



Election Day is Nov 3. Find information about voting, precincts, absentee ballots, and candidates on page 6. Get all the election details by visiting www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/elections.

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COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
REDISCOVER THE HEIGHTS



City Accepting Applications for Third Annual Façade Improvement Grant: Receive up to \$5,000 in Matching Aid from the EDA

Eligible business-and-commercial-property owners can apply now for a chance to receive up to \$5,000 in matching grant aid for exterior storefront improvements in the third year of the Façade Improvement Grant Program, a collaborative effort among the Community Development Department, the Columbia Heights Police Department, and EDA.

Any commercial properties located along Central Ave NE, between 37th and 47th Ave NE, and along 39th or 40th Ave NE, are eligible to apply.

In an effort to reduce crime and enhance safety in area business districts and along Central Ave NE, the Columbia Heights Police Department also uses the grant program to provide monitored camera surveillance adjacent to participating businesses.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City is accepting applications until the end of October on a first-come, first-served basis. Check columbiaheightsmn.gov for application guidelines and updates, or call 763-706-3670.

NE Bank Building to Be Demolished

Demolition at the 3989 Central Ave property will begin in early September and will take a few weeks.

Both the old bank building and adjacent parking lot on 40th will be demolished. The Fairview parking ramp on the NW side of the intersection is available.

A new City Hall, cafe, and apartment complex are scheduled for construction on the plot later this year.



City Accepting Nominations for Outstanding Citizen Through September

Know of someone who's gone unrecognized for the great things they've done to make the City a better place? Nominate them for 2020 Outstanding Citizen! Please call 763-706-3615 for details, or stop by City Hall to pick up a nomination form.

COVID Updates and Precautions for Autumn

How COVID-19 Affects City Programs, Events, and Services Over the Next Few Months

We are sad to report that, due to COVID-19 concerns, **the annual Fire Department Open House is canceled.** The third annual Truck or Treat is expected to move forward as a drive-through event on Oct 29. Check columbiaheightsmn.gov for updates closer to the event's date. National Night Out, postponed from Aug 4, has been rescheduled for Oct 6, but neighbors are asking for participants to maintain social distancing practices and wear masks while out. There are also possibilities for various virtual alternatives to these community gatherings.

All City buildings have reopened for in-person visits, but with mask requirements and capacity limitations. Whenever possible, please conduct City business online rather than in-person.

A regularly updated list of City closures, reopenings, and other changes and a list of area restaurants that offer delivery or takeout are available online at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/covid.

These are trying times for all of us. If you are in need of help, please reach out to friends, neighbors, and coworkers. If it is overwhelming, contact a counselor. Lee Carlson Center (763-780-3036) has worked with the City and the School District to offer help for teens and adults. Alexandra House (763-780-2330) offers help for victims of domestic violence. SACA (763-789-2444) and the Salvation Army serve Columbia Heights and are there to help with food and other items. If you have questions for City staff, please call 763-706-3600.

Three Simple CDC Safety Tips

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are three main things people can do to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN: Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

AVOID CLOSE CONTACT: Inside your home, avoid close contact with people who are sick and maintain 6 feet between the person who is sick and other household members. Outside your home, put six feet of distance between yourself and people who don't live in your household. Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus. Avoid large gatherings.

WEAR A FACE COVERING: Wear a mask in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain

A Note About Face Coverings

In July, the governor announced a facemask mandate for all public indoor spaces, including businesses and government buildings. Facemasks are also required outdoors for employees working closer than six feet and for workers who enter a person's living space as part of their job.

All residents conducting business at any City building or voting in-person at any polling location must wear a face covering that covers their mouth and nose at all times.

According to the mandate:

Types of face coverings can include a paper or disposable mask, a cloth mask, a neck gaiter, a scarf, a bandanna, or a religious face covering. A face covering must cover the nose and mouth completely. The covering should not be overly tight or restrictive and should feel comfortable to wear. Any mask that incorporates a valve that is designed to facilitate easy exhaling, mesh masks, or masks with openings, holes, visible gaps in the design or material, or vents are not sufficient face coverings because they allow droplets to be released from the mask.

Exemptions: If wearing a face covering at the workplace would create a safety hazard to the person or others as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines, they are exempt. Alternatives to masks such as clear face shields may be considered for those with health conditions or situations where wearing a mask is problematic.

Find complete details at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecover.html>



• Useful Links for More Information •

www.anokacounty.us/coronavirus

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov

www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/covid

Last Chance! Let's Make Sure We All Count! Get Your Census In

This fall, census takers will be visiting the homes of people who haven't yet filled out and turned in their census forms. There's still time to get your forms in. It takes five to 10 minutes to do online.

Are My Answers Secure?

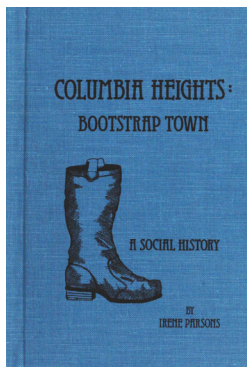
Yes. The Census Bureau collects data for statistical purposes only. They combine your responses with information from other households or businesses, which never identify your household, any person in your household, or business. Your information is confidential. For more information, visit www.mn.gov.

JUST GO HERE:
my2020census.gov

Participation in the census is vital to ensure Columbia Heights receives proper representation. The census determines where district lines are drawn and where and how federal and state funding gets distributed. It also determines the number of seats the State has in the U.S. House. This is why it's important to make sure you're counted!



Book Discussion of 'Columbia Heights: Bootstrap Town, A Social History'



Wed, Oct 21, 6:30 pm, online

In honor of Columbia Heights' 100th anniversary, please join library staff for a book discussion of the locally published book "Columbia Heights: Bootstrap Town," by Irene Parsons. The book was published in 1986 by the City of Columbia Heights and the Chamber of Commerce. Bootstrap Town is available to download online or for checkout at the library. You will need an Internet enabled device or computer to participate via Zoom Meetings. Register online or call the library at 763-706-3690.



You can now read "Columbia Heights: Bootstrap Town, A Social History" digitally at Heights100.com

Truck or Treat Hits the Road With 'Boo Drive-Thru'



The City's annual Truck or Treat event is doing things a little differently this year due to COVID precautions. The special "Boo Drive-Thru" event will take a drive-through approach along a lit path. City trucks, police cars, fire trucks, snow plows, and a number of other vehicles will be on display and showing off their lights as visitors drive along a guided route to view each of the stations. City officials will also be handing out candy! The guided drive is expected to take about 10 minutes. This is a family friendly event. **Details may change.** Please check the City's Facebook page @columbiaheightsmn or website at columbiaheightsmn.gov for updates and further details.

Thu, Oct 29, 5-8 pm, through Huset Park on Jefferson St NE, from 40th Ave to Huset Parkway

Election Judges Wanted

If you're interested in helping the City effectively coordinate and conduct Election Day on Nov. 3, you can sign

up to be an election judge. Visit columbiaheightsmn.gov for more information, or call 763-706-3611

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 Open With Restrictions, Programs Available

Below is a small sampling of upcoming activities at the library. For a full list, visit www.anokacounty.us/events. Call 763-706-3690 to register or if you have questions. Check in often for schedule changes. For in-person activities, face coverings and social distancing are required. For online programs, you will need an internet-enabled device.

Adult Programs

Bike Fix-It Clinic

Sept 12: 11 am-1 pm

Join volunteer bike hobbyists at the library's bike fix-it station! Drop in for help with tune-ups, tire repair, and any bike maintenance questions. Free!

Annual Medicare Update

Sept 17: 10 am, online

A representative from the Senior Linkage Line will present recent changes in Medicare benefits and coverage. Registration required.

Fused Glass Sun Catcher Class

Sept 29: 6 pm, online

Pick up supply kit at library. Provided by MN Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Registration required.

Healing Power of Meditation

Oct 7, 7 pm, online

We are living in stressful times, and meditation can be just the tool we need to help us cope. Registration required.

Día de los Muertos: Art Class

Oct 17, 3 pm, online

Join the library and HeightsNEXT for a virtual craft tutorial to celebrate Mexico's Day of the Dead. Pick up a supplies kit at the library. Registration required.

Bootstrap Book Discussion

Oct 21, 6:30 pm (see page 4)

Poems in the Parks

Large signboards featuring nature-inspired poems will be placed along park

trails. Poems will be displayed from 10 am-4 pm the following dates and locations: Sept 10: Sullivan Park; Sept 24: La Belle Park; Oct 8: La Belle Park; Oct 22: Huset Park West.

Take and Make Crafts

Stop by the library and take a craft, or call ahead and we'll set one aside for you. We will offer a new craft each month. Supplies are limited.

Library Book Club Online

10 am: Sept 16, Oct 21, Nov 18

Registration required.

English Conversation Circles

Mondays, 6 pm, online

Registration required.

Kids and Teens Programs

Stay-at-Home Storytime

Mondays, Sept 14-Nov 16, 10:30 am

Designed to promote school readiness in 2 to 5 year olds. Stay tuned each week for an activity idea that will extend the day's learning. Online.

Stroller Storytime

Sept 17 & 24, Oct 1 & 8, 10:30-11 am

Join us as we read and sing, and stroll around LaBelle Pond. We will meet at the picnic table by the playground off of 42nd and leave promptly at 10:30 am. For infants birth to 24 months and their caregivers. Registration required.

Story Strolls

Sept 15-16: Huset Park West; Sept 29-30: Ramsdell; Oct 13-14: Sullivan; Oct 27-28: LaBelle; Nov 17-18: Prestemon

Large story pages will be placed throughout featured parks. Strolls will be up at 10 am the first day and taken down at 4 pm the following day.

Virtual LEGO Challenge

Sept 9, Oct 14, Nov 11

Check in online to get the monthly challenge. Share your creations with us @ColumbiaHeightsPublicLibrary on Facebook. Tag us with #LEGOCHPL

Family Discovery Saturdays*

10:30 am: Native Pride Dancers, Sept 26; Lupita Doesn't Want to go to Sleep, Oct 10; Raptor Center, Oct 17; Geocaching, Nov 14

Pack your picnic blanket or folding chair and join us as we discover together at City parks. Performances for families. Registration required.

Encore in the Parks:

Geochemistry

Nov 12, 2pm, Huset Park East

Go back in time in MN to better understand why the land here looks like it does today. For grades 3-6. Registration required.

Mica Lee Anders: Story Quilts

Nov 13, 11 am

This program will premiere on our Facebook. Provided by MN Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Activity Kits

October and November

Pick up a monthly activity kit at the library with projects for children of all ages! Register for your kit today. October kits available beginning Sept 30.

Tween Book Club*

3:30-4 pm: Sept 22, Oct 20, Nov 17

Pick up book and supplies at the library. Grades 4-6. Registration required.

Manga Workshop*

2-3:30 pm: Oct 15-16, Huset Park East

Participants will learn basic drawing to sequential narrative layout while making your own manga. For grades 6 and up. Registration required.

*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.

New Library Hours

Mon-Wed, 1 to 7 pm
Thu-Fri, 11 am to 4 pm
Sat, 11 am to 3 pm

Library Closures

Sept 5-7 • Nov 11 • Nov 26-27

3939 Central Ave NE • (763) 706-3690

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov

Cable Channel 19

Facebook: @ColumbiaHeightsPublicLibrary



Voting Absentee FAQs

- General Election absentee voting period - Sept 18–Nov 2
- In light of COVID-19, voting absentee is highly encouraged as it limits the amount of contact you have with other people. Here's how to do it:
 - Vote in-person at City Hall (590 40th Ave NE) during normal office hours M-F, 8 am–4:30 pm. City Hall will also be open from 10 am–3 pm, Sat, Oct 31, for general election voting. Offices will be closed Sept 7.
 - **Or vote completely by mail** (this is the recommended option). It's free and convenient: First submit a request for an absentee ballot by filling out and turning in the absentee ballot application. You can fill it out online at mvotes.org, or you can fill out a paper application and send it to Anoka County Elections by mail, fax, or email. If you would like a paper application to be sent to you by mail, please call Anoka County Elections at 763-324-1300. Ballot and voting materials will come to your home in the mail. Follow included instructions to fill out your ballot and seal it. Drop in the mail, postage is included
 - Links to absentee voting resources as well as other election resources including a polling location finder, sample ballots, and voter registration info are available at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/elections
 - Completed ballots can be dropped off at City Hall during normal hours until 3 pm on Nov 3.

Fall 2020 Election Dates

- Sept 18:** General election absentee voting begins
- Oct 20:** Last day to preregister to vote for the general election
- Nov 3:** General election, polls open 7 am to 8 pm

Voting Locations

- Precinct 1, John P. Murzyn Hall**
530 Mill St NE
- Precinct 2, Immaculate Conception Church**
4030 Jackson St NE
- Precinct 3, Columbia Heights Library**
3939 Central Ave NE
- Precinct 4, Highland Elementary School**
1500 49th Ave NE
- Precinct 5, First Lutheran Church**
1555 40th Ave NE
- Precinct 6, Hylander Center***
1300 49th Ave NE
- Precinct 7, Valley View Elementary School**
800 49th Ave NE
- Precinct 8, ChristLife Church***
4555 University Ave NE

Note: Face coverings required inside polling places
*Polling locations recently changed

Two Candidates Running for Mayor, Four in the Race for Council

Two candidates are running for the Columbia Heights mayoral seat, and four are running for two council openings. The mayoral term lasts two years and council terms last four years. Mayoral candidates are Nick Novitsky and Amáda Márquez Simula. Because Novitsky is currently a councilmember, if he wins the mayoral election, his vacant council seat will be filled temporarily by council appointment. The four candidates running for council are Connie Buesgens, Laura Dorle, Kay “Kt” Jacobs, and Andy Newton. The top two vote getters will fill the two at-large council positions. **A mayor and council candidate forum, scheduled for 7 pm, Sept 30, will be broadcast live on channels 16 and 19 and on Facebook.** A recording will also be available online later that week. The League of Women Voters ABC will co-host the event.



Budget Spotlight

The Columbia Heights 2021 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 planning for a 4.8% increase in property tax revenue to support a 4.8% increase in operating expenses in 2021. This operating expense increase includes inflationary increases of approximately 3% over 2020 costs for existing services, plus the addition of one full-time police officer and one full time community service officer recommend-

ed as part of a public safety staffing study commissioned by the City Council in 2018.

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 2021 property taxes in November.



IMPORTANT CITY CONTACTS

CITY OFFICES.....(763) 706-3600
 Administration.....(763) 706-3610

Public Works Dept.(763) 706-3700
 Garbage/Refuse Pick-up/
 Recycling (Waste
 Management)(888) 960-0008
 Utility Billing.....(763) 706-3640

Fire Dept. Administration & Information/
 Emergency
 Management..... (763) 706-8150

Police(763) 706-8100

Community
 Development.....(763) 706-3670

Bldg. Permits/
 Licenses.....(763) 706-3678

Recreation Dept.....(763) 706-3730
 24-Hour Info. Line-Murzyn Hall info., Weather
 Cancellations,
 Directions(763) 706-3737
 Murzyn Hall Rental..... (763) 706-3734

Mayor Donna Schmitt.....(763) 706-3607
 Councilmember Buesgens..... (763) 788-5072
 Councilmember Murzyn(763) 781-4983
 Councilmember Novitsky.....(612) 760-4463
 Councilmember Williams(763) 788-1113

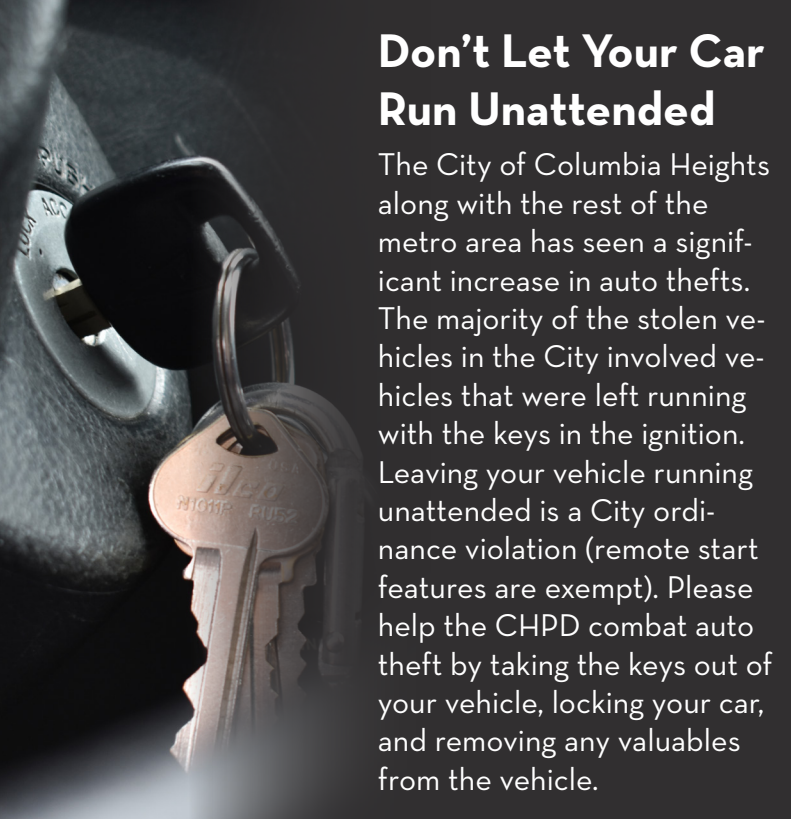
City Newsletter editor (763) 706-3615

Emergency.....911

MORE INFO AT:
www.columbiaheightsmn.gov

Don't Let Your Car Run Unattended

The City of Columbia Heights along with the rest of the metro area has seen a significant increase in auto thefts. The majority of the stolen vehicles in the City involved vehicles that were left running with the keys in the ignition. Leaving your vehicle running unattended is a City ordinance violation (remote start features are exempt). Please help the CHPD combat auto theft by taking the keys out of your vehicle, locking your car, and removing any valuables from the vehicle.



2020 National Night Out Is Oct 6

Due to COVID, National Night Out was postponed to Oct 6. Please keep an eye on our website at columbiaheightsmn.gov for updates, as plans are subject to change on short notice. NNO is a community-wide event that promotes strong police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer places to live and work. For info on hosting/registering your own event, call 763-706-8142.

Fall and Winter Parking Reminders:

As we approach the colder months, the CHPD would like to remind residents of the City's winter parking rules. From Nov 1 to March 31, vehicles cannot be parked on City streets from 2 am to 6 am, per City ordinance. This is to ensure that streets can be plowed on short notice and helps guarantee there will be enough space for emergency vehicles to pass through.



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.

CHPD Works With Nonprofit to Improve Homelessness Outreach

Recently, the Columbia Heights Police Department accompanied outreach workers from the nonprofit organization Guild as they met with homeless individuals in the City. Guild seeks to connect those experiencing homelessness with housing and other resources. They're working in Columbia Heights as part of their contract through Anoka County Social Services.

The CHPD has been partnering with Guild for approximately two years. The partnership will continue as the City continues to see increasing homelessness.

"When Guild staff rode with us they were brought to locations where officers have been having homeless contact and made some contacts in the early morning hours when homeless individuals were still in their sleeping spots for the night," said Cpt. Matt Markham. "Not making police the first face of government assistance works in everyone's favor. Guild staff work to get homeless individuals housing."

If you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness, Anoka County has resources available. Check their website at: <https://www.anokacounty.us/2129/Housing-and-Homeless-Programs>, or refer to the info box below for other resources.

Homelessness Assistance Resources

Anoka County Housing Help Desk, 763-324-1490

Alexandra House Domestic Violence Shelter, 763-780-2330

Anoka County Housing Resource Line, 763-324-1215

Family Promise-Family Shelter, 763-568-7365

Outreach for Homeless with Disabilities, 763-324-1420

Metro Shelter Hotline, 888-234-1329

MN Homeless Veteran Registry, 888-546-5838

Stepping Stone Emergency Housing Single Adult Shelter, 763-323-7006

Homeless Youth Service Network: <https://ysnmn.org/#/home>

Housing Benefits 101: <https://mn.hb101.org/>

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.com/chpolice, and follow us at twitter.com/colhgtspolice.





FIREFIGHTERS WANTED

The Columbia Heights Fire Department is seeking new firefighters to join its team. If you're 18 or older, live within six minutes of the fire station, and have a valid driver's license, you're eligible to apply. On-call firefighters get paid per call, and also receive \$15 an hour for training. The more firefighters who are on-call, the more comprehensive the department's emergency response can be, which in turn saves lives.

"We're offering training on weekends, during the week-day, and evenings," said Chief Charlie Thompson. "If you want to be a part of a professional and committed close-knit group and you want to do something that gives back to the community, this is a great path."

To learn more, call 763-706-8150 or visit www.heightsfire.com.

Keep Yourself and Your Family Safe, Regularly Test Your **Smoke Alarms**

Smoke alarms give you an early warning so you can get outside quickly if a fire ignites in your home. Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half! Be sure to check your smoke alarm every month and replace smoke alarms when they are over 10 years old. Install

smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors regularly using the test buttons. CO alarms should also be on every floor.

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



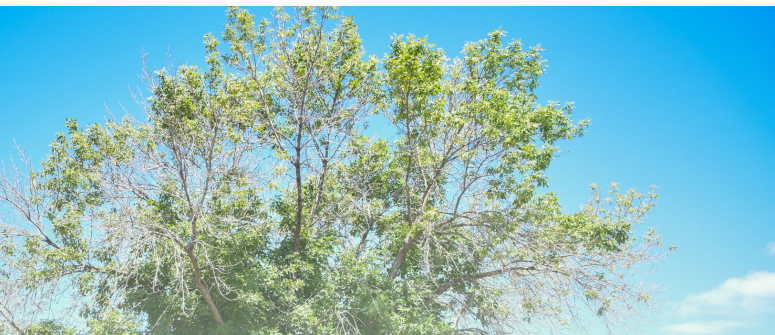
Fall Street Sweeping Begins

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!

Adopt-a-Drain Program Needs 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 near them 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, and collective action adds up. 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.



An ash tree in Columbia Heights shows visible signs of an Emerald Ash Borer infestation. The thinning of leaves at the top of the tree is a clear indication of EAB presence.

Ash Tree Treatment and Removal

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture confirmed an EAB infestation in Columbia Heights in 2019. The DNR estimates that more than 5,000 ash trees are growing in the City, and the vast majority of those are on private properties. Untreated ash trees in Columbia Heights will likely die within the next two to five years. Trees in the early stages of infection can still be saved with proper treatment, but homeowners must act soon. The other option is tree removal.

Rainbow Treecare is offering a citywide bulk discount to residents for this service. The discount is offered through 2020 to Columbia Heights homeowners for trees on private property that are at least 10" in diameter and in good physical condition. For more information, please call 952-767-6920 or visit rainbowtreecare.com/columbia-heights.

Fall Clean Water Reminders

In addition to helping keep storm drains clear, Public Works also offers the following clean water tips:

- Fall is the best season to fertilize your lawn and control common weeds. Use fertilizers and pesticides conservatively and always read and follow product instructions carefully. Minnesota passed a law in 2002 that restricts the use of phosphorus-containing fertilizers.
- Check your car and lawn equipment for leaks. A rainstorm can send gasoline and oil runoff from automobiles, lawnmowers, and power equipment into waterways.
- Consider using alternative lawn-care techniques in addition to, or even instead of, pesticides. Try these: pulling weeds by hand, or spot-treating weedy areas instead of your entire yard. More yard-care information is available under the garden section of the University of Minnesota Extension Services' website www.extension.umn.edu.
- Don't rake into the lake! Too many leaves or other yard waste in a lake creates a bumper crop of algae in the form of pea-green sludge, cutting off oxygen to fish.
- Sweep grass clippings and fertilizer from driveways, sidewalks, and streets. Also please sweep along the curb.

Boat-Launch Renovation Under Way

Construction on the boat launch at Silver Lake began in late July with the removal of the existing roadway, excavation, and installation of a retaining wall and new lift station. An adjacent stormwater pond renovation was completed earlier in the summer. Overall, crews will need about three months to complete the work. The City received a DNR matching grant last year to help fund the reconstruction of the Silver Lake Boat Landing.



Heights Wins Sustainable City Award from League of Minnesota Cities

In 2018, the City of Columbia Heights expanded its curbside yard-waste pick-up program to include food scraps, food-soiled paper, and other household compost, and to go year-round. Prior to this, the City had organized collection for curbside yard waste weekly, April-November, for more than 30 years. The program's expansion was well received by residents, as more than 1,000 households signed up for curbside yard-waste/organics pick-up during the first year the expanded program was offered. Trash disposal was reduced by 500 tons, saving the City \$37,500. Additionally, general recycling increased by 5%.

Currently, the City has more than 1,360 compost carts on the street covering 21% of refuse-served properties, and that number continues to rise.

For these accomplishments, Columbia Heights received the 2020 Sustainable City Award from the League of Minnesota Cities. The Sustainable City Award is given each year by LMC to a single city that has implemented a project, program, or initiative that helps the city achieve its sustainability goals through implementation of one or more of the GreenStep Cities' 29 best practices.

Sign Up for Compost/Yard Waste Pick-up

Columbia Heights residents are eligible to compost organics (food scraps and food-soiled paper) from their home in a dual-purpose cart for yard and food waste.

Fresh compost is returned to the City Recycling Center via the high school Key Club "Plate to Garden Compost" fundraiser, a MN Composting Council program. The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux composting facility donates the compost. The Kiwanis provide monitors for refuse stations at city and quasi-city events.

The service is \$2.52 per month, charged to your quarterly City utility bill. Email Public Works at publicworks@columbiaheightsmn.gov to order a compost cart. Yard waste and organics are collected by the City weekly and then brought to a facility to make compost.

Residents who order a compost cart will also receive a free kitchen starter kit with bags for organics disposal. Apartment and condo buildings can receive organics starter kits for tenants, too. (Ask your building owner or property manager to contact the City for carts.)

Virtual Fix-It Clinic Is Sat, Oct 3, 10 am to 1 pm

To attend the virtual clinic, fill out a questionnaire about your item by Sept 30 at: www.anokacounty.us/fixit. Anoka County staff and volunteer fixers will review submissions to ensure we can work on your item over video chat.



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.

Master Recycling Course Canceled

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual master recycling course has been canceled. We plan to return in 2021.

Leave Room for WM Truck Arm

The mechanical arms on Waste Management trucks need space. Place your cart out where the arm can reach it and allow at least two feet of space on either side of the cart.

Film Plastic Recycling Program Success

If the City recycled 500 pounds of film plastic in a six-month period, Trex Inc. said they would donate a park bench made entirely of recycled film plastic. Residents did so well at this challenge, Trex has donated three park benches in the last year. Please separate plastic bags/film plastic from other recycling and drop off at the Recycling Center, 3801 Madison St NE.

Refuse Holiday Schedule

- **Labor Day, Sept 7**
Service delayed all week
- **Thanksgiving, Nov 26**
Thursday and Friday delayed one day
- **Veterans Day, Nov 11**
No delay

Waste Management

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

City Refuse/Recycling website

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refuseandrecycling

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



Happy One Hundredth, Heights!

The City of Columbia Heights is set to celebrate its centennial on July 21, 2021.

Throughout the year, residents are encouraged to share their stories in person and online, take part in volunteer opportunities, and attend community events. Visit Heights100.com to view historical items, read the Bootstrap Book, and see the schedule of events.

We also encouraged residents to submit photos to the centennial photo contest. Photo submissions selected by judges will be featured in a centennial calendar that will be available for purchase in October. Visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/photos for more information.

Columbia Heights was officially incorporated as a city in the summer of 1921. We're looking for longtime residents to help tell the story of Columbia Heights. A lot has changed over the years and we need our residents' help to bring Columbia Heights history to life. Email wrottler@columbiaheightsmn.gov for more info.

Sponsorship Opportunities

You, your business or organization have an opportunity to take part in the centennial by sponsoring a banner along Central Ave. The banners will be on display for six months. In addition to the banners, you'll receive recognition at 100 year events and on the City's website. Proceeds from this project will go towards helping fund 100 year events.

Please contact Will Rottler (763-706-3614 or wrottler@columbiaheightsmn.gov) for more information on this and other sponsorship opportunities.

Columbia Heights residents, businesses and organizations can also get involved by donating historical items for preservation, volunteering at or hosting community events, or suggesting ideas for the centennial celebration or for the 100th anniversary quilt.

To submit ideas, please contact Will Rottler (763-706-3614 or at wrottler@columbiaheightsmn.gov).



Columbia Heights Presents: Movie at McKenna, Sept 18!

Mark your calendars for movie night at McKenna Park!

The family friendly animated flick will be Abominable. Bring your family and a blanket to McKenna Park, 4757 7th St, on Fri, Sept 18, at 7 pm (film starts at 7:30)! Seating is limited due to COVID precautions. Pre-registration is required. Please call the City's Recreation Department at 763-706-3730 or visit chreconline.org to register. First-come, first-served.

