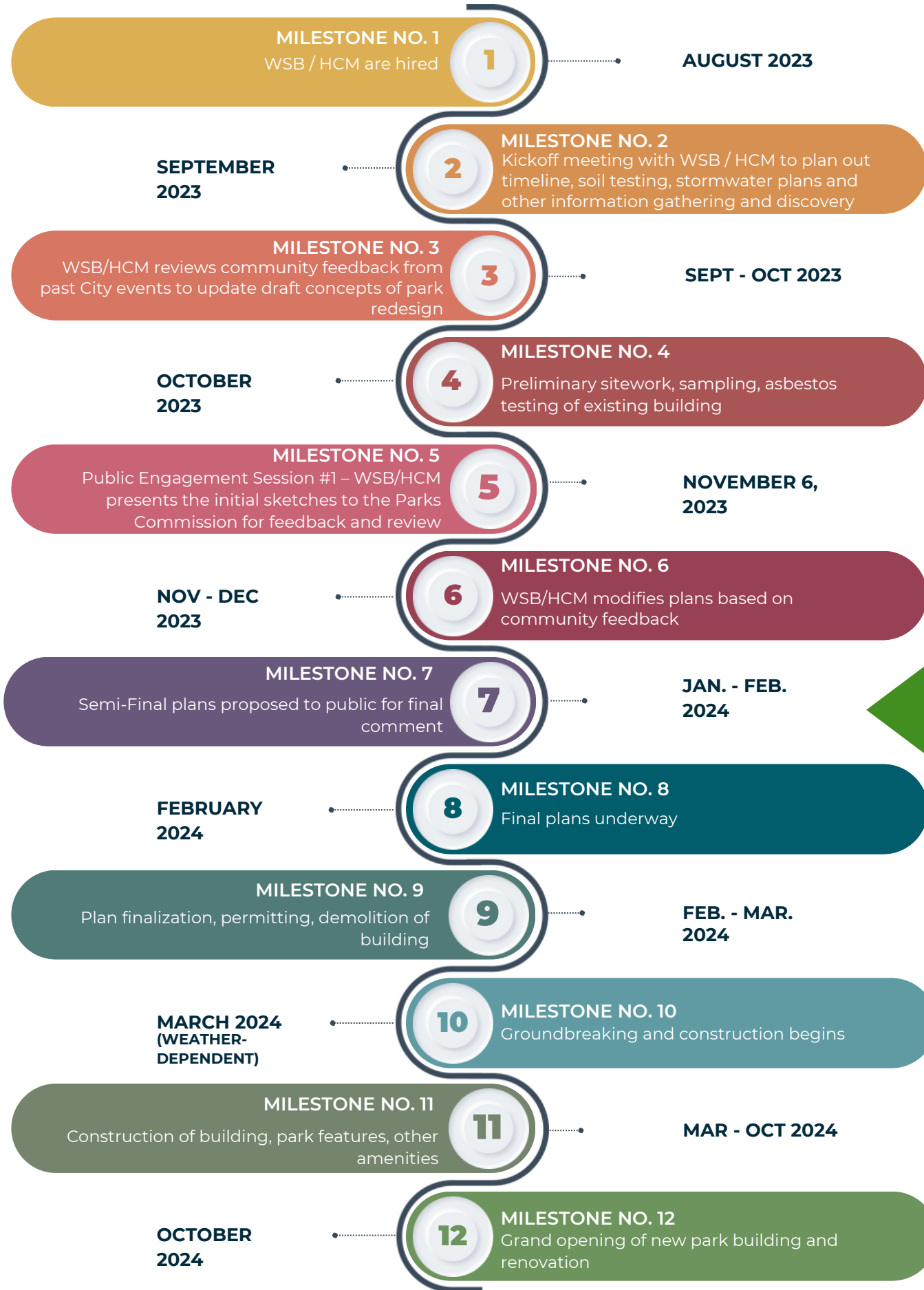
No ice can ever be considered "safe ice," but following these guidelines available at mndnr.gov/icesafety can help minimize the risk:

- Always wear a life jacket or float coat on the ice (except when in a vehicle).
- Carry ice picks, rope, an ice chisel and tape measure.
- Check ice thickness at regular intervals; conditions can change quickly.
- Bring a cell phone or personal locator beacon.
- Don't go out alone; let someone know about trip plans and expected return time.
- Before heading out, inquire about conditions and known hazards with local experts.
- Parents and guardians should talk with their children about staying away from the ice unless there's adult supervision. This includes lakes and rivers, as well as neighborhood ponds, retention ponds and anywhere ice forms.



COMMUNITY PARK TIMELINE

The timeline is subject to change as the project develops.



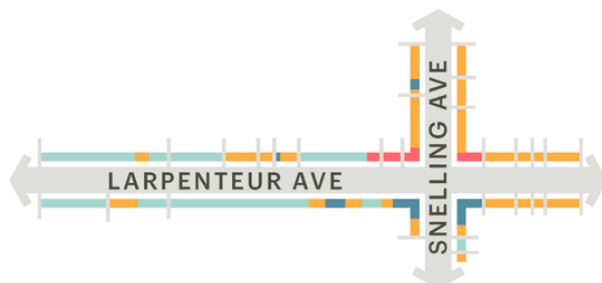
Snelling & Larpenteur

CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT STUDY

Falcon Heights is looking for applicants for three focus groups to serve as participants in the Larpenteur & Snelling Corridor Development Study!

If you are interested, please fill out the [application](#) at the link provided below and we will be in touch with you as soon as selections are made. Thank you so much for your interest!

In early 2023, the City of Falcon Heights applied for and received a grant from Ramsey County to review the two most critical transportation corridors within the city, Snelling Avenue and Larpenteur Avenue. The project is to evaluate the existing land uses along the two corridors and identify areas of potential future redevelopment and reinvestment to meet future housing and business needs.



ZONING

- | | |
|--|---|
| ■ BUSINESS (B1, B2, B3) | ■ RESIDENTIAL (R1, R2, R3, R4, R5) |
| ■ PUBLIC LAND (P1, P1/R1) | ■ PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) |

(MAP IS NOT TO SCALE)

COMMUNITY <<< DEVELOPMENT

Kickstart your plastic-free journey. Take the

Plastic-Free Challenge



Coming this February



Kickstart Your Plastic-Free Journey: Take the Plastic-Free Challenge

Plastics can be a hassle – they create clutter and can be confusing to recycle – plus they contribute to litter, harm water and wildlife, and have largely unknown health impacts for us. Fortunately, there's a lot we can do to help create a plastic-free world, from learning more about plastic waste and recycling to making simple swaps to advocating for changes in your community and sharing your story with others.

Be part of the solution to reduce waste, protect water and wildlife, address climate change, and look after the health of ourselves and future generations by joining the Plastic-Free Challenge:

tcplasticfree.ecochallenge.org



>>> COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Partners in Energy

The City of Falcon Heights has partnered with Xcel Energy and MNCEE to join the Partners in Energy Program.

Energy Action Team Member Application

We are looking for Energy Action Team members to help us develop the Falcon Heights Energy Action Plan. We are very excited to work with stakeholders in our community to create a vision and plan for our energy future.

Partners in Energy is a two-year collaboration with Xcel Energy to develop and implement our community's energy plan goals. This is an opportunity to engage stakeholders, create goals and strategies, and develop a work plan to be successful.

Click [here](#) for the Energy Action Team application.

Community Energy Survey

We are looking for responses from community members to help shape our Energy Action Plan. This plan will build off of the Comprehensive Plan's energy goals, and include extensive community input to the planning process to determine what we, as a community, want to achieve related to electric and natural gas options. We encourage community members to share thoughts on topics including:

- Energy Efficiency - Saving energy through weatherization of homes and buildings and efficient technologies
- Renewable Energy - Wind and solar energy for homes and businesses
- Electric Vehicles - Resident adoption, fleet upgrades and charging infrastructure
- Electrification - Adopting electric heating/cooling and appliance technologies

The outcome of this plan, through your input, will guide the City in reaching its energy goals over the coming years. Click [here](#) to access the survey!

Save the Date: Open House - Wednesday, February 21

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.



It's Not a Fairy Tale or a Myth

Believe what you want about unicorns, dragons and merpeople, but in the Twin Cities, recycling is real and it works. The items you put in your cart get recycled when you recycle right. But what happens to them once they leave your home?

Minnesota is home to many recycling facilities that collect, sort, process and manufacture items made from the bottles, boxes and other containers residents put in their home recycling bins every day.

Glass bottles and jars are sorted by color in Saint Paul. Clear glass is sent to Shakopee to make bottles for drinks, pickles, salad dressing and more.

Plastic milk and laundry detergent jugs are made into durable decking, fencing and landscaping products in Paynesville, and plastic drink bottles and produce containers are made into new plastic bottles in Wisconsin and Ohio.

Recycled paper and cardboard are made into cereal and cracker boxes in Saint Paul.

Recycled food cans are made into new products like wire, and parts for cars and appliances in the Midwest.

Local efforts to recycle and reduce waste save energy, protect resources and support about 78,000 jobs in the state.

Minnesotans can be proud that recycling works here.
Learn more at RecyclingExists.com

RECYCLING EXIST <<<

What Can Get Recycled?

Many everyday items can be recycled. Paper and cardboard, cartons, metal cans, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, containers and jugs and more can all be recycled in your home recycling. These recyclables are wanted by many companies in our state and across the country to make new products.

Recycling Fact

Annually, the Twin Cities metro area recycles an average of 900,000 tons of paper and cardboard, metal, glass and plastic – that's the weight of about four large cruise ships!



COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors

Game Day is in Full Swing and the new LIFT is operating for easy access!

What: Morning of Coffee and Board Games

Date: January 23

Time: 10:00 – 11:45 AM

Where: 2200 Hillside Ave.

(Centennial United Methodist Church)

Cost: No charge, but donations are always appreciated.

Transportation is available with one week's notice. No RSVP is needed.

We have Scrabble, Dominoes, Triominoes, and cards. You are welcome to bring your own games too!

Skating Fun in Falcon Heights

Ice rinks at Curtiss Field and Grove Park are now open!

Curtiss Field is located at 1551 Iowa Ave. W. and features a portable warming house onsite. The pleasure rink at Grove Park is located at 1600 Coffman Street.

The warming house at Curtiss Field will be open weekdays from 4:00 to 8:00 PM and on weekends from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Weather conditions will determine the exact skating season and if the warming house at Curtiss Field is open on any given day.

For skating updates, call the Weather Line at 651-792-7607.

Radon Test Kit

Radon is a naturally-occurring, radioactive gas. It is odorless, tasteless and invisible. Radon may enter a home anywhere there is an opening between the home and the soil. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), radon is the nation's second leading cause of lung cancer. The Minnesota Department of Health recommends every home be tested for radon.

Did you know 2 of 5 Minnesota homes have high radon levels?

The only way to know the radon level in your home is to test. Testing is easy and inexpensive.

Ramsey County Residents can purchase short-term testing kits for \$2.

To order a test, visit ramseycounty.us/radon or call 651-266-1199



Home Safety Tip of the Month

Even though the days are slowly getting brighter, it is still very important to keep your exterior lights on at night to deter crime. This one step of flipping a switch or switching to "dusk-to-dawn" lighting to have adequate lighting in your driveways and at the main entrances to your home can easily save you thousands of dollars. Many think that running lights all night hike up your electrical bill but with new LED lighting their high efficiency has brought the cost down significantly.

The National Institute of Crime Prevention states the "benefits of property lighting" are:

- Less criminal activity
- Improvement in quality of life
- Improvement in perception of safety
- Increased pedestrian activity
- Increased property values

The recommendation is to have a light fixture at each door into the home or garage. These fixtures should be partial to full cutoff lamps to direct light adequately and deter light glare. Door entrance lighting on the side or back yard of a home can be on a motion sensor to be activated only by movement. Something important to be mindful of is light trespassing into your neighbors' homes. Some community neighborhood issues are about a neighbor with too much light that enters other neighbors' windows. Many may be surprised that some cities have light trespass city ordinances. This is why full cut off light fixtures are highly recommended. See image to the right about light trespass and how to properly direct light with little to no glare.

As important as lighting is for safety always remember to consult a professional and review Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) standards.

COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

Ramsey County Fix-It Clinic

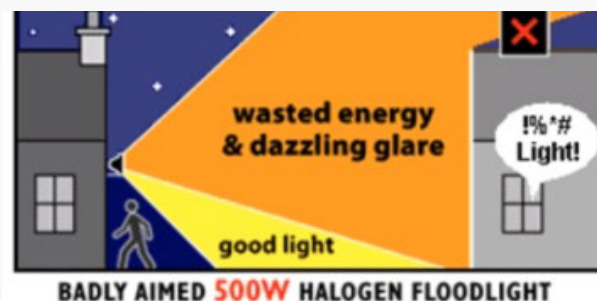
Get household items fixed for free and learn valuable repair skills at an upcoming Fix-It Clinic.

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.

Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024 (10 AM - 1 PM)

Last items accepted at 12:30 p.m.

West Minnehaha Recreation Center
685 W. Minnehaha Ave.
Saint Paul, MN 55104



COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides in-person and virtual tax assistance to anyone, free of charge, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income. AARP membership is not required.

Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified annually.

Volunteers will be available at City Hall every Thursday from February 8 to April 11, with appointments from 9:00 AM to noon. Tax assistance will be by appointment only.

To reserve your tax appointment, click [here](#) and staff with follow-up with you.

Or, contact City Hall at 651-792-7600 or mail@falconheights.org.

Please note, City Staff will NOT be able to answer any tax-related questions and are only able to assist with your appointment. Thanks for your cooperation!

Como Park Zoo & Conservatory

Music Under Glass

Beginning in January 2024, head to the tropical gardens and beat the “winter-blahs” as live, local musicians play blues, bluegrass and ballads from 4:30-6:30 PM on select Sundays and Wednesdays. The concerts are free and beer and wine will be available to purchase. No reservations required. These concerts are standing room only. Because of fire code regulations, there are no chairs set-up.

For more information about dates and musicians, please follow this [link](#)

Presidential Primary

Are you prepared for the upcoming election season? Absentee voting for the Presidential Primary is now available.

Vote in person:

- Ramsey County Elections - Plato Building
 - Started on January 19
 - Weekdays: 8 AM - 4:30 PM
- Ramsey County Library Shoreview and Roseville:
 - Starting February 16
 - Weekdays: 10 AM - 4 PM

Vote by mail:

- [Apply for a ballot online.](#)



>>> 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 January 9 - February 13.

Cardio Kickboxing classes will be held on Thursdays, running January 11 - February 15.

All classes are held in the 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! You can purchase one or multiple drop-in sessions!

Classes will be held on Mondays through March 4 at 4:30 PM. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.
*No class held on February 5.

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 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!

Blood Pressure Clinics

Sponsored by



COMOCONNECTS
Resources & support for neighborhood seniors



Love your heart! Take advantage of these **free/donation-based** Blood Pressure Clinics.



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

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

1st & 3rd Wednesdays from 10-11:30 AM at Hendrickson Apartments

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.

United Way

United Way 2-1-1 provides free and confidential health and human services information for people in Minnesota. They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to connect you with resources and information. Just call 2-1-1

