



***FALCON HEIGHTS***  
***THE CITY THAT SOARS***

»» NEWSLETTER ««



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



# CONTACT US

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| City Hall  | 651-792-7600 |
| Jack Linehan<br>City Administrator                                   | 651-792-7611 |
| Kelly Nelson<br>Assistant to the City Administrator                  | 651-792-7617 |
| Elke van der Werff<br>Administrative & Communications<br>Coordinator | 651-792-7621 |
| Roland Olson<br>Finance Director                                     | 651-792-7612 |
| Hannah Lynch<br>Community Development Coordinator/<br>City Planner   | 651-792-7613 |
| Colin Callahan<br>Public Works Director                              | 651-792-7618 |

## 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 PAULA MIELKE

PAULA.MIELKE@FALCONHEIGHTS.ORG



## COUNCIL MEMBER MELANIE LEEHY

MELANIE.LEEHY@FALCONHEIGHTS.ORG



## COUNCIL MEMBER JIM WASSENBERG

JAMES.WASSENBERG@FALCONHEIGHTS.ORG



## COUNCIL MEMBER ERIC MEYER

ERIC.MEYER@FALCONHEIGHTS.ORG

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Wednesday, January 24, 2024  
City Council Regular Meeting  
7:00 PM
- Wednesday, February 7, 2024  
City Council Workshop Meeting  
6:30 PM



**>>> CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING UNOFFICIAL RECAP <<<**

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 10, 2024  
7:00 PM

**AGENDA**

**PRESENTATIONS**

- Resignation of Paula Mielke from the Parks and Recreation Commission
- Oath of Office for Randy Gustafson to Mayor
- Oath of Office for James Wassenberg to City Council Member
- Oath of Office for Paula Mielke to City Council Member
- State Fair Task Force Report
- Northwest Youth & Family Services Presentation

**MINUTES**

- November 29, 2023 City Council Special Workshop Meeting Minutes
- December 13, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes  
(Leehy; approved 5-0)

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- 2024 Roselawn Avenue Resurfacing Project  
(Leehy; approved 5-0)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- General Disbursements, Payroll, Wire Payments
- City Licenses
- Designation of Official Depositories for 2024
- Review Elected Official Out-of-State Travel Policy
- Appoint Acting Mayor
- Commission Member Reappointments
- Mile Reimbursement Rate for 2024
- Designation of Official Newspaper
- Designation of 2024 Polling Locations
- 2024 Data Practices Officials
- Appointment of Robert Haight to the Parks and Recreation Commission
- Appointment of Erin Williams to the Parks and Recreation Commission
- Approve Purchase of Public Works Plow Truck
- Approval of Joint Grant Application with the City of Lauderdale – MCMA Internship Program  
(Leehy; approved 5-0)

**POLICY ITEMS**

1. Council Appointment as Liaison for City Commissions (Gustafson; tabled 3-2)
2. Review and Adopt Council Standing Rules and Council/Advisory Commission Roles and Guidelines Reconfirming (Mielke; tabled 3-2)



# 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 are currently NO vacancies.

## 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

## Ice Skating

Public Works will continue flooding the rinks at Curtiss Field and at Grove Park. They are hopeful the rinks can open this week. Residents can call the City's weather line at 651-792-7607 to determine the most up-to-date warming house hours at Curtiss Field during the skating season.

## Repairs

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

## Trash

Public Works will be emptying all city-maintained trash receptacles.

## Cleaning

Public Works will be cleaning all of their equipment as well as clean sump throughs in all the floor drains in the Public Works garage bays.

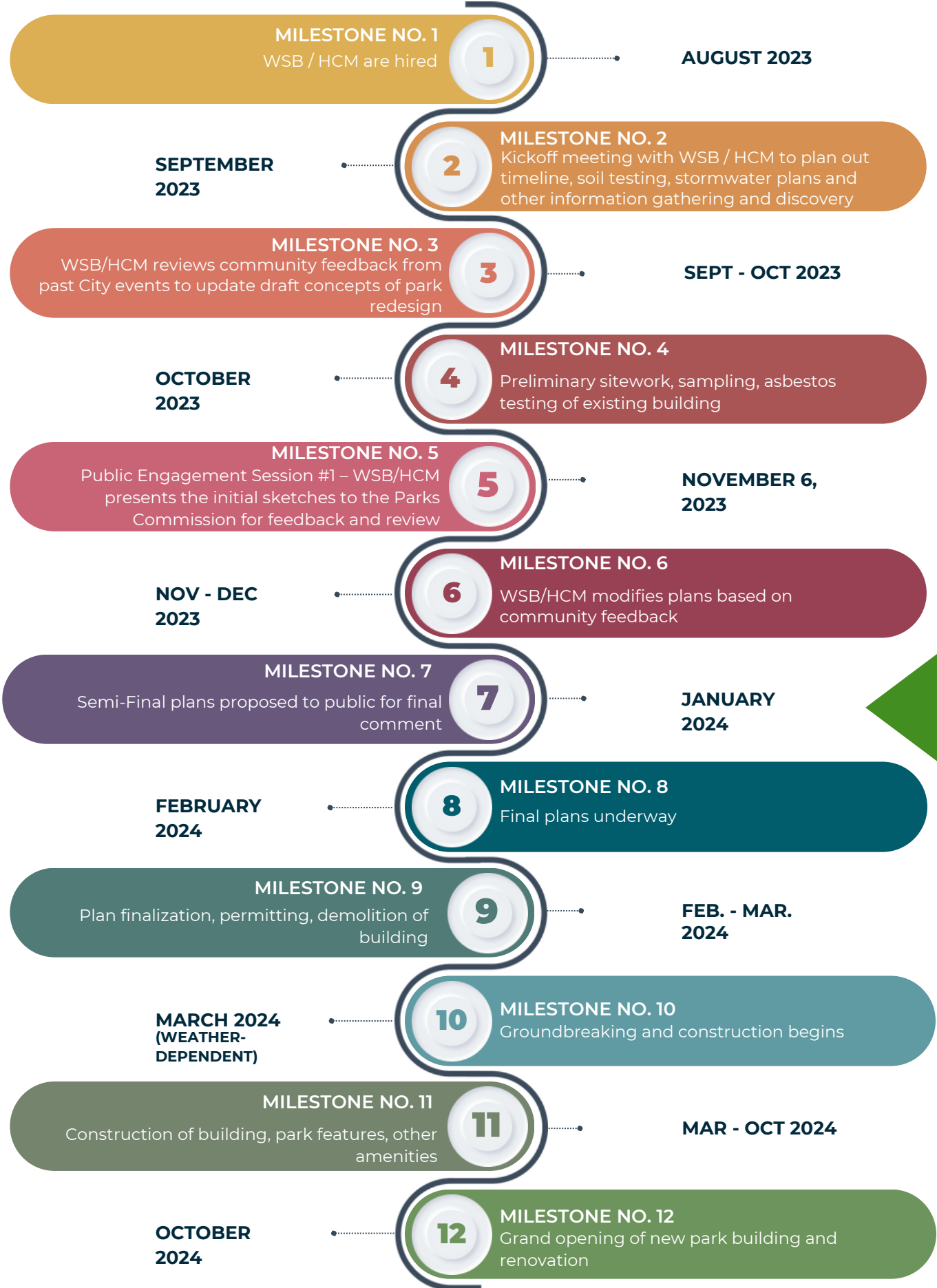
## Tips for Managing Snow and Ice From Capital Region Watershed District

- **Shovel, Sweep or Scrape:** Have the proper tools to clear driveways and sidewalks. Remove snow early and often to reduce compacted snow and ice.
- **Swap the Salt:** Try using grit or sand for traction on ice instead of melting the ice with salt.
- **Select the Correct Product:** Road salt only works when the pavement temperature is above 15 degrees. Read the label of your de-icer for usage instructions and temperature. In colder temperatures, use different products like sand or grit.
- **Scatter Salt Sparingly:** A 12-ounce coffee cup holds enough salt to cover a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares. Scatter salt grains 3 inches apart. Only use salt on ice! Don't put salt on wet pavement or snow.
- **Save & Reuse:** Sweep up grit and sand or leftover salt to reuse as needed.
- **Use Sunny Days:** Take advantage of sunshine on pavement and work to break up lingering ice and snow with a heavy-duty snow and ice scraper or shovel



# COMMUNITY PARK TIMELINE

The timeline is subject to change as the project develops.



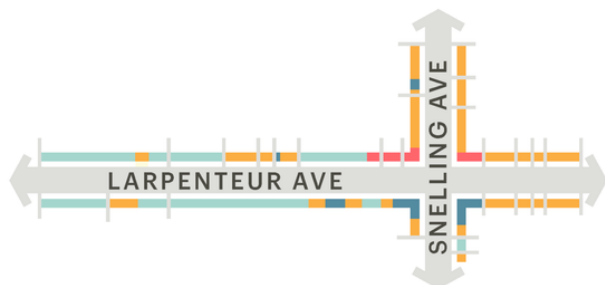
# Snelling & Larpenteur

## 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.



**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



## Kickstart Your Plastic-Free Journey: Take the Plastic-Free Challenge

Plastics can be a hassle – they create clutter and can be confusing to recycle – plus they contribute to litter, harm water and wildlife, and have largely unknown health impacts for us. Fortunately, there's a lot we can do to help create a plastic-free world, from learning more about plastic waste and recycling to making simple swaps to advocating for changes in your community and sharing your story with others.

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 by joining the Plastic-Free Challenge: [tcplasticfree.ecochallenge.org](http://tcplasticfree.ecochallenge.org)



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## Partners in Energy

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

### Energy Action Team Member Application

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.

### Community Energy Survey

We are looking for responses from community members to help shape our Energy Action Plan. This plan will build off of the Comprehensive Plan's energy goals, and include extensive community input to the planning process to determine what we, as a community, want to achieve related to electric and natural gas options. We encourage community members to share thoughts on topics including:

- Energy Efficiency - Saving energy through weatherization of homes and buildings and efficient technologies
- Renewable Energy - Wind and solar energy for homes and businesses
- Electric Vehicles - Resident adoption, fleet upgrades and charging infrastructure
- Electrification - Adopting electric heating/cooling and appliance technologies

The outcome of this plan, through your input, will guide the City in reaching its energy goals over the coming years. Click [here](#) to access the survey!

**Save the Date: Open House - Wednesday, February 21**

## 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.





## Chicken Keeping

Have you ever thought about adding a few chickens to your backyard? Well, if so, now is a great time to start planning for your new chicken additions!

Keeping chickens can be a rewarding and enjoyable experience. Whether you're interested in fresh eggs, natural pest control, or simply having feathered friends in your backyard.

The City of Falcon Heights has an Information Packet to learn about keeping chickens, the permitting process and additional resources. The city requires a permit for chicken keeping and allows up to 4 hens. Be sure to access the Information Packet [here](#).

Additionally, there are many resources both from the [UofM Extension](#) and [local classes](#) to connect with other urban chicken keepers. Learn about housing, space requirements, feed, egg production, behavior, socialization, cleaning and maintenance, and predator protection.

Apart from the delicious fresh eggs, it is exciting to see each chicken's own personality, and observing their behaviors can be fascinating. With proper care, attention, and a suitable environment, keeping chickens can be a delightful and sustainable addition to your backyard.

# NATURE <<< NEWSFLASH

## MN DNR Ice Safety Guidelines

Ice is variable and people should be very cautious, including in northern Minnesota. Don't rely on reports alone, check it yourself.

If you are going out on the ice, check the ice and not just for thickness. White and rotten ice can be deceiving. If the ice is white, double the below ice thickness guidelines. In most places, people should wait before taking out ATVs or other vehicles out on the ice. The ice is just not ready yet.

No ice can ever be considered "safe ice," but following these guidelines available at [mndnr.gov/icesafety](http://mndnr.gov/icesafety) can help minimize the risk:

- Always wear a life jacket or float coat on the ice (except when in a vehicle).
- Carry ice picks, rope, an ice chisel and tape measure.
- Check ice thickness at regular intervals; conditions can change quickly.
- Bring a cell phone or personal locator beacon.
- Don't go out alone; let someone know about trip plans and expected return time.
- Before heading out, inquire about conditions and known hazards with local experts.
- Parents and guardians should talk with their children about staying away from the ice unless there's adult supervision. This includes lakes and rivers, as well as neighborhood ponds, retention ponds and anywhere ice forms.



## St. Anthony Park Area Seniors

Come and Enjoy the January Senior Cinema Series Show!

They are showing "The Jackie Robinson Story" on Monday, January 15! Join St. Anthony Park Area Seniors at 2:00 PM at 2200 Hillside Avenue (sanctuary of Centennial United Methodist Church).

This movie is a 1950 biographical film directed by Alfred E. Green and starring Jackie Robinson as himself. The film focuses on Robinson's struggle with the abuse of bigots as he becomes the first African-American Major League Baseball player of the modern era.

All are welcome to attend regardless of age or residency. Snacks will be available, and there is no charge or registration required. Call 651-642-9052 to get more information.

## Radon Test Kit

Radon is a naturally-occurring, radioactive gas. It is odorless, tasteless and invisible. Radon may enter a home anywhere there is an opening between the home and the soil According to the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), radon is the nation's second leading cause of lung cancer. The Minnesota Department of Health recommends every home be tested for radon.

Did you know 2 of 5 Minnesota homes have high radon levels?

The only way to know the radon level in your home is to test. Testing is easy and inexpensive.

Ramsey County Residents can purchase short-term testing kits for \$2.

To order a test, visit [ramseycounty.us/radon](http://ramseycounty.us/radon) or call 651-266-1199

# COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

## Skating Fun in Falcon Heights

Ice rinks at Curtiss Field and Grove Park will be opening soon!

Curtiss Field is located at 1551 Iowa Ave. W. and features a portable warming house onsite. Grove Park is located at 1600 Coffman Street.

Weather conditions will determine the exact skating season and if the warming house at Curtiss Field is open on any given day.

For skating updates, call the Weather Line at 651-792-7607.

City Hall will be closed on the following holiday:

- Monday, January 15, 2024 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day



## Ice Skating

Are you looking to sharpen your skating skills before the outdoor ice rinks open? Free open skating for all ages is available at these indoor ice skating rinks in Ramsey County:

- Aldrich Arena
  - 1850 White Bear Ave.,  
Maplewood, MN 55109
- Charles M. Schulz Highland Arena
  - 800 South Snelling Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55116
- Harding Arena
  - 1496 6th St E  
Saint Paul, MN 55106
- TCO Sports Garden
  - 1490 Co Rd E East  
Vadnais Heights, MN 55110

Free skate rental is available at Highland Arena and TCO Sports Garden. Please note, there is limited availability.

Skate sharpening is also available at Highland arena for \$10 per pair.

To view open skate dates and times, click [here](#).

# COMMUNITY EVENTS & UPDATES

## Ramsey County Fix-It Clinic

Get household items fixed for free and learn valuable repair skills at an upcoming Fix-It Clinic.

At Fix-It Clinics, residents bring in small household appliances, clothing, electronics and more to receive free guided assistance from volunteers with repair skills to disassemble, troubleshoot and fix items.

Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024 (10 AM - 1 PM)  
Last items accepted at 12:30 p.m.

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

## Community Engagement Session

Join us Monday, January 22 at 6:00 PM at Falcon Heights City Hall for pizza and an interactive experience for the whole family. This event, focused on preventing bias and celebrating diversity, will be an opportunity to interact with other city residents through fun, engaging, and thought-provoking activities.

We are excited to introduce Dr. Ramon Pastrano and Dr. Jonathan Stuart as our guest facilitators. They have done Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Belonging (DEI+B) training with our city staff, commissioners, and council members this fall, and we wanted to give residents exposure to their unique approach and the chance to join their neighbors in a community-wide training event.

We believe you will leave with new perspectives and a stronger sense of belonging here in the City of Falcon Heights.

For more information and to RSVP, visit our [website](#)



**FALCON HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT NIGHT**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 22**  
**6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

**CITY HALL**  
**2077 LARPENTEUR AVE W**  
**FALCON HEIGHTS, MN 55113**

**Third Sphere**

The poster features a central world map with the event title arched over it. Surrounding the map are several hands of different colors and skin tones reaching upwards. The 'Third Sphere' logo is positioned below the map. The background is a light green color.



# 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 8 to April 11, with appointments from 9:00 AM to noon. Tax assistance will be by appointment only.

To reserve your tax appointment, click [here](#) and staff with follow-up with you.

Or, contact City Hall at 651-792-7600 or [mail@falconheights.org](mailto:mail@falconheights.org).

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!

## Bell Museum

### Spotlight Science: The Science of Sound

Bell Museum 2088 Larpenteur Avenue W, St Paul.

Spotlight Science is a regular program connecting you to current research at the University of Minnesota and giving you the chance to meet the scientists and students who make the projects possible. Join us for special conversations and unique interactive experiences. For more information, click [here](#).

Saturday | January 20, 2024 | 10:00 AM 2:00 PM

## Como Park Zoo & Conservatory

### Music Under Glass

Beginning in January 2024, head to the tropical gardens and beat the "winter-blahs" as live, local musicians play blues, bluegrass and ballads from 4:30-6:30 PM on select Sundays and Wednesdays. The concerts are free and beer and wine will be available to purchase. No reservations required. These concerts are standing room only. Because of fire code regulations, there are no chairs set-up.

For more information about dates and musicians, please follow this [link](#)





# >>> 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 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! You can purchase one or multiple drop-in sessions!

Classes will be held on Mondays through March 4 at 4:30 PM. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.  
\*No class held on 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

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

