



»» 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 16.



MAYOR RANDY GUSTAFSON

RANDY.GUSTAFSON@FALCONHEIGHTS.ORG

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

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Wednesday, February 05 - City Council Workshop - 6:30 PM
- Wednesday, February 12 - City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM



>>> CITY COUNCIL MEETING UNOFFICIAL RECAP <<<

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 22, 2025
7:00 PM

AGENDA

PRESENTATIONS

MINUTES

- January 8, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes
- January 8, 2025 City Council Special Workshop Meeting Minutes
(Leehy; Approved 5-0)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Public Hearing for the 2025 Pavement Management Program and Resolution 25-06 Ordering Improvement and Preparation of Plans and Specifications
(Wassenberg; Approved 5-0)

POLICY ITEMS

- Consideration of Approving Resolution 25-08 and Proposal from DDA Human Resources, Inc. (DDA HR) as City Strategic Goal Setting Facilitator
(Leehy; Approved 5-0)

CONSENT AGENDA

- General Disbursements, Payroll, Wire Payments
- City Licenses
- Approval of Resolution 25-07 Accepting Resignation of Mishy Wang from the Community Engagement Commission
(Leehy; Approved 5-0)

COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

SPECIAL ELECTION FOR DISTRICT 3 COUNTY COMMISSIONER

On Tuesday, February 11, 2025, a special election for District 3 County Commissioner will be held. This district covers the following communities: Falcon Heights and Saint Paul neighborhoods of Payne/Phalen, North End/South Como, Como Park, Frogtown, Hamline-Midway, and St. Anthony Park.

Absentee Voting

Voters can now cast absentee ballots by mail or in person at the Ramsey County Elections Office, located at 90 W. Plato Blvd., Suite 160.

- Monday through Friday, 8 AM - 4:30 PM
- Feb. 8, 9 AM - 3 PM

Vote on Election Day

On Election Day you must vote at your assigned polling place. Be sure to look up your polling place in advance — it may have changed since you last voted.

Polling places will be open from 7 AM to 8 PM on Election Day.

[Find your polling place here.](#)

On Election Day, the only place you may return your absentee ballot in person is the Ramsey County Elections Office by 8 PM, located at 90 W. Plato Blvd., Suite 160.

You can also vote in person at your assigned polling place. Your absentee ballot will be spoiled (made invalid in the system) and you will be issued a new ballot to cast at the polling place.

To view a sample ballot, please visit [this website.](#)

To register to vote, or to check your registration, please visit [this website](#)

Elections Phone Numbers

- Minnesota Secretary of State: Metro Area: 651-215-1440
- Ramsey County Elections: 651-266-2171



COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

Recycling Ambassador Spring 2025

Registration for the next Ramsey County Recycling Ambassador Program training is now open!

Recycling Ambassadors volunteer to encourage our community to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Topics covered in the training include food scraps recycling, climate change, environmental justice, household hazardous waste, and general recycling.

The training will take place virtually 6:30 - 8:30 PM on Wednesdays: March 12, March 19, March 26, April 2, April 9, and April 16. Please make sure you have access to the internet and are available for all six workshops before registering.

To learn more about the program and to sign-up, please click [here](#).

ICE RINK UPDATES

With the temperatures expected to rise this week, ice quality may be impacted at Grove Park and Curtiss Field, which could bring temporary closures until colder weather returns.

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

HOME ENERGY PROJECTS

Have you done a home energy project recently, such as adding solar panels, purchasing an electric vehicle, electrifying your appliances, or installing a heat pump? The City wants to hear about your experience and celebrate your energy efficiency projects! Fill out [this form](#) on our website to tell us about your project and to get featured on the website and the newsletter!

CLICK HERE



SO MINNESOTA

More than a century ago, Brigadier General Ray Miller made a historic flight at Curtiss Field.

Last week, So Minnesota covered the story of Brigadier General Ray Miller and his historic flight. To learn more about it, [click here](#).

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Public Works will be removing volunteer tree growth and species that are not native to, or that are disruptive to reestablishing our prairie habitat at Community Park. They will temporarily pile the brush onsite while work is being completed.

COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the household donation drive held at City Hall for the International Institute of Minnesota. The donations came in handy as the Institute just had a family of 10 arrive and the donations were helpful in making their home welcoming.



NEAL KWONG AWARD

Neal Kwong was a Falcon Heights resident who tragically passed away at the age of fifteen. He was an outstanding member of our community. In his memory, the City established the Neal Kwong Award to recognize young people, ages 12 to 19, who display leadership and volunteerism in Falcon Heights. Nominees must live in or volunteer in Falcon Heights. Parents are encouraged to support their youth by nominating them or by helping neighbors and friends willing to nominate them.

Nominations for the 2025 Award are due no later than Friday, April 25th at 4:30 PM.

The award recipient(s) will be recognized at a Falcon Heights City Council meeting, in this newsletter, and on a plaque in the lobby of City Hall.

For more information on the award and for a link to the application, please visit the website [here](#)



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 6 through April 10, with appointments from 9:00 AM to noon.

Tax assistance is by appointment only! Request an appointment online or by calling City Hall at 651-792-7617.

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!

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](#).

ST. ANTHONY PARK AREA SENIORS

Handiwork Group
with St. Anthony Park Area Seniors

- What: A time to work on your knitting, crocheting, embroidery, artwork, etc. while socializing with neighbors!
- Date: Second Thursday of each month. Upcoming meetings are February 13 and March 13.
- Time: 10:00 AM – noon.
- Place: SAP Library, 2245 Como Ave.

No registration required. ALL are welcome, regardless of age or residency.

Questions? Contact SAPAS volunteer Karen at 651-434-4603 or email krnglgrbg@gmail.com





COMO COMMUNITY SEED LIBRARY AND COMO PARK
LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE HOSTING A
PRE-SEEDING YOUR GARDEN WORKSHOP

Saturday, 2/22 10am-12pm

Como Park Lutheran Church | 1376 Hoyt Ave. W.

LEARN THE BASICS:

- Indoor Seed Starting
- Winter Sowing
- What to plant when and which method works best



Space is limited, register for the
workshop here: [Seeding workshop](#)



NATURE NEWSFLASH <<<

WINTER SALT WEEK

This week marks the start of Winter Salt Week, a collaboration between Canadian and American governmental and non-governmental organizations. It is designed to raise awareness about chloride pollution, monitoring, and solutions for over-salting. If you are interested in learning more, there are 30-minute webinars at 12:30 PM every day this week covering current problems and proposed solutions. Check out the topics and register for the Zoom webinars [here!](#) There are multiple in-person events, including art installations and community science projects, which you can find on this [page](#).

Winter Salt Week is primarily focused on road and sidewalk salting. A previous Newsflash article covered best practices for ice removal, but they bear repeating as winter continues. Using a shovel or ice chisel to remove ice is the best way to protect our waterways from chloride while making your sidewalk safe to walk on. If you need to create traction, you can sprinkle sand on top of an icy surface to make it easier to navigate – just remember to sweep up the sand afterward. If you need to use salt, know that a little goes a long way and there should be no less than 3 inches between each individual grain of salt scattered on your sidewalk. Other options, including deicers like acetates and calcium chloride as well as pickle or beet brine and fertilizers, have their respective trade-offs including corrosion of metal, and sidewalks, lowering the oxygen of waterways, and harming plants near roadways. Everything you are putting on your sidewalks will have an impact, and it is important to be conscious of that!

Another unexpected way you could reduce your salt usage and save some money is through your water softener. The PCA recommends getting your water softener inspected to make sure it is calibrated to the hardness of the water and is not doing extra softening. There are efficient models including demand-based water softeners, which require less salt and will help you lower your chloride output! Read more about it in [this article](#) from the PCA.

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



>>> 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 January 14 - February 18 (no class on February 11. The instructor will schedule one makeup class on a TBD date).

Cardio Kickboxing classes will be held on Thursdays from January 16 - February 20 from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m.

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 classes 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>





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](#).

>>> RESIDENT RESOURCES

Northeast Youth & Family Services



NYFS is here for you!

Immediate openings are available for
mental health clients age 4 and over

Call us at 651-486-3808 or
[request an appointment online today!](#)



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 lead 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

Free visits available to income qualified households.



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 are currently two vacancies. 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 are currently two vacancies. 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.



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