

CITY NEWSLETTER



All aboard! The Canadian-Pacific Holiday Train will be making its annual stop in town Dec 11, 8 pm, at Lions Park on 37th Ave, between 37th Ave & Stinson Blvd. Festivities will begin at 7 pm.

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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.

Rules and Submission Guidelines:

- Submit photos to photos@columbiaheightsmn.gov
- All photos must be taken in Columbia Heights.
- Photos should be of sufficient size to print at 11 inches across at a minimum of 300 pixels per inch. Keep in mind, no more than 15 megabytes can be sent in a single email. If you submit a photo and do not receive confirmation within a week, please call 763-706-3615.
- Use "CH 100th Anniversary Images" in the subject line of your email. Within the email, include your name, as you would like it to appear in any publications of your image, contact info, and photo title. Photo captions are also encouraged.
- Non-digital photos may be scanned and emailed. If you do not have access to a scanner or to email, you may bring your photos to City Hall, 590 40th Ave NE, during business hours to be scanned by staff.
- A total of up to three photos can be entered per person.
- With the exception of historical photos, entries must be submitted by the original photographer.
- Open to residents and non-residents alike.
- Amateur, as well as professional photographers, are welcome to enter the contest.
- Photos can be color or black and white. Minor digital enhancement is permitted, but images that have been significantly modified or appear unnatural will likely not be considered.
- Horizontal (landscape) photos will be prioritized over vertical photos.

- By submitting an entry to the contest, the submitter grants permission to the City of Columbia Heights the use of the photo(s), and rights associated to the use of the photographic likeness, in promotional materials, on the City's website, in the City's newsletter and other social media accounts, without compensation. Photos used for these purposes will always include proper photo credit.
- Historical photos will also be accepted.
- Submit photos no later than Aug 5, 2020. Photographers are encouraged to submit earlier if possible.
- If you do not receive a confirmation email within one week after submitting your photo, please call 763-706-3615 to confirm the photo has been received.
- No entry fees to participate.



Judging:

- Entries will be reviewed by a panel of judges designated by the City of Columbia Heights. In order to ensure anonymous judging, please do not include a signature or watermark that would reveal the name of the photographer on the photo itself.
- Judges will consider clarity, focus, composition, originality and lighting, and will select photos taken at different times of the year. Judges will also consider which photos best represent Columbia Heights.

Email images to photos@columbiaheightsmn.gov by Aug 5, 2020

Visit columbiaheightsmn.gov for updates. Call 763-706-3615 with questions.



FEB 8

CITY SERVICES EXPO & EXPERT PANEL

A FOCUS ON REDEVELOPMENT

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY, 11 AM–1 PM

Come visit with representatives from Columbia Heights City Hall, Public Works, Recreation, Library, Police and Fire, get your questions answered and learn about some of the great things happening at the City of Columbia Heights. This year's Expo focus will be redevelopment.

Got questions about the NE Bank Building? City Hall? The Comprehensive Plan? Business development? An expert panel made up of City officials and consultants will be there to answer questions from the audience.

The event will be held in the Community Room of the Columbia Heights Public Library Feb 8, 11 am-1 pm. There will be free cookies and coffee available.



Holiday Train Is Returning Dec 11

The CP Holiday Train will be rolling through Columbia Heights Dec 11 at 8 pm. The train, with performers Meghan Patrick, Tanika Charles, and Kelly Prescott, will stop at Lions Park on 37th Ave, between 37th Ave & Stinson Blvd, on the border of Columbia Heights and Minneapolis. This is a festive, family-friendly event that helps raise money and food donations for area food shelves. City activities and fire pit ignitions begin at 7 pm. Be sure to bundle up!



Families gathered in the hundreds last year for the Holiday Train event and concert in Lions Park. The event raised \$18,600 in donations.

The KonMari Way Comes to the Columbia Heights Library Jan 15



KonMari™ founder Marie Kondo with class instructor Christine Hofler

Do you feel overwhelmed by clutter and chaos in your home? Are you frustrated with disorder, but unable to maintain the systems you've tried in the past? Ready to make a change?

Learn how to align your possessions with your priorities to curate and cultivate a life you love in the "Declutter and Organize the KonMari™ Way" workshop at the Columbia Heights Library Jan 15, 6 pm.

Christine Hofler, a Certified KonMari™ Consultant, will demonstrate how to set your focus and be successful in the KonMari Method™ of decluttering and organizing. You will leave with a deeper understanding of the KonMari Method™ and how to apply it in your home.

Registration is required. Call 763-706-3690 or visit www.anokacounty.us/events to register.

Presidential Primary Is March 3: Here's What You Need to Know

All voting places will be open for the Presidential Primary Tue, March 3, 2020. Polls will be open 7 am to 8 pm.

The only office on the ballot will be president. Other offices with a primary will be on the primary ballot in August.

There will be a separate ballot for each party. Voters must request the ballot of the party of their choice.

Only major political parties will be included. Major Parties in Minnesota are the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis Party, Legal Marijuana Now Party, and the Republican Party of Minnesota. So there's potential of up to four different ballots.

Absentee Voting Begins Jan 17

Absentee voting for the presidential primary runs from Jan 17 through March 2. You can vote in-person at City Hall during normal office hours (Mon-Fri 8-4:30 pm). City Hall will also be open Sat, Feb 29, from 10 am to 3 pm for absentee voting.

You can also vote by mail. Submit a request for an absentee ballot on the Secretary of State's website, fill out a

paper application and send to Anoka County Elections by mail, fax, or email, or call Anoka County Elections at 763-324-1300 and request an absentee voting application to



be sent to you. Links to these resources will be included on the Elections page on the City's website at columbiaheightsmn.gov/elections as soon as they are available.

The City elections website (columbiaheightsmn.gov/elections) also includes links to other election resources including a polling location finder, sample ballots, and voter registration information.

For questions on elections, or to apply to be an election judge, please contact Nicole Tingley, City Clerk at 763-706-3611 or ntingley@columbiaheightsmn.gov

Library Card Smartpass



Did you know? If you have a library card in the Twin Cities, you have the opportunity to reserve free and/or

discounted admission to a wide range of arts experiences. Visit smartpass.melsa.org to learn more!

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

Tea 101 Class

Tue, Dec 3, 5:30 pm

Learn to distinguish different tea flavor profiles and make the perfect cup of tea all while sampling teas from around the world. Registration required.

Living With Vision Loss

Thu, Dec 5, 1 pm

Understand major causes of vision loss, ways to adapt, and learn about community resources, including volunteers, training, and peer mentors. Call 763-706-3690 to register.

Consult With a Law Librarian

Dec 11, Jan 8, Feb 12: 5-7 pm

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

Make Pet Beds for Shelters

Sat, Dec 14, 12-3 pm

Help make pet beds for local animal shelters. If you have clean fleece blankets, flannel sheets, thick blankets, old sweatshirts, etc., bring them along.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Tue, Dec 17, 11 am-6 pm

Drop by the library, call 1-800-733-2767, or register online at www.redcrossblood.org to give blood.

Needlecraft Drop-In Group

3-5 pm: Jan 13, Feb 10

Library Book Club

10 am: Jan 15, Feb 19

Senior Surf for Adults 55+

9:30-11:30 am: Dec 4, Jan 8, Feb 5

Internet lessons. Registration required.

Fight Snow and Ice Class

Wed, Feb 5, 1 pm

Prevent slippery sidewalks using environmentally sound methods

Meditation Workshop

Wed, Feb 5, 6 pm

Learn meditation techniques to help let go of anger, fear and worry. Workshop includes a short meditation session.

English Conversation Circles

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

Drop in for these English language group practice sessions.

Winter Reads

January and February

Join in the library's winter reading program for adults and get reading suggestions, share book reviews, and have the chance to win prizes!

Kids and Teen Programs

4-H Junior Kitchen

Mondays, Dec 2, 9, 16, 5-6:30 pm

Nutrition program led by teen teachers! Grades 3-5. Registration required.

Canta y Baila Conmigo

Tue, Dec 10, 10:30 am

Música y movimiento en español. An innovative music and movement class in Spanish. Registration required.

LEGO Challenge

4-5 pm: Dec 11, Jan 8, Feb 12

For grades K-6. Walk-ups welcome.

STEAM Saturdays*

11:30 am: Dec 28 (science storytellers),

Jan 25 (motor power, for grades 3-5)

Hands-on science fun for families!

Puttin' On the Ritz**

Mon, Dec 30, 2 pm

Craft decorative hats for New Year's. Grades 1-5. Registration required.

Noon Year's Eve Dance Party

Tue, Dec 31, 11:30-12:15 pm

We will count down to 12 (noon) with stories, songs, dancing, and crafts. For kids 5 and under, and their caregivers.

Craft Lab: Smart Phone Photos

Fri, Dec 27, 2 pm

Learn how to navigate the basic elements of smartphone photography. Must bring your own phone. Grades 6 and up. Registration required.

Blues Workshop for Kids*

Tue, Jan 21, 2 pm

Learn blues history. Grades 3-6. Registration required.

Teen Humane Society Service

Sat, Feb 1, 11-1 pm

Create toys for dogs to donate to our local Humane Society location. Grades 6 and up. No 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. **Funded by the MN Arts and Cultural Heritage fund.

Storytime @ the Library

Jan 6-Feb 20

Family Storytime

Mondays, 10:30-11 am

Baby Read, Baby Grow!

Thursdays, 10:30-11 am

For infants birth to 24 months

Toddler Play Date

Jan 21 and Feb 18, 10:30 am

For infants birth to preschool

Library Hours

Mon-Wed, 9 am to 8 pm

Thu-Fri, 9 am to 5 pm

Sat, 11 am to 4 pm

Library Closures

Dec 24-25 • Jan 1 • Jan 20 • Feb 17

3939 Central Ave NE • (763) 706-3690

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov

Cable Channel 19

Facebook: @ColumbiaHeightsPublicLibrary

Council Votes to Locate New City Hall at Central and 40th

The Columbia Heights City Council voted 5-0 Sept 23 at its regular meeting to authorize the establishment of a new, 20,000 square-foot City Hall as part of a vertical mixed-use development at 3989 Central Ave.

The City Hall will be owned by the City, like a condo, though it will be part of a larger private development. The City will be partnering with the Leo A Daly LLC architecture firm to help design the facility. Alatus LLC emerged as the City's preferred partner for the overall redevelopment of the 3989 Central Ave NE site.

The City currently owns the property and plans to sell it to Alatus in the next few months. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2020 and last for 18 months.

More Details and Background

The current mixed-use concept plan proposed by Alatus for the site includes the development of approximately 266 luxury apartments, 3,500 square feet of retail, and 20,000 square feet of office space.

Shortly after selection as the City's preferred partner, Alatus approached City staff and the Council to gauge interest on a public-private partnership that would program a new City Hall space into their Central Avenue project.

In response to the inquiry by Alatus, staff were directed to work with the Alatus development team to further refine their plans so a more fully developed concept plan could be vetted in the future. Alatus was directed by the Council to prove to the City that a functional layout could be achieved on the site in a cost-effective manner.

In review of the draft site plan, preliminary budget, and pros and cons analysis, staff believed that the City should move forward and partner with Alatus to locate a new City Hall at 3989 Central Ave and made that recommendation at the Sept 23 Council meeting. Locating City Hall within the Alatus development has the potential to save the City more than \$6 million when compared to the preferred stand-alone option that was being considered near Murzyn Hall on Huset Park West. City officials conducted a public hearing detailing the two sites on Sept 18 at Murzyn Hall.

Plans to build a new City Hall have been brewing for several years. The condition of the existing building is such that necessary renovations were expected to cost upwards of \$6-8 million over the next decade.

For preliminary site plans, cost-comparisons, condition reports, and further details, visit www.columbiaheights.gov/cityhallreports.

PRELIMINARY BUILDING PLAN FOR 3989 CENTRAL AVE.

Note: Because specific colors have not yet been decided, white is used here as default.





Planning commissioners from left to right: Tom Kaiser, Stan Hoium (Treasurer), Marlaine Szurek (Chair), Rob Fiorendino (Vice Chair), Mike Novitsky, and Eric Sahnw. Not pictured: Adam Schill.

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 last year, a different commission was highlighted in each newsletter, starting with the EDA.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission acts as an advisory board to the City Council on matters relating to zoning, development, and conditional and interim use permit applications. The Commission acts as the Board of Appeals and Adjustments of Variance and Appeal Cases. It also helps prepare and maintain a Comprehensive Plan for the physical development of the City.

The Planning Commission consists of seven members appointed by the Council. The appointed members serve four-year staggered terms. The City Planner, Building Official and City Attorney serve as ex-officio members of this commission. John Murzyn Jr is the commission's Council liaison. The Commission meets the first Tuesday of each month, 6 pm, at City Hall.

2040 Comprehensive Plan Adopted by the City Council

The City Council adopted the 2040 Comprehensive Plan at its regular meeting Nov 12. The document is available online at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/compplan. The Plan articulates the City's vision and is used to help guide long-term decisions by the Planning Commission and City Council. It also serves as the basis for changes in codes and regulations. Minnesota State law requires every municipality within the seven-county metropolitan area to review and revise its comprehensive plan every 10 years.

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

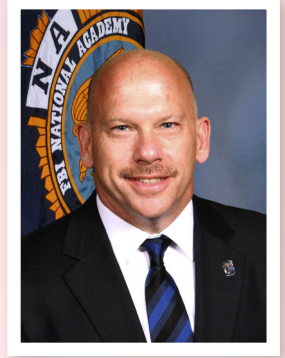
Chief Austin Completes Specialized FBI Training

Columbia Heights Police Chief Lenny Austin was among 256 law enforcement officers who graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, this September. The 277th session of the National Academy consisted of men and women from 50 states and D.C. and included members of law enforcement agencies from 34 countries, five military organizations, and nine federal civilian organizations.

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy offers 10 weeks of advanced communication, leadership, and fitness training. Participants must have proven records as professionals within their agencies to attend. FBI Academy instructors, special agents, and other staff with advanced degrees provide the training.

The coursework includes a fitness component, culminating in a final test called the “Yellow Brick Road,” which is a grueling 6.1 mile run/obstacle course through a hilly, wooded trail built by the marines. Chief Austin endured that challenge and learned from many other, less grueling, lessons at the Academy. He gained significant new insights into modern-day law enforcement,

including some eye-opening facts about the increasing prominence of technology and cybercrime. But one of his biggest takeaways was that the Columbia Heights Police Department has been on the right track in its commitment to community policing.



“They really emphasized the importance of building relationships,” Austin said. “No matter how good technology gets, at the end of the day, the most effective crime-fighting tools are the relationships we build with our community partners and the one-on-one interactions we have with our fellow neighbors.”

The department creates at least one opportunity per month for residents to meet with officers in a low-stress environment, from the monthly Coffee With a Cop series (see below) to the annual spring-time Citizen’s Police Academy, which returns April 2. To sign up for the academy or to find out more about any other CHPD community policing initiative, please call Community Policing Officer Bill Monberg at 763-706-8142.

Coffee WITH A Cop

Community United Methodist
Mon, Dec 9, 5-6:30 pm

Hart Lake Apartments
Tue, Jan 14, 1-2:30 pm



Letting Cars Run Unattended Encourages Auto Theft and Violates City Ordinance

While it’s tempting to warm up your vehicle during the colder months by leaving it running unattended with the keys in the ignition, residents should know that not only is this a violation of the City’s open ignition ordinance, it’s also one of the most likely ways to have your car stolen.

Remote start features may be used, since the ignition remains locked and there is no key in the vehicle.

Getting into a cold car is no fun, but having your car stolen or receiving a citation is worse. Please don’t leave your car running with the keys in the ignition.

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.





A CALL TO SERVE ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS WANTED

The Columbia Heights Fire Department is seeking paid on-call firefighters to join its team. If you're 18 or older, live close to or within the City borders, and have a valid driver's license, you're eligible to apply. We'll also need a phone number and email address. If you would like to learn more about being a firefighter, please attend the **Fire Department's Recruitment Open House, Jan 15, 6-8 pm.** Call 763-706-8150 to register.

On-call firefighters get paid per call and for training, and are eligible for a pension. The City currently has 14 on-call firefighters, but Fire Chief Charlie Thompson hopes to double that number. The more firefighters on-call, the more comprehensive the department's emergency response can be, which in turn can save lives.

While being a paid on-call firefighter is a big commitment, it's also understood that those who join are going to be busy with day jobs and family life and will require flexibility.

"We're offering training sessions designed to accommodate today's busy individuals as best we can," said Chief 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, please call 763-706-8150, stop by the CH Fire Department to pick up an application, or visit heightsfire.com.

City Joins Citizen Response Service for Cardiac Emergencies

Anoka County and Columbia Heights are partnering with PulsePoint Respond, a smart phone app that empowers everyday citizens to provide life-saving assistance to victims of sudden cardiac arrest. App users who have indicated they are trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and willing to assist in case of an emergency can be notified if someone nearby is having

a cardiac emergency. The notification goes out at the same time as the 911 dispatch. If the emergency is in a public place, the location-aware application alerts users in the vicinity and will identify the exact location of the closest Automated External Defibrillator (AED). To sign up or learn more, visit www.pulsepoint.org/download.

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

The Presence of the Destructive Emerald Ash Borer Beetle Has Been Verified in Columbia Heights

The Emerald Ash Borer beetle was officially confirmed in Columbia Heights in July 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.

What This Means For Your Ash Trees

There's little time to spare. Untreated ash trees in Columbia Heights will likely die within the next two to five years. If they're already showing noticeable signs of infestation, it's probably too late for preventive treatment.

"I've seen properties with six or seven ash trees on them, so for some residents this is going to be a very big deal," said Liam Genter, urban forestry specialist. "When ash trees die, they go pretty quickly. They get brittle, more expensive to remove, and more likely to lose branches during a storm, so they become safety hazards."



Two Viable Options for Your Ash Trees

1. Chemical Treatment

Systemic trunk injections of emamectin benzoate 4% performed by a licensed and bonded tree-care expert once every three years can be highly effective in treating and preventing EAB infections. Treatments will have to be repeated every three years as long as EAB populations remain high in

the area, likely 10 years at a minimum. Mid-May to mid-June is the optimal time for injections in Minnesota.

Please keep in mind that chemical treatments are only effective on ash trees that are still healthy or only lightly to moderately affected by EAB. Consult an ISA certified arborist or the City's forester (763 706-3708) to determine if your ash trees are good candidates for treatment.

2. Removal

If the tree is already showing noticeable signs of disease resulting from EAB, the only viable option is removal. The best time to remove trees is during the dormant season, January to March.

Tree removals in Columbia Heights must be performed by contractors licensed to work within the City. Always choose a licensed, bonded, and insured tree-care professional and seek multiple estimates if possible.

Keep in mind, Anoka County is under formal EAB quarantine established by the MN Department of Agriculture. All wood and waste from ash tree removals are subject to regulation under the MDA quarantine and must be disposed of properly.

For more information and a list of helpful resources, please visit Columbiaheightsmn.gov/EAB. For specific questions or consultation, call the City forester at 763 706-3708.

Emerald Ash Borer Beetle: Identification and Precautions

Residents are encouraged to look at their ash trees for signs of EAB. Checking for EAB, reporting possible infestations, and following quarantines can slow the spread of EAB.

When Checking for EAB:

- Be sure you've identified an ash tree. EAB only feeds on ash trees.
- Look for woodpecker damage. Woodpeckers like EAB larvae and woodpecker holes may indicate the presence of EAB.
- Check for bark cracks. EAB larvae tunneling under the bark can cause the bark to split open, revealing the larval (S-shaped) tunnels underneath.
- Look for branches sprouting from the middle of the tree while top branches are thinning

If you feel your ash tree may be infested with EAB, email arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us or call 888-545-6684.

Tips to Keep EAB From Spreading:

The biggest risk of spreading EAB comes from people unknowingly moving firewood or other ash products harboring larvae.

- Don't transport firewood. Buy firewood locally from approved vendors, and burn it where you buy it.
- Be aware of the quarantine restrictions. If you live in a quarantined county, be aware of the restrictions on movement of products such as ash trees, wood chips, and firewood. Anoka County is under quarantine.

For detailed information about EAB identification, treatment and/or removal options, please visit www.mda.state.mn.us/eab.

Go Green for the Holidays

The holidays are a wonderful time of year, but they can also generate a lot of preventable waste. Below are just a few suggestions for going greener this holiday season.

Cleaning Is a Recycling Opportunity

The holidays can be a mess to clean up after, but getting rid of all that clutter is a great opportunity to use the recycling options provided by the City of Columbia Heights and local donation drop spots. Call (763) 706-3700 for more info or to request a recycling packet.

Shed Some Light

Holiday string lights are a beautiful decoration during the dark days of winter. When your current string lights burn out, you can bring them to the Columbia Heights Recycling/Drop Off Center (see below).

Consider the Christmas Tree

Citywide Christmas tree pickup will begin Mon, Jan 6, and continue through Fri, Jan 17. Residents must call 1-888-960-0008 to schedule the pickup. Don't buy a flocked or painted tree as they can't be composted. Bring artificial trees you want to get rid of to the recycling center (see below). Remove all lights and decorations before disposal.

Columbia Heights Recycling/Drop Off

- Dumpster for cardboard and extra recycling carts available
- Open Sat, 9 am to 1 pm, closed Nov 30, Dec 21, Jan 4
- Madison Street and 38th Place NE



Anoka County Compost Sites

Anoka County has two compost sites that accept tree waste (for branches over 4"), yard waste, and Christmas trees. Please note that a fee may be charged. Visit this link for more info: <https://www.anokacounty.us/359/Compost-Sites>. Christmas tree pickup will begin Mon, Jan 6, and continue through Fri, Jan 17. Residents must call 1-888-960-0008 to schedule the pickup. Bring artificial trees you want to get rid of to the recycling center.

Simple Ways to Go Green at a Holiday Party or Gathering

- Only serve food and beverages in washable or recyclable containers.
- Use decorations that can be reused in future years, and limit or don't use balloons.
- Provide recycling bins for cans, bottles, and other recyclables that may be produced at your event. Simply roll out your cart from your home or borrow event recycling bins from Anoka County (763) 324-3400. Extra recyclables can be brought to the Recycling Center, call 763-706-3700 to arrange.
- Use tableware made with recycled content.
- If not using washable dishes, consider using compostable products with a BPI logo. Call 763-706-3700 to order a City compost cart.
- Find more resources and tips about preventing food waste at savethefood.com

Refuse Holiday Schedule

- **Thanksgiving Day, Nov 28**
Service delayed Thursday and Friday.
- **Christmas Day, Dec 25**
Service delayed Wednesday through Friday
- **New Year's Day, Jan 1**
Service delayed Wednesday through Friday
- **Martin Luther King Jr Day, Jan 20**
No delay
- **Presidents' Day, Feb 17**
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
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/refuserates

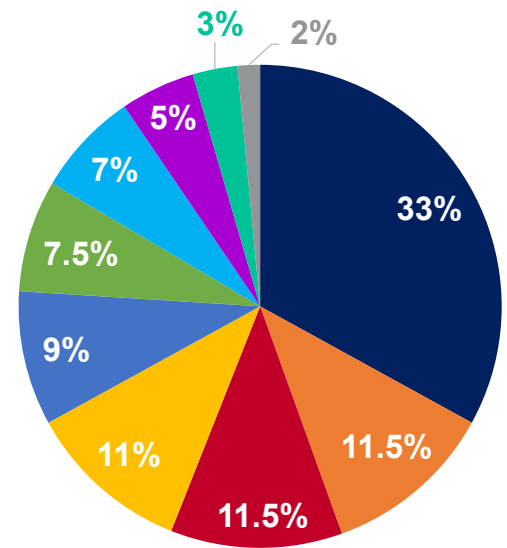
2020 City Manager's Budget Update

The proposed 2020 budget under consideration by the Columbia Heights City Council is available for review online at columbiaheightsmn.gov/budget. This document was used by the County Auditor to prepare Notice of Proposed Property Taxes mailed to each property owner in November. Opportunity to comment on this budget continues through the final public meeting for it Dec 9, 7 pm, at Columbia Heights City Hall.

The annual budget process begins with each City department analyzing objectives for the coming calendar year and preparing budget requests to accomplish those objectives.

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. 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.

~25% of the City's proposed 2020 budget is funded by local property taxes. These taxes are divided up approximately as shown here:



- Police Services
- Fire and Emergency Medical Response and Rental/Fire Inspections
- Streets and Engineering
- Administration, Finance, Assessment, Legal, and City Clerk Functions
- Park Maintenance/Park Construction
- Library Services
- Principal/Interest Payments and City Hall Occupancy Costs
- Recreation/Murzyn Hall/Hylander Center
- Economic Development Authority and Transfers to City Planning
- Mayor/Council Budget and Contingencies

Winter Weather Reminders for Residents

Snow Plows and Parking After Storms

- Please make way for snowplow operators engaged in snow removal or ice control on City streets. These vehicles are equipped with a flashing, oscillating or rotating amber light. Operators have the discretion to disregard traffic laws if they judge it is safe to do so.
 - After a snowfall of 3 or more inches, no parking on the street is permitted until it has been plowed from curb-to-curb.

Snow Removal

- Please shovel or blow snow onto private property. It's against City Ordinance to put snow in the street.
- Please maintain the public side walks in the City right-of-way in front of your property, as required by City Ordinance.
- Ensure your garbage and recycling collection spot is cleared of snow and ice (as much as possible) before the truck operator

arrives to empty the containers. Don't put containers in the street.

- Fire hydrants can get buried during a snowstorm, which means firefighters responding to a call have to take extra time to shovel them out before they can actually fight a fire. You can save them vital moments by shoveling out the fire hydrants on your block after a storm. It will make you and your neighborhood safer.
- If you have an elderly neighbor who's incapable of shoveling, please consider volunteering to shovel their sidewalks and steps for them.

Frozen Pipes

- To keep your water pipes from freezing and bursting on extremely cold days, leave cabinet doors under sinks that face outside walls open, schedule someone to check on your house when you go out of town, insulate walls where piping runs if possible, do not turn your heat down during windy cold days, run cold water and make sure its temperature is above 40 degrees, and on the coldest days, allow a steady, pencil-width stream of water to continually run from faucets that have a supply pipe along an outside wall.

REMINDER: Street Parking Restrictions In Effect Nov 1–March 31, 2–6 am daily