



»»» 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, March 26 - City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
- Wednesday, April 02 - City Council Workshop - 6:30 PM





CITY COUNCIL MEETING UNOFFICIAL RECAP



CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 12, 2025
7:00 PM

AGENDA

PRESENTATIONS

- Office of Congresswoman Betty McCollum – Update on FY2026 Community Project Funding

MINUTES

- February 12, 2025 City Council Workshop Minutes (Meyer; Approved 4-0)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- ~~Consideration of Revocation of Municipal Business License~~

CONSENT AGENDA

- General Disbursements, Payroll, and Wire Payments
- Approval of Resolution 25-18 Selecting Cedar Forest as Picnic Shelter and Restroom Supplier for Community Park Renovation Project
- Approval of Resolution 25-19 Approving the Joint Powers Agreement Among Members of the Ramsey County Geographic Information Systems Users Group
- Approval of Resolution 25-20 Accepting Resignation of Jared Mehlhaff from the Environment Commission
- Approval of Resolution 25-21 Approving a Contract with Electro Watchman, Inc for the Installation of a Lenel/S2 Netbox Access Control System for City Hall
- Approval of Resolution 25-22 Authorizing the City to Accept Grant Funds Through the University of Minnesota Good Neighbor Fund
- Approval of Resolution 25-23 Request for Proposal (RFP) for Classification and Compensation Study Consultant
- ~~Approval of Resolution 25-24 Authorizing Husky Construction Inc. to be Awarded the 2025 Pavement Management Project Tree Removal Contract~~

(Gustafson; Approved 4-0)



CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS ACTIVITIES SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM - 2025

The City of Falcon Heights is committed to promoting community engagement and active participation in recreational activities for our youth. The Activities Scholarships Program provides financial assistance to encourage Falcon Heights youth residents to enroll in activity programs offered by approved institutions in Falcon Heights and neighboring communities. As the City of Falcon Heights' program offerings are limited in 2025, we want to encourage youth to stay active and engaged. To encourage this youth participation in activities this Spring/Summer, the City is offering a reimbursement of up to \$25 per household to support children ages 4 to 17 attending camps, enrolling in arts or sports activities, taking swimming lessons and more.

[Click to learn more about the activities scholarship program and reimbursement](#)

COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

SUSTAINABILITY FAIR

Saturday, April 26 | 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Falcon Heights City Hall (2077
Larpenteur Ave W)

The City is offering electronics recycling through Repowered Recycling, textile collection through Retold Recycling, and paper shredding services through Shred Right. These services will be in our parking lot. Electronics, textiles, and paper shredding are available to Falcon Heights and Lauderdale residents only.

Come inside City Hall to learn about ways to incorporate sustainability in your daily life!

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

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN COMMUNITY MEETING

The City of Falcon Heights is developing a Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address climate impacts, and strengthen community resilience. This plan, funded by a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency grant, is expected to be completed by summer 2025.

As we continue this important work, we want to hear from you! Join us for the Climate Action Plan Community Input Session on Monday, March 31st, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at City Hall (2077 Larpenteur Ave W).

At this session, you'll learn about the planning process, key findings so far, and have the opportunity to share your ideas to help shape the plan. Your input is essential in creating a sustainable future for Falcon Heights!



COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

PROPERTY VALUATION NOTICES AND TAX STATEMENTS

Annual property valuation notices and tax statements for 2025 are expected to reach Ramsey County property owners the last week of March. Valuation notices include your property classification, estimated market value and taxable market value, which is used to determine property taxes payable in 2026.

Learn more about notices and tax statements [here](#).

RAMSEY COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Ramsey County's Environmental Center is opening on April 1! This new facility will make it easier for residents to reduce, reuse, repair, and recycle.

Located at 1700 Kent Street in Roseville, features include:

- A household hazardous waste drop-off.
- Electronics, food scraps, and household recycling.
- A free product reuse room.

All are invited to join the county's celebrations during Earth Week:

- Tuesday, April 22: The first 200 people dropping off household hazardous waste or electronics receive free giveaways.
- Thursday, April 24: Open house from 6 to 8 PM
- Saturday, April 26: Fix-It Clinic at the Environmental Center from 10 AM to 1 PM

Learn more about the new [Environmental Center](#).

ST. ANTHONY PARK AREA SENIORS

Coffee and Game Day

Presented by St. Anthony Park Area Seniors

Come socialize and play board games with your friends and neighbors! Coffee is provided. Games may include: Dominoes, Scrabble, Rummikub, and more.

- Date: First Friday and Fourth Tuesday of each month, upcoming on March 25 and April 4
- Time: 10:00 – 11:45 AM
- Place: 2200 Hillside Ave W., come to Door 2

No registration is required; all are welcome. We hope to see you there! If you have any questions, call the SAPAS office at 651-642-9052.



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

RAMSEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS PLANT SALE | SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, May 17

Aldrich Ice Arena | 1850 White Bear Ave,
Maplewood, MN 55109

The Ramsey County Master Gardeners' Spring Plant Sale features annual flowers, natives, and perennials for sun and shade; dozens of tomato varieties, popular vegetables, herbs, houseplants, and more. Check out [their website](#) for a Sneak Peek of what you'll find at the sale and to RSVP to get reminders about the popular annual plant sale.

GREEN RAMSEY EXPO & CAREER FAIR

March 19 | 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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

Discover how you can make a difference in your community at the Green Ramsey Expo & Career Fair. Meet local organizations dedicated to recycling, environmental clean-up and creating green spaces. Explore exciting career opportunities in emerging green industries and learn how traditional businesses are adopting sustainable practices.



NATURE NEWSFLASH <<<

RAIN BARRELS AND COMPOST BINS

You have probably seen that the annual Ramsey County Rain Barrel and Compost Bin sale is ongoing at this very moment. You can purchase a 45-gallon rain barrel for \$100 (similar models retail for over \$120). If you are interested, there are only 59 left (as of Monday at 4pm). You can also purchase a backyard compost bin for \$80 (similar models retail for \$100) and as a Ramsey County Resident you can use the promo code "Ramsey" for an additional \$20 off the compost bin, bringing your total to just \$60 for a 125-gallon compost bin. There are 67 left for Ramsey County residents. Both the rain barrels and compost bins are made from 100% recycled plastic. If you purchase one or both, you can pick them up on May 3rd (Saturday) from 9am-1pm at the new Environmental Service Center in Roseville. Details about the sale [here](#), under Other Services. Here is the [Ramsey page](#) to buy them.

Why should you consider investing in a rain barrel?

Rain barrels are a great way to reduce your water usage during the warmer months because you can use that water on many parts of your garden. They reduce erosion from downspouts and gutters because they collect the water instead of allowing it to gush out onto your grass or your garden. Rain barrels are a great choice as a climate adaptation strategy for gardening. Because rain events will grow more intense in the coming years due to climate change (and can become less predictable or less frequent), you can use your rain barrel to store the rainwater for dry spells without needing to use precious potable water on much of your yard. Be aware that public health officials caution against using rainwater on any plants you intend to eat, because it has not been treated for human consumption. Best practices can be found on [this page](#) from the UMN Extension.

The rain barrel available through the Recycling Association of Minnesota sale has many great features, including a screen to keep mosquitoes and debris out, an overflow valve that drains excess water away from the foundation, and a hose and spigot system that allows you to connect it to a garden hose, sprinkler, or to collect water directly from the barrel.

Specifications:

- Dimensions: 24 D x 24 W x 32 H
- Total Volume: 6 cu ft / 45 gallon
- 100% recycled plastic

Price for Ramsey County resident: \$100 (pre-tax)



NATURE NEWSFLASH <<<

Why should you consider investing in a compost bin?

In Ramsey County, we are lucky enough to have the food scraps drop off program. The food scraps you drop off at one of the locations (like City Hall!) goes to an industrial composting facility and becomes finished compost that you can access. You can put a lot more items in the Ramsey County Food Scraps Collection Bin than in a backyard setting, because the industrial composting process is able to process things like animal products, grease, and biodegradable products. However, backyard composting is also a great practice to reduce food and yard waste ending up in landfills. Backyard compost should only have plant-based food scraps, leaves, grass, coffee grounds, eggshells, and weeds that have not gone to seed. Backyard composting is great for gardeners who want to generate their own soil amendments to improve the nutrient content and moisture of the soil. Compost requires some tending, but containers like a compost bin and free online resources like [this one](#) from the UMN extension make it easy to do!

This compost barrel has a wide opening for easy addition of materials, sliding doors on the side to check the progress of the compost, and a lockable lid to deter animals. This model is not available in stores, so this is a great opportunity to buy one!

Specifications:

- Large capacity: 17 cu. ft.
- holds 125 gallons of material
- 30" tall and 33" in diameter when the pieces are fully assembled.
- 100% recycled plastic

Price for Ramsey County resident: \$60 (original price is \$80, with code Ramsey for \$20 off)



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





**MARCH
CAMPAIGN**

a grace program

NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD **COLLECTION**

March 23, 2025

12-2 PM

Como Park Lutheran Church Parking Lot

Stop by for some refreshments & conversations with your fellow neighbors.



**Minnesotans made a record-breaking 8.9 million visits to food shelves in 2024.
Your support is greatly needed & appreciated!**

NEEDED ITEMS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ❑ Canned meat & proteins (<i>tuna, chicken, stew, etc.</i>) | ❑ Culturally specific items—soy sauce, fish sauce, mesa, etc. |
| ❑ Cereal | ❑ Pasta/Rice noodles |
| ❑ Ready-to-Eat meals/snacks | ❑ Hygiene items (<i>toilet paper, paper towels, soap, deodorant</i>) |
| ❑ Canned fruits & vegetables | |
| ❑ Cooking staples (<i>flour, sugar, oil, & spices</i>) | |

**Cash/Check (payable to Keystone Community Services)*

Drop off your donations at Como Park Lutheran Church's parking lot located at the intersection of Hoyt Ave W & Hamline Ave N.

This event is sponsored by a Thrivent Action Team.

PLASTIC BAGS UPDATE <<<

30 pounds of plastic waste were collected in February, which would have otherwise gone to the landfill and instead will have another life as decking. The enthusiasm is wonderful, but please be careful that you are not "wishcycling", or putting items in the recycling that you hope can be recycled when in reality they contaminate the waste stream.

The most important thing you can do to determine if an item can be recycled at City Hall or a grocery store is to test if it STRETCHES. In contrast, a sign of nonrecyclable plastics is a loud crinkling sound when you compress the plastic, or if they tear super easily but do not stretch at all. If the product has the How2Recycle label and it is listed as "Store Drop-off", it can be taken to City Hall. You can also check a bag to see if it has the #2 HDPE label or the #4 LDPE label inside the little recycling triangle. Plastic film labeled with other numbers (like 1, 5, or 7) cannot be placed in the plastic film recycling bin.

Remember that all items must be CLEAN, DRY, and FREE OF ALL FOOD RESIDUE.

NOT RECYCLABLE (TRICKY ITEMS)



IF NOT STRETCHY OR
LABELED #2 OR #4

>>> PARKS AND RECREATION <<<

City Hall Programming

Tae Kwon Do <<<

Tae Kwon Do Basic and Intermediate/Advanced sessions are held on Tuesdays, with classes running from February 25 - April 8 (no class on March 4).

Cardio Kickboxing classes are held on Thursdays from February 27 - April 10 (no class on March 6) from 5:30 to 6:15 PM

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 upcoming classes running from March 3 - May 19 (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 the 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

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Jack Linehan

651-792-7611

City Administrator

Kelly Nelson

651-792-7617

Administrative Services Director /
Deputy Clerk

Elke Johnson

651-792-7621

Administrative & Communications
Coordinator

Roland Olson

651-792-7612

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 by the
St. Paul Fire Department.

Emergencies 911

Non-emergency 651-266-8989

POLICE

Police protection is provided by the
St. Anthony Police Department

Emergencies 911

Non-emergency 612-782-3350

CITY HALL HOURS:

Monday - Friday

• 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

