

>>> 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 651-792-7611 City Administrator **Kelly Nelson** 651-792-7617 Administrative Services Director / **Deputy Clerk** Elke van der Werff 651-792-7621 Administrative & Communications Coordinator Roland Olson 651-792-7612 Finance Director Hannah Lynch 651-792-7613 Community Development Coordinator/ City Planner Colin Callahan 651-792-7618 **Public Works Director**

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





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



PAULA.MIELKE@FALCONHEIGHTS.ORG





COUNCIL MEMBER MELANIE LEEHY

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COUNCIL MEMBER ERIC MEYER

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Wednesday, March 6 City
 Council Workshop Meeting 6:30 PM
- Wednesday, March 13 City
 Council Meeting 7:00 PM







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

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 28, 2024 7:00 PM

AGENDA

PRESENTATIONS

MINUTES

I.January 24, 2024 Ciy Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
2.January 24, 2024 Ciy Council
Special Workshop Meeting Minutes
3.February 7, 2024 City Council
Workshop Meeting Minutes
(Wassenberg; approved 4-0)

CONSENT AGENDA

- I.General Disbursements, Payroll, Wire Payments
- 2.Approval of City License(s)
- 3. Conduit Bond Refinance
- 4. Appointment of Adam Keester to the Envirment Commission
- 5. Minnesota GreenCorps
 Application
- 6.AARP Community Challenge Grant Application (Meyer; approved 4-0)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

POLICY ITEMS

I.Acceptance of Plans and Specifications and Ordering Advertisement for Bids for the 2024 Pavement Management Program, RV 24-04 (Meyer; approved 4-0)









CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 6, 2024 7:00 PM

AGENDA

POLICY ITEMS

- I. Potential Police Partnership Engagement Plan
- 2. Community Park Updates
- 3. Legislative Updates / Priorities
- 4. 75th Anniversary Planning
- 5. Future Agenda Items







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 <u>live from NineNorth</u> 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 NO vacancies. To apply, click here.



PUBLIC WORKS & <<< COMMUNITY UPDATES

Storm Sewer Vault

Public Works is working on mapping the City's storm sewer vault into a GIS map.

Community Park and Curtiss Field

Public Works will be removing invasive Buckthorn at Community Park and continue to remove volutneer trees at the Curtiss Field pond area.

Prairie Restoration

Public Works will be coordinating a controlled burn of prairie area in the City with Prairie Restoration.

City Hall

Public Works will clean up planting along the north side of City Hall.

Presidential Primary

Are you prepared for the upcoming election season? For the most up-to-date information on elections and voting, please visit:

- MNvotes.org
- <u>ramseycounty.us/residents/elections-</u> <u>voting</u>

Vote by mail:

Apply for a ballot online.

Vote on Election Day:

Falcon Heights has two election precincts. Properties west of Snelling Ave. are part of Precinct I. Properties east of Snelling Ave. are part of Precinct 2.

- Tuesday, March 5: 7AM 8PM
 - Falcon Heights City Hall (P-I) 2077
 Larpenteur Ave. Falcon Heights, MN
 55113
 - Falcon Heights United Church of Christ (P2) 1795 Holton St. Falcon Heights, MN 55113





Get Pressed

The City of Falcon Heights received a grant for brownfield investigation from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for environmental investigation at the former Get Pressed laundromat site. A brownfield is an abandoned, blighted, or underused property where reuse is complicated by potential or actual contamination. This grant funds investigation of previous uses of the property to support redevelopment and reuse, and the work is performed by MPCA contractors at no cost to the grant recipient.

Environmental field occurred at the Get Pressed site last week. If you have any questions about the process or work taking place, please feel free to contact Hannah Lynch, Community Development Coordinator, at hannah.b.lynch@falconheights.org.

Tree Trimming

Upper Cut Tree Service will begin tree trimming in the University Grove neighborhood starting this week. They will continue to trim trees in Falcon Woods and do minor trimming in the Northome neighborhood.

COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

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 <u>here</u>









NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD DRIVE



March 17, 2024

12-2 PM

Como Park Lutheran Church Parking Lot



Minnesotans made a record-breaking 7.5 million visits to food shelves in 2023.

Your support is greatly needed & appreciated!

NEEDED ITEMS:

- Peanut Butter Cooking/baking items—flour, sugar,
- Canned tuna (and other proteins) and oil
- ☑ Soup ☑ Culturally specific food—rice, fish
- Cereal sauce, bamboo shoots, vermicelli noodles

*Cash/Check (payable to Keystone Community Services)

Drop off your donations at Como Park Lutheran Church's parking lot located at the intersection of Hoyt Ave W & Hamline Ave N.

This event is sponsored by a Thrivent Action Team.





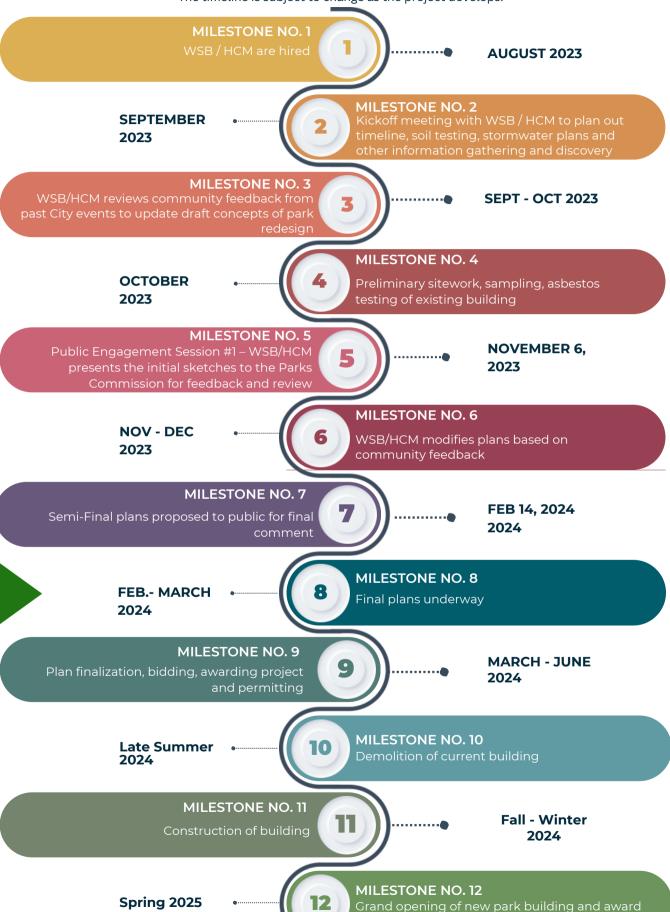
In partnership with:
Como Community Seed Library
Saint Paul, MN
comoseedlibrary.org



Also in partnership with: Como Connects 651-642-1127 comoconnects.org

COMMUNITY PARK TIMELINE

The timeline is subject to change as the project develops.





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

Ramsey County Master Gardeners Present: Introduction to Vegetable Gardening Overview

Thursday, March 14, 2024 6 - 7:30 PM

This class teaches the basics of growing your first vegetable garden. Learn where to plant your vegetables, which plants to choose, and how to care for your garden all season long.

This is an In-Person class at Ramsey County Library - Maplewood (3025 Southlawn Drive Maplewood Minnesota 55109)

Register <u>here</u>

COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

Northeast Youth & Family Services



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.

WE'RE HIRING! -Summer Program Intern-

The City is currently hiring for a Summer Program Intern. The position will be responsible for planning, organizing, and coordinating summer recreational programs for children (ages 3-13) in an outdoor setting.

The position will also help hire and train other summer programming staff. The ideal candidate will be able to work with no direct supervision, excel in leading group activities, have experience working with children, and have a background in Parks and Recreation or Elementary Education.

If this sounds like you, we highly encourage you to apply! The position will close on Friday, May 31 at 4:30 PM

Please visit <u>our website</u> to view the entire job description and review the application requirements.

WE'RE HIRING! -Seasonal Recreation Staff-

The City of Falcon Heights is seeking candidates for the temporary/seasonal positions of Seasonal Recreation Staff. These positions will be responsible for assisting in the implementation of summer programming for children (ages 3-13) in an outdoor setting. The ideal candidates will be energetic, reliable, and have experience in coaching or working with children.

Please visit <u>our website</u> to view the entire job description and review the application requirements.

COMMUNITY <<< EVENTS & UPDATES

Keep Music Alive

Keep Music Alive is celebrating the milestone 10th Anniversary Teach Music Week by partnering with over 1,200 locations to provide FREE music lessons and music & movement classes from March 18th through March 24th. Anyone interested can input their zip/postal code (or city & state/province) at www.TeachMusicWeek.org beginning Friday March 1st to find participating locations near them.

Keep Music Alive is also excited to partner once again with Guitar Center, the retail chain making it easier and more fun than ever to give music a try with a FREE group guitar lesson on Saturdays March 16th and March 23rd: RSVP -

www.GuitarCenter.com/Lessons-Open-House.gc



Share Your Input on a Potential Police Services Partnership With St. Anthony Village

City Council Wants Your Feedback

As the Falcon Heights City Council considers a potential partnership with St. Anthony Village's police department, City Councilmembers are looking to hear from residents.

The City of Falcon Heights has been looking for a long-term partner for police services since 2022. In 2022 and 2023, Falcon Heights <u>conducted a study through the Center for Values-Based Initiatives</u> to analyze the City's law enforcement services contract and needs. A series of three focus groups and a randomized resident survey were conducted to gather input on residents' priorities, building upon the extensive community feedback that informed Falcon Heights' <u>Inclusion and Policing Task Force</u> recommendations in 2017.

After carefully analyzing our needs and the available options, a potential renewed relationship with St. Anthony Village could be a good fit that aligns with the values of Falcon Heights residents identified in our previous engagement.

Read more about the potential partnership.

Community Engagement Opportunities

Over the next several weeks, the Falcon Heights City Council will provide several in-person and virtual opportunities to hear feedback, questions and concerns from residents.

- A <u>brief online survey</u> is open through April 12.
- Open houses will be held prior to City Council meetings from 6-7 PM on Wednesday, March 13, and Wednesday, March 27, at Falcon Heights City Hall (2077 Larpenteur Ave. W).
- Throughout March, City Council members will talk with residents at a variety of community meetings hosted by local organizations, and will be door-knocking as well.
 View community engagement opportunities on our police partnership webpage.
- Falcon Heights and St. Anthony Village will also host two joint town halls at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, April 17, at Falcon Heights City Hall(2077 Larpenteur Ave. W.) and Thursday, April 18, at St. Anthony Village City Hall (3301 Silver Lake Rd. NE). This will be an opportunity to learn the results of the community engagement process and provide additional feedback to the two councils as they consider a potential partnership.

We are eager to hear from our residents about this important issue, and we encourage you to participate in as many community engagement opportunities as you would like.

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

>>> COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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 ElectricAssisted 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.

Highway 36 Study

MnDOT is looking ahead to the future of Hwy 36 in Roseville, Little Canada and Maplewood. While this 8-mile segment is not directly located in Falcon Heights, it is a vital route for many residents.

In 2023, MnDot heard from more than 1,700 people who shared more than 5,000 comments about the future of Hwy. 36. The team has now developed ideas for improvements. Share your input on ideas for the future of Hwy 36 by taking their online survey! The survey is open until Sun, March 17 at 11:59 PM

Hunting & Fishing Licenses

Now is the time of year for anglers and hunters to buy new fishing and hunting licenses. Minnesota fishing, hunting and trapping licenses for 2023 expire Thursday, Feb. 29. Licenses for 2024 are now available wherever fishing and hunting licenses are sold, online (mndnr.gov/buyalicense) and by telephone at 888-665-4236. Online buyers can print the license or choose to receive a text or email that when displayed on a mobile device serves as proof of a valid fish or game license to state conservation officers.

All 2024 fishing licenses become effective Friday, March I. New licenses are required to participate in 2024 hunting and fishing seasons that continue past Feb. 29.

More information can be found here.





CORRIDOR
DEVELOPMENT
STUDY

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.

The City received applications for a focus group as particpants in the study and they had their first meeting on February 26, 2024

For more information and to follow the progression of the study, click <u>here</u>



COMMUNITY <<< DEVELOPMENT

Smart911.com

Smart9II.com gives 9II the information they need to help you fast. It's free to use.

- You can receive notifications about weather, traffic, and other emergency disasters in and find out about gas leaks, missing persons, police pursuits, or other safety concerns.
- You can choose which notifications to receive
- If the police need to be called they will be notified if you have:
 - people living in your household; phone numbers of your family; emergency contacts; pets/service animals in your home; medical conditions/allergies - including mental health; medications/medical equipment; and property details/layouts.

For more information and to sign up, click <u>here</u>





>>> 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 <u>here</u> 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 <u>here</u> 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 inperson 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 through April II, 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.

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

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors is offering an In-Person Art Class!

What: A five-week class in visual journaling, a process that invites the fusion of words, images and color. Using art materials (water color, oil pastels, colored pencil, makers, charcoal), found images, collage and writing techniques you will explore new ways to journal expressing your ideas, memories and dreams. You do not need to have drawing or painting experience to participate in this class.

Taught by: Gabriel Ross

Dates: Wednesday mornings - March 13, 20, 27

and April 3, 10

Time: 9:30-II:30 AM

Where: Fellowship Hall of Centennial United Methodist Church at 2200 Hillside Avenue. Fee: This class is being offered at no charge to

participants.

Who can participate: Seniors! Those who live in the service area (St. Anthony Park, Lauderdale and Falcon Heights west of Cleveland Avenue) will have first priority to register for this class.

How to sign up: Registration is limited to IO participants. Please contact our office at 651-642-9052 to learn more or to register for this class.

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors strives to make life easier and better for seniors!

>>> 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 5 or 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



Register for yoga sessions! You can purchase as all / some sessions!

Classes will be held on Mondays from March II through May 20 at 4:30 PM. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. *No class on May 6.

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: IO / 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, I 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 <u>here</u> 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 <u>here</u> 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



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-I-I 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-I-I

