



**>>> NEWSLETTER <<<**



**CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS  
2077 LARPEN TEUR AVENUE WEST  
FALCON HEIGHTS, MN 55113  
651-792-7600**



# CONTACT US

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## 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 YAKASAH WEHYEE

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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, December 6 City Council Workshop Meeting - 6:30 PM
- Wednesday, December 13 City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM (Truth in Taxation Hearing)



# ➤➤➤ CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING UNOFFICIAL RECAP ‹‹‹

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER, 29 2023  
7:00 PM

## AGENDA - **AMENDED**

CALL TO ORDER: 7:07 PM

### PRESENTATIONS

### MINUTES

- November 1, 2023 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes (Wassenberg; approved 5-0)

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

### CONSENT AGENDA

- General Disbursements, Payroll, Wire Payments
- City Licenses
- Falcon Heights Book Club – Appeal to Waive Rental Fee (moved to Policy Items by Wehyee)
- Approval of 2024 City Meeting Calendar
- Senior Maintenance Worker Dave Simons – Six Month Employee Step Adjustment (Leehy; approved 5-0)

### POLICY ITEMS

1. Amber Flats PUD Denial & Approval of Findings of Facts. Discussions will continue at the next City Council meeting on December 13. (Meyer; approved 5-0)
2. **Falcon Heights Book Club – Appeal to Waive Rental Fee (Gustafson; approved 5-0)**

ADJOURNMENT: 7:58 PM

**>>> CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING <<<**

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER, 6 2023  
6:30 PM

**AGENDA**

**POLICY ITEMS**

1. Amber Flats PUD
2. Community Park Project
3. Law Enforcement Services Update
4. Sister Cities
5. Employee Personnel Policy Update
6. 2024 Budget & Levy Update



# CITY COMMISSIONS

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

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION

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

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

There are currently THREE vacancies. To apply, [click here](#)

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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

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

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

## PLANNING COMMISSION

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

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

There 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 are currently NO vacancies.



# PUBLIC WORKS & <<< COMMUNITY UPDATES



## Hockey Rink at Curtiss Field

Public Works completed setting up the hockey rink at Curtiss Field. Last week, the Mobile Mini warming shelter was delivered. This week, the electrical connection will be routed to the warming shelter.

## Street Sweeping

Weather permitting, Public Works will street sweep areas throughout the city that have heavy leaf accumulation.

## Sidewalks

Public Works marked offset sidewalk panels that are along the city's snow removal route. This week, they will start grinding down the offset panels.

## Community Park

Falcon Heights and the Monarch Joint Venture were awarded a grant from St. Paul Garden Club earlier this year. As part of the grant, the butterfly habitat signs were replaced last week around the pond at Community Park.

## Ramsey County Ski Trails

Snowmaking has begun and one trail is open now at the [Winter Recreation Area at Battle Creek](#). This easy 0.6 km trail loop around the pond is perfect for skiers of all skill levels and is lighted from sunset until 10 PM. When cooler temperatures settle in and the snow falls, 56 km of natural snow trails will open. Be sure to watch the [cross-country ski trail conditions page](#) for the latest trail opening info.

Don't forget to get your mutual Ramsey County/Saint Paul ski pass before hitting the trails. Passes may be purchased [online](#) now or in person starting Dec. 1 at the Battle Creek Recreation Center.

## Guidelines for Snow and Ice Control

The City Council adopted changes to the Administrative Manual Section 7 Guidelines for Snow and Ice Control at its last meeting on Wednesday, November 15.

City Staff made necessary changes to the manual and snow and ice control map. The updates can be found [here](#).



# COMMUNITY PARK RENOVATION

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## COMMUNITY PARK RENOVATION SURVEY

The City needs your help!  
Falcon Heights is currently seeking the community's feedback regarding the Community Park renovation. Make your opinions known and help shape the future renovation of Community Park by taking the online survey [here](#).

The Parks and Recreation Commission will be reviewing initial feedback at their regular meeting on Monday, December 4.

You can also find a link to the survey on the Community Park Renovation page of the City's website, including links to renovation documents, which are included in a smaller scale within the survey.  
[Click to view.](#)



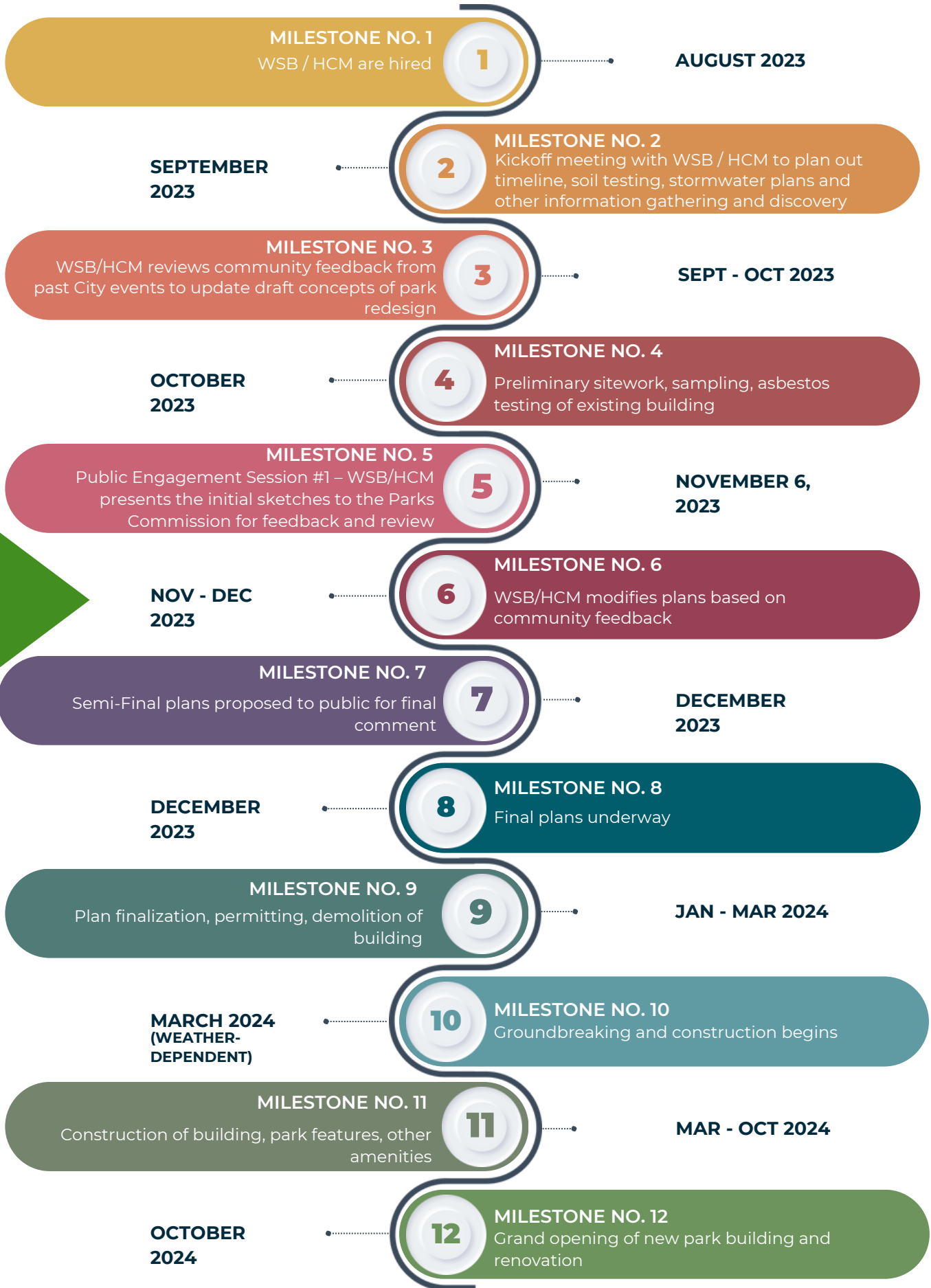
For more information regarding the Community Park Renovation, please visit the City's website [here](#).





# COMMUNITY PARK TIMELINE

The timeline is subject to change as the project develops.



# Snelling & Larpenteur

## CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT STUDY

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. With the outside grant funding, the City is undertaking a corridor study that will look at existing sites, note economic and market trends, and gain input from the Falcon Heights community about what type of development they would like to see in the future. The Planning Commission will serve as the steering committee providing feedback and shepherding the study throughout the process.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS & <<< UPDATES

Falcon Heights is now 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!

### Community Survey

### Community Input Map



Community Survey



Community Input Map



Share your input! This is your last chance to include your input for the Larpenteur & Snelling Corridor Development Study. The survey and community input map will be closing on Friday, December 15. Make sure to respond now to have your opinions heard! Scan the QR codes or click on the link above it.



# COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

## Winter Coat Drive

The City of Falcon Heights is participating in a winter coat drive for the International Institute of Minnesota, a nonprofit working to help immigrants and refugees make Minnesota their home.

Drop of your donations at Falcon Heights City Hall on Saturday, December 9 from 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM and we will have hot chocolate available!

They are collecting men's, women's and children's winter jackets for newly arrived refugees:

- New or GENTLY used and
- laundered
- Sizes S-L (small and medium, especially)
- Thick: not a light jacket or Peacoat

They are also seeking other winter supplies in new condition:

- Hats
- Gloves

They cannot accept knitted or crocheted items.



## RFP - 2024 Printing Services

The City of Falcon Heights is seeking proposals from vendors who are interested in providing cost-effective and quality services for the City's 2024 Printing Services to provide newsletter/postcard printing. The print vendor must be located in close proximity to City Hall to provide timely printing services. Proposals must include all items specified in the RFP, that can be found [here](#).

## St. Anthony Park Area Seniors

Holiday Piano Concert with Elizabeth Lee and Guest Flautist Britta Swedenborg

Join us for an afternoon of holiday piano music, some of which you can sing along to with provided lyrics!

Friday, December 8, 2023 at 2:00 PM

Hybrid event that you can attend either: In-person at 2200 Hillside Ave. (Sanctuary at Centennial United Methodist Church).

OR

By streaming online at <https://www.facebook.com/sapaseniors>

ALL are welcome! There is NO charge or required registration to attend this concert.

Call St. Anthony Park Area Seniors at 651-642-9052 to get more information.



# COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

## Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS)

### Getting The Lead Out

In 2023 SPRWS launched an ambitious 10-year plan to remove all lead service lines in both private and public property. Lead Free SPRWS is offering free replacement to customers.

SPRWS is actively planning the next ten years of the program by working on obtaining funding and choosing an appropriate number of replacements to complete each year based on the funding. The SPRWS service area will be divided into project zones and they will prioritize based on several factors. Information will be shared on SPRWS website as soon as it is available. SPRWS will contact customers directly when they are coming to their area. To ensure SPRWS has the most up to date contact information, you can call customer service at 651-266-6350.

For more information, click here

### Reduce Lead in Drinking Water

There are steps you can take to reduce exposure if you have a lead service line or lead in your interior plumbing:

- Let the water run for 3-5 minutes before using it for drinking or cooking if the water has collected in your plumbing for more than 6 hours.
- Use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula. Hot water absorbs more lead from pipes than cold water.
- At least once a quarter, remove your aerator from your faucet and rinse the filter out.
- Use a water pitcher or point of use filter for your drinking water/

## The Mayor for a Day Essay Contest is back

To enter, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders can answer the prompt, "What would you do if you were mayor for a day?" for a chance to win \$100 and recognition in Minnesota Cities magazine.

The deadline for submissions is Dec. 12. Students and parents/guardians can submit essays via an online form, a PDF email attachment, or through the mail. Winners only will be notified in early January. Some cities may provide additional local recognition for participants.

How can you submit your essays?

There are three ways to send us your students' essays.

Submit online – students can enter their essays into this online form and submit them directly.

Print and Mail – you can print this document for students to handwrite their essays and then mail them in to 145 University Ave. W, Saint Paul, MN 55103.

Email as an attachment – students can type their essays into the fillable PDF, save the document, and then email the finalized PDF to mayorforaday@lmc.org.



# COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

## WINTER CRAFT SERIES PRESSED FLOWER ORNAMENTS

Wednesday, December 13 | 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
Cost: \$25.00

Head down to Gibbs Farm's cozy Red Barn to create ornaments and art out of pressed flowers! Each participant will arrange and paste a variety of flowers, herbs and foliage gathered at Gibbs this summer. We will have inspiration from around the world and information on Victorian floriography (language of flowers) to help you create creative and meaningful designs. Each participant will be able to make two ornaments and several notecards or gift tags.

This is a fun and casual crafting evening, using a simple pasting technique, no experience necessary!

[Register Here!](#)

Please enter the site through the Gibbs Farm Public Parking Lot off Cleveland Avenue and follow the signs to the Red Barn.



## MN FAIRGROUND EVENT



### North Star Roller Derby Season 18 - Bout 3

#### DESCRIPTION

North Star Roller Derby is a member-run, nonprofit roller derby league based in Minneapolis. Skaters play a version of the roller derby you may have seen on TV in the 80s, but on a flat track instead of a banked track.

#### LOCATION

Warner Coliseum

#### HOURS

Saturday, December 9  
Doors Open at 5:00 PM  
Bout at 6:00 PM

#### ADMISSION

\$15

For more information, visit  
[www.northstarrollerderby.com](http://www.northstarrollerderby.com)



# COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

## CenturyLink Outage

Residents who are experiencing landline outages should report it directly to CenturyLink by signing in to their account or by calling the customer service line at 833-591-0933. You can also check for outages in the CenturyLink App.

CenturyLink also has a Troubleshooter that allows you to check for outages, test your service, make and see repair appointments. This tool can also be utilized to sign up for updates regarding any service outages.

Click [here](#) for the Troubleshooter.

You can still check for voice messages. In most areas, there are two ways to check your messages away from home: call home and interrupt your outgoing message with #, \*, or 2 (varies by location) or call your retrieval number. The number was included in the welcome letter you received when you signed up for voicemail service.

If you don't have your retrieval number, please [contact CenturyLink](#) to get it.

Any time you're checking messages from a phone line other than the one your voicemail service is on, you are required to enter your PIN. Did you forget your PIN? You can [reset it](#).

## Collection Programs Switch to Winter Hours

Ramsey County's yard waste and household hazardous waste collection sites are now operating on winter hours.

### Yard Waste

Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sundays, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Household Hazardous Waste

Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

These hours are in effect through March.

[Click here for locations and items accepted.](#)

## Partners in Energy

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

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.

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.

If you are interested in joining our Energy Action Team, please fill out the application at the link below and we will be in touch with you as soon as selections are made. Open houses and workshops are expected to begin in February, 2024.

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



# CODE <<< ENFORCEMENT CORNER

We are almost to the end of growing season! Take these last few days/weeks to finish mowing that lawn and getting it to a good length before the snow comes. Don't forget to mow and weed along the edges of your curb, as well. Thanks for keeping Falcon Heights looking beautiful!

## EVs & EV Charging

Are you one of the many Minnesotans considering making the switch to an electric vehicle? Not sure where to begin? We have now updated our website to include many resources on electric vehicles and charging equipment. Take a look [here](#) to learn more!

Kickstart your plastic-free journey. Take the

# Plastic-Free Challenge



Coming this February



## Plastic Free Challenge

Kickstart your plastic-free journey with the Plastic-Free Challenge during the month of February! You can 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.

Get notified when sign up is open, by clicking [here](#)

## 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](https://mncee.org/hes)

Free visits available to income qualified households.



# NATURE <<< NEWSFLASH

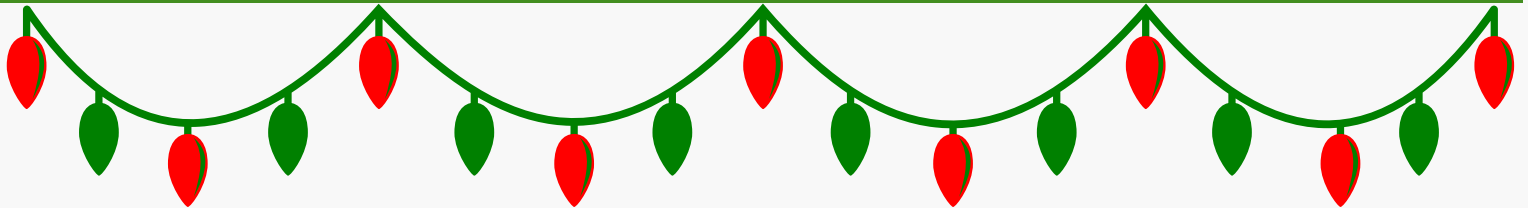
## A few ways to be greener with your holiday lights

Many of us cherish the sight of our streets illuminated by holiday lights this time of year. There are ways to make those displays more environmentally friendly. For example, you can cut down on energy consumption by making sure you use efficient LED lights (which are now the predominant type sold). And by setting up a timer that turns off the lights when you go to bed, you'll not only save money, you'll also lessen light pollution-star-gazers, sensitive sleepers, and certain animal species will be glad you did.

Eventually string lights fail. Sometimes there's an easy fix -a replacement bulb or a fuse. If it is doable, you might get some free repair help at one of the Ramsey County Fix-It Clinics. But if it's time to dispose of old lights, it's best to do so properly. Repowered at 860 Vandalia Street in St Paul will take them for just 49 cents per pound (the lights are typically very light, so it won't cost you much). Repowered is open weekdays until 4:30 pm and on certain Saturday mornings. You might also look into the free St. Paul Public Library's Lights Recycling Program that runs until January 22nd. The Ramsey County Hazardous Waste Facility at 5 Empire Drive in St Paul is another good option, and it is open year-round.

Submitted by John Pellegrini, resident of Falcon Heights and member of the Environment Commission.

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](mailto:hannah.b.lynch@falconheights.org).





# >>> 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 November 14. - December 19. No class will be held on November 21.

Cardio Kickboxing classes will be held on Thursdays, running November 9- December 21. All classes are held in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. No class will be held on November 23.

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 upcoming yoga sessions!

Classes will be held on Mondays from November 27- March 4 at 4:30 PM. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

\*No classes held on December 25, January 1 or 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



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

## 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

