FALCON HEIGHTS

THE CITY THAT SOARS

75 Years

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<



CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS

2077 LARPENTEUR AVENUE WEST

FALCON HEIGHTS, MN 55113

651-792-7600

>>> CITY COUNCIL

The City Council meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM 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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COUNCIL MEMBER MELANIE LEEHY

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COUNCIL MEMBER JIM WASSENBERG

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COUNCIL MEMBER ERIC MEYER

ERIC.MEYER@FALCONHEIGHTS.ORG

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Monday, December 23 - City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
- Wednesday, January 8 - City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM

COMMUNITY UPDATES <<<

TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING RECAP

The Falcon Heights City Council held a Truth in Taxation Hearing on Wednesday, December 11.

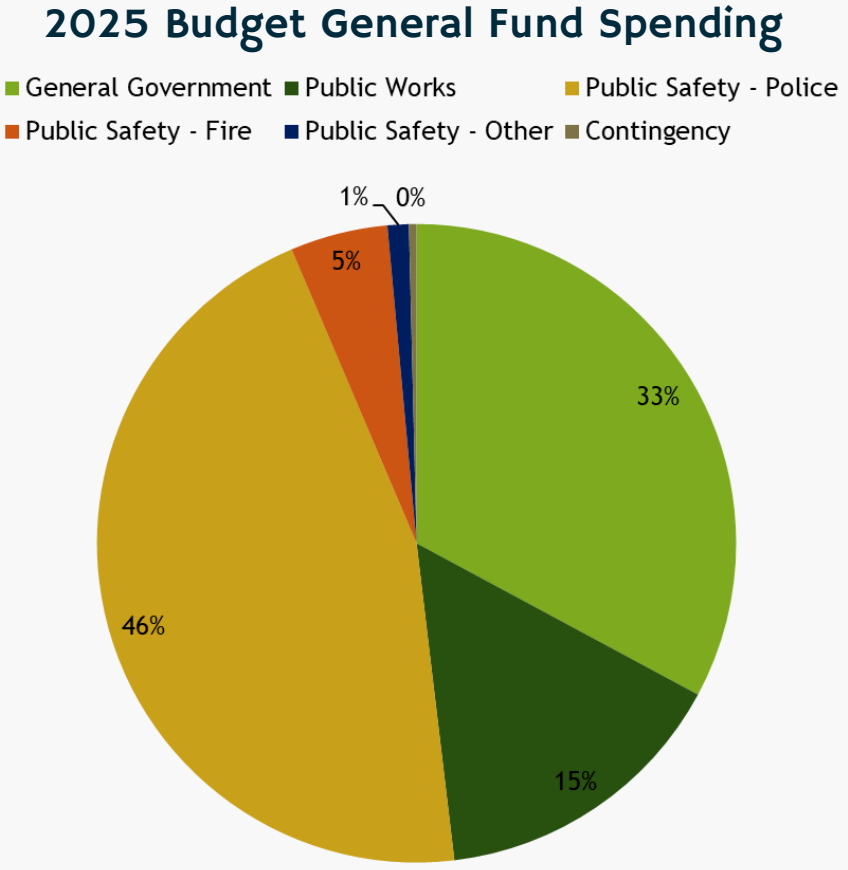
The Council adopted a property tax levy of $2,774,759 and a general fund budget of $3,652,477. This represents an increase in the levy of 2.77% and an increase in the general fund budget of 3.97%. The preliminary levy adopted in September was set at 9.97%. The adopted levy is a decrease of roughly 7%. These savings can largely be attributed to anticipated cost savings in the new contract for policing services as staffing levels ramp up.

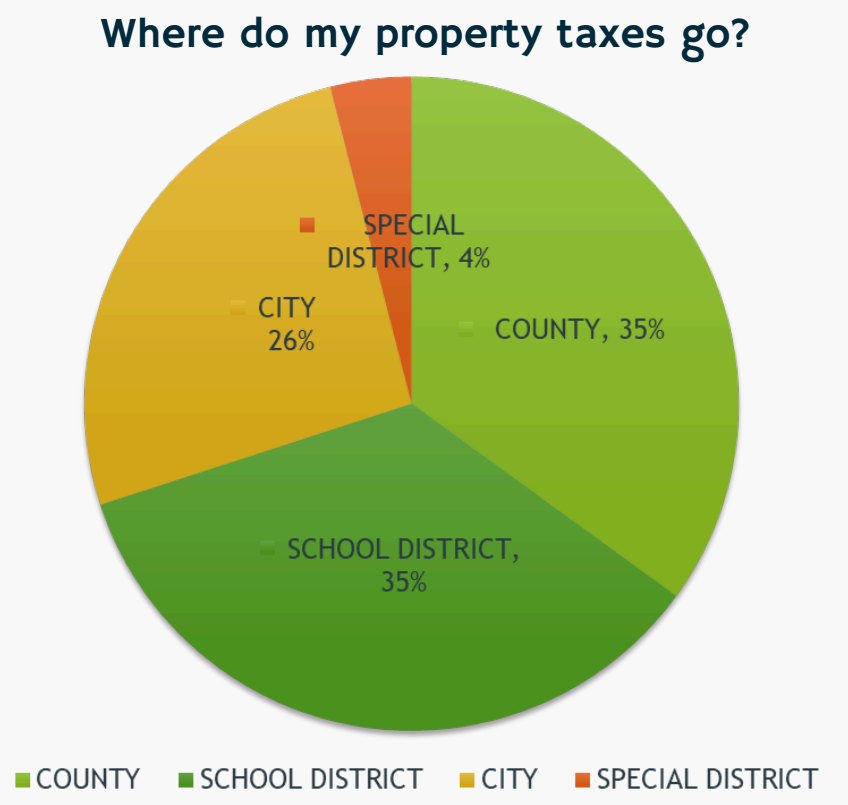
The impact of this levy on a median-valued home, which in 2025 is assessed at $401,750 (7.4% increase over 2024), is estimated to result in an increase of $33 in the City portion of the homeowner's taxes.

The city's share of property taxes is only a small portion of the total property tax bill. The County Assessor assesses all Falcon Heights properties and estimates its current market value, which is used to determine your annual property taxes.

More Information:

- The 2025 City Budget can be found here.
- More information about property taxes and values can be found here.





COMMUNITY EVENTS & UPDATES

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY RECAP

The City of Falcon Heights recognized International Human Rights Day on December 10. This date marks the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

This year, the city assisted homeowners with the removal of racial covenants from property deeds with the assistance of Just Deeds and Ramsey County.

To learn more about racial covenants, and to see if your property has one, please visit this website by Mapping Prejudice.

If you are looking to have the racial covenant removed from your property deed, please register here.

CITY COMMISSION OPENINGS

Falcon Heights is looking for dedicated individuals to serve on one of the City Commissions. You are encouraged to apply if you're passionate about community engagement or parks and recreation. Don't miss this opportunity to get involved!

To learn more about the commissions, or to apply, click here.

CANNABIS BUSINESSES IN FALCON HEIGHTS

The Falcon Heights City Council adopted two ordinances to amend the Falcon Heights City Code to establish regulations for registering cannabis and hemp businesses.

With the new adult-use cannabis laws going into effect, the State requires that cities allow one cannabis retailer per 12,500 residents, and cities are NOT allowed to issue an outright ban on these businesses. This means if a cannabis retailer approaches the City of Falcon Heights about setting up shop, if they meet our zoning requirements and are licensed by the State, they are entitled to a City registration.

To view new ordinances, please click here.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & UPDATES

ST. ANTHONY PARK AREA SENIORS

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors schedules volunteer nurses and medical professionals to take blood pressure checks once per month at various locations in the SAPAS service area.

SAPAS is looking for more volunteers to help with this health outreach service. A SAPAS staff member accompanies nurses to all events. Blood pressure clinics usually last 45 minutes to an hour.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering to take blood pressure, please call 651-642-9052 or contact the SAPAS volunteer coordinator Alisa at vc@sapaseniors.org.

ICE SKATING UPDATE

Unfortunately, recent snow removal from the rink damaged the ice quality at Curtiss Field. Public Works will continue to flood the ice rink there and also at The Grove, but ice likely won't be ready until the next extended period of cold weather.

Weather conditions will determine the exact skating season. For rink updates, you may call the Weather Line at 651-792-7607.

Please bundle up when you go ice skating. Due to unforeseen electrical issues, there will not be a warming house this year at Curtiss Field.

CITY HALL HOLIDAY CLOSURES

In observance of upcoming holidays, City Hall will close at 4:00 PM on Monday, December 23, and remain closed on Tuesday, December 24, and Wednesday, December 25.

City Hall will also be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

Tennis Recycling will delay their residential route by one day, the week of Christmas and the week of New Year's, and pickup will be on Saturdays.

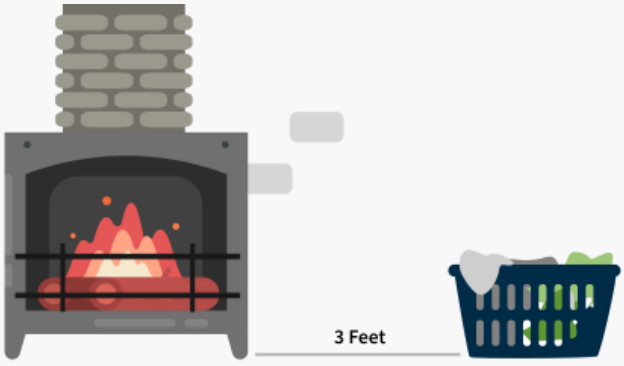
Please check with your local garbage hauler regarding their holiday schedule.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & UPDATES

GET WINTER READY

Preventing House Heating Fires

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from all heat sources including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, portable heaters or candles.
- Always plug space heaters directly into an outlet, and make sure its cord isn't damaged or frayed.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected each year by a professional.
- Visit the U.S. Fire Administration Home Fires page to learn about how to prepare for and prevent home fires including tips for individuals with disabilities and older adults.



Snow Removal and Parking Enforcement

- A Falcon Heights snow removal period begins automatically whenever there is new snowfall of two inches or more, not when the snow stops falling.
- There will be no announcement on the radio or TV.
- St. Paul and Minneapolis snow emergencies do NOT apply to Falcon Heights.
- The snow removal period ends 48 hours after it has stopped snowing or when the streets have been plowed full-width.
- All parked vehicles must be removed from the street during a snow removal period. Vehicles left on the street during a snow emergency are considered a public nuisance and are subject to being ticketed and towed. Streets must be clear and open for emergency vehicle access.
- During large snow events, the Public Works Department will often plow multiple times during the event. If streets have been plowed once but an additional two inches of snow has fallen, cars must remain off the street. If you have any questions about the snow removal period, please contact City Hall.



NATURE NEWSFLASH

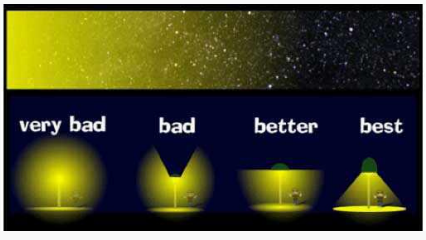
This article was written by Olivia Siebert, the Minnesota GreenCorps member serving with the City of Falcon Heights. Is there something you want to see in the Nature Newsflash, or are you an expert and want to be included in future articles? Send your ideas over to Hannah Lynch, Community Development Coordinator, at hannah.b.lynch@falconheights.org

DARK SKIES

The winter solstice was this weekend, which means we have successfully passed the longest night of the year! Little by little, the days will grow longer again. However, in the long, cold, Minnesota nights it becomes clearer how much light pollution exists within the Twin Cities – and how much of it is preventable! It is staggering to see how much the lights of the metro area affect the night sky and prohibit us from seeing the expanse of night-time stars. Light pollution maps like this one are a great way to visualize it.

Streetlights, house lights, and garage lights are key parts of maintaining public safety at night. However, there are many ways that excessive and unoptimized lighting contributes to human health problems, disrupts wildlife, and inhibits our views of the stars (more here, from National Geographic and this 2009 article in NIH). Human circadian rhythms (the natural 24-hour body clock) can be disrupted by blue light at night, and the exposure to light pollution has been linked to detrimental health effects including cancer. Migratory and nocturnal animals are not adapted to deal with the abundance of light from cities. Furthermore, the glare from unshielded and poorly aimed blue-white LEDs can be dangerous for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists as they are effectively blinded and unable to monitor their surroundings. Finally, excessive lighting is a waste of energy and electricity, which usually means it is generating harmful greenhouse gases as well as harming human and environmental health.

What can you do? The key is to make smart decisions about light and only produce the necessary amount. You can find lighting fixtures that are approved by DarkSky International here!





>>> PARKS AND RECREATION <<<

City Hall Programming

Tae Kwon Do <<<

Tae Kwon Do Basic and Intermediate/Advanced sessions will be held on Tuesdays, with classes running from November 19 - January 7 (No class on December 10, 24 or 31. Instructor will schedule one makeup class on a TBD date).

Cardio Kickboxing classes will be held on Thursdays from November 21 - January 9 (no class on November 28 or December 26).

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 today! You can purchase single or multiple drop-in c!asses to attend classes running from December 2 - February 24 (schedule posted online).
Classes are held on Mondays at 4:30 PM in the 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

>>> RESIDENT RESOURCES

COMOCONNECTS
Resources & support for neighborhood seniors

The mission of ComoConnects is to organize community volunteers, professionals, and family members to provide care for their neighborhood seniors in ways that support choice, dignity, and independence.

With the spirit of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors," ComoConnects provides a spectrum of services, bringing neighborhood health professionals, volunteers, caregivers, and community leaders together to provide high-quality, long-term care.

They provide services to residents aged 65 and better in the community of Como Park as well as areas of Falcon Heights.

To learn more about ComoConnects, visit their website here or call 651-642-1127

Tubman Legal Services

For over 48 years, Tubman has helped people of all ages, genders, and cultural backgrounds who are experiencing relationship violence, exploitation, mental and chemical health issues, and other forms of trauma. Throughout the Twin Cities, Tubman provides safe shelter, housing legal services, counseling, youth programming, violence prevention, community education, and other wraparound services.

More information can be found here.

Northeast Youth & Family Services



Northeast Youth & Family Services (NYFS) is a nonprofit, community-based and trauma-informed mental health and community services organization that has been serving people in the northeastern suburbs since 1976.

NYFS services include clinic-based and telehealth counseling for all ages, school-based services, day treatment services for middle and high school youth, diversion programming for youth, Community Connections programming for isolated youth, and Community Advocate services.

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

MAKE SURE YOUR HOUSE IS LEAD SAFE

Lead is a toxic metal that is harmful to humans, especially children under 6 and pregnant or breastfeeding adults. The most common source of lead exposure is paint and dust on windows in homes built before 1978. Any amount of lead exposure is dangerous. If you or someone in your household may have been exposed to lead, contact your healthcare provider.

Lead removal grant:
Ramsey County provides grant funding to reduce lead poisoning in children.

How it works:

- An environmental health specialist tests for sources of lead in your home.
- Windows that test positive for lead-based paint are replaced.
- Other lead hazards found in the home are addressed.
- Grant funds cover 80% of the project cost, homeowner is responsible for remaining 20%.

To learn more about qualifications, and how to clean up sources of let in your residence, visit this website.

>>> RESIDENT RESOURCES

Free Legal Help for Renters

HOME Line provides free and low-cost legal, organizing, education, and advocacy services so that tenants throughout Minnesota can solve their own rental housing problems. We work to improve public and private policies relating to rental housing by involving affected tenants in the process.

The hotline service is confidential.

- For English, call 612-728-5767 or email your question to one of our housing attorneys.
  - Toll-free from Greater Minnesota: 866-866-3546
- HOME Line ofrece servicios en español. Para Español, llame al 612-255-8870.
- HOME Line waxay bixisaa adeeg ku baxa Afka-Soomaaliga. Af- Soomaali wac 612-255-8860.
- Peb lub koom haum HOME Line muaj neeg txhais lus Hmoob. Hais lus Hmoob, Hu 612-255-7104.

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

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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 PM at City Hall.

There is currently one vacancy. For information and application, 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 PM at City Hall.

There is currently one vacancy. For information and application, 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 on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM 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 stormwater 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 on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

There are currently no vacancies. For information and application, click here.

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): 4 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!

CONTACT US <<<

City Hall	651-792-7600
Jack Linehan City Administrator	651-792-7611
Kelly Nelson Administrative Services Director / Deputy Clerk	651-792-7617
Elke Johnson 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 Public Works Director	651-792-7618

FIRE

Fire protection is provided by the 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