



»» 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 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

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COUNCIL MEMBER PAULA MIELKE

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COUNCIL MEMBER ERIC MEYER

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Wednesday, February 7 City Council Workshop Meeting 6:30 PM
- Thursday, February 8 Joint City Council Workshop - St. Anthony Village 7:00 PM
- Wednesday, February 14 City Council Regular Meeting 7:00 PM (Public Hearing)



>>> CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING <<<

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2024
6:30 PM

AGENDA

POLICY ITEMS

1. Goff Public – Media Training
2. Community Park Redesign
3. Council Standing Rules Discussion
4. Council Appointments
5. State Fair Task Force Next Steps
6. Future Agenda Items

Public Hearing Notice

On Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 7:00 PM at Falcon Heights City Hall, the City Council will consider adopting the final layout and building designs for the Community Park redesign project. The proposed plans can be viewed online:

<https://www.falconheights.org/residents/parks-recreation/community-park-timeline>

A hard copy is also available for viewing at City Hall.

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person but would like to provide feedback to be read by the Council, please submit comments to mail@falconheights.org by 4:30 PM on February 13, 2024.

POLICE SERVICES PARTNERSHIP: CITY COUNCIL TO HOLD JOINT WORKSHOP WITH ST. ANTHONY VILLAGE ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Police Services Partnership Update

As we've shared in previous newsletters, the City of Falcon Heights has been looking for a long-term fit for policing services since 2022.

The City wants a partnership that makes sense logistically, is financially feasible and, most importantly, reflects the policing approach and priorities community members have identified. We are in the process of finalizing a one-year contract with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) through December 31, 2024. RCSO has provided policing services since January 1, 2018. The City and the RCSO mutually agreed in March 2023 that Falcon Heights should explore law enforcement options that are a better long-term fit, primarily for logistical reasons.

Falcon Heights partnered with the Center for Values-Based Initiatives in 2022 and 2023 to analyze our existing police services contract and resident satisfaction with law enforcement within the city. The process included community engagement to gather feedback on priorities and needs, building upon earlier engagement conducted by the Inclusion and Policing Task Force in 2016 and 2017.

St. Anthony Village previously provided contract law enforcement services for Falcon Heights from 1994 to 2017. The St. Anthony Village City Council voted to terminate the contract in 2017 as both cities evaluated the partnership following the killing of Philando Castile by a St. Anthony Village police officer during a July 2016 traffic stop. The Falcon Heights City Council agreed to the termination.

Potential New Partnership With St. Anthony Village

City staff have carefully analyzed the city's needs and available policing options over the past several months. Based on this review, creating a renewed partnership with St. Anthony Village has emerged as a potential good fit for several reasons: level of service, physical proximity, logistics, financial considerations, and – most importantly – the clear commitment the St. Anthony Police Department (SAPD) demonstrates to practices that align with the values of Falcon Heights residents.

The Falcon Heights City Council will join the St. Anthony Village City Council for a joint workshop Thursday, February 8, to discuss a potential partnership. The workshop will be held at 7 PM in the St. Anthony Village Council Chambers and streamed online.

No formal action will be taken Thursday, and a contract has not been developed yet. The workshop is an opportunity to begin formally discussing what a partnership may look like and provide staff direction on next steps, including community engagement.

Both Falcon Heights and St. Anthony Village have changed significantly with several new leaders since terminating the previous agreement. Thursday's workshop is an opportunity to examine a potential agreement reflective of the current priorities and future directions of both cities.

The outcome of the joint workshop will likely determine the next steps in discussing a partnership. The timeline for when the cities could vote on a potential contract is to be determined.

Police Services Priorities and Expectations

Through the focus groups and randomized resident survey conducted by the Center for Values-Based Initiatives, many of our residents expressed that they miss the level of services previously provided by the SAPD and appreciated the department's community-based policing approach.

Understandably, the thought of a partnership with St. Anthony Village will raise concerns and painful memories of the killing of Philando Castile in our city in 2016. As we discuss a potential relationship, it's imperative that we recognize Philando and the impact his killing had on all of us – including his loved ones, the communities of Falcon Heights and St. Anthony Village, our leaders and our staff, along with the members of the St. Anthony Police Department and their families.

Falcon Heights expects that respect for all will be the foundation for policing in our community, regardless of which agency is selected to be our final partner. Services will align with the following priorities identified through previous engagement: emergency response, cultural competence and community engagement, informative policing, and prioritization of serious moving violations.

Additionally, the partner will place an emphasis on building positive police-community relationships, recognizing that mutual safety is built through mutual trust. The selected partner will also be asked to provide data reporting and transparency through ongoing data analysis, public feedback and open communication.

Additional Resources

- [City Council agendas](#)
- [Q&A on possible partnership with St. Anthony Village](#)
- [2023 Law Enforcement Contract Analysis Study](#)
- [2016-2017 Inclusion and Policing Task Force](#)

Contact City Administrator Jack Linehan with comments or questions at jack.linehan@falconheights.org or 651-792-7611.

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

City Hall

Public Works will remove leaves at City Hall and clean an outdoor storage area in the Public Works parking lot.

Maintenance

Public Works will perform scheduled maintenance on equipment.

Fire Hydrant

Public Works will replace broken fire hydrant markers throughout the City this week.

Snow Plow Truck

The City purchased a used snow plow truck from Ramsey County. This week, Public Works will get a snow plow laser installed on the truck.

City Hall Holiday Closure

In observance of Presidents Day, City Hall will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2024.



Skating Update

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



St. Anthony Park Area Seniors

Come and Enjoy the February Senior Cinema Series Show!

They are showing "Charade" on Monday, February 12! Join us at 2:00 PM at 2200 Hillside Avenue (sanctuary of Centennial United Methodist Church).

This movie is a 1963 American romantic screwball comedy-mystery film. Produced and directed by Stanley Donen. The movie spans three genres: suspense thriller, romance and comedy. Starring Audrey Hepburn and Cary Grant. 1 hr 55 min.

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.



COMMUNITY <<< DEVELOPMENT

Partners in Energy

Please join us for an Energy Action Planning open house, FREE pizza and treats on February 21, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Falcon Heights City Hall.

Falcon Heights is developing an Energy Action Plan through Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy program in 2024. The outcome of this plan, through your input, will guide the City in reaching its energy goals over the coming years. We encourage community members to come and share your thoughts about energy efficiency, renewable energy, electric vehicles and electrification!

Comparta sus ideas acerca energía con nosotros por medio de conversaciones, una encuesta y actividades.

Fikradahaaga ku saabsan tamarta nagula wadaag wada-sheekaysi ahaan, saha ahaan, iyo hawlo ahaan.



PARTNERS IN ENERGY
An Xcel Energy Community Collaboration

Neal Kwong Award

Neal Kwong was a Falcon Heights resident who tragically passed away at the age of fifteen. He was an outstanding member of our community. In his memory, the City established the Neal Kwong Award to recognize young people, ages 12 to 19, who display leadership and volunteerism in Falcon Heights. Nominees must live in or volunteer in Falcon Heights. Parents are encouraged to support their youth by nominating them or by helping neighbors and friends willing to nominate them.

Nominations for the 2024 Award are due no later than Friday, April 26th at 4:30 PM.

The award recipient(s) will be recognized at a Falcon Heights City Council meeting, in this newsletter, and on a plaque in the lobby of City Hall.

For more information on the award and for a link to the application, please visit the [website here](#)



Tennis Recycling

COMMUNITY <<< DEVELOPMENT

Tennis Recycling prepared a year-end recycling report for 2023. The report contains summaries of recycling data for both single family and multi-family dwellings.

The data is compiled from recyclable materials collected from drivers on designated Falcon Heights route. Loads are weighed and weights are then compiled over a month's period.

Using the detailed recycling data from this report, they provided Falcon Heights with an Environmental Impact Analysis which includes resources saved by recycling various materials. The analysis can be viewed below. Disclaimer: The numbers represent conversions from industrial and recycling markets. These numbers are estimated resources saved.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS RECYCLING

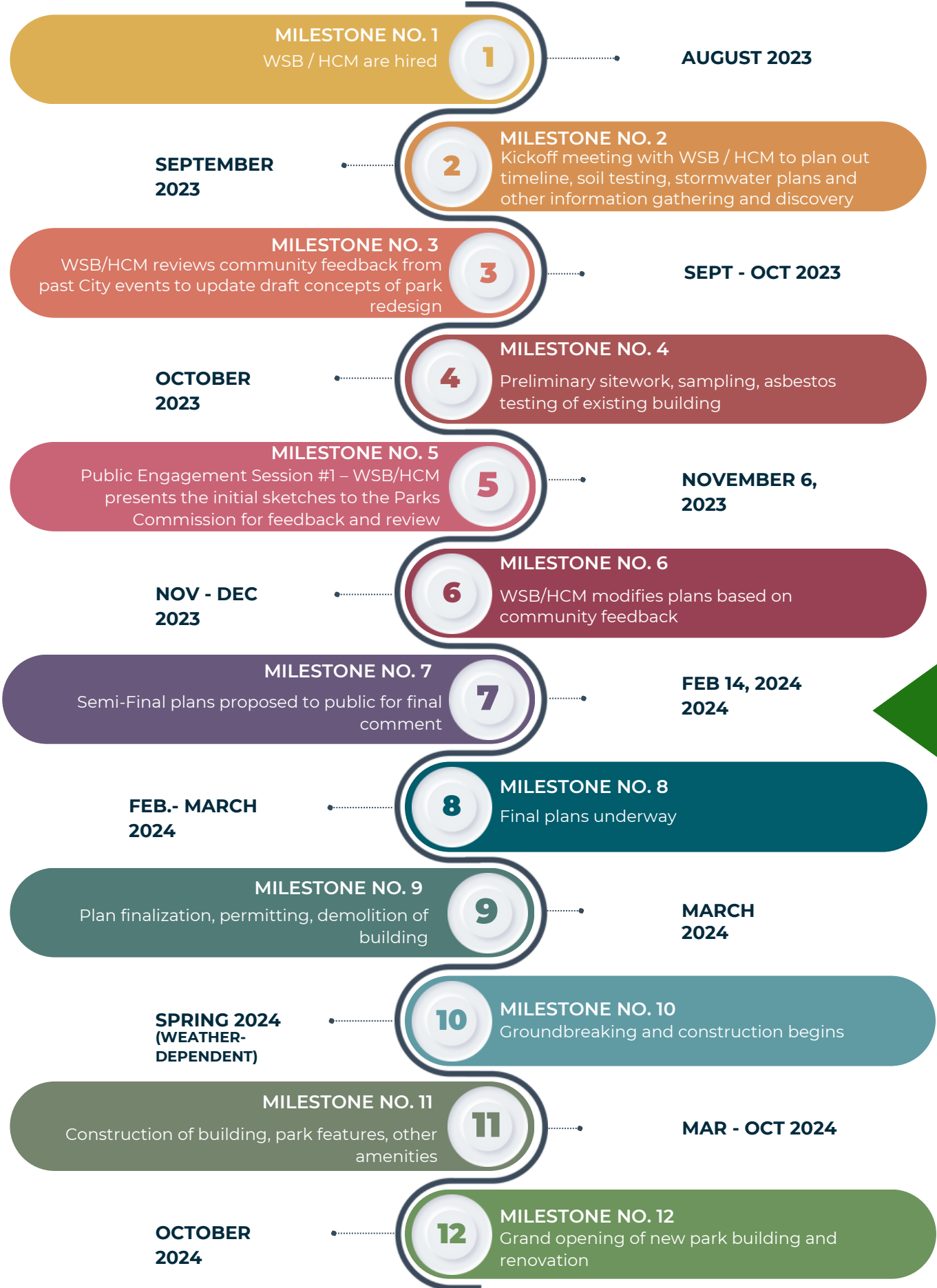
2023

Recycling Type	Tons	Units	Resource Saved	Calc/ Resource	Total Resources Saved	Type
Paper	226	tons	Trees	1 ton = 17 Trees	3,842	trees
Paper	226	tons	Electricity	1 ton = 601 Kw Hours	135,814	Kw hours of electricity
Paper	226	tons	Oil	1 ton = 1.7 barrels of oil	384	barrels of oil
Aluminum	10	tons	Ore	1 ton = 4 tons of ore	40	tons of ore
Aluminum	10	tons	Electricity	1 ton = 14,000 Kw Hours	138,600	Kw hours of electricity
Aluminum	10	tons	Oil	1 ton = 40 barrels of oil	396	barrels of oil
Tin/bi-metal	14	tons	Ore	1 ton = 1.49 tons of ore	21	tons of ore
Tin/bi-metal	14	tons	Electricity	1 ton = 642 Kw Hours	9,110	Kw hours of electricity
Tin/bi-metal	14	tons	Oil	1 ton = 1.8 barrels of oil	26	barrels of oil
Plastics	40	tons	Oil	1 ton = 6.3 barrels of oil	255	barrels of oil
Plastics	40	tons	Electricity	1 ton = 5,774 Kw Hours	162	Kw hours of electricity
Plastics	40	tons	Natural Gas	1 ton = 98,000,000 btu's	3,965,080,000	BTU's of fuel
Glass	69	tons	Sand	1 ton = 1,330 tons of sand	92,063	tons of sand
Glass	69	tons	Electricity	1 ton = 42 Kw Hours	2,907	Kw hours of electricity
Glass	69	tons	Oil	1 ton = .12 gallons of oil	8	barrels of oil
Glass	69	tons	Natural Gas	1 ton = 714,000 btu's	49,423,080	BTU's of fuel



COMMUNITY PARK TIMELINE

The timeline is subject to change as the project develops.



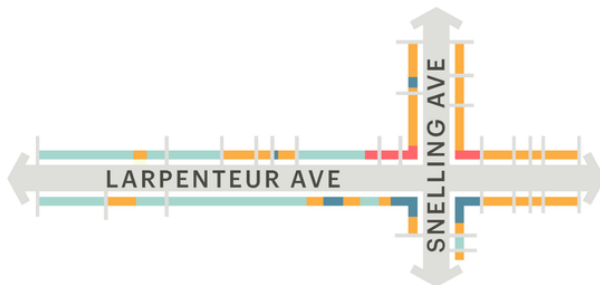
Snelling & Larpenteur

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



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!

Ready to Save on Your Energy Bills?

One convenient Home Energy Squad® visit is your answer to years of energy savings. We offer two home visit options:

- For homes built after 2000, mobile homes, condos, and renters – Only \$35 (normally \$70)
- For older homes – Only \$50 (normally \$100)

To learn more and to schedule your visit call 651-328-6220, or visit: mncee.org/hes

Free visits available to income qualified households.



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!

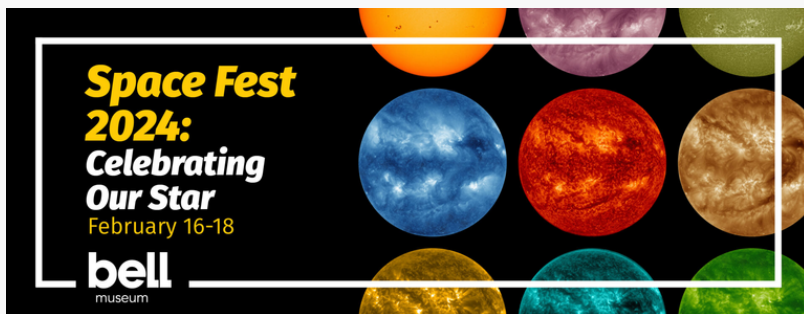
They will have hands-on activities, guest speakers, and demonstrations throughout the weekend as they celebrate our closest star.

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.

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

