



»» NEWSLETTER ««



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



CONTACT US

City Hall	651-792-7600
Jack Linehan City Administrator	651-792-7611
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 28 City Council Meeting Meeting - 7:00 PM
- Wednesday, March 6 City Council Workshop Meeting - 6:30 PM



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

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 2024
7:00 PM

AGENDA

PRESENTATIONS

MINUTES

- I. January 10, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes (Meyer; approved 5-0)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- I. Community Park Final Layout and Building Designs (Meyer; approved 5-0)

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. General Disbursements, Payroll,
- 2. Wire Payments
- 3. Approval of City License(s)
- 4. Goff Public Contract
- 5. Appointment of Mishy Wang to the Community Engagement Commission
- 6. Acknowledgement of the State Fair Task Force's Efforts and Receipt of Report
- 7. Review and Adopt Council Standing Rules and Council/Advisory Commission Roles and Guidelines
- 8. Council Appointment as Liaison for City Commissions
- 9. 2024 Sanitary Sewer Lining Project – Cooperative Construction Agreement with the City of Roseville (Leehy; approved 5-0)

POLICY ITEMS

- I. State Fair Task Force – 2024/2025 Task Force (Mielke; approved 5-0)

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 TWO 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 Trash

Public Works will be picking up trash as needed throughout the city.

Maintenance

Public Works will perform scheduled maintenance and cleaning of equipment and Public Works garage bays.

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.



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:
 - Started on February 16
 - Weekdays: 10 AM - 4 PM

Vote by mail:

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

COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

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.

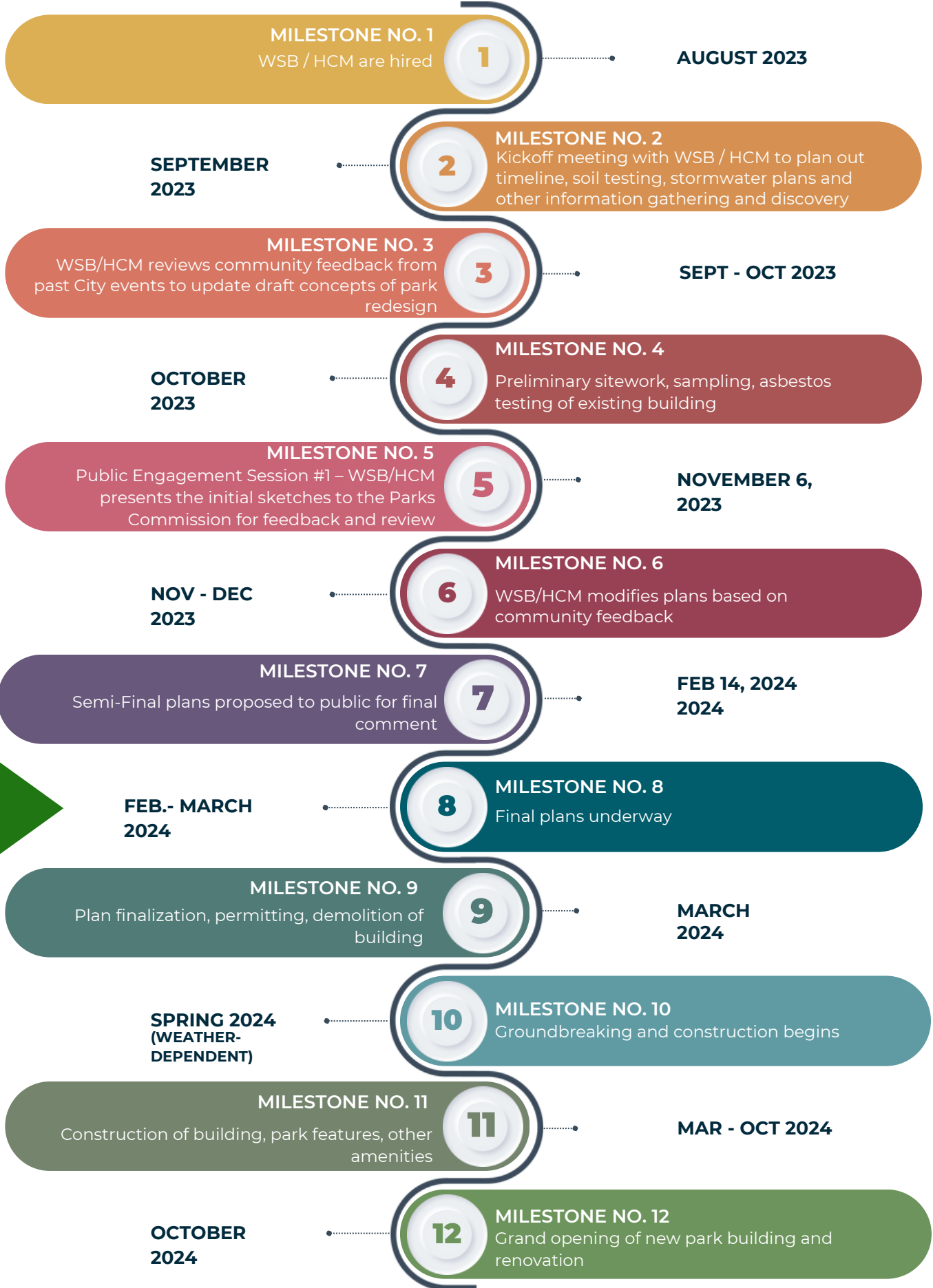
The award recipient(s) will be recognized at a Falcon Heights City Council meeting, in this newsletter, and on a plaque in the lobby of City Hall.

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



COMMUNITY PARK TIMELINE

The timeline is subject to change as the project develops.



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.

Fix-It Clinics build community connections and reduce the number of repairable objects that are thrown in the trash.

Last items accepted at 12:30 PM

Date: February 24,

Time: 10 AM-1 PM

Location: Hazelwood Professional Center,
Room 201

2785 White Bear Ave Maplewood, MN 55109

Paws to Read

Work on your reading skills in a low-stress environment. Ramsey County Libraries have licensed therapy dogs. They welcome all school-age readers to participate in this special program. Browse times and locations [here](#).



COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

Northeast Youth & Family Services



NYFS is here for you!

Immediate openings are available for
mental health clients age 4 and over

Call us at 651-486-3808 or
[request an appointment online today!](#)



Northeast Youth & Family Services (NYFS) is a nonprofit, community-based and trauma-informed mental health and community services organization that has been serving people in the northeastern suburbs since 1976.

NYFS services include clinic-based and telehealth counseling for all ages, school-based services, day treatment services for middle and high school youth, diversion programming for youth, Community Connections programming for isolated youth, and Community Advocate services.



Falcon Heights Community Park Renovation

At its recent meeting on Wednesday, February 14th, the City Council held a Public Hearing to solicit feedback from residents and consider approval of the proposed park plans designed by WSB and HCM Architects. After receiving public feedback and discussion, the City Council approved the park renderings.

WSB and HCM Architects will spend the next few months drafting final plans for bid release.

More information:

- [Public Hearing](#)
- [Community Park Renovation Webpage](#)

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

State Fair Policies and Procedures Task Force

At its recent meeting on Wednesday, February 14th, the City Council approved the creation of a State Fair Policies Task Force that will meet in 2024 and 2025.

A State Fair Policies and Procedures Task Force (State Fair Task Force) was created in February 2023 and they began their work in June. The group met over a dozen times over the span of a few months to develop policies to improve the quality of life for residents during the State Fair.

Prior to completion, the State Fair Task Force developed a report for consideration by the City Council. It outlined next steps needed to complete their work.

The City Council determined that The City should again create a task force to work on finishing the work of the 2023 group.

More information will be announced soon.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Public Hearing Notices

On Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 7:00 PM at Falcon Heights City Hall, the Falcon Heights Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider updating City Code to include regulations regarding electric vehicle supply equipment, and to consider allowing parking only by residential permit on Hollywood Court.

The proposed change will be available for review upon request no later than Friday, February 23, 2024. It will also be available on the City's website at www.falconheights.org. If you have any questions regarding the public hearing, please contact Hannah Lynch, Community Development Coordinator, at 651.792.7600 or hannah.b.lynch@falconheights.org.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebate Program

The MN Department of Commerce is now accepting applications for the Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebate Program. The program launched on February 7, 2024. Completed applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. The State of Minnesota has limited funds for the EV rebate. Please be aware that each rebate application will be processed individually to ensure program integrity. This means payments will not happen immediately.

For more information, click [here](#).

BikeMN Electric-Assisted Bicycle Rebate Program

The 2023 Minnesota Omnibus Transportation Policy and Finance bill includes the creation of a new Electric-Assisted Bicycle Rebate Program. Since this is a brand new program that will be administered by the State of Minnesota, the specifics of when and how the program will work are yet to be determined. The amount of the rebate will be reduced based on your adjusted gross income. Therefore you will have to apply for a rebate certificate through the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

BikeMN will monitor the development of the program and share when the state will be ready to start taking applications and the details of how to apply with our members via email. BikeMN will also post it on our blog and in our e-news as soon as the details are announced.

More information can be found [here](#).

Minnesota Solar 101 Webinar Hosted by Solar United Neighbors

When: February 29, 2024 | 6:30 PM

Learn about solar energy and its benefits for your home, or small business during this free webinar. Solar United Neighbors (SUN) will take you through the technology, economics, financing, and more.

For more information and to register, click [here](#)



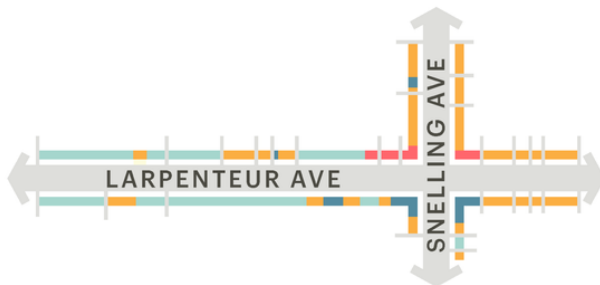
Snelling & Larpenteur

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

Take the **Plastic-Free Challenge**

Join us this February

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.



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!

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors

Do you have an estate plan?

Attorney Chris Courtney from Courtney Law Office, PLLC, will present how to set up an estate plan. The presentation will include a focus on incapacity planning documents (health care directives and powers of attorney) and estate planning (wills and trusts). Chris will include a description of estate administration and use that framework to explain how to set up an estate plan based on how the estate will be actually administered after death. A Q & A session will follow the presentation.

When: Saturday, March 2, 2024

Time: 10:00-11:00 AM

In person at 2200 Hillside
(Centennial United Methodist Church)

or

Streaming online at facebook.com/sapaseniors
(You don't need a Facebook account to access the presentation.)

ALL ages are welcome. Childcare will be provided.
No charge to attend.

RSVP by calling 651-642-9052 or email sc@sapaseniors.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 February 20 - April 2 (no class on March 26).

Cardio Kickboxing classes will be held on Thursdays, running from February 22 - 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.

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

