



**>>> NEWSLETTER <<<**



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



# CONTACT US

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Roland Olson Finance Director	651-792-7612
Hannah Lynch Community Development Coordinator/ City Planner	651-792-7613
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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

RANDY.GUSTAFSON@FALCONHEIGHTS.ORG



## 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 27 City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
- Wednesday, January 3, 2024 City Council Workshop Meeting 6:30 PM



➤➤➤ **CITY COUNCIL MEETING UNOFFICIAL MEETING RECAP** ⬅️⬅️

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER, 13 2023  
7:00 PM

**AGENDA - AMENDED**

CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 PM

**PRESENTATIONS**

**MINUTES**

- **November 15, 2023 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes**  
(Leehy; approved 5-0)

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- 2024 Truth in Taxation and Budget Presentation  
(Council voted to approve the 2024 Tax Levy and Budget; approved 5-0)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- General Disbursements, Payroll, Wire Payments
- City Licenses
- Appointment of City Attorney
- Appointment of City Prosecutor
- Appointment of City Auditor
- Appointment of City Engineer

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 2024 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)
- Statutory Tort Limits Liability Coverage for the City in 2024
- Northeast Youth and Family Services Cooperative Service Agreement for 2024
- Tubman Legal Services Cooperative Agreement
- Personnel Policy Updates
- Larpenteur Avenue Streetlights Bid Award
- Larpenteur Avenue Streetlights – Professional Services Award for Electrical Engineering
- Award of Printing Services Contract to Johnson Litho Graphics
- **Appointment of Dean Pope as Senior Maintenance Worker**  
(Leehy; approved 5-0)

**POLICY ITEMS**

- I. Amber Flats PUD  
(Meyer; approved 3-2)

ADJOURNMENT: 8:51 PM



## 2024 City Budget and Tax Levy Approved

The Falcon Heights City Council approved the 2024 city budget and property tax levy at its regular meeting on Wednesday, December 13.

The 2024 city budget totals \$3.5 million, which is an increase of 13.7% compared to the 2023 budget. The general city budget pays for services such public safety, public woks, parks and general government operations.

The primary contributing factor to the increased budget is the proposed increase in the law enforcement services contract with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office to provide interim coverage in 2024. Additionally, the budget includes a \$4 million capital program that is the largest in City history, which primarily includes \$3.5 million for the renovation of Community Park. Other capital projects included for 2024 is resurfacing Roselawn east of Snelling in partnership with the City of Roseville, replacement of the streetlights on Larpenteur Avenue, and re-painting the city monument signs.

The 2024 property tax levy is \$2.7 million, which is an increase of 9.12%. The impact of this property tax levy on a median valued home, which in 2024 is assessed at \$373,950 (3.3% increase over 2023), is estimated to result in an increase of \$117 annually in the City portion of the homeowner's taxes. The City's levy increase of 9.12% is around the average 2024 levy increase for the metro region.

The City's 2024 budget is not entirely funded through commercial and residential property taxes. It is also funded through fees for service, state, and federal aid.

The 2024 budget can be viewed online [here](#). A hard copy is available for viewing at City Hall.



# 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

## New Senior Maintenance Worker

Public Works has a new employee! Dean Pope joined the Public Works Department as a senior maintenance worker. This week, Dean will be introduced to all equipment, safety protocols and snow operations.

## Street Sweeping

Public Works will be performing repairs to the street sweeper. They will be repairing the air rams that activate the side brooms on the sweeper.

## Curtiss Field Hockey Rink

Public Works will be removing all leaves and sticks from within the Curtiss Field hockey rink. This will help ready the rink for when weather remains cold enough to flood the rinks. The 10-day forecast suggests weather will be too warm for ice rink flooding until after the new year.

## Curtiss Field

Public Works will re-seal two manholes that provide access to the underground storm water storage tanks at Curtiss Field. Both are located within the hockey rink and resealing will help prevent water from flowing into the manholes while the hockey rink is established.

## Repairs

Public Works will be making repairs to the fleet as needed.

## Trash & Recycling Holiday Schedule

All residential routes will run one day later during the last week of December. Friday collection day (12/29) will be on Saturday (12/30).

All residential routes will run one day later during first week of January. Friday collection day (01/05) will be on Saturday (01/06).

## Collection Programs Switch to Winter Hours

Ramsey County's yard waste and household hazardous waste collection sites are now operating on winter hours that are in effect through March.

### Yard Waste

- Saturdays, 9 AM - 5 PM
- Sundays, 11 AM - 5 PM

### Household Hazardous Waste

- Fridays and Saturdays, 9 AM- 4 PM

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





# 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](#).

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](#).



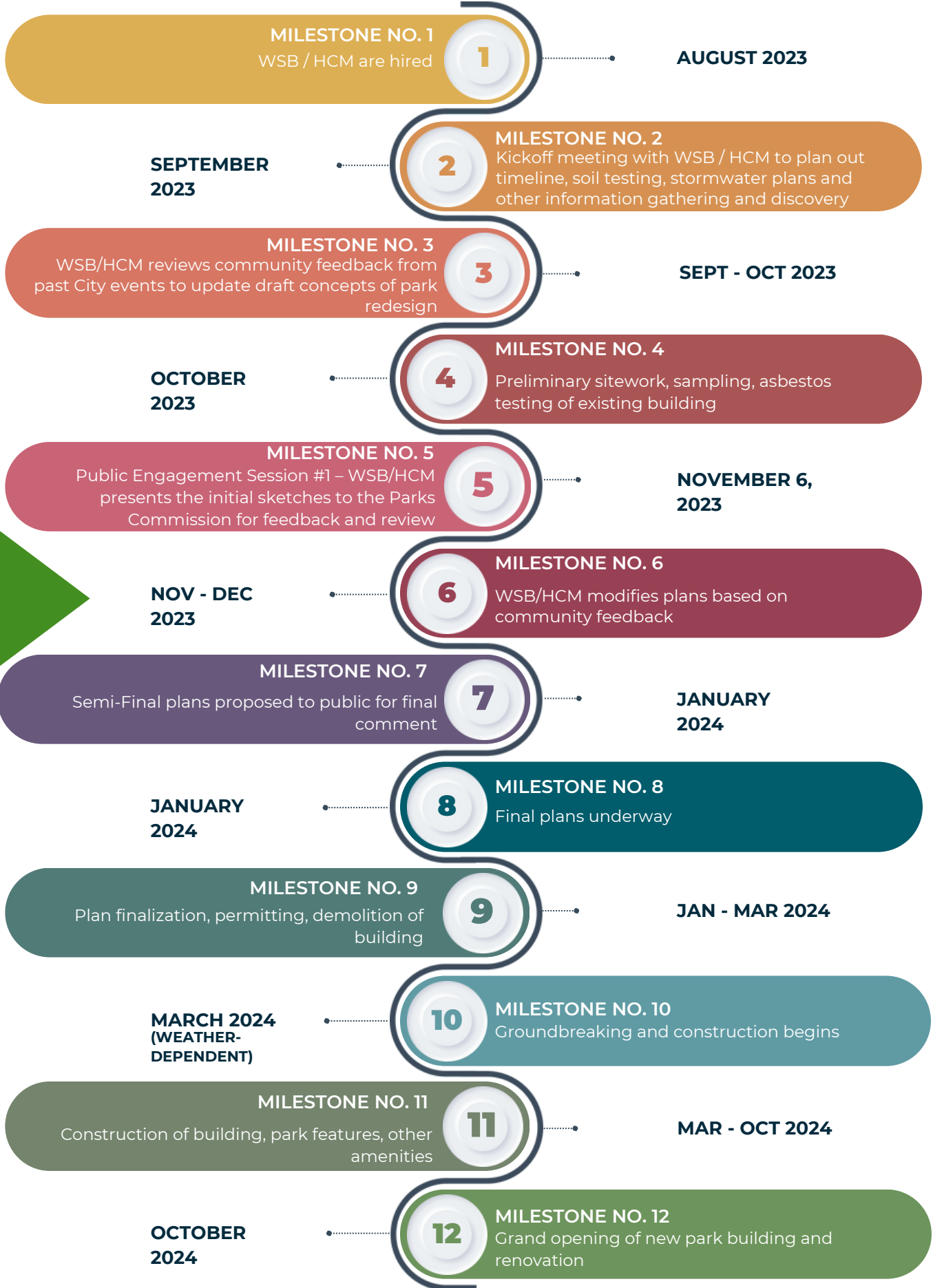
For more information regarding the Community Park Renovation, please visit the City's website [here](#).





# COMMUNITY PARK TIMELINE

The timeline is subject to change as the project develops.



# Snelling & Larpenteur

## CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT STUDY

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

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

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

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## My Electric Ride: An EV Transportation Video Challenge

Electric vehicles (EVs) of all kinds are here. And we want to hear about your experience, from electric scooters to electric school buses. Create a short video showcasing your personal experience with EVs as part of EPA's prize competition, and you may win up to \$3,000. Please note, the challenge closes on January 23, 2024.

To learn more about the challenge, click [here](#)

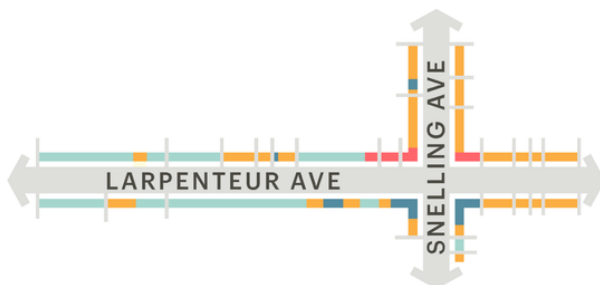
### Fun Recycling Fact

Did you know there are more than 4,000 local Christmas Tree recycling programs throughout the United States?

We have got four, just in Ramsey County! Bring your holiday/Christmas trees to the following yard sites for free:

- Arden Hills
- Frank and Sims
- Midway
- White Bear Township

For directions and hours, please click [here](#)



**ZONING**

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

(MAP IS NOT TO SCALE)



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



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

## Partners in Energy

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

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

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

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

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

Free visits available to income qualified households.



# COMMUNITY <<< DEVELOPMENT

## Ramsey County Prepares For Climate Change With New Action Framework

The effects of climate change impact everyone in Ramsey County. So, the county is taking steps to address that and create opportunities to strengthen the economy, improve health and create a more equitable community for everyone.

Ramsey County recently published its first Climate Action Framework to guide the county's response to climate change. The framework was developed with input from residents, county staff and key partners. It builds on the six focus areas identified in the State of Minnesota Climate Action Framework:

- Clean transportation: Connect people to places through a safe, equitable and sustainable transportation system.
- Climate-smart natural land: Manage county land to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support healthy ecosystems and increase environmental resilience.
- Thriving communities: Collaboratively build the capacity of Ramsey County communities to survive and thrive in changing conditions.
- Clean energy and efficient buildings: Pursue 100% carbon-free, reliable and affordable electrical power and heat sources through policies, investments and partnerships.
- Healthy lives: Partner with community to reduce the direct and indirect health impacts of climate change together.
- Clean economy: Build an economy that addresses climate change and creates equitable opportunities for all.

County departments will focus on "near-term" actions outlined in the plan over the course of 2024. They will share updates on this work at [ramseycounty.us/ClimateAction](https://ramseycounty.us/ClimateAction).

A team of residents will meet with county staff regularly throughout the year to review progress and discuss ways to improve outcomes. While the current team has been selected, there will be opportunities for new residents to participate later in the year.

Learn more about Ramsey County's climate action work and sign up to receive updates.





## Holiday Lights

### Glow Festival

Stroll through CHS field and enjoy an interactive holiday-themed light display made up of over a million dazzling lights. The walk-through festival features a selection of attractions including an enchanted forest, a selfie plaza, and bike pedal-powered Christmas trees.

November 16 - December 31

CHS Field, 360 N. Broadway St., St. Paul, [glowholiday.com](http://glowholiday.com)

Keystone has partnered with GLOW Holiday to be one of its 30+ non-profit partners that will be celebrated throughout the festival and \$1 per ticket purchased for the event will go back to these charities at the end of the festival. You can purchase tickets by clicking this link: <https://bit.ly/2UE5d3k>. You can save money by using the code "GLOWGIVES" (in all capital letters). The discounted ticket price will be under "Charity Adult GA" or "Charity Child (3-12) GA".



# COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

## St. Anthony Park Area Seniors

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

What: Morning of Coffee and Board Games

Date: Tuesday, December 19

Time: 10:00 – 11:45 AM

Where: 2200 Hillside Ave.

(Centennial United Methodist Church)

Cost: No charge, but donations are always appreciated. Transportation is available with one week's notice.

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

ALL are welcome regardless of age, ability or residency. No RSVP is needed.

Questions?

Call St. Anthony Park Area Seniors  
(651-642-9052)



# COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

## Bell Museum



### Heart & Solstice

The winter solstice marks the shortest day of sunlight in our hemisphere—after December 21, the days begin to get longer again! Welcome the new season and celebrate the returning light at the Bell.

Take heart and celebrate the season with the Bell Museum from December 20, 2023 through January 7, 2024, during museum hours (closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day).

They have planned a variety of programs and activities. Try a Winter Walk scavenger hunt through the galleries and explore the winter solstice at a gallery cart in Minnesota Journeys, visit the temporary exhibit Life on the Edge to learn about the search for life in the universe, and learn about winter constellations in the planetarium when you see Minnesota Night Skies.

## 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/



# COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

City Hall will be closed on the following Holidays:

- Monday, December 25, 2023 – Christmas Holiday
- Monday, December 26, 2023 – Christmas Holiday
- Monday, January 1, 2024 – New Years

## KIDS DANCE CLINIC

Come dance with the Roseville Area High School Dance Team! Open to boys and girls ages 3-12. Come learn new dance skills and two fun routines in which you will perform alongside RDT in their annual winter show. Participants will be provided snack/lunch during the clinic as well as a t-shirt that they can keep and will wear for the winter show performance.

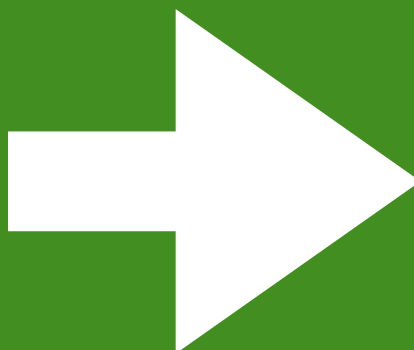
Check in is 10-10:30 AM at RAHS lower gym lobby. 1240 County Road B2 W, Roseville, MN 55113

The clinic will be held from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

Participants will then stay with the dance team and perform in the Roseville Dance Team Winter Show. Doors open for the Winter Show at 12:30 PM and the show begins at 1:00 PM. The show should last 90-120 minutes.

Fee: \$50. Registration after January 9, 2024 is not guaranteed a t-shirt.

[Register here](#) or scan the QR code.





# NATURE <<< NEWSFLASH

## O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, What Are Thy Greenest Choices?

If you set up a Christmas tree in your home, perhaps you've thought about the environmental implications. Your purchasing decision (real or artificial) and your method of disposal (landfill, incineration, or composting) have pros and cons regarding climate change, pollution, and biodiversity.

When you purchase a real tree, you support a farmer who is keeping their land green. The trees on their farm (which grow for about a dozen years before harvesting) clean the air, store carbon, and provide habitat for a variety of species. Production of real trees doesn't result in as much carbon emission as the production and shipping of artificial trees from China. However, it is worth noting that an artificial tree that is reused for a decade or more has its advantages: no matter how someone disposes of a natural tree there are downsides (landfills pollute, while incineration or composting release carbon into the atmosphere). Perhaps the greenest choice is to decorate a live, container-grown tree.

When it's time to give a real tree the old heave-ho, it's probably best to follow Ramsey County's advice: remove decorations and bring it to a yard waste collection site. From there, as long as it's not full of fake snow or tinsel, your tree will be turned into mulch. Disposal is free of charge and sites are located in St. Paul Midway as well as Arden Hills. From now until March, sites are open Saturday 9 am – 5 pm and Sunday 11 am to 5 pm. Don't wait too long: if you leave a decaying tree in your backyard all winter, you risk spreading invasive pests. It's also legal to place holiday trees in the trash, but be aware that haulers might charge extra for this.

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 January 9 - February 13.

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

All classes are held in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Classes are instructed by Joshua Jordan, a 2nd-degree black belt. These classes help develop self-defense skills, mental strength, focus, self-confidence, physical health and flexibility.

For more information and to register, click this link:  
<https://www.falconheights.org/residents/tkd-information>

### >>> Yoga

Register for yoga sessions!

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

