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Updates from City Administrator - Sack Thongvanh

Farwell to Peter Lindstrom

“I like the feeling of finding it difficult to say goodbye to someone because it only means that I have found a true friend....”

Mayor Peter Lindstrom has resigned effective March 6, 2019. Peter will be leaving us to start a new chapter in his journey of public service to represent the City of Falcon Heights and District 10 on the Metropolitan Council Board.

I can never put into words my past four years with Mayor Peter Lindstrom. Peter has been an inspiration and great example of a true civil servant that always has the best interest of the residents of Falcon Heights. He was instrumental in the progress of the community before, during, and after the police-involved shooting of Philando Castile. Peter is at the heart of “Cultivating a Caring Community.”

Thank you again, Pete, for your leadership and friendship.

This is not goodbye but see you soon.
Falconeers
Senior Card Club

The Falconeers card club is looking for members interested in playing 500 and cribbage. The club meets the second and fourth Monday each month at 1:00 p.m. at Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave.

Find us on Social Media!

Facebook: A great way to keep up with what’s going on in the city. Events, news, and more! www.facebook.com/City-of-Falcon-Heights-68021837017/

Twitter: Loads of info, in shorter format for those of you who like it that way. @FalconHeights

LinkedIn: New! Keep up with job postings and news. Connect with City Council members. https://www.linkedin.com/company/1732049/

Don’t forget to hashtag us! #FalconHeights #CityofFalconHeights #TheCityThatSoars

Did you know the City of Falcon Heights has a weekly email blast to update residents? It’s a great resource to hear about upcoming events and city news!

How to sign up for the Falcon Heights Listserv
1. Visit www.falconheights.org
2. View the “Contact Us” tab on the left and click on “Falcon Heights Email List”
3. Fill in the appropriate information and click next. Fill out your block information, then click submit.
4. There will be a follow up validation email. Click the confirmation link in order to be registered.

Falcon Heights Directory

Mayor
Currently Vacant

City Council
Randy Gustafson (651) 642-9694
randy.gustafson@falconheights.org
Melanie Leehy (651) 646-8113
melanie.leehy@falconheights.org
Mark Miazga (651) 252-5833
mark.miazga@falconheights.org
Pamela Harris (651) 348-7370
pamela.harris@falconheights.org

City Staff
City Administrator
Sack Thongvanh (651) 792-7611
Finance Director
Roland Olson (651) 792-7612
Public Works/Park Director
Tim Pittman (651) 792-7618
Lead Maintenance Worker
Dave Tretsven (651) 792-7619
Maintenance Worker
Colin Callahan (651) 792-7620
Assistant to the City Administrator
Nalisha Nandkumar (651) 792-7617
Community Development Coordinator
Justin Markon (651) 792-7613
Administrative Coordinator
Amanda Lor (651) 792-7621
Fire Chief
Currently Vacant (651) 792-7632
Police
(Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office)
(651) 767-0640

City Hall Contacts
Office Phone (651) 792-7600
Fax (651) 792-7610
Email mail@falconheights.org
A Message from Mayor Lindstrom

Dear Falcon Heights Residents,

I’m honored to announce that I will be appointed to the Met Council on March 6. Thank you Governor Walz for this wonderful opportunity. Alas, it brings up mixed emotions because I will need to resign as mayor.

It has been the greatest honor and privilege to serve as your mayor. I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude for my friends and family who have put up with my monkey business all these years. I especially want to thank my beautiful wife Nicole Bement Lindstrom who has sacrificed so much.

I've given this position my best shot since I first sat in my council chair in 2000 and was sworn in as mayor in 2008. Lord knows the progress we've made has been because of a cast of thousands. Previous and current elected officials, commissioners, volunteers, and city staff. We've been blessed to have an excellent staff who keep us safe, our roads plowed and smooth, our youth engaged, our bills paid, and much more.

Here's the important part - I'm proud of our small city. I am proud of what all of you have accomplished and I'm glad to have played a small part.

Northeast Youth & Family Services

Northeast Youth & Family Services is a nonprofit community service and mental health organization that serves as a lifeline to over 4,000 youth, families and adults every year. They partner with 15 municipalities and have locations in Shoreview and White Bear Lake.

While their programs are diverse, they center on a common mission: transforming lives today - creating a better tomorrow for youth, families, adults and our community. Some services are offered for free, at a low cost, or on a sliding-fee scale to ensure that as many residents as possible receive the help they need.

NYFS offers services in three main areas: mental health counseling for people at all ages and stages of life, youth development programming that includes senior chore services and juvenile diversion programming, and day treatment programs for youth struggling with severe mental health issues.

For more information about NYFS, please call 651-486-3808 or visit them on the web at www.nyfs.org.
Community Updates

Hendrickson Apartment Building

After many years of planning, the empty lot located at 1750 Larpenteur Avenue will soon be developed into an apartment building.

The Planning Commission and City Council reviewed many versions of plans and approved the final project in November 2018. The building will have 66 apartments spread throughout four levels of the building. There will also be underground parking for residents. Residents must be 55 years or older to live in the Hendrickson.

Amenities for building residents include in-unit laundry, a beauty salon, large two-story community room with kitchen, screened-in porch, private dining room for private parties, library, fitness center, and balconies on most units. Its location on Larpenteur Avenue is near many transit lines as well.

Construction is well underway at the site and is scheduled to last one year. Anyone inquiring about the property or who would like to be put on a waiting list to receive more information can contact Peter Austin at Kelly Brothers Investments. Peter can be reached at 651-812-5915 or by email at paustinmn@gmail.com.

Falcon Heights 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update

In January, the City wrapped up the 2040 Comprehensive Plan update. Mandated by the State Legislature and Metropolitan Council, communities must provide a decennial update to their future land use. Spearheaded by the Planning Commission, the Comp Plan update included input from all corners of the City. Residents were able to discuss their thoughts on the plan at three open houses/community events. New for this update, the Planning Commission asked the Environment Commission to include information about sustainability and resiliency in the plan. City Staff along with support from WSB staff completed the Plan for City Council approval in early January.

Following review by the Met Council, the City Council will make the final adoption in late spring.

What is in the Comp Plan?

A city's Comprehensive Plan is an official document that is used to guide the City in all of its decisions regarding land use, transportation, community facilities, public improvements, and intergovernmental relations.

Thank you to our residents who submitted comments on the Plan as well as to our Commission members who spent most of the year updating our new plan to make sure Falcon Heights continues to be a forward-looking community.
Community Updates

Free Shredding Event

We are partnering with the City of Roseville to host a **FREE** shredding event for residents. Old records, sensitive papers, piled up credit card offers? Bring them to our event! This opportunity is open to Falcon Heights and Roseville residents only, and a photo ID is required. **Quantities are limited to three bankers boxes for each resident.**

Ramsey County SCORE grant funds make this event free for all Falcon Heights residents.

**When:** Saturday, May 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Where:** Roseville City Hall, 2660 Civic Center Drive

Spring Street Sweeping

Every spring and fall, Public Works maintains residential streets by sweeping. Sweeping ensures a safe and clean environment and protects our waterways.

- Street sweeping is designed to pick up leaves that fall into the street only.
- Do not rake leaves from your yard into the street as this is illegal in Falcon Heights.
- The City of Falcon Heights does **NOT** have a pick up service for leaves and other yard waste.
- Following these steps helps improve water quality by keeping waste out of the storm-water system and keeps cost down by not overloading the street sweeper.
- Code Sec. 107-9 states, “No person shall apply fertilizer to or deposit grass clippings, leaves, or other vegetative materials on impervious surfaces, or within storm water drainage systems, natural drainage ways, or within wetland buffer areas”.
- Sec. 107-10 states, “Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this chapter shall be fined not less than $5.00 nor more than $500.00 for each offense, and a separate offense shall be deemed committed on each day during or on which a violation occurs or continues.”
Neal Kwong Youth Citizenship Award

Do you know an outstanding youth between the ages of 12-19 who lives or volunteers in Falcon Heights?

Nominations for the annual Neal Kwong Youth Citizenship Award are now being accepted. **Adults can nominate someone, and parents can nominate their own children as well as other children.**

Nomination forms are available on our website or at City Hall. **Deadline for nominations is Tuesday, April 30, 2019.**

If you have any questions, please call City Hall 651-792-7600 or email mail@falconheights.org.

Spring and Summer Code Enforcement

Last year, the City took steps to be more proactive with code enforcement. Changes included introducing a door hanger to leave for residents with quick reminders about tall grass, snow on sidewalks, and outside storage. The City Council also approved a Code change that allows staff to send formal code enforcement letters with regular postage instead of certified mail that was previously required.

In 2019, staff will take additional steps to continue encouraging our neighborhood enhancement. Feedback from the citywide community survey in 2018 encouraged the City to respond quicker to code enforcement violations.

Currently, most code enforcement measures are precipitated by tips from residents. This spring and summer, staff will leave door hangers or send letters after seeing zoning violations during regular patrols. By being more proactive about enforcement, staff hope to decrease the number of complaints, find quicker resolutions, and continue educating residents about the City Code.

If you have any questions about these code enforcement measures and our efforts to promote a healthier community, please reach out to City staff by calling City Hall at 651-792-7600. Thank you for taking the time to make your neighborhood a better place for all.
2019 City Council Retreat Recap

The upcoming year will be very busy for the City Council and City Staff as we navigate and continue to keep our AAA Bond rating. During the Council Retreat, staff and the City Council reviewed and discussed many topics that included, but not limited to street infrastructure, city buildings (City Hall and Community Park Building), parks, capital reserve replacement plan, city website development, single hauler, police contract, and developing a long-range financial plan.

In the next month, the City will introduce on our website a list of Council priorities from the retreat.

Falcon Heights Task Force Recommendations Update

The grant that the City received from St. Paul Foundation $20,000 has helped the City accomplished and completed many of the recommendations from the Task Force and the Community Conversations to enhance transparency and inclusion efforts.

- Cultivating a Caring Community Event in 2018
- Rec on the Go
- 2018 Community Survey
- Survey/Service on the Spot
- Cultivating a Caring Community Mural with Falcon Heights Elementary

Curtiss Field – Dig out that Basketball!

The Falcon Heights City Council has approved the implementation of a new basketball court at Curtiss Field! City staff are currently in the process of finalizing dimensions, securing materials, and ordering supplies for the construction.

It is the intention to have the half-court installed no later than this summer. The court will consist of two hoops; one at regulation height and one a bit shorter to encourage youth play as well!

We're excited to have basketball back at Curtiss!

The 2019 Summer Programming Guide is available now! Sign up for programs begins April 1. Time to start planning your summer fun!
Did you know that Falcon Heights Fire personnel totaled over 2,210 hours of training in 2018! It’s a remarkable stat given the fact that there were 19 personnel in 2018. There were 138 calls in the service areas of Falcon Heights and Lauderdale and eight other calls that FHFD assisted in other communities. Firefighters participated in nine main community events and stopped by few more block parties!

Find us on Social Media!
Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office

The City of Falcon Heights and the Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office are in the second year of a public safety partnership with contracted law enforcement services. Sheriff deputies are providing patrol, investigations, emergency response, and outreach services twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Deputies are driving black and white Ford utility vehicles as they patrol all neighborhood streets and alleys. When you need help in a hurry simply call 9-1-1.

Working toward safe neighborhoods is a mutual effort.

The Crime Prevention Unit coordinates the Neighborhood Watch program, working with the community on awareness of criminal activity, prevention tips, and outreach.

Neighborhood Watch is not a vigilante force working outside of the normal procedures of law enforcement. It is not designed for participants to take personal risks to prevent crime.

Neighborhood Watch is simply neighbors and deputies working together. When neighbors know each other’s names, normal patterns, and look out for each other, it is likely that they will report any activity that doesn’t fit with regular schedules. Involved neighbors are more likely to have open communication lines with each other, deputies, and the whole community.

Information sharing on crime prevention, crime trends, and law enforcement issues is a key element to the Neighborhood Watch program of the Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office.

In the coming months, the Sheriff’s Office will be working with Neighborhood Liaisons to enhance the program in Falcon Heights. More information: https://bit.ly/2AB0ofy

FAQ: Where is the Sheriff’s Patrol Station physically located?

The Patrol Station, where residents can get copies of reports, apply for Permits to Purchase, and other services is in Arden Hills, near the intersection of Hamline Ave N and Highway 96 W, at 1411 Paul Kirkwold Drive. The phone number is 651-266-7300. The Records Unit hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, closed on government holidays. There is a phone connection in the lobby entrance to reach deputies 24/7 to make a face to face report at the Patrol Station.

FAQ: How can I connect with the Sheriff’s Office?

There are many ways to connect with the Sheriff’s Office to share concerns, ideas, and information. Email: AskSheriff@ramseycounty.us. Website: www.RamseyCountySheriff.us, where many pages have a “Contact form” link in addition to information about services. Facebook: @RamseyCountySheriff Twitter: @RamseySheriff Instagram: @RamseySheriffMN Phone: 651-266-7300

Currently, Ramsey County does not have online crime reporting so please call 9-1-1 to report a crime, or to have a deputy contact you regarding a problem.

View local Call for Service activity online at CommunityCrimeMap.com. In the upper left search menu enter your address, set the buffer to view calls in your neighborhood or the whole city. The website offers many options to view and analyze the data, which is updated daily.
## Commission Corner

### City Commissions

City Commissions work on an array of projects, interests, and issues. There are four Commissions, typically made up of seven Commissioners, that serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council. For more information on the Commissions roles including agendas and minutes, please visit www.falconheights.org at ‘City Government’ and ‘City Commissions’. You can also find information on the application process to help serve the community!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commission</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Staff Liaison</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning Commission</td>
<td>The Planning Commission meets monthly and explores strategic planning but also considers individual cases for PUDs (Planned Unit Developments), CUPs (Conditional Use Permits), and Variances. In 2018, the Planning Commission took the lead on updating the City’s Comprehensive Plan - or “Comp Plan”. Please consider visiting a Commission meeting held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall or watch the broadcast by CTV online or on TV.</td>
<td><strong>Staff Liaison:</strong> Justin Markon, <a href="mailto:justin.markson@falconheights.org">justin.markson@falconheights.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and Recreation Commission</td>
<td>The Parks and Recreation Commission considers matters related to the operation of the City’s public parks and recreation programming. The Commission plans special events including the Ice Cream Social and special projects through grant funding. You may have noticed new interpretive signage highlighting the historical significance at Curtiss Field or the Piano in the Park this past June and July - both projects completed by the Parks and Rec Commission! The Parks and Recreation Commission meets on the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.</td>
<td><strong>Staff Liaison:</strong> Nalisha Nandkumar, <a href="mailto:nalisha.nandkumar@falconheights.org">nalisha.nandkumar@falconheights.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Commission</td>
<td>The Environmental Commission continues to explore opportunities to promote sustainability and resiliency for the City of Falcon Heights and its residents. After contributing to the 2040 Comp Plan revision, the commission will continue to make recommendations to the City Council on how to make Falcon Heights a better place for all through sustainable actions. Please visit a Commission meeting held the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.</td>
<td><strong>Staff Liaison:</strong> Justin Markon, <a href="mailto:justin.markson@falconheights.org">justin.markson@falconheights.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Engagement Commission (CEC)</td>
<td>The Community Engagement Commission continues the implementation phase of many recommendations produced by the Falcon Heights Task Force on Policing and Inclusion. These efforts include the hosting of “Spring Together” in May, promoting opportunities for youth-engagement, and once again hosting the annual Human Rights Day event on December 10th, 2018. The Community Engagement Commission meets on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.</td>
<td><strong>Staff Liaison:</strong> Amanda Lor, <a href="mailto:amanda.lor@falconheights.org">amanda.lor@falconheights.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Yard Waste, Organics, and HHW oh my!

- Ramsey County operates seven yard waste collection sites. These sites collect leaves, grass clippings, garden waste. Some sites also accept brush. All sites are free and open to Ramsey County residents only; a photo ID is required.

- Ramsey County also manages nine organics recycling sites, including 24/7 sites at St. Anthony City Hall and near Como Park in St. Paul. Organics recycling includes food scraps and non-recyclable paper (tissues and paper towels).

- If a container has the words caution, warning, danger, or poison on the label and still has product inside, it does not belong in the trash. Use Ramsey County’s free household hazardous waste collection sites for safe disposal.

- For more information on any of these services, visit RamseyRecycles.com or call Ramsey County’s 24/7 hotline at 651-633-EASY (3279).

Recycle your food scraps, paper towels and other organic waste.

Pick up a FREE organics recycling starter kit at a Ramsey County yard waste site and get started today!
Save the Date!

Upcoming events hosted by the City of Falcon Heights include:

- Spring Together, June 8, 11:00 a.m.
- Ice Cream Social & Hot Dog with a Deputy, July 18, 5:00 p.m.

Watch for more information in the weekly e-newsletter.