

CITY NEWSLETTER



The renovated Keyes Park, complete with 60 newly planted trees, will be fully open this spring. Find out more about the future of Columbia Heights park improvements on page 10.

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COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
REDISCOVER THE HEIGHTS

SEE FLIP SIDE FOR RECREATION PROGRAMS

City of Columbia Heights
590 40th Ave, N.E.
Columbia Heights, MN 55421
763-706-3600

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Columbia Heights Welcomes New City Manager Kelli Bourgeois



Kelli Bourgeois started as Columbia Heights new City manager Jan 1. She was officially hired by the City Council Nov 26. Former City Manager Walter Fehst retired Dec 31.

After 22 years, the City of Columbia Heights has a new chief administrative officer. Kelli Bourgeois stepped into the role of City manager on Jan 1, replacing former City Manager Walter Fehst, who retired Dec 31, 2018.

Bourgeois has been with the City of Columbia Heights since 2014 as the human resources director and assistant City manager. Previously, she was a community development director, assistant city administrator, and city planner for the City of Becker, and senior planner for the South Eastern Council of Governments. She holds a juris doctor degree from Hamline University School of Law, and a bachelor's degree in local and urban affairs from St. Cloud State University. Her career in local government has spanned 23 years.

"I am looking forward to continuing and building upon all of the great things we have going in Columbia Heights," Bourgeois said. "We have wonderful residents, elected officials, and staff. There is no other city I would rather serve."



Bourgeois stands with former City managers Walter Fehst and Malcolm Watson at an employee appreciation luncheon.

Employee of the Year Award Goes to Public Works Superintendent

Thirty-four years ago, the City Council approved the Employee of the Year Award as a method of rewarding employees seen by their peers and supervisors as deserving of special recognition for their accomplishments and contributions to the City of Columbia Heights.

This year, Mike O'Reilly, street and parks superintendent, became the 39th employee to receive the honor.

Described by those who nominated him as having a 'get it done' attitude, O'Reilly has worked for the City since 1979, when he started as a maintenance worker. He is often the first person to be called when other City departments need help, and there's no counting the number of times he has responded to emergency after-hour situations, or has woken up in the middle of the night to determine if the roads need to be plowed. O'Reilly

has overseen a cohesive operation for City-owned street lights, a reduction in the City's salt usage, and the reworking of the Municipal Service Center storage yard to accommodate all of Public Works activities, including storm water treatment. He also helped maximize the efficiency of the City's snow plowing operations and guided the change from reactive to proactive snow management.

"We honor him for being an asset, not just to Public Works, but to our community, to our entire workplace, and our lives," said Mayor Donna Schmitt. "This award has been a long-time coming."

On an annual basis, each employee is given the opportunity to nominate themselves or another employee for the Employee of the Year Award based on three criteria: Public Relations, Consistency of Performance,



Mike O'Reilly accepts the Employee of the Year award plaque from Mayor Donna Schmitt

and Significant Accomplishments. The committee who reviews nominations and chooses the Employee of the Year is composed of former Employee of the Year recipients who are still employed by the City.



COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

City Services Expo and Town Hall

March 2, 11 am–2 pm
Columbia Heights Public Library

Come visit with representatives from Columbia Heights City Hall, Public Works, Recreation, Library, Police and Fire to get your questions answered and learn about the City of Columbia Heights. While you're there, you can also apply for permits, renew pet licenses, offer feedback on City services, and more. There will be free cookies, coffee, and root beer samples, and Tasty Pizza slices available for purchase! This inaugural event will also include a town hall forum with the mayor and City Council.

Find the full schedule at columbiaheightsmn.gov under the Community tab.

• Save the Date! •

Community Picnic Is June 27

The City of Columbia Heights annual Community Picnic returns Thu, June 27, from 4:30 to 7 pm at Huset Park West. This year, the picnic will be offering an expanded arts and craft fair inside Murzyn Hall, so people can walk back and forth to each event. The Jamboree Carnival will also open June 27, so residents can make a day out of visiting Huset Park!

The picnic will feature booths with officials from City and community organizations, children's activities around the splash pad, and free refreshments. Stay tuned for updates in the summer newsletter.

Citywide Garage Sale Is June 8

Returning for its third year, the Citywide Garage Sale, a cooperative event between the City of Columbia Heights and residents throughout the community, will be Sat, June 8. There's no specific time-frame for the event that day, as everyone's garage sale may be different.

While you begin your spring cleaning, think about what you might want to sell at your own garage sale. As the date gets closer, residents will have a chance to register their sale to be featured on a City location map.

Keep an eye online at columbiaheightsmn.gov for updates.

Conversation Circles at the Library Offer ESL Practice

Groups Meet Mondays and Thursdays

Columbia Heights has a large population of adults who speak English as a second language, so the Columbia Heights Public Library offers a safe and comfortable place twice a week for these residents to practice their conversation skills.

The Conversation Circles program is a drop-in service at the library held every Monday from 6-7 pm and Thursday afternoon from 1-2 pm in meeting room 132.

Residents from all around the world, including Peru, Mexico, Somalia, Russia and more, gather together with an English-speaking volunteer to talk about their lives, tell stories, and work on getting used to English's more idiosyncratic quirks.

"There are certain things we think are easy, but are hard to understand if you're new to the language, like 'sense' vs 'cents,'" said volunteer Pat Stinson. "It's about clearing those things up."

The program recently expanded to include Monday evenings. Learners are encouraged to drop in weekly to one or both meetings. All levels are welcome and no registration is required. Call the Columbia Heights Public Library for information at 763-706-3690.

DID YOU KNOW.... APRIL 1, 2020, IS CENSUS DAY?

Help Get Everyone Counted!

While it may seem like a long way off, planning for the 2020 Census has already begun. Columbia Heights is forming a Complete Count Committee to raise awareness about the upcoming census and communicate how important it is to get everyone counted.

If you are interested in being a part of the Complete Count Committee, please contact Jodi Griffin in Community Development at 763-706-3672.

Kick-off meetings are scheduled for March 5 and 19. Updates will be posted on the City's website at columbiaheightsmn.gov.



Halima Dualeh and Tony Beltran have been paired for Buddy Up and Read since October of 2017.

Volunteers Needed for Buddy Up and Read

The Columbia Heights Public Library is seeking adult volunteers for the library's Buddy Up and Read program. The program offers one-on-one assistance to adults looking to improve their reading skills in a low-stress, supportive environment.

Now in its eighth year at the library, the program has shown noticeable results in people's reading skills, which has helped in their day-to-day lives, said Cortni O'Brien, adult services librarian.

The library is looking for several more volunteers to be paired up with participants. The time commitment is one hour per week for six months. Call the Columbia Heights Public Library at 763-706-3690 for more information, or drop by the library at 3939 Central Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421, to complete a volunteer application.

Update on Sister Cities, Year in Review

It was an active year for the Columbia Heights/Lomianki Poland Sister Cities group. They donated much needed books to Valley View Elementary School, the Columbia Heights Public Library, and school libraries in Lomianki. They celebrated Poland's Re-Independence Centennial at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. And one of their members, Mary Jerde, visited Lomianki and delivered a commemorative plaque to the City of Lomianki as a gift from the City of Columbia Heights. For a complete review of 2018 activities, visit columbiaheightsmn.gov and click on "Sister Cities" under the Government tab.

City Accepting Nominations for Outstanding Citizen (more info on page 12)

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

Birdscaping Basics Class

Wed, March 27, 6 pm

Columbia Heights Memories

Wed, April 3, 1 pm

History presentation by Rita Norberg

Drawing to Watercolor*

Wed, April 10, 4 pm

Registration required

Composting 101 Class

Mon, April 22, 4 pm

Intro to Genealogy Research

Wed, April 24, 6 pm

Presented by Northstar Genealogy

Deeper Into Meditation

Wed, May 8, 6 pm

A workshop for those new to meditation but looking to deepen practice.

MN from the Road

Sat, May 18, 1 pm

Photography and story presentation by Doug Ohman

Library Book Club

10 am: March 20, April 17, May 15

Senior Surf 55+

9:30–11:30 am: March 6, April 3, May 1

Online basics. Registration required

Teen Programs

4-H Tech Wizards

Tuesdays, 4–6 pm

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

CraftLab**

Thu, March 21, 2–3 pm

Fri, April 5, 2–4 pm

Join us each month for a different DIY craft project. Registration required, call (763) 706-3690.

Volunteering

Learn more about the library, help your community, meet new people and earn community service hours for school. For teens ages 13 and older who are self-motivated and want to have fun. Applications are available at the library.

Kid Programs

Gnome Sweet Gnome*

Tue, March 19, 2–4 pm

Craft outfits for gnome friends.

Registration required. For grades K-5

Storytelling with

Auntie Beverly

Wed, March 20, 2–3 pm

Stories of the African Diaspora.

For families

STEAM Saturdays**

11:30 am: March 30 (NASA for families) and April 27 (Mycology for grades K and up—register at 763-706-3690)

Hands-on science fun!

*Funded by the MN Arts and Cultural Heritage fund.

**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.

Storytime @ the Library

March 11–April 22

Family Storytime

Mondays, 10:30–11 am, 5:30–6 pm

Baby Read, Baby Grow

Thursdays, 9:30–10:30 am, 10:30–11 am
(for infants up to 2 years 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

Mon, Feb 18 • Fri, April 19 • Thu, May 9

3939 Central Ave NE • (763) 706-3690

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov

Cable Channel 19

Facebook: @ColumbiaHeightsPublicLibrary

Newly Installed Security Cameras Help Nab Suspected Vandal

Just one day after the City installed security cameras near businesses along Central Ave, a man was captured on film vandalizing businesses and City property with graffiti the night of Dec 16.

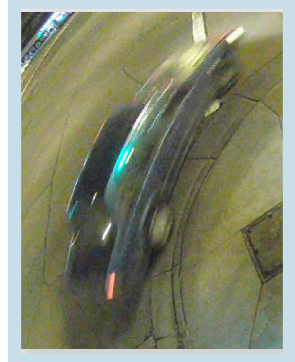
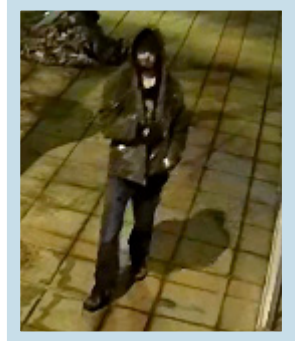
Using the cameras, which were installed as part of a Central Ave facade improvement grant program, police were able to narrow down details about the suspect and his car, which helped locate him.



The man, Allen Dean Essen Jr, 34, of Columbia Heights, confessed to the felony crime after his arrest Jan 23. According to the criminal complaint, Essen tagged 12 buildings, as well as some utility boxes and garbage cans in the area, amounting to nearly \$2,000 in property damage.

The tag he used was “Revo,” short for revolution. He also used the tag “MNB,” which the defendant said stands for Minnesota Nice Boys, a group of graffiti artists.

“It’s unlikely we would have found him without this security footage,” said Police Capt. Matt Markham. “With help from the video we were able to identify the car and gather other info that eventually led to his arrest.”



Central Ave Grant Improvement Project Plays Part in Arrest

Eleven cameras were installed near businesses and intersections along Central Ave as part of the Central Ave facade improvement effort funded by the Columbia Heights Economic Development Authority this summer.

The grant reimbursed 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 12 businesses that applied, eight were selected by the EDA for the grant.

The goal of the program was to help revitalize, rehabilitate, and restore exterior storefronts along Central Ave, and also reduce crime by funding cameras placed near the businesses helped by the grant. The cameras were installed Dec 15.

Last year was the inaugural year of the grant program, but it’s expected to expand this year, according to Keith Dahl, economic development manager. The City will start taking applications for the 2019 Facade Improvement Grant Program in the spring. Check columbiaheightsmn.gov for updates.



Police Get Creative With Coffee With a Cop Monthly Gatherings



Jr. Kretzmann, 5th-grader, checks out his new haircut while talking with Officer JP

A week before school started this year, more than 50 kids stopped in for a free back-to-school haircut at the inaugural Cuts with a Cop, a collaborative effort between the Columbia Heights Police Department and Moler Barber School. Officers at the CHPD have been brainstorming creative ways like these to engage with Columbia Heights residents. Recently, the CHPD held “Tamales with a Cop” at La Cocina de Cuco. The variations on the coffee theme will continue March 13 for Chili with a Cop at St Matthew’s Church from 5–7 pm. Keep an eye on columbiaheightsmn.gov for updates.



Officers and residents gather at La Cocina de Cuco Jan 16 for Tamales with a Cop.

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



EDA commissioners from left to right: Connie Buesgens, Bobby Williams, Marlane Szurek (EDA president), Gerry Herringer, Donna Schmitt, and John Murzyn Jr. Not pictured: Nick Novitsky.



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 commission will be highlighted in each newsletter, starting with the EDA.

Economic Development Authority

The EDA is the only commission of the seven that can make financial and policy decisions independent of the City Council, though all members of the Council are in the EDA. The EDA has an operating budget and can use funds to support various programs and grants, such as the Central Ave Facade Improvement Grant for business (see story on page 6).

The responsibility of the EDA is to provide financial and technical assistance and resources to residential, commercial, and industrial interests to promote health, safety, welfare, economic development, and redevelopment. The EDA meets the first Monday of every month at 6:30 pm at City Hall, unless otherwise noted.

Get On Board: Apply Now to be a Commissioner

Members of boards and commissions are volunteer residents appointed by the City Council with the exception for Charter Commission members, who are appointed by the chief judge of the Judicial District. Residents interested in serving on various commissions or boards may contact the City Clerk at (763) 706-3611 for an application, or download one online at columbiaheightsmn.gov, under the Government tab. Expiring board and commission terms are reviewed annually in the spring.

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
 Fire Chief.....(763) 706-8152

Police(763) 706-8100

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

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

 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



City Hall's exterior infrastructure, known as the building's envelope, is failing around the entire foundation.

Council Evaluating Replacement of City Hall

Recent Facility Report Lays Out Condition of Existing Building

Columbia Heights City Hall has reached the end of its useful life. That's the conclusion reached in a facility condition report presented to the City Council in January. Necessary renovations to keep the existing building functional would cost at least \$6.6 million, according to an analysis by the Leo A Daly architecture firm.

"It is safe to say the cost of renovating this building will exceed the cost of building a new City Hall," said Kevin Hansen, public works director.

On top of that, he added, renovations wouldn't correct the primary concerns of exterior wall deficiencies, space inefficiency, and unresolvable accessibility problems.

The original building was built in 1942, and has had three major renovations and several add-ons since then. After the Police Department moved to a new building in 2010, half of City Hall's space has gone unused. But those empty spaces still cost money to heat, cool, and keep up-to-code.

Other major concerns include: • presence of asbestos in building • water infiltration in multiple areas and water damage prolific throughout • inadequate power capacity and wire integrity • incomplete removal of antiquated systems • lack of fire barriers in ceilings and inadequacy of fire escapes • inadequate ADA accessibility throughout building • exterior wall failure • roof fire hazards and inadequacy.

The full report, with photos, can be found online at columbiaheightsmn.gov. Click on "City Hall Report" under the Government tab.

City Hall Options Under Review

City Council and staff are considering options and possible locations for a new City Hall that would be less than half the size of the current City Hall. Keep an eye on the City's website at Columbiaheightsmn.gov for updates on City Hall public feedback events.



Water damage from roof and wall leakage is prolific throughout the building, in some cases leading to visible mold growth.



Water intrusion has permanently damaged most building windows.



Power, cable, and phone cords hang from the ceiling in the Information Services Department.



Vegetation grows in standing water on the roof.



A pipe wrapped in asbestos drains into an employee bathroom sink.

Hydrant Flushing Begins in April

Fire hydrant flushing will take place from April 8 through April 30. Hydrants will be flushed from 7 am to 3:30 pm.

It's necessary to flush all City hydrants to ensure they're in good working condition and to evaluate water pressure throughout the City.



The April hydrant flushing schedule is:

*North of 45th Ave, east of Central Ave
- April 8, 9, 10, 11*

*South of 45th Ave, east of Central Ave
- April 12, 15, 16, 17*

*North of 45th Ave, west of Central Ave
- April 18, 22, 23, 24*

*South of 45th Ave, west of Central Ave
- April 25, 26, 29, 30*

You may notice some temporary discoloration of the water while hydrant flushing is taking place in your area. The discoloration is caused by iron particles that have been dislodged from the water mains. If your water is discolored, flush your residential system by running the cold water for 10 to 20 minutes. Avoid washing clothes while hydrants are being flushed in your area, as discolored water may leave stains.

Additional localized hydrant flushing may be necessary throughout the year.

Free Battery Giveaway at Fire Dept Make Sure Your Smoke Detector and CO Alarms Are Functioning

One of the best ways to protect your family from the dangers of a house fire is to make sure you have working smoke detectors in the home.

This is why the Columbia Heights Fire Department is giving away free 9-volt batteries at the Public Safety Building, 825 41st Ave NE. Please stop in during office hours Mon-Fri, 8 am to 4:30 pm, to pick up new batteries for your smoke detectors and CO alarms.

Energizer, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and fire departments nationwide have joined forces for the annual Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery program to raise awareness of the importance of working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors in helping to keep families safe in their homes. This is the 26th year of the program.



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 9-1-1
Housing Maintenance Inspections: (763) 706-8156
fireinspections@columbiaheightsmn.gov



KEYES PARK

Columbia Heights, MN Community Planting Day September 15, 2018

A Healthy Park System Means a Healthy Community After Completing Seven Park Renovations, City Looks to the Future

On a 90-degree day in September, a team of more than 50 volunteers battled heat and humidity to help plant sixty trees in the newly renovated Keyes Park. Kids, families, elected officials, and dozens of neighbors joined Tree Trust officials and City staff to make this planting event possible.

The effort underscored residents' ongoing commitment and love of their neighborhood parks.

"A healthy park system is one of the main reasons people choose to live in any community," said Kevin Hansen, director of public works. "It's a major draw for families and can be the foundation of a healthy neighborhood. Parks are a primary contributor to the quality of life in town."

But more than half of the City's 15 parks haven't seen any major investment since the 1970s, Hansen said. Keyes Park was the seventh and final park selected by the Park and Recreation Commission to be renovated under the City's master planning process. Other parks renovated under the plan were LaBelle, Huset Park West (partial renovation), Prestemon, Ramsdell, Silver Lake, and Sullivan.

Hansen said he'd like to see a new master plan that includes renovations for all City parks, preferably something that would provide each park with the level of investment Keyes Park received last summer. The City is currently looking for a number of funding options to make this possible, and will be welcoming community feedback in the months to come. Check Columbiaheightsmn.gov for updates or to view info about the Park Master Plan. Public Works will also be taking feedback at the upcoming City Services Expo (see page 3).



Newly Renovated Keyes Park Will be Fully Open This Spring

The newly renovated Keyes Park at 1345 45 1/2 St. will be fully operational this spring, meaning sports and other organized events can be scheduled at the park.

Construction began last May and was completed in the fall.

Renovations included the construction of two athletic ball fields, two parking lots, trails, a sidewalk, and a play area, as well as site furnishing, planting and restoration, and utility installation. The sledding hill was retained.

Spring Street Sweeping Begins Soon

The Street Department will begin street sweeping as soon as weather permits, usually in early April. Areas around lakes and ponds will be swept first to minimize the amount of sediment entering these bodies of water. Sweeping operations will continue until all streets have been swept twice and then on an as-needed basis until fall.

Water Service Leak? Sewer Clog?

Call Public Works before calling a contractor:

- Weekdays: 7 am-3:30 pm (763) 706-3700
- After-hours: (763) 427-1212 or 911

Remember, property owners are responsible for the water service and sewer service from the house or structure to the main in the street, including the connection to the City main.

Apt. Building Leads Way in Disposal Reform

Assistant Manager Cyndi Cummings was surprised at how quickly recycling and organics disposal caught on with residents of Hart Lakes Apartments.

“People here really like having these options,” Cummings said.

A big part of why the options have caught on is due to Cummings’ efforts to educate residents about the programs. She tells every new resident about their options when they first move in, and holds building-wide educational meetings to get the word out. This has resulted in the highest level of recycling and organics participation of any multi-dwelling building in the City, said Jesse Davies, from the City refuse department.

Continued on page 12



Cyndi Cummings with individual recycling and organics baskets for Hart Lake Apt. residents.

Want to Improve Water Quality and Public Health? Please Pick Up After Your Pets

We know it’s gross to pick up pet waste, but it’s even grosser not to. In fact, it’s a health risk to both pets and people, especially children.

Pet waste is full of bacteria that can make humans and animals sick. This gets into water runoff untreated and pollutes nearby waterways.

On top of that, it’s also an eyesore and absolutely no fun to step in. **Picking up after your pets is the neighborly thing to do.**

Here are a couple of options for cleaning up after your pet:

- Seal the waste in a plastic bag and throw it in the garbage. To be more environmentally friendly, you can buy compostable bags at almost any pet store.
- Scoop and flush it down the toilet. This might be the best option, because then your community sewage treatment plant or your septic system treats the pet waste.



Yard Waste Collection

Yard Waste collection begins in April after the snow cover melts. Woody tree waste can be brought to the Anoka County site. Be sure to use the proper bags and bundle the brush or order a City Yard Waste/Organics (YW/O) cart. Personal containers will not be emptied by the hauler. YW/O carts can be ordered anytime by calling 763-7063706. They are emptied year-round and come with an organics kitchen kit and new bag of compost.

Refuse Holiday Schedule

- Presidents Day, Feb 18, no delay
- Good Friday, April 19, no delay
- Memorial Day, May 27, service delayed one day all week
- Yard waste/organics will be emptied throughout winter

Plastic Bags/Styrofoam Now Accepted at Recycling Center

The Columbia Heights Recycling Center now accepts plastic bags and Styrofoam. Bags must be brought directly to the Recycling Center at 3801 Madison St NE, Columbia Heights, on Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm. If 500 lbs of plastic gets recycled in six months, Trex Inc will donate a park bench to the City made from film plastics. Please thank the Kiwanis Club for 35 years of Recycling Center volunteering!

Fix-It Clinic is March 2 from 10 am to 1 pm

The next Fix-It Clinic in Columbia Heights will be Sat, March 2, 10 am to 1 pm, at Community United Methodist Church, 950 Gould Ave NE. Bring broken items for possible repair to this free event. You can donate repaired items if you don’t want them. There will be a scrap metal recycle bin for non-repairable items. Volunteer fixers needed. Call 763-706-3700.

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/

City Accepting Nominations for Outstanding Citizen Until May 1

Do you know of someone making a positive impact in our community? Someone who's gone unrecognized for all the great things they have done to make the City a better place? Every year Columbia Heights seeks nominations for

an Outstanding Citizen, in both adult and youth categories. Nominations for 2019 are being accepted until May 1. Please contact the City Clerk at 763-706-3611 for details, or stop by City Hall to pick up a nomination form.

Organics Recycling Takes Off

Continued from page 11

Last year the apartment complex won an Anoka County Recycling Champion award for the progress it's made not just in offering a wide range of recycling, organics, electronics and other disposal options, but also for taking the time to promote these services to residents.

Any multi-dwelling building can participate in these programs, Davies said. Organics pick-up services costs a flat rate of \$2.50 per building, and each resident can receive a small recycling and organics basket from the City. Just call 763-706-3700.

Not only do these programs help the environment and keep the cost of trash disposal lower, they can prevent plumbing clogs by keeping compost out of drains.

"I'm hoping this organics program helps keep our garbage disposals clear," Cummings said.

First Year of Curbside Organics a Success

More than 1,000 households signed up for Columbia Heights' curbside yard-waste/organics pick-up during the first year the program was offered. Trash disposal was reduced by 500 tons, saving the City \$37,500.

Additionally, general recycling increased in the City by 19 percent last year, and 32 percent of the total solid waste handled by the City was recycled.

To request an organics cart or recycling cart, call 763-706-3700. Unlike garbage fees, fees for recycling and organics pick-up do not increase when a bigger cart is used.



Lindsay Edwards-Schell and Amada Marquez Simula at the inaugural Cheers for Beers in 2018

Cheers for Beers Returns May 17

Cheers for Beers, a collaborative effort between the City-owned Top Valu Liquor stores and the HeightsNEXT community group, will return for its second year May 17 at Murzyn Hall, from 6-9 pm.

Come out and taste a huge line up of fantastic local and national craft brews. There will be more than 30 breweries attending as well as food trucks and a silent auction. Proceeds will be donated to the local volunteer organization HeightsNEXT, whose mission is to promote sustainability and resiliency in Columbia Heights through community and culture.

Tickets for unlimited beer tasting are \$35 and can be purchased at any of the three City-run liquor stores in town (for cash or check), or at cheersforbeersmn.com.

Tickets can also be purchased at the door for an additional \$5. This is a 21+ event.

Spring Wine Tasting

Top Valu Liquor #1
April 3, 5:30 to 8 pm
More than 50 wine selections

This is a 21+ event



TOP VALU LIQUOR
MUNICIPALLY OWNED

Top Valu #1: 4950 Central Ave

Top Valu #2: 2105 37th Ave NE

Heights Liquor: 5225 University Ave NE