



A bee helps pollinate flowers outside City Hall. Keeping the City's forest and native vegetation healthy and thriving is a major priority for Columbia Heights. More info on pages 4 and 12.

IN THIS ISSUE

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 Outstanding Citizen | 6 Election Spotlight | 10 Water Quality Report |
| 3 Summer Events | 7 Youth Commission | 11 Recycling Updates |
| 4 Pollinator Protection | 8 Nightingale Award | 12 EAB Situation Urgent |
| 5 Library Activities | 9 Firefighters Wanted | |



COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
REDISCOVER THE HEIGHTS

SEE FLIP SIDE FOR RECREATION PROGRAMS

THE SURVEY SAYS? 2022 Citywide Survey Results Available Online

The City of Columbia Heights hired the Morris Leatherman survey company to conduct a scientific survey of the City's residents to gauge how they felt about public services, facilities, utilities, events, communications, police, taxes, code enforcement, and other items important to the City and the community. The surveyors spoke with a random sample of 400 residents over three weeks in February 2022 and asked 130 questions. Results were received in early March. Survey results have a +/- 5% margin of error. To cut down on the non-response rate, surveyors would make several repeated attempts to reach any resident who was randomly selected for the survey and allowed residents to schedule a time that would be convenient for them to respond. The non-response rate for this survey was roughly 5 percent, well within the normal range. All survey results are available on the City's website. Paper copies can be acquired at City Hall.

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/survey

And the 2022 Outstanding Citizen Award Winner Is...

When Veronica Johnson heard she was named the 2022 Columbia Heights Outstanding Citizen of the Year, her first thought was of all the other people in town just as deserving of the honor as she is.

"There are so many people more worthy of this title," Johnson said, asking that this article be less about her and more about the thriving volunteer community in Columbia Heights and all the ways people can get involved.

"It's so easy to volunteer in this town," Johnson said. "We have so many opportunities. I'm just one of the many people who show up."

In fact, Columbia Heights keeps a running list of volunteer and service opportunities in town on its website at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/volunteer. Right now, you'll find information about Adopt-a-Drain, Anoka County Community Action, Athletic Boosters, the City Beautification Committee, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Bitty Kitty Brigade, Community Farmers Market, First Lutheran Church, Friends of the Library, HeightsNEXT, Kiwanis, Key Club, Lions Club, the City's Multicultural Advisory Committee, the Monarch Pledge, Neighborhood Watch, Rotary, the Sister Cities Committee, Southern Anoka Community Assistance (SACA), Government Advisory Commissions, City events and sponsorship opportunities, and Toastmasters, as well as a few paying public service opportunities like working as an election judge or being an on-call firefighter.

We welcome additions to the list. Do you want your community organization or non-profit to be added? Email details to bsandell@columbiaheightsmn.gov. For anyone reading this, we encourage you to consider getting involved if you haven't already, or please spread the word about all the available opportunities nearby.

As for Veronica, we can't end this article without talking about her at least a little bit. Veronica is the current president of the local Kiwanis Club, a longtime member of the Sister Cities group and American Association of University Women, a regular volunteer at SACA, Community United Methodist Church, and the League of Women Voters, an Anoka County Recycling Ambas-

sador, a regular Adopt-a-Drain participant, a dependable election judge for City elections, member of the Community Centennial Committee, and regular volunteer at City events. She was nominated by Dolores Strand and Karen Karkula and selected by the Mayor in consultation with last year's Outstanding Citizen winners. To find out more about the Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award, learn about past winners, or to nominate someone, visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/outstanding. Congratulations, Veronica!



Veronica Johnson (right) serving as an election judge in 2018.



Veronica volunteering at the Community United Methodist Church regular plant and rummage sale May 6, 2022.

Save the Dates for These Free ***SUMMER EVENTS!***



Community Art & Info Fair

June 23, 5-7:30 pm, Huset Park West. Art vendors, craft sales, info booths, live music, food trucks, and a petting zoo! To register a vendor booth, call 763-706-3730 by June 16. Event takes place near Murzyn Hall and splash pad.

Citywide Garage Sale

June 10-12, all weekend throughout the City. The Citywide Garage Sale returns for its fifth year. Want to get on the map? Email wrottler@columbiaheightsmn.gov by June 1. Last year, more than 80 residents registered!



Movies In the Park

Aug 11, Ferris Bueller's Day Off, 8:30 pm, Huset Park West

Aug 25, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, 8 pm, Huset Park West

Sept 16, Encanto, 7:30 pm, McKenna Park (free popcorn at all movies)



Music In the Park

June 1, Bluedog, 6:30-8 pm, Huset Park East, food trucks on site

July 6, The Jolly Ramblers, 6:30-8 pm, Huset Park East, food trucks on site

Aug 3, Pickle, 6:30-8 pm, Huset Park East, food trucks on site

For info on these and many other summer events in town, visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/events, or call 763-706-3614. And don't forget about the HeightsNEXT **Monarch Festival**, Aug 17, 5-8 pm, in Sullivan Park, and the Lions' **Jamboree Festival**, June 22-26, with the Parade 6-8 pm, June 24, and Recreation's **Fireworks**, June 25, dusk.



CONTEST: 2023 Art of Columbia Heights Calendar

Calling all visual artists! The City will be making an Art of Columbia Heights Calendar for 2023 featuring photographs of art, artists, and artistic things in Columbia Heights, as well as visual art submissions from Columbia Heights residents. All photos must be taken within Columbia Heights, and all non-photo art submissions must be by a City resident. Artists whose images are chosen to be included in the calendar will receive recognition in the City Newsletter and two free copies of the calendar to keep. The submission deadline is Nov 1, 2022. Full guidelines at columbiaheightsmn.gov/photos.

Email images to photos@columbiaheightsmn.gov by Nov 1, 2022

Visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/photos for details. Call 763-706-3615 with questions.



Tips For Pollinator Gardens

About one-third of our natural food supply relies on bees' pollination, according to the MN Pollution Control Agency. Anyone with a yard—no matter the size—can help restore the bee population by creating a bee-friendly garden. The MN Pollution Control Agency offers the following tips for quality pollinator gardens:

Grow a Wide Variety of Flowering Plants

The more diversity in your garden, the more bees you will support. To accommodate more species, be sure to plant flowers of differing sizes. Nourish bees with nectar-producing plants such as wild flowers. You can also plant flowering fruits and vegetables.

Native Plants Are Best

Native vegetation requires less maintenance and has evolved with bees native to your region. Native plants rarely turn invasive.

Plant Flowers that Bloom at Different Times

Growing flowers with overlapping bloom times is necessary to support pollinators. Goldenrods and sunflowers are essential for pollinators looking for high-energy food before a harsh winter.

Check the Labels

Some pesticides are toxic to bees or kill plants on which bees depend. The EPA has developed new pesticide labels that help you understand how to apply the pesticides and help protect bees. The City of Columbia Heights does not use insecticide sprays at all. Find out more about City practices at columbiaheightsmn.gov/pollinators.

Undisturbed Lawns Also Help Pollinators

In the spring of 2022, the City Council voted to pass a resolution allowing residents to keep from mowing their lawns until June. The No Mow May initiative is an international effort to help preserve pollinator habitat, particularly in the spring when pollinators may still be hibernating in the grass or need food from flowering lawns. Maintenance Code regulates the length of grass in yards but inspectors will not enforce the rules until June. This applies to all years moving forward. The City has yard signs for sale for \$15 at City Hall for those who participate (image on right), but the sign is not necessary. A related lawn practice that helps pollinators thrive is to leave fallen leaves undisturbed in the spring and fall and pick them up in warmer months. More at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/pollinators.



City Takes Mayors' Monarch Pledge in 2022, Volunteers Needed

Mayors and other heads of local and tribal government take action annually to help save the monarch butterfly, whose population is nearly wiped out. The National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge encourages communities to create habitat for the monarch butterfly and pollinators and educate residents about how they can make a difference. Columbia Heights has committed to the pledge for the second time in 2022. Volunteers are wanted. Email monarch@columbiaheightsmn.gov.

Get daily updates on Columbia Heights happenings by following us on Facebook @Columbiaheightsmn, Twitter @heightsmn or Instagram @columbiaheightsmn

Visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/enews to subscribe to our monthly emailed newsletter. For questions or concerns about City publications, call 763-706-3615.

Library Program Highlights

Below is a sampling of upcoming activities at the library. For a full list or more details, visit <https://bit.ly/3kyG6vJ> or call 763-706-3690. Programs that require registration are indicated by *. Register by calling 763-706-3690. For at-home service, call 763-706-3681. For renewals, call 763-324-1590.

All Ages Summer Reading Program***

Earn digital badges for minutes of reading, writing book reviews, and completing activities. Complete challenges and track your adventures using the Beanstack Tracker mobile app. Kids earn a free book with 20 badges; adults earn bragging rights and the joy of reading. June-Aug. Register at <https://anokacounty.beanstack.org>

Adult Programs

Library Book Club

10 am: June 15, July 20, Aug 17

Conversation Circle

Mondays, 5:30-6:30 pm

Thursdays, 2-3 pm

For English adult learners.

Author Talk: Kristal Leebrick*

June 15, 5:30 pm

Author of "Thank You for Shopping"

Watercolor and Pen: Floral* **

June 20, 5:30 pm

Android Smartphone Class*

June 21 or July 12, 2 pm

Charcoal au Plein Air Class* **

July 8, 10 am

Exploring Map Art* **

July 18, 5:30 pm

Wine/Words Book Club*

July 15, 3 pm, Murzyn Hall

Call 763-706-3735 to register.

Tree ID Workshop*

June 27, 5:30 pm

Sullivan Park Shelter

Blooming Heights Edible Schoolyard Tour*

July 18, 1 pm

Blooming Heights Gardens

Poems In the Park

Fridays, 10 am-3 pm

June 17, Sullivan Park

July 15, Prestemon Park

Aug 19, LaBelle Park

Getting ready for a summer road trip? Check out an audiobook or two! Audiobooks are available at the library on CD or for download via the Libby app.

Kids and Teen Programs

Summer Lunch

Weds & Thurs, June 15-Aug 11,
12-12:45 pm

Family Storytime

Mondays, June 6-Aug 8, 10:30-11 am

Story Strolls

June 21-24, Huset Park

July 12-15, Sullivan Park

Aug 9-12, Prestemon Park

Clay Garden Tiles* **

Sat, June 18, 1-3 pm

Science In the Summer*

Tue, July 19, 1-3 pm

With the Bakken Museum

Polymer Clay Steampunk Bugs* **

Sat, July 16, 1-3 pm

Encore at the Library*

Ollivander's Wand Workshop***

Wed, June 15, 2-3:30 pm

Animation Flipbooks***

Wed, June 22, 2-3:30 pm

Clay Creatures Session 1***

Wed, June 29, 2-3:30 pm

Clay Creatures Session 2***

Wed, July 6, 2-3:30 pm

Gyotaku Fish Prints***

Wed, July 13, 2-3:30 pm

Ink Painting With Bamboo Brushes***

Wed, July 20, 2-3:30 pm

Acrylic Painting***

Wed, July 27, 2-3:30 pm

Weaving a Wild Hanging***

Wed, Aug 3, 2-3:30 pm

Tangling and Meditative Drawings***

Wed, Aug 10, 2-3:30 pm

Young Punks: Art of the Patch* **

Thu, June 16, 3-5 pm

For teens.

Needle Felted Toadstools* ***

Thu, June 30, 1-3 pm

For teens.

Going Big With Coil Building* **

Wed, July 13, 1-3 pm

For teens.

Custom Screen Printing* ***

July 14, 21, 28; Aug 4, 3-4:30 pm

For teens.

** This program is funded by the MN Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. ***This program is partially funded with a grant from the MN 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 MN Department of Education.

Library Hours

Mon-Thu, 10 am to 7 pm

Fri, 10 am to 4 pm

Sat, 10 am to 3 pm

Sun, closed

Library Closures

May 28-30 • July 4 • Sept 3-5

3939 Central Ave NE • (763) 706-3690

At-home Service • (763) 706-3681

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov, www.anokacountylibrary.org, Cable Channel 19

Facebook: @chplibrary



I
Voted

Election Spotlight

Important 2022 Election Dates

May 31: Candidate filing period closes

June 24: Absentee voting for state primary begins

July 19: Last day to preregister to vote for the state primary (same-day registration still available)

Aug 6: Absentee voting at City Hall 10 am-3 pm

Aug 9: State Primary, polls open 7 am-8 pm

Sept 23: General Election absentee voting begins

Oct 18: Last day to preregister to vote for the General (same-day registration still available)

Nov 5: Absentee voting at City Hall 10 am-3 pm

Nov 8: General Election, polls open 7 am-8 pm

Jan 2: Terms begin for Mayor and Council

Voting Locations

Precinct 1, John P. Murzyn Hall

530 Mill St NE

Precinct 2, Greater Life Tabernacle Church

4000 Quincy 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, Highlander Center

1300 49th Ave NE

Precinct 7, Valley View Elementary School

800 49th Ave NE

Precinct 8, ChristLife Church

4555 University Ave NE

Election Judges Needed for August and November

Serving as an Election Judge is a great way to show pride in your community while learning about the election process and getting paid! Election judges serve as the officials in the polling places on election days. Duties include opening and closing the polls, registering and signing in voters, distributing and collecting ballots, operating voting equipment, recording and certifying vote totals, and ensuring voters' rights are protected.



Employers are required to give you time off from work to be an election judge without a reduction in

pay. This means you get to earn at least the same amount you would have had you gone to work.

For details, please call the City Clerk at 763-706-3611 or visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/elections.

Students Can Serve as Election Judges!

Student Election Judges serve alongside Election Judges with the same duties and pay. It is a great opportunity for students to serve the community and gain valuable experience while earning money! It also looks great on college applications and resumes! Visit columbiaheightsmn.gov/elections to fill out an election judge interest form. The City Clerk will contact you with more information once the form is received.



Commission Spotlight

The City of Columbia Heights has eight boards and commissions to advise the City Council on specific policies and make recommendations based on research and staff expertise: 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, the Traffic Commission, and the Youth Commission. This newsletter periodically highlights each. For this edition, we're putting a spotlight on the newly created Youth Commission.

Youth Commission

The City Council approved the creation of an official Columbia Heights Youth Commission in 2021. The first meeting of the Youth Commission convened March 9 with all 10 newly appointed residents (see photo) and concluded its last meeting of the school year May 11. The group will reconvene Sept 14 for its first full year of operation. Applications are now being accepted for new members. Meetings are at 6 pm on the second Wednesday of each month, Sept-May, unless otherwise noted.

The purpose of the Columbia Heights Youth Commission is to serve as an advisory body to the City Council, and other Boards and Commissions as appropriate, inspire and bring to light new ideas from a youth perspective, create an educational environment for youth looking to expand their knowledge of government and leadership functions, and provide experience-building opportunities for area youth seeking increased community and local government engagement.

Apply at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/youth

Email applications to sion@columbiaheightsmn.gov. Or mail or deliver completed applications to City Hall, 590 40th Ave NE. Members must be 14-18 years old and residents of the City of Columbia Heights.

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

Library(763) 706-3690

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 Márquez Simula.....(763) 706-3607
Councilmember Buesgens.....(763) 788-5072
Councilmember Jacobs(612) 810-0512
Councilmember Novitsky.....(612) 760-4463
Councilmember Murzyn(763) 781-4983

City Newsletter editor(763) 706-3615

Emergency911

MORE INFO AT:

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov

PLEASE SLOW DOWN

In light of several fatal car and pedestrian accidents along Central Ave, the Columbia Heights Police Department has stepped up its focus on speed enforcement. More officers have been monitoring Central Ave. Speed signs will also be more prevalent along the route. Driving too fast is by no means the only issue relating to traffic danger on Central Ave, but it is a major contributor. The CHPD asks that residents and anyone else driving through town please stick to the speed limits.

In past years, CHPD has reached out to area students, walkers, bikers, and drivers alike about traffic safety on Central.



These efforts will continue to focus on education and community outreach, as well as enhanced enforcement actions, to promote safer public transportation, safer sidewalks, safer bus stops, and increased driver safety.

CHPD Hosts Podcast

The CHPD launched a bi-monthly podcast last year to discuss law enforcement and public safety topics relevant to the community. Visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/podcast to listen, or search for Roll Call on Spotify or Apple Music.

2022 National Night Out Is Tue, Aug 2

National Night Out is an annual community-wide event that promotes strong police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer places to live and work. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. For info on hosting/registering your own event, call 763-706-8142.

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.

CHPS Superintendent and Staff Named 2021 Nightingale Recipient

Columbia Heights Public Schools superintendent and CHPS staff were the recipients of the 2021 T. Nightingale Community Service Award as selected by the Columbia Heights Police Department. Superintendent Zena Stenvik accepted the award at an April 12 School Board meeting.

“In many ways, the school district has been our most important partner,” said Columbia Heights Police Chief Lenny Austin. “Schools are a key part in the health and well-being of any city. When things are going well at the school, that can be a great barometer for how things are going citywide.”

For decades, the CHPD and CHPS have worked together with the common goal of supporting the community’s youth, Austin said. Early on, this partnership inspired traditional programs such as DARE, bicycle safety, and stranger danger. Over the years, it evolved to add many more outreach opportunities, including the open gym program, teen academy, bike giveaway, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Beginning in early 2020 and through all of 2021, the emergency conditions created by the global pandemic caused unprecedented challenges for connecting with youth and their families. At a time when other schools shut down their partnerships with their police departments completely, Superintendent Stenvik and the CHPS staff continued to be supportive and dedicated to these programs and sought innovative ways to safely keep the City connected whenever possible, Austin said.

For this award, the CHPD annually recognizes a member or members of the department or public who has made a significant contribution, or several smaller contributions, in community policing or service to the community.



Superintendent Stenvik with Chief Austin at April awards event.



ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS WANTED

The Columbia Heights Fire Department is seeking new firefighters to join its team. If you're 18 or older, live within 10 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 hourly compensation for training.

The more firefighters who are on-call, the more comprehensive the department's emergency response can be, which in turn can save lives.

"We're offering training on weekends, during the week-day, and evenings," said Fire Chief Charlie Thompson. "We want to accommodate as best we can. 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, visit heightsfire.com, or check out job openings at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/employment.

Having a Backyard Fire? Heed the Red Flag Warnings

On days where it's particularly dangerous to have a recreational fire, the National Weather Service will issue a Red Flag Warning banning the activity. For more about current fire restrictions, visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire.

Strong winds, low humidity, and a recent drought are the major risk factors for recreational fires. Even if you don't see a Red Flag Warning from the NWS, pay attention to the weather conditions and make a common sense judgment before firing up your BBQ or igniting the fire pit. If you choose to have a fire, be sure to have a water source, like a garden hose, nearby. Don't allow

the fire to get taller or wider than three feet. Ensure an adult is supervising the fire at all times. Burn only clean, dry firewood. NEVER burn leaves, building materials, yard waste, trash, or plastics. Keep the smoke as minimal as possible. Fire rings must be located a minimum of 25 feet from all structures, such as houses, and garages, and never on balconies. Enclosed freestanding fire pits must be at least 15 feet away from all structures.

Get Your Permits

Permits may be obtained from the Fire Department located at 825 41st Ave NE, Columbia Heights between the hours of 8 am and 4:30 pm, Mon through Fri.

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](https://www.facebook.com/columbiaheightsfire).

Non-Emergency: (763) 706-8150
Emergency: Call 9-1-1
Housing Maintenance Inspections: (763) 706-8156
fireinspections@columbiaheightsmn.gov



Be Neighborly, Improve Water Quality, Preserve 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, or ends up on the bottom of a neighbor's shoe. And it's also an eyesore. **Picking up after your pets is not only safer for the environment, it's the neighborly thing to do.**

When you can, scoop it up and flush it down the toilet. This way you don't use

a plastic bag, and the waste is treated.

If you're not near a toilet, 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.

You can also bury small quantities in your yard where it can decompose slowly. Put three or four inches of waste in a hole under at least eight inches of soil. Bury in multiple locations, don't bury near vegetable gardens, and always double check where underground utilities may be buried before you dig.

Adopt-a-Drain Program Improves Water Quality, Volunteers Wanted

Congratulations to Columbia Heights and its residents on winning the regional Community Adopt-a-Drain Challenge in 2021! Residents adopted 163 drains in the competition against Andover, Fridley, and Blaine. The challenge returns this year from March to October. To help your local environment, and help Columbia Heights win the Challenge again in 2022, adopt your drain or report a cleaning at mn.adopt-a-drain.org. You can even name your drain!

Debris in storm drains is a contributor to water pollution and increases flooding in streets. It takes about 15 minutes to clear out a clogged storm drain.

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.



Samara Bilyeu-Anderson and her daughter Liviana reported 90 cleanings in 2021, removing 176 pounds of debris from 13 adopted drains!

What You Put On Your Lawn and Driveway Washes Into Waterways

Water runoff from your driveway and lawn washes directly into the storm water drainage system. Storm drains are generally located along street curbs and siphon above ground water runoff. So **anything you put on your lawn, sidewalk, driveway or parking lot, or any waste you don't pick up, will drain into ponds, lakes, streams, and rivers.** These pollutants harm wildlife and recreation areas.

Special concerns include phosphorus fertilizers, petroleum products, salt, other chemicals, garbage, and sediments from erosion. Federal and State environmental laws have resulted in more stringent regulations concerning pollution from storm water systems. Local governments may incur large fines if they do not have an active program to reduce storm water pollution.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Public Information Session Is June 23

The Public Works Department conducts a required public informational session on our SWPPP (Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program) annually. This year it will be held June 23 during the Art and Info Fair in Huset Park, 5-7:30 pm. The City of Columbia Heights has developed a SWPPP

plan in response to Federal and State regulations concerning the quality of water entering streams, rivers, and lakes from storm water drainage systems. At this event, the public will have the opportunity to ask questions and give input and comments on the SWPPP.

Water Quality CCR 2021

A copy of the Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report is available at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/ccr, or call 763-706-3700 for a paper copy.

Spring Cleaning Creates a Great Reuse Opportunity

If you're cleaning out your house for summer or have items left over after a garage sale, please consider your reuse options. Columbia Heights and other local vendors provide many free reuse opportunities to properly donate most household items:



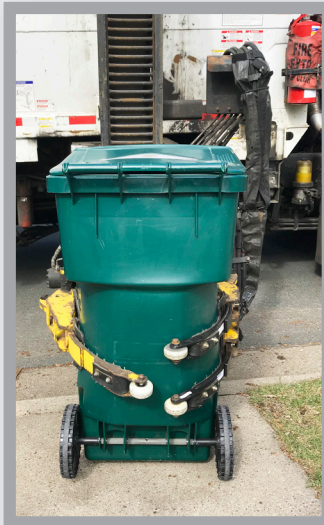
Consider donating used clothes and furniture instead of throwing away.

- Columbia Heights Recycling Center, 3801 Madison St NE, visit columbiaheightsmn.gov/recyclingcenter
- Curbside Appliance (1 free/year), Electronics (\$20 flat fee) and FREE Mattress Recycling, call 1-888-960-0008 for a pickup
- Fix-It clinics, visit www.anokacounty.us/3432/Fix-It-Clinics
- Household items, clothing, and furniture donations, visit columbiaheightsmn.gov/reuse for listings of donation vendors
- Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 3230 101st Ave NE., Blaine MN 55449, call 763-324-3400
- Anoka County yard and tree waste sites 13285 Hanson Blvd NW, Coon Rapids, or 7701 Main St., Lino Lakes
- Citywide Garage Sale, June 10-12 (see page 3)

Spring cleaning packets are available at City Hall or online at columbiaheightsmn.gov/reuse. Or call 763-706-3700 to order.

Robotic Arms Used for Curbside Pickup

Haulers use trucks with mechanical arms to collect trash and recycling. They use these trucks in the alleys, as well. Please place your cart out where the arm can reach it and allow some space between the carts. Refuse pads are a convenient way to accomplish this and the City will add these, by request and at-cost, to the annual concrete work schedule. Contact Publicworks@columbiaheightsmn.gov for specifications and pricing.



Waste Management

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

City Refuse/Recycling Website

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refuseandrecycling or 763-706-3727
online request form: www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refusesupport

Go Green For National Night Out: Tips for Ways to Reduce Block Party Waste

Reduce & Reuse

- Serve food and beverages in washable or compostable containers. Use reusable utensils or ask guests to bring some.
- Limit the use of paper napkins and towels (use washable napkins and towels).
- Offer straws only when requested.
- Consider a reusable banner that doesn't include the event year and date.
- Prevent food waste by requiring RSVPs or not cooking too much food ahead of the event. Plan for storage or donations of leftovers. For more: <https://savethefood.com>.

Compost

- If not using washable dishes consider using certified compostable products with a BPI logo. The City offers these products to household parties for free. Email publicworks@columbiaheightsmn.gov.
- Put out containers to collect food waste. Simply roll out your yard waste/organics cart from your home (see below to order).
- Make sure your organics collection containers are well-labeled so attendees know where to correctly place items. Call Public Works for free signs.
- Borrow event organic bins from Anoka County Recycling and Resource Solutions, contact information below.

Refuse Holiday Schedule

- **Memorial Day, May 30**, delayed one day
- **Independence Day, July 4**, delayed all week
- **Labor Day, Mon, Sept 5**, delayed all week

Sign up for a yard waste/organics cart, get a free bag of compost! Email publicworks@columbiaheightsmn.gov to order your cart.

Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions

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

Refuse Service Levels and Rates

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refuserates

CRITICAL! CITY URGES ACTION

Treat or Remove Your Ash Trees

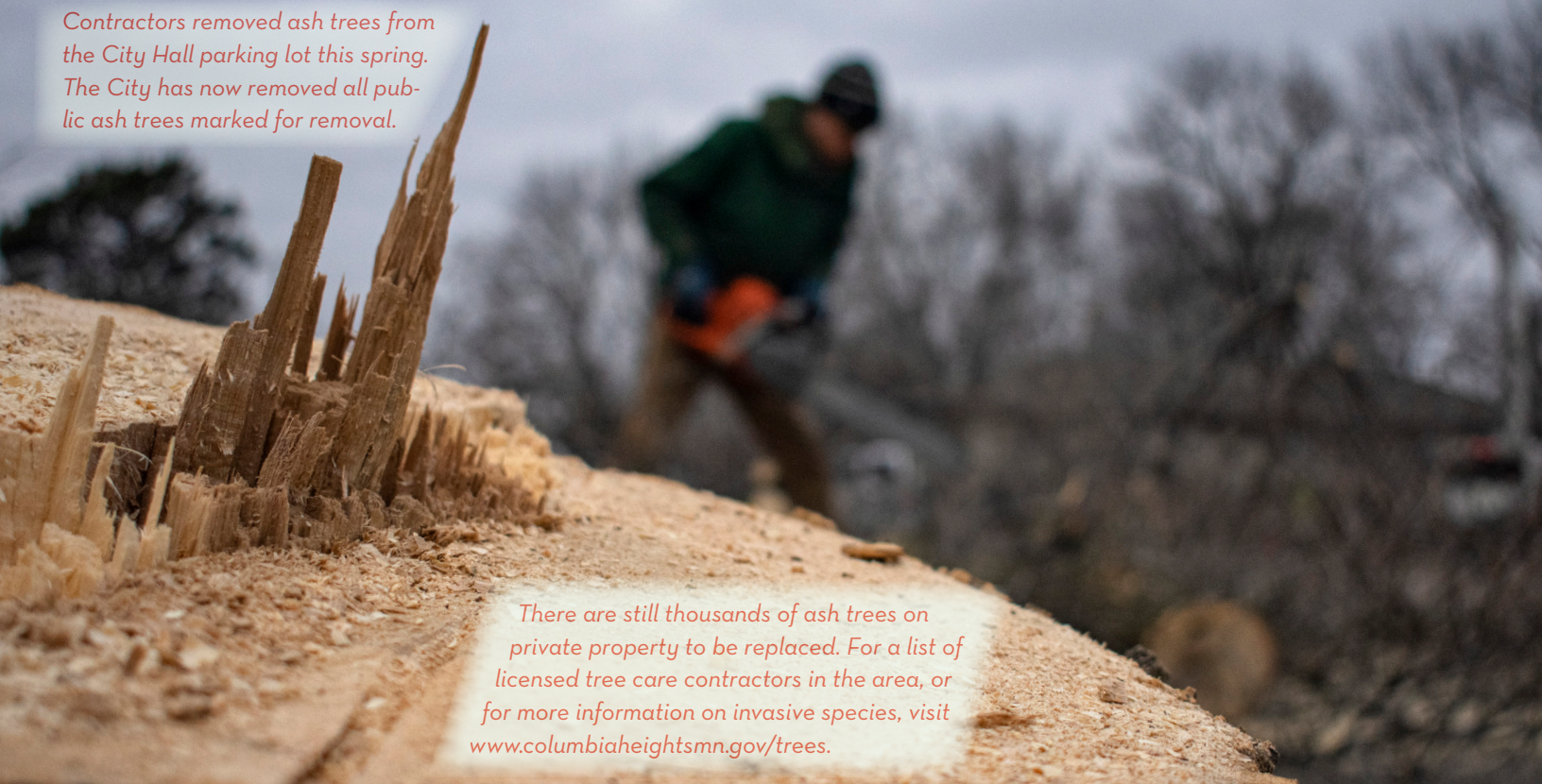
It's too late to treat most ash trees from the devastating effects of Emerald Ash Borer, but if the trees on your property look relatively healthy, they might be salvageable if you take action ASAP, says City Forester Liam Genter. Ash trees can be kept alive and healthy indefinitely with proper chemical treatment every two to three years. If you have ash trees on your property that you want to keep around, treatment should start ASAP. If you need help determining whether the tree is too far gone for treatment, please call the City for free consulting at 763-706-3722. Untreated ash trees will be killed by EAB infection in the next one-to-four years. The longer residents wait, the more expensive and dangerous it gets to remove dead trees.



Before It's Too Late!

The City has contracted with Rainbow Treecare to provide residents a deal on EAB treatment. The citywide bulk discount will be offered through 2022 to Columbia Heights homeowners for trees on private property that are at least 10" in diameter and in good physical condition. EAB has infected all areas of Columbia Heights. Your chance to save a tree through treatment is now or never. Visit rainbowtreecare.com/columbia-heights for more info. For a free tree inspection from the City, call Public Works at 763-706-3722.

Contractors removed ash trees from the City Hall parking lot this spring. The City has now removed all public ash trees marked for removal.



There are still thousands of ash trees on private property to be replaced. For a list of licensed tree care contractors in the area, or for more information on invasive species, visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/trees.

PLANNING SPRING AND SUMMER PROJECTS? DON'T FORGET YOUR BUILDING PERMIT

Visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/permits

Failure to pull a permit may result in:

- A risk to safety for you, your family, or future property owners or tenants
- Expensive fines
- Damage to property
- Having to tear down existing progress to start over with proper inspections
- Potential criminal citations

Most construction projects require a permit. Decks, driveways, fences, sheds, windows, pools—whatever your project is, get the information you need on acquiring the proper permits at columbiaheightsmn.gov/permits. Many permits are available to submit directly online. Also find an FAQ and contact info at the permits website. Call 763-706-3670 with questions.