



A family looks on as a Life Link helicopter lands during last fall's inaugural Truck or Treat event in Huset Park. The 2nd annual Truck or Treat will be Oct 26. More info on page 3.

IN THIS ISSUE

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 2 City Buys NE Bank Building | 6 2020 City Budget | 10 Boat Landing Update |
| 3 Truck Or Treat | 7 Library Board Spotlight | 11 Bulk Recycling |
| 4 Citizenship Classes | 8 Pedestrian Safety Plan | 12 Election Judges Needed in 2020 |
| 5 Library Activities | 9 New Fire Chief | |



COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
REDISCOVER THE HEIGHTS



City Purchases NE Bank Building

EDA Hopes to Spur New Development at 3989 Central Ave Location

To help advance redevelopment along Central Ave, the City of Columbia Heights Economic Development Authority (EDA) has purchased the NE Bank Building located at the intersection of Central and 40th Ave NE. The six-story structure has stood empty for more than four years.

The EDA purchased the property from 500 LLC for \$2.9 million with the intention to sell it to a private developer within the next six to eight months.

“The City Council and EDA had a vision for the property’s future, and it became clear that in order to realize that vision, the City needed to have site control,” said Aaron Chirpich, community development director. “Owning the building allows the EDA to control the process and timeline and gives them the freedom to select the development partner they want to work with and the kind of project they want to see.”

The City Council approved the acquisition on July 22. The purchase was finalized on July 31. The EDA then approved a preliminary development agreement with Alatus LLC, a Minneapolis firm, at its regular August meeting.

The existing building at 3989 Central Ave NE will likely require demolition, Chirpich said. The idea is to replace it with a six-story luxury apartment building that houses a restaurant and/or coffee shop and a pocket park on the ground floor. The park and cafe would be open to the public. The existing parking ramp, already owned by the City, would be replaced with underground parking.

The site is also being considered as a possible location for a new City Hall. Visit columbiaheightsmn.gov for updates.



TRUCK OR TREAT

HUSET PARK EAST, OCT 26, 1-4 PM

Truck or Treat will return for its second year Sat, Oct 26. Kids and their parents can explore a variety of vehicles, including police cars, fire trucks, tow, dump, garbage and mail trucks, a school bus, and even a State Patrol helicopter. In addition to the organizations that provide their vehicles, Columbia Heights and its City departments will also collaborate with community partners such as SACA Food Shelf & Thrift Store, HeightsNEXT, and the Columbia Heights Lions to help make the event possible. Kids will receive stamps as they visit each vehicle and use their collected stamps to earn a free treat bag as they leave. Kids and their families are encouraged to come in costume! The Athletic Boosters will have food for sale and Community Grounds will provide hot cider. There will also be puppet shows and a dog costume contest! Check out columbiaheightsmn.gov for more details.





For the First Time this Fall, the Columbia Heights Library will Offer Citizenship Classes in Partnership With the Adult Education Center

Consider the following three questions:

- What does the Constitution do?
- Can you name three of the original 13 states?
- Can you name one author of the Federalist papers?

Now imagine doing so during an oral interview on US history and government. This is what students will prepare for when they attend the US Citizenship exam preparation class, presented by the Metro North Adult Basic Education Center in partnership with the Columbia Heights Public Library.

In addition to preparing for the oral history exam (10 questions from a set of 100 history questions), students will also work on answering application questions, reading sentences, and writing a dictated sentence in English. Students will end the class with mock interview practice to increase their confidence for the real one.

Students in the class may be at different stages in their preparation. Some are just considering applying for citizenship, some have completed the application, others are waiting for their interview date. To qualify for the course, interested students must attend a registration-and-testing session at the ABE Center.

Mondays and Wednesdays
Sept 9-Oct 30 | 5:30-8:30 pm
Columbia Heights Public Library

(14 class sessions - no classes the week of fall break Oct 14-19).

Register at the Adult Education Center, 4111 Central Ave NE, Tuesdays at 9 am or 5:30 pm, or Fridays at 9 am. Call 763-706-3833 for more info.



PHOTO CONTEST: 100th Anniversary Calendar

Calling all photographers! The City will be making a commemorative 2021 calendar in honor of Columbia Heights' 100th anniversary. For the calendar, we are looking for photos taken within the City limits in a variety of seasons, and representing multiple aspects of the town and community. Photographers whose photos are chosen to be included in the calendar will receive recognition in the City Newsletter and a free copy of the calendar to keep. The photo submission deadline is Aug 5, 2020, but it's not too early to start thinking about good photo opportunities and the type of seasonal settings and community moments you want to capture. We'll also be accepting historical photos.

Please find the full list of rules and submission guidelines at columbiaheightsmn.gov. Click on "Photo Contest" under the Community tab. Call 763-706-3615 with questions.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser



The Columbia Heights Public Library Foundation will host its annual library spaghetti dinner fundraiser Wed, Sept

11, 4:30-7 pm, in Murzyn Hall. Tickets available at the door. \$8 for adults (13+), \$5 for kids under 13.

Get daily updates on Columbia Heights happenings by following us on Facebook @Columbiaheightsmn

Find our daily newsfeed at columbiaheightsmn.gov
For questions about this newsletter, call 763-706-3615



Library Program Highlights

Below is a small sampling of upcoming activities at the library. For a full list, visit www.anokacounty.us/events, or call 763-706-3690 to register.

Adult Programs

Mobile Menders Events

Sept 14 and Nov 2: noon-2 pm

Mobile Menders will be in the library's community room, providing a free fabric mending clinic on a first-come, first-served basis. Please bring a maximum of three clean items per session.

Consult With a Law Librarian

Sept 11, Oct 9, Nov 13: 5-7 pm

Meet with and bring questions for the Anoka County Law Library Director.

Author Talk: Carolyn Porter

Wed, Sept 25, 6 pm

Marcel's Letters, a 2018 finalist for the MN Book Award, will be discussed by the author. No registration required.

AARP Tech Training

Fri, Sept 27: Intro to iPhones: 9-10:30 am or 1:30-3 pm; Beyond the Basics iPhones: 11 am-noon or 3:30-4:30 pm

Needlefelt Fall Foliage**

Wed, Oct 9, 6 pm

Call 763-706-3690 to register.

Intro to Hardanger Embroidery

Wed, Oct 16, 5:30-7:30 pm

Registration required.

Library Book Club

10 am: Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20

Senior Surf for Adults 55+

9:30-11:30 am: Sept 4, Oct 2, Nov 6

Hands-on computer/online experience
Registration required.

Día de los Muertos

Sat, Oct 12, 1-2:30 pm

Celebrate Day of the Dead with library staff and the HeightsNEXT community group. Registration required.

English Conversation Circles

Mons, 6-7 pm, Thurs, 1-2 pm

Drop in for these English language group practice sessions.

Oral Histories: Relatives**

Wed, Nov 13, 6 pm

Get tips on how to interview family members to learn about your family history. Registration required.

Kids and Teen Programs

STEAM Saturdays*

11:30 am: Sept 28 (*Wild Cats*), Oct 26 (*Finding Frankenstein*), and Nov 23 (*World of Wildlife*).

Hands-on science fun for families! No registration required.

LEGO Challenge

Wed, Oct 9 and Nov 13, 4-5 pm

For grades K-6. Walk-ups welcome.

Scary Stories Writing Class**

Thu, Oct 17, 2 pm

Grades 1-6. Registration required.

4-H Tech Wizards

2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month

Free program that engages youth in small group mentoring around technology and STEM concepts in partnership with Anoka County 4-H. Grades 5-8

Craft Lab: Patch Embroidery*

Fri, Oct 18, 2 pm

Grades 6 and up. Registration required.

Junior Kitchen-Teen Teachers

Gain leadership, service, teaching and career experience by volunteering

to be a teen teacher for the Junior Kitchen. Teach kids grades 3-5 about nutrition and fitness by playing games and cooking healthy recipes. Register at z.umn.edu/CHLTeenTeachers or call 763-327-3494.

*This program is partially funded with a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education using federal funding, CFDA 84.287, Every Student Succeeds Act, Title IV B-21 Century Community Learning Centers. The content of this program does not necessarily represent the policy of the federal Department of Education or the Minnesota Department of Education. **Funded by the MN Arts and Cultural Heritage fund.

Storytime @ the Library

Sept 9-Nov 21

Family Storytime

Mondays, 10:30-11 am

Baby Read, Baby Grow!

Thursdays, 10:30-11 am

For infants up to 24 months old

Library Hours

Mon-Wed, 9 am to 8 pm
Thu-Fri, 9 am to 5 pm
Sat, 11 am to 4 pm

Library Closures

Aug 31-Sept 2 • Nov 11 • Nov 28-29

3939 Central Ave NE • (763) 706-3690

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov

Cable Channel 19

Facebook: @ColumbiaHeightsPublicLibrary

2020 City Manager's Budget Available Online

The Columbia Heights 2020 City Manager's proposed budget is available for review online at columbiaheightsmn.gov. Click on "Finance" under "Departments" and then click on "Budget and Financial Reports." The proposed budget and tax levy were provided to the Columbia Heights City Council this August, as required by the City's Charter.

The City is looking at a 7% increase in tax-supported operating expenses in 2020. Half of that increase is due to cost-of-living and other inflationary increases to existing services, including multi-year agreements previously approved by the City Council. The remaining increase is primarily due to the cost of adding new full-time positions in the police and fire departments, as recommended by a 2019 independent staffing study on the public safety needs of the community.

After the proposed budget is approved by the Council this September, it will go through another few months of review and adjustment before a final budget is ratified. The Council will hold informal work sessions, typically on the first Monday of each month during the fall, to review details of the budget, and will vote to ratify the final budget in December.

The Anoka County Auditor will mail each property owner a Truth-in-Taxation notice of their proposed 2020 property taxes in November.



Façade Improvement Program: Eight Businesses to Receive Funding

Eight businesses will be getting face-lifts this year with help from the Columbia Heights' Façade Improvement Grant Program. Funded through the Economic Development Authority, the grant program reimburses commercial property owners for eligible improvements up to 50 percent of the total project cost for a maximum reimbursement of \$5,000.

Out of the 10 businesses that applied for the grant this spring, the EDA picked eight to receive funding (some funding choices are contingent on verification of City Code compliance): Castle Distributing/Big Stop Mart, El

Tequila, Embroidery and More, Hairatage, Heights Theater, Millers, ORB LLC, and Sportsmen's Barbers, amounting to about \$28,000 in reimbursements.

The grant program, now in its second year, is a collaborative effort between the EDA and Columbia Heights Police Department. As part of the program, the CHPD installs security cameras near businesses that receive funding. About 10 cameras are expected to be installed, in addition to the 15 cameras that were installed last year.

The deadline for businesses to apply again next year is June 1, 2020. Call 763-706-3670 with questions.





Library Board members, left to right: Christopher Polley, Steve Smith, Patricia Sowada (vice-chair), Catherine Vesley (chair), and Tricia Conway (secretary).

Commission Spotlight

The City of Columbia Heights has several boards and commissions that advise the City Council on specific policies and make recommendations based on research and staff expertise. Columbia Heights has seven boards and commissions: The Charter Commission, the Economic Development Authority (EDA), the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), the Library Board, the Parks and Rec Commission, the Planning Commission, and the Traffic Commission. Over the next year, a different board or commission will be highlighted in each newsletter. See the 2019 Winter and Spring newsletters for spotlights on the EDA and Charter Commission.

Library Board

The Library Board is established to guide the policy, programs, and use of the City library, and to act as a liaison between citizens and staff. The board makes decisions regarding library land and equipment. It also sets the levels of service and staffing.

The board recommends improvements for the library and has the authority to make reasonable administrative rules and regulations, including the setting of fees.

All the library policies and programs are made in accordance with the policies approved by the City Council.

Annually, the Library Board approves and recommends to the City Council a budget for the coming year, and at least semi-annually the board approves and makes a line-item comparison of its performance against the current budget and recommends transfers of funds among items.

All members serve three-year terms and are appointed by the City Council through an application and interview process. The board meets the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm in the library's History Room, unless otherwise noted. Connie Buesgens is the City Council liaison to the Library Board.

IMPORTANT CITY CONTACTS

CITY OFFICES.....(763) 706-3600	Police(763) 706-8100	Mayor Donna Schmitt.....(763) 706-3607
Administration.....(763) 706-3610	Community	Councilmember Buesgens..... (763) 788-5072
Public Works Dept.(763) 706-3700	Development.....(763) 706-3670	Councilmember Murzyn(763) 781-4983
Garbage/Refuse Pick-up/ Recycling (Waste Management)(888) 960-0008	Bldg. Permits/ Licenses.....(763) 706-3678	Councilmember Novitsky.....(612) 760-4463
Utility Billing.....(763) 706-3640	Recreation Dept.....(763) 706-3730	Councilmember Williams(763) 788-1113
Fire Dept. Administration & Information/ Emergency Management..... (763) 706-8150	24-Hour Info. Line-Murzyn Hall info., Weather Cancellations, Directions(763) 706-3737	City Newsletter editor (763) 706-3615
	Murzyn Hall Rental..... (763) 706-3734	Emergency.....911

MORE INFO AT:
www.columbiaheightsmn.gov

Columbia Heights Police Develop Pedestrian Safety Plan

Recently, MnDOT found that a portion of MN State Hwy 65 that runs through Columbia Heights has a higher-than-average risk of crashes involving pedestrians, including crashes that cause serious injury or death. The study also showed both Central Ave and University Ave are among the most dangerous corridors in the state.

The CHPD, in partnership with Anoka County, MnDOT, TZD (Toward Zero Deaths), and Metro Transit, has started an initiative to make the Central Avenue

corridor safer for both pedestrians and motorists. CHPD officers are dedicating time during their shifts to seek out unsafe traffic and pedestrian activities in an effort to educate the public and promote safety through these contacts.

“While enforcement is part of this, our focus will be on public education and outreach,” said Sgt. Justin Pletcher.

Pletcher offers the below tips for better pedestrian safety:



Pedestrian Safety Tips*

Pedestrians

- Look both ways before crossing
- Make eye contact with drivers
- Watch for turning and passing vehicles
- Look across ALL lanes for moving vehicles before crossing
- Use a walking bridge to cross if one is present
- Stand clear of buses, hedges, parked cars, or other obstacles before crossing
- Cross in a well-lit area at night
- Wear bright colored clothing and reflective material, especially during dimmer times of day
- Mount a safety flag on wheelchairs, motorized carts, or strollers
- Cross streets at marked crosswalks—not mid-block
- Remove headphones and stay off of cell phones while crossing
- Obey ALL traffic signs & signals
- Don't solely rely on traffic signals; look for vehicles before crossing
- Always walk on the sidewalk; if there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic

**From the MN Safety Council and CHPD*

Drivers

- Don't use your phone when you drive. Put it in the glove compartment or backseat, or turn on a do-not-disturb app, or buy a holder to clip your phone to the dash. You can use it in a voice-activated or single-touch mode
- Stop for crossing pedestrians at every intersection, even those without crosswalks or stop lights
- Before making a turn, look in all directions for pedestrians
- Obey speed limits and come to a complete stop at stop signs
- Do not put earphones in both ears at the same time. That is illegal in Minnesota
- Watch for people in wheelchairs and motorized carts, who may be below eye level

Fall and Winter Parking Reminders:

As we approach the colder months, the CHPD would like to remind residents of the City's open ignition ordinance and winter parking rules. The open ignition ordinance prohibits anyone from leaving their vehicle running while unattended with the ignition unlocked. This helps prevent vehicle theft. Also, from Nov 1 to March 31, vehicles cannot be parked on City streets from 2 am to 6 am, per winter parking rules.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Columbia Heights Police Department office is open Mon-Fri, 8 am to 4:30 pm. The telephone number is (763) 706-8100. Call 911 in an emergency. The office is located in the Public Safety building, 825 41st Avenue NE. The police department offices are closed on weekends and holidays.

A telephone is located inside the entry doors that can be used after hours to request assistance.

For general information, activities, ordinances, and services, visit www.chpolice.com, find us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/chpolice, and follow us at twitter.com/colhgtspolice.





FIRE SAFETY OPEN HOUSE

SAT, SEPT 28

11 am to 2 pm | Public Safety Building

With Fire Prevention Month in October, the Columbia Heights Fire Department kicks off its autumn fire prevention season with its annual Open House Sept 28. This family-friendly event gives kids a chance to spray a fire hose, watch a simulated kitchen and house fire, crawl through a smoke tunnel, try on equipment, and more!

Visitors will also have a chance to meet with fire and

police officials and learn some fire safety tips, which are helpful for both kids and adults. Plus, there will be free ice cream and a pumpkin patch! Kids will be able to take home a free pumpkin while supplies last.

An estimated 400 people stopped by for the annual event last year, and we hope to see returning visitors as well as new faces for our 2019 event. Find full details at www.heightsfire.com.

City Bids Farewell to Chief Gorman, Welcomes Chief Thompson



Chief Gorman, Assistant Chief Larkin Both Retire

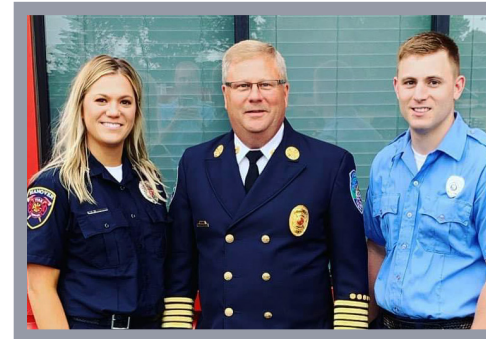
After 41 years with the City of Columbia Heights Fire Dept, and 14 years as fire chief, Gary Gorman retired this May. He started at Columbia Heights as one of the first Fire Explorers. Assistant Fire Chief John Larkin also retired this year after three decades with the City.



Fire Chief Gary Gorman, top left, retired May 31. He had been a part of the Columbia Heights Fire Dept for over four decades. Assistant Fire Chief John Larkin retired in February after 29 years with the City.

New Fire Chief Began Aug 19

Chief Charlie Thompson began as the City's new Fire Chief on Aug 19, though he's not exactly new here. Thompson was Columbia Heights' fire chief from 1999 to 2005 before becoming fire chief of Anoka-Champlin, where he has been for the last 14 years. The ways Columbia Heights has changed and evolved over that time has made it exciting to return to the job here, Thompson said.



Fire Chief Charlie Thompson, pictured here with daughter, Stacy, and son, Tyler, also firefighters, began as Columbia Heights' new Fire Chief Aug 19. Firefighting truly runs in the family. Thompson has another son, Jordan, who's fire captain in St. Michael and a career firefighter for South Metro Fire. His father was a firefighter at Brooklyn Park Fire for 20 years.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

825 41st Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421
fire@columbiaheightsmn.gov

Be up to date on activities and regular safety reminders of the Columbia Heights Fire Department by following us on Facebook @columbiaheightsfire.



Non-Emergency: (763) 706-8150
 Emergency: Call 911
 Housing Maintenance Inspections: (763) 706-8156
fireinspections@columbiaheightsmn.gov

City Wraps Up Work On Storm Water Pond Project, Plans a Full Boat-Landing Renovation Next Summer

The Public Works Department is wrapping up its renovation project on the stormwater collection pond adjacent to the Silver Lake Boat Landing on Stinson Blvd. The landing will reopen by Labor Day weekend.

The City received multiple grants to help fund the project, which entailed resizing the pond and building a natural vegetation buffer zone around it to improve its filtration capacity. The vegetation includes native and pollinator plants. The pond depth was also increased. These renovations will prevent more pollutants from flowing into Silver Lake.

etation buffer zone around it to improve its filtration capacity. The vegetation includes native and pollinator plants. The pond depth was also increased. These renovations will prevent more pollutants from flowing into Silver Lake.

Boat-Landing Reconstruction in 2020

The City recently received a DNR matching grant to help fund the reconstruction of the Silver Lake Boat Landing, scheduled for summer 2020. The project requires relocation of the on-site lift station sewer pump.

Overall, crews will need about three months to complete the work. Keep an eye on future newsletters and the City website for updates.

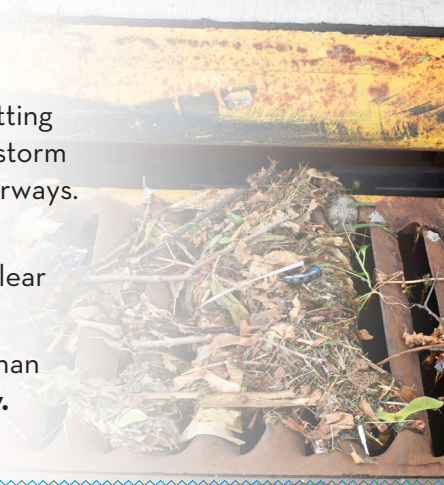


Adopt-a-Drain Program Seeks Volunteers

Adopt-a-Storm Drain, a program aimed to protect area lakes, rivers, and wetlands, calls on residents in the seven-county Metro Area and Rochester to adopt a storm drain by committing to keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris. The simple act of sweeping up around a storm drain protects local lakes and rivers by preventing pollution from entering the shared waterways.

Collective action adds up. In 2018, residents prevented more than 35,562 pounds of debris from washing down storm drains, according to participant reports. Keeping a storm drain clear requires about 15 minutes twice a month.

Adopt-a-Storm-Drain is the largest adopt-a-drain program in the country. There are more than 300,000 storm drains in the Metro area. Sign up to adopt a drain or find more info at www.adopt-a-drain.org.



Fall Street Sweeping Begins Soon

The Street Department will begin street sweeping in late September and continue for as long as weather permits. As a reminder to all property owners, it is against City ordinance to deposit litter, including yard waste and snow, into public streets. Please avoid parking on streets if you can. Thank you for your cooperation!

Public Works Welcomes Utilities Superintendent

Jim Hauth began as Public Works' new Utilities Superintendent this past spring, taking over for Lauren McClanahan, who retired earlier in the year.

Previously, Jim worked in Public Works Utilities for the City of Eagan. He graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College and will complete his master's degree in Public Administration from Hamline University in December.



He is in charge of effectively maintaining and managing the City's water and wastewater utility systems. Jim lives with his wife and three daughters in White Bear Lake.

Mattresses and Carpets Can Now Be Picked Up for Bulk Recycling

Starting Sept 1, Waste Management will pick up old mattresses and rolled-up carpets free-of-charge through the City's new bulk recycling program. The items must be dry and free of any infestations.

Residents must call and request a pick-up of a mattress or rolled carpet directly from Waste Management at 1-888-960-0008. The items must belong to the property from which they're being recycled.

Mattresses, box springs, foam toppers, carpet, and padding use a lot of landfill space, but they are made up of very recyclable materials, said Jesse Davies, recycling coordinator.

The bulk items themselves are not re-used, but are disassembled into separate components, and those components are recycled.

Making recycling more convenient for residents is a major goal for Columbia Heights.

"To meet the state goals of 75% total recycling by 2030, we need to implement convenient programs to recycle beyond the single-sort cart," Davies said. Check columbiaheightsmn.gov and click on "Community" then "Refuse and Recycling" for more information on the new bulk recycling program.

Free Fix-It Clinic Is Sat, Oct 5, 10 am to 1 pm

Have broken stuff lying around? Don't trash it. Fix it! The next Fix-It Clinic in Columbia Heights is Sat, Oct 5, 10 am-1 pm, at Community United Methodist Church, 950 Gould Ave NE. Bring items to be repaired. You can donate repaired items if you don't want them. There will be a recycling bin for non-repairable items. No registration required. Email info@heightsnext.org or call 763-788-5072 for more information or to volunteer.



Free Bike Fix-It Clinic Is Sat, Sept 14, 11 am to 1 pm

Join volunteer bike hobbyists for a Bike Fix-It Clinic at the Columbia Heights Public Library's new bike fix-it station! Drop in anytime between 11 am and 1 pm for help with tune-ups, tire repair, changing tires, adjusting brakes and derailleurs, and any bike maintenance questions. Free. No registration required. Call 763-706-3690 with questions.



Recycling Tip:

Reduce solid waste disposal by selling or donating household goods such as dishes, artwork, blankets, and leftover or reusable construction materials. Spring/fall cleaning packets are available at City buildings or you can call 763-706-3700 to order one.

Refuse Holiday Schedule

- **Labor Day, Sept 2**
Service delayed all week
- **Thanksgiving, Nov 28**
Thursday and Friday delayed one day
- **Veterans Day, Nov 11**
No delay

Master Recycling Course Offered this Fall

Have you wanted to reduce the amount you pay for garbage collection? Ever wondered what happens to your trash and recycling after it's picked up? Have a passion for recycling and composting? Then the Southern Anoka County Cities Recycling Class is for you. There are three classes, Sept 12, 19, and 24, each 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Those who complete the full course will get a chance to tour area recycling facilities. All classes will take place at the Columbia Heights Public Schools Family Center, 1440 49th Avenue NE, room 111.

To register, visit colh.cr3.schooltoday.com/public/costoption/class_id/2513/public/1/sp/

Waste Management

Customer Service Phone: 1-888-960-0008
www.wm.com/us/customer-support

City Refuse/Recycling website

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/departments/public_works/
Public Works Department Phone: (763) 706-3700

Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions

(763) 324-3400
www.anokacounty.us/recycle

Refuse Service Levels and Rates

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/departments/public_works/refuse_and_recycling/departments/public_works/rates.php



Election Judges Needed For 2020's Three Different Election Days

Serving as an Election Judge is a great way to show pride in your community while learning about the election process and getting paid!

Election judges serve as the officials in the polling places on Election Day. Some duties include opening and closing the polls, registering and signing in voters, distributing and collecting ballots, operating voting equipment, recording and certifying vote totals, and ensuring voters' rights are protected. The City is seeking Election Judges to serve at Columbia



Heights polling places for the following 2020 elections:

- **Presidential Primary, March 3**
- **State and Local Primary, Aug 11**
- **General Election, Nov 3**

Election Judges must be eligible to vote in the State of Minnesota (16 & 17-year-old students can serve as Election Judge trainees) and write and speak English. They cannot be a candidate in the election or closely related to a candidate, or closely related to another election judge working in the same polling place.

For more details or to apply, please call the city clerk at 763-706-3611 or visit columbiaheightsmn.gov and click on the "Elections" button.

Columbia Heights City Hall Welcomes a Number of New Employees



City Clerk Nicole Tingley (left) and HR Manager Patty Sweep both started in City Hall this summer.

In July, Patty Sweep took over the HR Manager position, which was left vacant when Kelli Bourgeois was promoted to city manager in January. Sweep previously worked within the human resources field both in retail, for Supervalu, and most recently in the public sector for the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District as their human resources manager.

Nicole Tingley started as Columbia Heights' new city clerk this June. Previously she was the assistant to the city administrator for the City of Maple Plain.

Also in June, Mitchell Forney came on board as the City's new Community Development coordinator, and works

City Hall has seen a lot of new faces in the last six months.

And Jodi Griffin took on the role of special projects and events coordinator in July. Previously, she worked in the Community Development Department as an administrative assistant.

closely with the Community Development director and City planner to help steer Columbia Heights' redevelopment and business decisions. Previously, he was the Community Development intern for Columbia Heights.

This winter, Ryan Smith began as the City's new building official, in charge of enforcing the International Building Code. Previously, he worked for the City of Apple Valley.

And Jodi Griffin took on the role of special projects and events coordinator in July. Previously, she worked in the Community Development Department as an administrative assistant.



Community Development Coordinator Mitchell Forney, right, with City Planner Elizabeth Hammond, and Building Official Ryan Smith.

Visit columbiaheightsmn.gov to find current job openings.