

CITY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2022



SnowBLAST returns Feb 4 • 2023 Art of Columbia Heights Wall Calendar now on sale! • New garbage collection providers • More details on these and other updates inside!

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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

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 30308
TWIN CITIES, MN

SnowBLAST Festival Returns!

The Free Winter Event In Huset Park Is Feb 4, 4-7 pm



Come on by Huset Park from 4-7 pm, Feb 4, for the third annual Snow-BLAST winter festival, featuring a variety of fun outdoor activities for the whole family! Be sure to dress in warm clothing. Hope to see you there!

- ❄️ *Skating Rink Open**
- ❄️ *Free Pony Rides*
- ❄️ *Free Popcorn***
- ❄️ *Free S'mores Station***
- ❄️ *Fire Pits*
- ❄️ *Food Trucks*
- ❄️ *Music*
- ❄️ *Beer Sales*
- ❄️ *Free Hot Beverages***
- ❄️ *Snow Soccer*
- ❄️ *Bring a Sled and Enjoy the Hill*
- ❄️ *Snow Shoeing*

**Limited skates available for use*

***while supplies last*



The event is truly a community effort. City staff from recreation, public works, police, fire and administration rely heavily on volunteer support and contributions from several community groups and organizations. For more information, please visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/events.

2023

Art of Columbia Heights City Wall Calendar Now On Sale!



Submitted by Steven Nodgaard



Submitted by Erika Curran



Submitted by Levi Berg



Submitted by Todd Kewatt



Mural by Rebecca Krueger



Submitted by Tjody deVaal



Photo by Aaron Guzman



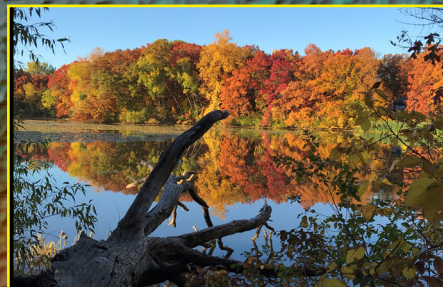
Submitted by Phillip Zuidema



Submitted by Phillip Zuidema



Submitted by Steven Nodgaard



Submitted by Gretchen Bias



Submitted by Ben Sandell

Order Your Columbia Heights 2023 Wall Calendar Now!

Want to get an early jump on your holiday shopping? The City's Art of Columbia Heights 2023 Wall Calendar is on sale for \$10. Proceeds go to help fund public City events. To order a calendar, please email Will Rottler at wrottler@columbiaheightsmn.gov, call 763-706-3614, or visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/photos. Calendars can be picked up at City Hall starting in December, or delivered (upon request). The calendar includes 2023 dates and event info relevant to Columbia Heights and images submitted by local artists and photographers selected anonymously with the help of a community art instructor and communications staff from Golden Valley, Blaine, and Ramsey County. Those whose images were selected (see image samples above) receive two free calendars.



Election Spotlight

2022 General Election Results

More than 7,500 ballots were cast in the 2022 midterm election in Columbia Heights, about 62% of the City's total registered voters.

For the City of Columbia Heights, Amáda Márquez Simula won reelection for mayor, and Rachel James and Justice Spriggs won first terms on the City Council. They'll be joining sitting council members Connie Buesgens and Kt Jacobs starting in January. For more election results, go here: <https://electionresults.sos.state.mn.us/>

Councilmember terms are four years beginning January, 2023, and ending January, 2027. The term for mayor is two years, ending January, 2025. The next General Election with mayor and council openings is Nov 5, 2024.

About the City Council

The City of Columbia Heights is governed by a five-member council, consisting of a mayor and four councilmembers elected at-large. The mayor serves a two-year term, with councilmembers serving staggered, four-year terms. Elections are held in November of even-numbered years.

The City of Columbia Heights is a charter city. The City Charter determines the procedures of city government in accordance with state statutes and the Minnesota State Constitution. Under this charter, the City has adopted the council-manager form of government. The City Council appoints the City Manager, who is the chief administrative officer for the City. The City Council meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 6 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers. For questions, contact City Clerk Sara Ion at 763-706-3611.

JOB FAIR AT THE COLUMBIA HEIGHTS LIBRARY JAN 9

The Anoka County Job Training Center is sponsoring a job fair in the Columbia Heights Library Community Room Mon, Jan 9, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. It will feature about 10-15 regional employers looking to hire.

The fair is for anyone seeking part-time or full-time work in entry or mid-level jobs. There will be open positions for a variety of skill levels. It's an open house format. No registration is required.



Columbia Heights Library Introduces Automatic Renewal Service

At the Columbia Heights Library, books and other physical media will now automatically renew three days before their due date. This service began on Nov 1. No sign-up needed.

Automatic renewal does not apply to items on a waiting list, items that have already been renewed four times, interlibrary loans, accounts with \$10 or more of fines or fees,

electronic materials (eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines,), bike locks, and state park passes.

You will know if your item has been renewed by checking the courtesy notice emailed to you, checking your online account, or by asking staff by phone (763-706-3690) or in person.

If an item cannot be renewed, you will continue to receive notices that your item is overdue.

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

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

Library Program & Activity 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 online or by calling 763-706-3690. For at-home service, call 763-706-3681. Visit columbiaheightsmn.gov/library for additional info.

Adult Programs

Watercolor Greeting Cards* **

Fri, Dec 2, 2 pm

Create hand-painted watercolor greeting cards to give your friends and family. Learn different techniques.

Sister Cities: A Visit to Poland*

Sat, Dec 3, 1:30 pm

The library and Sister Cities will host a presentation by the mayor about her recent trip to Lomianki, Poland, during their annual WWII memorial.

Consult a Law Librarian

5-7 pm: Dec 22, Jan 26, Feb 23

The Anoka County Law Library Director will be available to answer legal reference questions, help locate legal forms, and provide referrals where possible.

Feeding Birds in Winter*

Tue, Jan 17, 5:30 pm

Minnesota birds are hardy, but sometimes they can use a little help. Learn about seed, feeders and plants that support birds during winter.

Wine and Words Book Club*

Fri, Jan 20, 3 pm, Murzyn Hall

For patrons 21+. Come by for a wine tasting and book discussion in partnership with the Senior Center. Space is limited. Call 763-706-3730 to register.

Block Printing: Landscapes* **

Mon, Jan 30, 5:30 pm

Learn how to design, draw, carve, and print using a linoleum cutter and printing block. Mix your favorite colors to press a set of handmade cards.

Getting Started With Libby*

Wed, Jan 25, 2 pm OR

Sat, Feb 4, 2 pm

Get a helpful introduction to Libby, the library app for e-books and audiobooks. Bring your smartphone to download.

Colorful Pet Portraits* **

Mon, Feb 13, 5:30 pm

Create a portrait of your pet using colored pencils and chalk pastel! Bring a photo of your pet on printer paper. No experience is required for this class.

Library Book Club

10 am: Dec 21, Jan 18, Feb 15

Book club is back in-person!

Conversation Circle

Mondays, 5:30-6:30 pm

Thursdays, 2 pm

A casual gathering of English Language adult learners meeting to practice their speaking skills in a group setting with an English speaker. Just drop by.

MN from the Road:

Doug Ohman Stories*

Sat, Dec 3, 11 am: *Prairie Tour*

Sat, Feb 4, 11 am: *Scenic Bluffs*

Sat, March 4, 11 am: *Urban Gems*

Doug Ohman, a historian, photographer, and storyteller, has published 14 books all about Minnesota. He travels the state sharing his historic, interactive presentations.

Kids and Teens

Family Storytime

Mondays, Jan 23-Feb 27, 10:30-11 am

Promote school readiness for 2-to-5-year-olds.

Snow Globes* **

Fri, Dec 9, 2:30-3:30 pm

Lovely Luminations* ***

Sat, Dec 10, 10:30 am-noon

Snowflake Celebration* **

Thu, Dec 29, 2-3:30 pm

Tinker Time* ***

Perler Bread Fun

Tue, Jan 24, 4:30-5:30 pm

DIY Dough***

Tue, Feb 7, 3:30-4:30 pm

Engineer-a-Thon***

Tue, Feb 21, 4:30-5:30 pm

Finger Crochet/Knitting* **

Fri, Feb 17, 2-3:30 pm

Cozy Clay Cocoa Mugs* **

Sat, Feb 25, 10:30-noon

Teen DIY Candle Making*

Tue, Dec 13, 5:30-6:30 pm

ENCORE: Brain Buster* ***

Fri, Dec 9, 11:30 am-1:30 pm

Mon, Jan 30, 11:30 am-1:30 pm

Teen DIY Boba Tea* ***

Tue, Feb 14, 5:30-6:30 pm

Winter Reading for Adults



The Library's Winter Reading program begins soon! Read and rate books for

the chance to win prizes. During our Winter Reads program, adults (18+) can submit mini book reviews between Jan 9-Feb 28 to be eligible for weekly prizes and the grand prize: a gift card to The Heights Theater! Book review forms will be available at the library or on the library website. Book reviews may be shared in the library or on social media.

* Registration required. Call 763-706-3690.

** This program is funded by the Minnesota 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

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

Dec 23-26 • Jan 2 • Jan 16 • Feb 20

3939 Central Ave NE • (763) 706-3690

At-home Service • (763) 706-3681

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/library

www.anokacountymn.gov/4180/Libraries

Facebook: @chplibrary

Facade Improvement Grant Program Applications Available Online

Business owners may apply to receive a matching grant from the Economic Development Authority of up to \$5,000 to help fund exterior improvements to storefronts. Grant applications may be emailed to mforney@columbiaheightsmn.gov or brought to City Hall. The EDA reviews applications on a rolling basis. Find forms at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/facade.



29-Unit Senior Assisted Living Complex Grand Opening Marks Completion of Huset Park Area Redevelopment

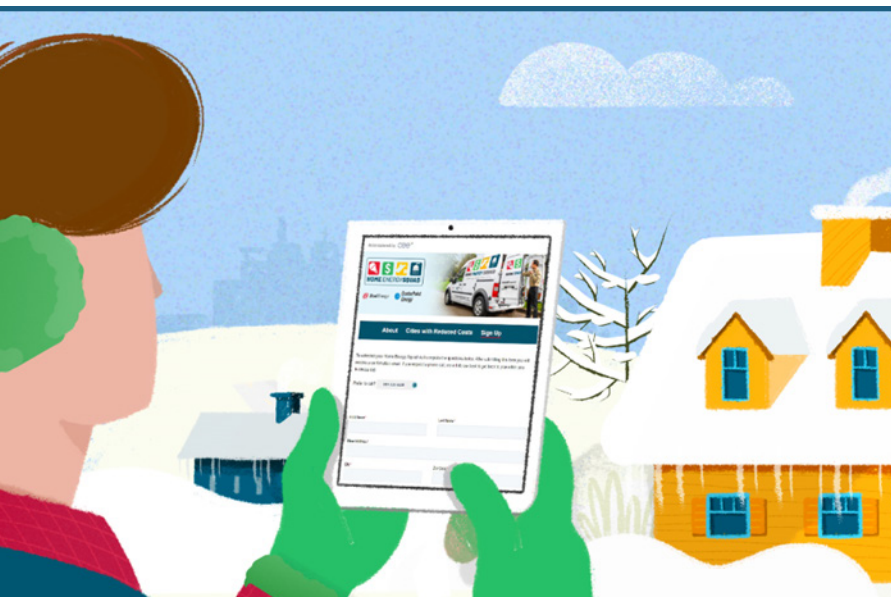
The Personal Care Senior Living complex located at 3850 Jefferson St NE completed construction and celebrated its grand opening Oct 21. The senior care facility contains 29 assisted living and memory care units. This project completes the redevelopment of the area that

includes what is now Huset Park, the surrounding town homes, and Dominion's senior living complex.

More info on the facility or how to apply to live there can be found at www.personalcareseniorliving.com

Get Ready for Winter With the Home Energy Squad

It's time to start bracing ourselves for the colder weather. This year, make sure your home is braced for the cold, too. With a Home Energy Squad (HES) visit, you can have peace of mind knowing your home is properly insulated, your furnace is working well, and that your home is as energy efficient as possible. An Energy Auditor will inspect your house and create a customized report with recommendations to make your home more energy efficient. They will also provide instant energy savings by installing free materials like LED lights, weather stripping, and high efficiency water fixtures.



Plus, thanks to the City of Columbia Heights' partnership with HES, you can get a visit for a discounted rate! There are two types of HES visits available, the Energy Saver Visit (for homes built in or after 2000) and the Energy Planner Visit (for homes built before 2000). Visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/homeenergy for more info on rates.

To schedule your visit, go to mncee.org/hes or call 651-328-6220. HES is provided by Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy and delivered by the nonprofit Center for Energy and Environment (CEE).



*Planning commissioners from left to right: Laurel De-
neen, Mark Vargas (secretary/treasurer), Tom Kaiser
(vice chair), Stan Hoiium, Mike Novitsky, Clara Wolfe,
and Eric Sahnou (chair).*

COMMISSION SPOTLIGHT

The City of Columbia Heights has eight boards and commissions that 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. Specific commissions are periodically highlighted in the City newsletter to help keep residents informed of their roles and responsibilities.

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. It also acts as the Board of Appeals and Adjustments of Variance and Appeal Cases and helps prepare and maintain the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

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. The commission meets the first Tuesday of each month, 6 pm, at City Hall.

You Could Be a Commissioner: Apply Between January 1 and Feb 28

Citizen involvement is vital to the City’s progress and quality of public decision-making. Applications for most commissioner seats are accepted from January to February and reviewed every March. Youth Commission applications are reviewed in September. Info at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/boardsandcommissions

IMPORTANT CITY CONTACTS

CITY OFFICES.....(763) 706-3600	Police(763) 706-8100	Mayor Márquez Simula.....(763) 706-3607
Administration.....(763) 706-3610		Councilmember Buesgens.....(763) 788-5072
	Library.....(763) 706-3690	Councilmember Jacobs.....(612) 810-0512
Public Works.....(763) 706-3700		Councilmember Novitsky.....(612) 760-4463
Garbage/Refuse Pick-up/ Recycling (WM)(888) 960-0008	Community Development.....(763) 706-3670	Councilmember Murzyn(763) 781-4983
Refuse Support.....(763) 706-3727	Bldg. Permits/ Licenses.....(763) 706-3678	
Utility Billing.....(763) 706-3640		City Newsletter editor(763) 706-3615
	24-Hour Info. Line-Murzyn Hall info., Weather Cancellations, Directions.....(763) 706-3737	Emergency.....911
Fire Dept. Admin & Info.....(763) 706-8150	Murzyn Hall Rental.....(763) 706-3734	
Fire Chief.....(763) 706-8152		

MORE INFO AT:
www.columbiaheightsmn.gov

Winter Parking Rules Q & A Podcast

Last year, the Columbia Heights Police Chief and Director of Public Works sat down to answer residents' questions about the City's annual winter parking rules. The Q&A was recorded for the CHPD official podcast *Roll Call* and can be listened to at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/podcast. Scroll down to episode six.

Separately, Chief Austin and Parks and Streets Superintendent David Cullen conducted a public forum on the winter parking rules and answered questions from the audience last winter. A recording of that forum, along with other info about winter parking, can be found at: www.columbiaheightsheightsmn.gov/parking



Holiday Train Returns Dec 13

The CP Holiday Train will be rolling through Columbia Heights for the first time since 2019 on Dec 13, 8 pm. The train, with performers Alan Doyle and Kelly Prescott, will stop at Lions Park on 37th Ave, between 37th Ave & Stinson Blvd. 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.

Letting Cars Run Unattended Invites Auto Theft

Columbia Heights, along with the rest of the metro area, has seen increases in vehicle thefts. Thieves take advantage of the cold weather.

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.



CodeRED™

COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION ENROLLMENT

Sign up to receive emergency text alerts at columbiaheightsmn.gov/alerts

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](https://www.facebook.com/chpolice), and follow us at twitter.com/colhgtspolice.



Photo Caption: At The Toro Company recognition ceremony for On-Call Firefighter Jake Gillespie this September. Left to Right: Assistant Fire Chief Dan O'Brien, Fire Chief Charlie Thompson, Gillespie, Toro Director of Commercial Engineering Tom Langworthy, and General Manager Grant Young.



CH Firefighter Takes Life-Saving Actions at Work

When an employee for the Bloomington Toro Company suffered a cardiac arrest and collapsed to the office floor, unresponsive and not breathing, his supervisor knew exactly who to alert.

Down the hall in a separate unit, Jake Gillespie heard his boss shout his name, calling for help. He rushed to his stricken colleague and checked for a pulse. No heart beat. Without hesitation, he began chest compressions as another coworker called 911. By the time paramedics arrived, the victim was breathing again and showed a faint pulse. He would make a full recovery in the following days.

Director of Commercial Engineering Tom Langworthy knew that Gillespie worked as a paid on-call firefighter with the Columbia Heights Fire Department. It's why, of all the employees in the office, he called on him to take command of the situation.

"I first want to thank you and your staff for the training you demand from your department," Langworthy wrote in an email sent to Columbia Heights Fire Chief Charlie Thompson Aug 10, 10 days after the incident. "As you can imagine, we want to recognize all the people involved in the emergency, but in particular, we want to call out the significant role Jake played."

Gillespie, who's been an on-call firefighter with Columbia Heights for 11 years, doesn't know what might have happened had he not been at the office that day. What he does know, he said, is that because of his training, he

was able to respond to this potentially tragic event with a steady hand and clear plan-of-action.

"Years of experience and training help you keep a level head in those scenarios," Gillespie said. "Pretty much everything I did that day was from my training."

This fall, Chief Thompson and Assistant Chief Dan O'Brien attended a divisional all-staff meeting at Toro where Gillespie was presented with a CPR SAVE citation bar.

"Jake saved a life that morning through his quick and thorough actions," Langworthy said.

A Call to Service

The Columbia Heights Fire Department is regularly looking for new recruits to join its team.

Applications can be submitted online by visiting www.heightsfire.com and clicking the Firefighter Employment Opportunities link in the navigation menu. Call 763-706-8150 for more information. Please spread the word if you know of anyone who might be interested.

Those who join the Fire Department undergo comprehensive training that prepares them to respond to all kinds of emergencies not just in their capacity as firefighters, but also to off-duty emergencies like the medical event at Toro this summer. In short, if a trained firefighter is nearby, everyone is safer. Consider joining today!

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

Make Room For Snowplows

Snowplows and Winter Parking

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.



Columbia Heights winter parking rules went into effect Nov 1. Each year, from Nov 1 to March 31, no vehicle or trailer may be parked on any public road between 2-6 am without a parking permit issued by the Police Department. This is to ensure vehicles do not get in the way of snowplows and de-icers and that roads are always clear enough for fire trucks, ambulances, and other emergency vehicles.

Permits to park overnight between Nov 1 and March 31 are issued under certain conditions. The permit form is available at the Police Department, 825 41st Ave NE, or you can find it online here:

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/parking. Residents in need of a temporary parking permit should come to the police department during normal business hours. Please call 763-706-8100 for more information. Note: Snowfall of three inches or more supersedes parking permits.

Best Practices for De-Icing Walkways

De-icing salts applied to your driveway and walkway may save you from neck or tailbone injuries this winter, but if you misuse them, they can spell disaster for your landscape plants, vehicles, and local lakes and streams. When salt runoff washes into the soil, it weakens root systems and reduces the ability of foliage to fight disease. Curbs and gutters are a form of shoreline. When applied near

your home, salt will enter nearby streams directly from the road or from surrounding melting snow, which can kill aquatic life miles away.

But you can reduce the impact of salt pollution by selecting the proper materials and using best-practices for removing ice and snow.

- **Spread Thin.** When you apply salt to pavement, leave plenty of space between granules. A 12-ounce coffee cup of salt is enough to cover 10 sidewalk squares or a 20-foot driveway. Ice melting products are most effective when spread thinly and evenly over the pavement.
- **Use Before Freeze.** Spread salt **prior** to ice formation. It's easier to prevent ice than melt a thick layer of it.
- **Use Alternatives.** Clean cat litter or sawdust can help improve traction on ice (sand is NOT recommended for residential use).
- **Use Less.** When applicable, use even less salt than is recommended by the manufacturer. Just a dash will do!
- **Add Water.** Add a small amount of water with the de-icer to help initiate melting.
- **Protect Plants.** Use burlap or durable plastic screens to shield vegetation from traffic splash.
- **Shovel.** Clear walkways before snow turns to ice, and before you apply salt. The more snow you clear manually, the less salt you'll need.
- **Watch the Temp.** Salt doesn't melt ice if the pavement is below 15 degrees. You may be salting for nothing.
- **Sweep.** Clean up leftover salt, sand, and de-icer to save and reuse as needed.



New Waste Collection Services Start Jan 1

This October, the City Council chose not to renew the City's contract with Waste Management and instead approved a joint contract with Walters Recycling & Refuse and Haulstar Sanitation.

Since driver shortages and the collection process in alleys are an ongoing issue, the two companies will split the workload to cover all of Columbia Heights.

Beginning in January, Haulstar will provide weekly trash service as well as bi-weekly recycling service to all homes that currently have their collections in alleys. Walters will provide trash and recycling services to all homes with curbside collection. The joint contract covers a 4-year term, with a 1-year extension option.

The City also recently approved a 4-year contract with College Hunks Hauling Junk & Moving for bulk pick-up services.

Watch for Updates

There are several details relating to these contract and service changes still under review and yet to be finalized. Keep an eye on future newsletters and the City's website. The City will post updates and additional details as they are confirmed.

Check www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refuseupdates regularly for updates. The City will also post updates on its utility bill statements and social media pages, and in its newsletter and monthly e-newsletter. Residents can sign up for monthly updates at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/enews.

Holiday Recycling Tips

- Holiday cleanup is an opportunity to use the recycling options provided by the City and local donation drop spots. Call (763) 706-3727 for more information.
- Broken string lights and household batteries (no car batteries) may be brought to the Recycling Center.

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

Anoka County Compost Sites and Tree Disposal

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: anokacountymn.gov/yardwaste

Christmas tree pickup will be conducted in January. Residents must schedule the pick up by Jan 20 using the refuse support form at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refusesupport

Avoid buying a flocked or painted tree as they can't be composted. Bring metal trees you want to get rid of to the recycling center (see below). Remove all lights and decorations from the tree before disposal.

Columbia Heights Recycling Drop-Off

- Dumpster for cardboard and extra recycling carts available
- Open Sat, 9 am-1 pm. Closed Christmas weekend. Open New Year's weekend
- Madison Street and 38th Place NE
- The Recycling Center collects film/plastic bags and white packing Styrofoam, but the items must be delivered separately from other recyclables.

Refuse Holiday Schedule

- **Thanksgiving Day, Nov 24**
Service delayed Thursday and Friday.
- **Christmas Day, Dec 25**
No delay
- **New Year's Day, Jan 1**
No delay
- **Martin Luther King Jr Day, Jan 16**
No delay
- **Presidents' Day, Feb 20**
No delay



Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions

(763) 324-3400
www.anokacountymn.gov/recycle

Refuse Service Levels and Rates

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refuserates

Nominate a Business of the Year!

This fall, the Columbia Heights Economic Development Authority (EDA) approved a new Business of the Year nomination program. It will work similarly to the City's annual Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award. Anyone not on the EDA may nominate a business of their choice. The EDA will review all nominations and make the final selection in April. The winning business will be highlighted in the City newsletter, receive a plaque at a City Council meeting, and take part in the annual Jamboree Parade.

Selections will be based on multiple criteria such as community involvement, major accomplishments, and history with the City. All criteria are listed in the application.

Nomination forms may be found at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/business

Completed nominations may be emailed to mforney@columbiaheightsmn.gov or brought to the City Hall Community Development Department at 590 40th Ave. NE, Columbia Heights. The nomination deadline is March 27.

City Event Sponsorship Opportunities

To increase its outreach to community members, improve local business visibility, and provide the best-quality community events possible, the City of Columbia Heights has launched a sponsorship program for businesses and organizations. There are many City events that can be supported through this program. For more details, visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/business

2023 Proposed City Tax Levy and City Budget Expenses

The proposed City property tax levy for 2023 is \$16,028,000, an 8% increase over 2022. A portion of the City property tax levy is subsidized by the metro area fiscal disparities program, and the remainder is paid by Columbia Heights property owners.

The 2023 proposed increases in the City's tax-supported expenses are primarily in personnel, including cost-of-living increases, wage increases to bring certain positions up to equivalent rates in the metro, and extra costs to meet certain state regulation compliance standards. In addition, worker compensation premiums for front-line workers increased substantially. The number of staff for 2023 would

also increase by two full-time equivalents under the proposed budget.

For 2023, the subsidy provided to Columbia Heights will decrease by 5%. Unfortunately, this will cause Columbia Heights property owners to pay a greater share of the City property tax levy for 2023 than for 2022. For local property owners, this effectively results in an average increase of 12.7% in City property taxes for 2023. Keep in mind, the actual 2023 property tax on any one individual property in Columbia Heights will also be affected by any 2023 change in relative property value.

This fall, Anoka County will mail a notice to each property owner, stating the proposed 2023 property taxes applicable to the owner's property. The notice will also include information on budgeted revenues and expenditures for the City, the county, and the school district.

The Columbia Heights City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2023 City budget and the final version of the 2023 City property tax levy Dec 12, approximately 6 pm, in the City Council chambers. Members of the public may attend the public hearing in-person or by Zoom. A Zoom link will be posted with the meeting agenda packet.

2023 City Property Tax Levy with Proposed 8% Increase

