



»» NEWSLETTER ««



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



# CONTACT US

City Hall	651-792-7600
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Kelly Nelson Administrative Services Director / Deputy Clerk	651-792-7617
Elke van der Werff Administrative & Communications Coordinator	651-792-7621
Roland Olson Finance Director	651-792-7612
Hannah Lynch Community Development Coordinator/ City Planner	651-792-7613
Colin Callahan Public Works Director	651-792-7618

## FIRE

Fire protection is provided by the St. Paul Fire Department.

Emergencies	911
Non-emergency	651-266-8989

## POLICE

Police protection is provided by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office.

Emergencies	911
Non-emergency	651-767-0640

## CITY HALL HOURS:

Monday - Friday  
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM





# 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 15.



## MAYOR RANDY GUSTAFSON

RANDY.GUSTAFSON@FALCONHEIGHTS.ORG

## COUNCIL MEMBER PAULA MIELKE

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## COUNCIL MEMBER MELANIE LEEHY

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## COUNCIL MEMBER JIM WASSENBERG

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## COUNCIL MEMBER ERIC MEYER

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### UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Wednesday, February 7, 2024  
City Council Workshop Meeting  
6:30 PM
- Wednesday, February 14, 2024  
City Council Regular Meeting  
7:00 PM





# CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING UNOFFICIAL RECAP



CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 24, 2024  
7:00 PM

## AGENDA

### PRESENTATIONS

### MINUTES

- December 27, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- January 3, 2024 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes (Meyer; approved 4-0)

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

### CONSENT AGENDA

- General Disbursements, Payroll, Wire Payments
- City Licenses
- Resignation of Stephanie Skarolid from the Environment Commission (Gustafson; approved 4-0)

### POLICY ITEMS

- I. Consideration of a Contract with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office for 2024 (Wassenberg; approved 3-0)



# 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 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 PM 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 on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at City Hall.

There are currently NO vacancies.

## ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

The Environment Commission advises the City Council on matters related to environmental issues, including recycling and waste disposal, community gardens, and stormwater runoff. The Commission also develops and recommends implementation of environmentally friendly initiatives such as rain barrels and solar panels, supporting and advancing the City's participation in the [GreenStep Cities](#) program.

The Environment Commission meets the second Monday of the month at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

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

# PUBLIC WORKS & <<< COMMUNITY UPDATES

## Ice Skating

Public Works will continue maintenance of the ice rinks at Curtiss Field and Grove Park as weather permits.

## Maintenance

Public Works will perform scheduled maintenance on equipment.

## Safe Assure

This week, Public Works will attend their annual Safe Assure OSHA training at City Hall.

## Snow Plow Truck

The City purchased a used snow plow truck from Ramsey County. This week, Public Works will get the truck ready to be added to the fleet.

## 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.

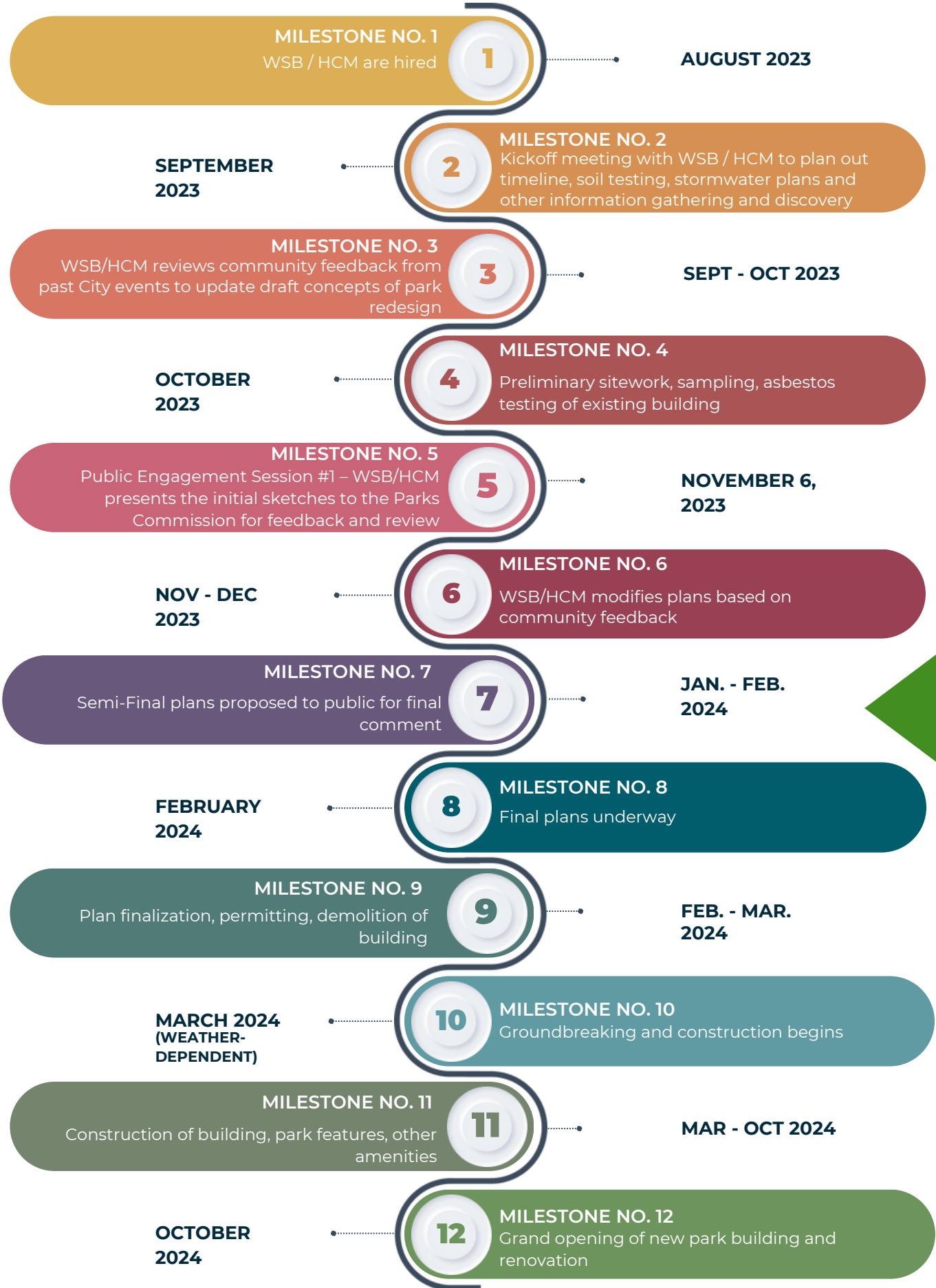
No ice can ever be considered "safe ice," but following these guidelines available at [mndnr.gov/icesafety](http://mndnr.gov/icesafety) can help minimize the risk:

- 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.



# COMMUNITY PARK TIMELINE

The timeline is subject to change as the project develops.



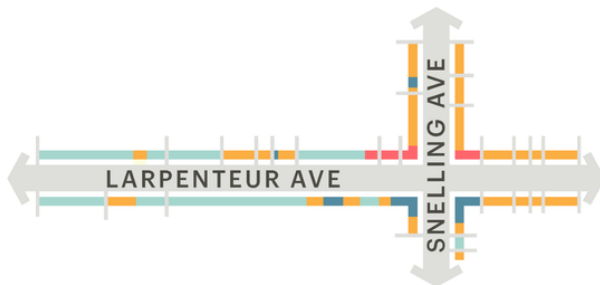
# Snelling & Larpenteur

## 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.



## It's Not a Fairy Tale or a Myth

Believe what you want about unicorns, dragons and merpeople, but in the Twin Cities, recycling is real and it works. The items you put in your cart get recycled when you recycle right. But what happens to them once they leave your home?

Minnesota is home to many recycling facilities that collect, sort, process and manufacture items made from the bottles, boxes and other containers residents put in their home recycling bins every day.

Glass bottles and jars are sorted by color in Saint Paul. Clear glass is sent to Shakopee to make bottles for drinks, pickles, salad dressing and more.

Plastic milk and laundry detergent jugs are made into durable decking, fencing and landscaping products in Paynesville, and plastic drink bottles and produce containers are made into new plastic bottles in Wisconsin and Ohio.

Recycled paper and cardboard are made into cereal and cracker boxes in Saint Paul.

Recycled food cans are made into new products like wire, and parts for cars and appliances in the Midwest.

Local efforts to recycle and reduce waste save energy, protect resources and support about 78,000 jobs in the state.

Minnesotans can be proud that recycling works here.  
Learn more at [RecyclingExists.com](https://www.RecyclingExists.com)

# RECYCLING EXISTS <<<

## What Can Get Recycled?

Many everyday items can be recycled. Paper and cardboard, cartons, metal cans, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, containers and jugs and more can all be recycled in your home recycling. These recyclables are wanted by many companies in our state and across the country to make new products.

## Recycling Fact

Annually, the Twin Cities metro area recycles an average of 900,000 tons of paper and cardboard, metal, glass and plastic – that's the weight of about four large cruise ships!



## St. Anthony Park Area Seniors

### HYBRID Caregiver Community Support Group

Do you take care of a parent, sibling, partner, friend, or neighbor? Would you like to learn from other caregivers? Would you like to discover other resources available to you? The St. Anthony Park Caregiver Community Support Group is a caring peer group that will meet monthly in a hybrid format for a time to share ideas and concerns, learn, practice self-care, and develop a community of care in a safe space.

The group is led by Katharine Tondra (SAPAS program director) and Jean Bendt (St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church parish nurse).

#### Group details:

- The First Thursday of every month; next session is on February 1
- 10:00-11:00 AM
- Attend EITHER at Centennial United Methodist Church (2200 Hillside Ave.) OR through Zoom. (Call 651-642-9052 or email [office@sapaseniors.org](mailto:office@sapaseniors.org) for the Zoom link.) We use an OWL speaker/microphone/camera for an excellent experience.

The group is offered at no charge and is available to everyone regardless of age or residency. No registration is required. Newcomers are always welcome.

The group is co-sponsored by Centennial United Methodist Church, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church and St. Anthony Park Area Seniors.

# COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

## Skating Fun in Falcon Heights

Ice rinks at Curtiss Field and Grove Park are currently closed due to unseasonably warm weather.

Curtiss Field is located at 1551 Iowa Ave. W. and features a portable warming house onsite. The pleasure rink at 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.



## Bell Museum

Space Fest 2024  
February 16 - 18

Have you ever wondered how hot the Sun is, how we harvest its energy, or what makes our star special?

Join the Bell Museum's sixth annual Space Fest!

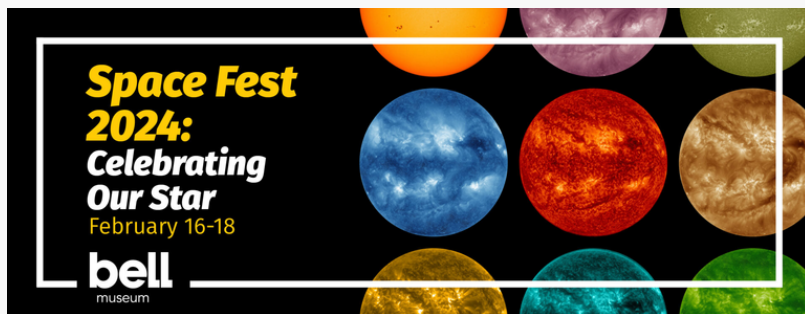
They will have hands-on activities, guest speakers, and demonstrations throughout the weekend as they celebrate our closest star.

Space Fest kicks off on Friday Night with a special star party. Saturday and Sunday will be filled with activities that illuminate our closest star, including special planetarium shows all about the Sun!

Throughout the weekend, enjoy presentations by researchers and special guests (including a NASA astronaut!) and sun-themed activities throughout the building.

- Get creative by making your own aurora!
- Investigate the hazards posed by radiation from the Sun when you create your own radiation detection device!
- Connect with University of Minnesota students and faculty whose research helps us understand the Sun!

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



# COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES



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



# 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 through 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 will 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!

## Como Park Zoo & Conservatory

### Music Under Glass

Through Wednesday, February 7, 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](#)

## Presidential Primary

Are you prepared for the upcoming election season? Absentee voting for the Presidential Primary is now available.

### Vote in person:

- Ramsey County Elections - Plato Building
  - Started on January 19
  - Weekdays: 8 AM - 4:30 PM
- Ramsey County Library Shoreview and Roseville:
  - Starting February 16
  - Weekdays: 10 AM - 4 PM

### Vote by mail:

- [Apply for a ballot online.](#)



# >>> PARKS AND RECREATION <<<

## City Hall Programming

### Tae Kwon Do <<<

Register for upcoming Tae Kwon Do sessions!

Tae Kwon Do Basic and Intermediate/Advanced sessions will be held on Tuesdays, with classes running February 20 - April 2 (no class on March 26).

Cardio Kickboxing classes will be held on Thursdays, running February 15 - April 4 (no class on March 28).

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

