



CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS ANNUAL REPORT

2021

2 Overview

6 Administration

20 Community Development

28 Finance

36 Fire

54 Library

66 Police

80 Public Works

100 Recreation



COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
REDISCOVER THE HEIGHTS

OVERVIEW

In 2021 ...

...the City of Columbia Heights celebrated its 100th Anniversary! The year was full of centennial events and activities. Major events kicked off in January with Snow-BLAST, a new winter festival created in partnership with the Centennial Committee. The event received a Northern Lights Award from the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators and was approved to return annually.

...The City hosted three virtual historical programs to showcase the early years of Columbia Heights as part of the Centennial activities.

...Numerous community organizations helped plan and host the City's Centennial Celebration event in July, where volunteers handed out 500 pieces of birthday cake. Public Works crews hung 49 centennial banners along Central Ave in the spring. Each banner was sponsored by a local business or organization. Columbia Heights officially became a city on July 21, 1921. Thank you to everyone who helped make the City's centennial year a memorable one!

...the City hosted its first Music in the Park series in Huset Park over the summer. Hundreds of residents and their pets came out to enjoy music and refreshments. Music in the Park is now an annual series.

...the City hosted two Movie in the Park nights with screenings of The Goonies and Moana. Movies in the Park will also become an annual activity.

...the Community Art & Info Fair, formerly known as the Community Picnic, debuted a new format with art and



craft vendors outside, a performance from the Somali Dance Troupe, and food trucks!

...two Columbia Heights residents received the Outstanding Citizen Award recognition, one in the adult



category, and one in the youth category designated for ages 14-18. Linda Fowler, adult category, and Drake Pham, youth, took this year's honors. The Employee of the Year Award went to Administrative and Human Resources Assistant Nancy Becker.

... Columbia Heights committed to the Mayors Monarch Pledge, a national program created by the National Wildlife Federation to build habitats for the monarch butterfly and pollinators, and educate residents about how they can make a difference.

...the Columbia Heights City Council approved amending the City Code to create a Columbia Heights Youth Commission, the first of its kind in Columbia Heights. Applications for the first term became available at the end of the year with the first meeting set for March 9 of 2022.

...Top Valu III, formerly Heights Liquor, on 5225 University Ave NE, underwent major renovations. It was the first significant update to the building since it was constructed in 1963.

...the annual citywide garage sale returned with 85 addresses on the participation list.

Photos: Page 2, top: All hands on deck at the Centennial Celebration. Fire and Police staff gave out free cotton candy and Sno-Kones. Page 2, middle: Truck or Treat. Page 2, bottom: The Police Chief and Public Works Director discuss the winter parking ordinance at a Roll Call CHPD Podcast recording.

Page 3, top: Public Works crews hung 49 Centennial banners all along Central Ave. Each banner was sponsored by a local business or organization. Page 3, bottom, Columbia Heights reported one of the highest response rates in the state for the 2020 Census. The results were released in 2021.

...City staff worked with the City's website hosting partner Revize to give the site a fresh look! The redesigned website earned a Silver Award in design from the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators.

...the City launched a monthly e-newsletter to improve communications with its residents. Sign up at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/enews

...the US Department of Justice awarded the Columbia Heights Police Department with an incredibly rare grant to fund a full-time social worker stationed at the police department for the next two years. The department plans to contract with Canvas Health on a Collaborative Crisis Intervention Response Program. The contract will provide for a full-time mental health professional to work at CHPD and respond with police officers to individuals deemed to be experiencing mental health or substance use crises.

...a record amount of people attended Truck or Treat in October. We gave out 1,000 goodie bags and estimate 3,000 people attended the event over the 1-5 pm period.

...staff worked with the development company Alatus to negotiate a deal to purchase 10 acres of property from Hy-Vee (the City owns an additional three acres of the land) to build a mixed-use development project that, if approved, would be the biggest development project in Columbia Heights in 100 years. Alatus became interested in the land and its potential after working with the City on the 40th Ave City Hall project, which is scheduled for completion in spring 2023.

...the City and its residents won the 2021 Community Adopt-a-Drain Challenge, beating Andover, Fridley, and Blaine with its total number of adopted drains



and reported cleanings. Overall, residents of these four cities adopted 421 new drains, reported 896 drain cleanings, and got 161 new adopters to sign up at mn.adopt-a-drain.org! The competition lasted from March to October. A big thank you to all those who adopted and cleaned their drains this year through @AdoptaDrainMN. All your hard work really adds up to help protect our waters! Columbia Heights will continue participating in the competition annually.

...COVID-19 vaccines were made widely available, and the Fire Department held multiple free vaccine clinics.

...the Police Department launched the City's first podcast, Roll Call, a bi-monthly podcast that features CHPD officers and other City employees as they discuss law enforcement, community policing, and public safety topics with special guests. The City published six episodes in 2021. Find them all at columbiaheightsmn.gov/podcast.

Thanks to staff, elected officials, community organizers, volunteers, and residents for another great year!

2020 Census results were released in 2021. Find full results at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/survey

TOTAL POPULATION
21,973

TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
8,268

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
\$60,778

2021 Recognitions

Outstanding Citizen



And the 2021 Outstanding Citizen Award Winners Are...

Linda Fowler, Adult Category



Volunteerism and community engagement run in the family for Linda Fowler. Six years after her father, James Fowler, was named Columbia Heights' Humanitarian of the Year, Linda received the same honor, now known as the Outstanding

Citizen Award, in 2021. James isn't alive today to see his daughter earn the same honor as he did, but he didn't miss the chance to tell her how proud of her he was before he passed away last October, Linda said.

Three years ago, Linda began volunteering regularly at SACA Food Shelf alongside her father, a veteran SACA volunteer.

"He influenced me a lot," Linda said. "I enjoyed that time we had there together."

Linda, 62, continues to donate about eight hours a week to SACA, sorting food in the warehouse. It's been a time of high demand from people in need, Linda said, and the experience has reminded her how lucky she is to not be in such a difficult position herself.

"It breaks my heart to see it," she said. "But volunteering at SACA also saved my sanity, in a way—to get out of the house and help other people."

Linda, a Columbia Heights native who recently retired from Medtronic as a pacemaker analyst and electrical technician, also volunteers her time at First Lutheran Church, gathering supplies for Sunday school teachers, tending to the community garden, and helping out at their farmers market. Last year, to contribute to the pollinator population, she learned how to raise monarch butterflies from eggs, and this summer, she'll be taking a role in the Mayors' Monarch Pledge effort. When she's not volunteering, she makes crafts and donates them.

Despite all the ways she's involved in the community, she said she did not expect to win this award. She was nominated by a fellow SACA volunteer and selected by Mayor Amada Márquez Simula and 2019's Outstanding Citizen Award winner Cathy Miske. She received the news on a voicemail from the City.

"I had to listen to the voicemail three times before I believed it,"

Drake Pham, Youth

Drake Pham got involved in community volunteering with the Loaves and Fishes program, working with Columbia Heights Recreation to distribute food to people in need. Later, he joined the Key Club, a youth volunteer organization, and was president of the local chapter during his junior year at Columbia Heights High School. Now, at 16, Drake has become the City's very first winner of the Outstanding Citizen Award in the youth category designated for youth ages 14-18.



Among all the events and programs Drake has helped organize over the years, and all the volunteer opportunities he's taken part in, a highlight has been his work with SACA Food Shelf. Drake partnered with SACA to create volunteer opportunities for Key Club members at the start of the COVID pandemic, and he later worked to rally students to pack groceries for homebound seniors at a time when SACA was short on volunteers due to health concerns.

"Without this effort, the food shelf would have been hard pressed to get food out to so many in need during this pandemic," wrote Drake's nominator. "He not only organized it, he also participated."

Drake, who plans to study sports management after graduation, said he got involved in these programs because he's admired the way people in this community look out for each other and protect one another.

"I wanted to be a part of that," he said.

2021 Recognitions

Employee of the Year

2021 Employee of the Year Award Goes to Nancy Becker

The 2021 Employee of the Year, the 42nd employee to win the honor, is Human Resources and Administrative Assistant Nancy Becker. Her co-workers described her as the center of their department, a team player who performs diligent and detailed work, with a wealth of knowledge. Employees from all departments can attest to her wisdom, kindness, and professionalism, as well as her sharp sense of humor.

Nancy's work duties keep her incredibly busy, but even so, she drops what she's doing to assist any colleague with a project or answer questions without complaint. Everyone she interacts with relies on her for prompt follow up and correct information, and she always delivers. If she doesn't know an answer to a question, she will know the right person to ask. Nancy regularly partners with all departments within in the City and is known as an information source.

She's usually the first one in the office in the mornings, and, much too often, the last one to leave.

She greets job candidates and offers water or coffee to them as they wait to be interviewed. She's the first point of contact for potential new employees, and newly hired employees, and is always kind and helpful to people as they complete the process of filling out an application or scheduling an interview. As the administrative assistant for human resources, Nancy is the key person for hiring and onboarding. She is constantly executing her tasks at the highest level possible. Without her attention to detail and hard work, the City could not maintain its staffing levels and proper placement of employees in time sensitive roles. She may not be the person apprehending the suspect or plowing the street, but she is the person making sure that the right staff member is there to do the important jobs that support all citizens.

Everyone who strolls through the Administration office chats with Nancy as they come and go, and they always seem to leave in a better mood than when they came. If you don't notice immediately when she's not at work, you will soon figure it out by the number of people who comment on her absence. She is very much missed on the days she's gone.

In her 10 years with the City, Nancy has been trusted many times to do major projects outside of her job description, like assemble the Annual Report or coordinate the Mayor's breakfast. She helped fill in for the City Clerk position multiple times when that position was vacant, and acted as a deputy city clerk during the highly stressful 2020 elections. She takes the best notes, can explain policy and procedure in an accessible way, and knows the ins and outs of the software programs that can sometimes get the best of us.

On an annual basis, all Columbia Heights employees have the opportunity to nominate themselves or another employee(s) for the award

based on three criteria: Public Relations, Consistency of Performance, and Significant Accomplishments.

We congratulate Nancy Becker for meeting these criteria and being an asset to our entire workplace and our lives!



Nancy Becker, right, receives the 2021 Employee of the Year plaque from City Manager Kelli Bourgeois.

More About the Employee of the Year Award

The Employee of the Year nomination review committee is composed of former Employee of the Year recipients who are still employed by the City. When a person is selected as Employee of the Year, their name and year of award is engraved on a large plaque displayed in the Council Chambers. They receive a congratulatory letter, a day off of their choosing (with pay), an article and picture in the City Newsletter, a month-long announcement on the electronic bulletin board outside City Hall, and a featured role in the annual Jamboree parade. On rare occasions, more than one employee is selected in a given year.



ADMINISTRATION

Introduction

The Administration Department oversees daily administration of the City, the annual budget, supervision of City departments, human resource functions, the City Code, communications, special projects/events and community engagement, cable television administration, boards and commissions, City election coordination, and City Clerk functions.

The City Manager is the Chief Administrative Officer for the City and is appointed by the City Council. The City Manager is responsible for the daily administration of the City, including:

- Appointing and advising division heads

- Enforcing ordinances and council directives
- Preparing the annual budget for council review
- Supervising City Clerk, HR Director, Communications Coordinator, and all City departments as determined by the City Charter
- Final approval of personnel decisions

The Administration office has six full-time positions: City Manager, Human Resources Director, City Clerk, Communications Coordinator, Communications and Events Specialist, and Administrative Assistant-HR. A new City Clerk and HR Director were hired in 2021.

The City Clerk is the appointed City Council secretary and is responsible for the preparation, execution, and archiving of all City Council documents as prescribed by the City Charter, City Code, and State law. Elections are also administered by the City Clerk. There was no election in 2021, but the City Council and Mayor candidates elected in 2020 were sworn in at the start of the year.

Human Resources provides comprehensive services and support to the City of Columbia Heights departments and its employees.

The communications and events staff focus on community engagement through newsletters, website updates, City events, cable, and social media platforms, and assist staff internally with communications related projects. The Events and Communications Specialist position was created in 2020 to support these efforts and help plan the City's centennial year in 2021.

The City celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2021. Administration staff took part in the planning and execution of all celebratory events relating to the centennial. More about that in the proceeding pages.

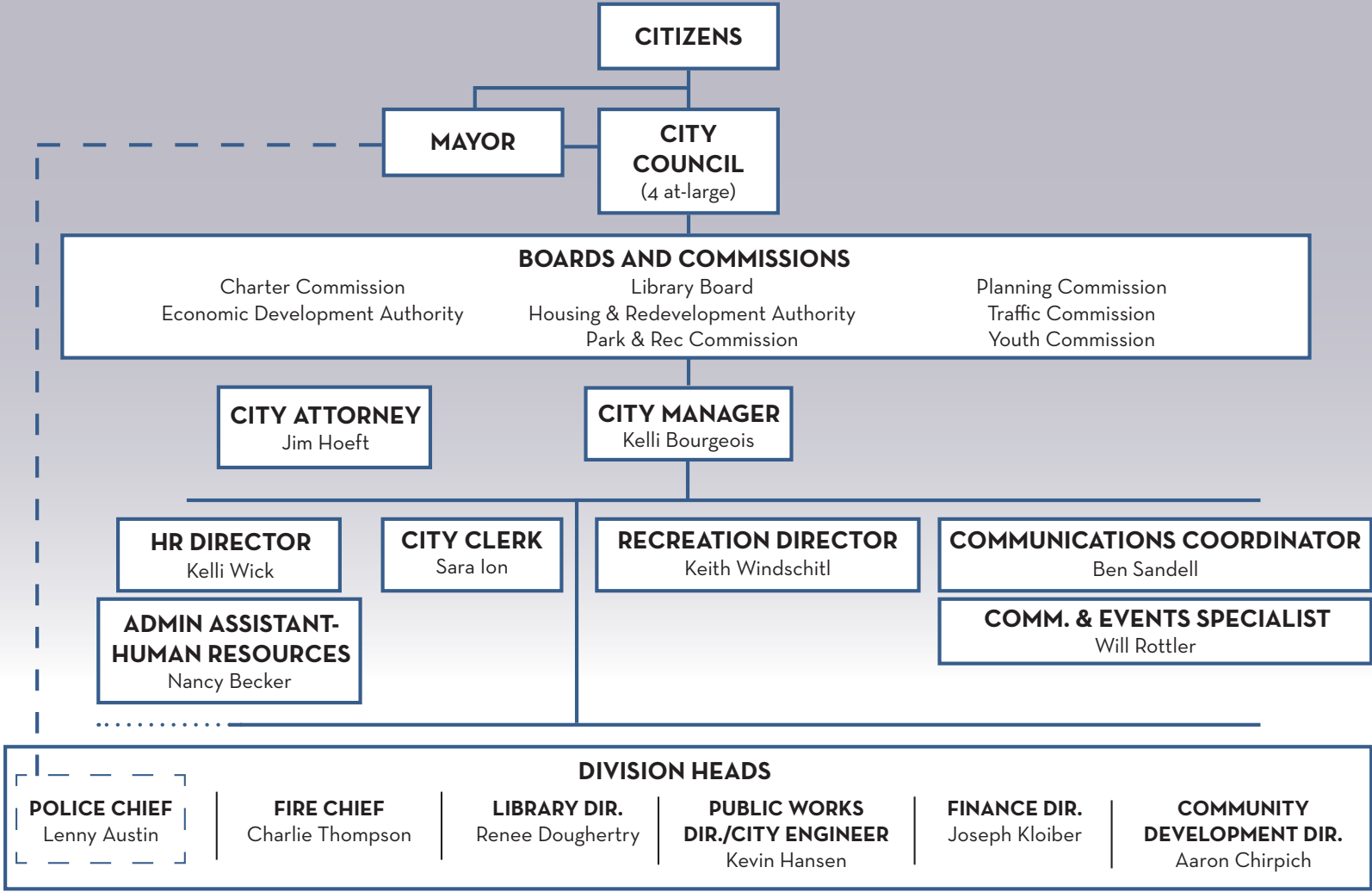
Administration Department Staff

Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Kelli Bourgeois	City Manager Assistant City Manager/HR Director	Jan 2, 2019, as City Manager July 10, 2014 as HR Director	---- Dec. 31, 2018
Kelli Wick	Human Resources Director	Aug 11, 2021	----
Patricia Sweep	Human Resources Manager	July 15, 2019	May 31, 2021
Ben Sandell	Communications Coordinator	April 23, 2018	----
Sara Ion	City Clerk	Sept 2, 2021	----
Nicole Tingley	City Clerk	June 17, 2019	July 30, 2021
Nancy Becker	Admin. Assistant for HR	Sept 1, 2015	----
Will Rottler	Communications & Events Specialist	March 16, 2020	----
Adam Davis	Cable Intern	Oct 23, 2000	----



Administration staff work out of City Hall on 40th and Mill St along with Finance, Community Development, and IS staff. All staff working in this building will be moving to a new City Hall on 40th and Central starting in early 2023, once construction is completed.

ADMINISTRATION



2021 City Council

Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor
 Connie Buesgens
 Kt Jacobs
 Nick Novitsky
 John Murzyn Jr.

Sister Cities Committee Co-Chairs

Gloria Bergstrom
 Dolores Puente Strand

2021 Charter Commission

Steve Smith, President
 Matt Abel, Vice President
 Bill Hugo, Secretary
 Tom Kaiser, Commissioner
 Carolyn Laine, Commissioner
 Joe Schluender, Commissioner
 Kathy Ahlers, Commissioner
 Frost Simula, Commissioner

Ramona Anderson, Commissioner
 Gregory Sloat, Commissioner
 Tyler Eubank, Commissioner
 Susan Wiseman, Commissioner
 Ben Harris, Commissioner
 Rob Fiorendino, Commissioner
 Kt. Jacobs, Commissioner

Human Resources Report

New Human Resources Director

Human Resources Director Kelli Wick started Aug 11, replacing Patty Sweep who retired May 31. Before joining Columbia Heights, Kelli had spent the last 25+ years as the Human Resources Director for the City of Brooklyn Center and before that she worked for the Cities of Becker and Crystal.



- **Five years:** Lisa Boatman (Fire), Kyle Burns (Public Works), David Cullen (Public Works), Grant Dickinson (Fire), Maria Fink (Library), Kevin Kippels (Liquor Dept.), Ted Kriesel (Public Works), Tony Miller (Police), Jennifer Peña (Fire), Tammie Powell (Library), Michael Pyka (Fire), George Sroka (Liquor), Jackie Urbaniak (Police), and Karen Yaeger (Library).
- **10 Years:** Nancy Becker (Administration), Jacob Gillespie (Fire), Emily Kosman (Fire), Brian Maharaj (JPM), Juana Rodriguez (Facilities Maint.), Steve Silverdahl (IT), and Jackie Zillmer (Finance).
- **20 Years:** John Nordlund (Public Works) and Nick Olberding (Library)
- **25 Years:** Doodnauth Bisnauth (JPM)
- **35 Years:** Kathy Young (Public Works)

Labor Contracts

All six collective bargaining agreements expire Dec 31, 2024.

Grievances and Furloughs

No union grievances or furloughs filed in 2021.

New Hires

Once again, the City experienced several personnel changes this year. Overall, in 2021, the City hired 18 full-time employees (of which four were on a promotional basis), 24 part-time employees (of which 2 were on a promotional basis), 5 paid-on-call firefighters, and a number of seasonal and temporary positions.

Years of Service Awards

The following employees were recognized for their years of service:

City Clerk Report

New City Clerk

Sara Ion started as the new City Clerk Sept 2, replacing Nicole Tingley, who accepted a position at Eden Prairie. Before joining Columbia Heights staff, Sara worked for five years as an office manager for Madia Newville Law Firm and 15 years as a loss prevention manager.



Elections and Councilmembers

There were no elections in 2021. The 2020 General Election resulted in two new members and one incumbent sworn in on Jan 3, 2021. Mayor Amáda Márquez Simula and Councilmember Kt Jacobs joined Connie Buesgens (returning incumbent), John Murzyn, and Nick Novitsky on the council, replacing Mayor Donna Schmitt, who did not run for reelection, and Councilmember Bobby Williams.

Charter Commission

The City Charter determines the procedures of City government in accordance with state statutes and the MN Constitution. The Charter enables the City to be a self-governing City under municipal home rule provisions of the Constitution. Under the Charter, the City has adopted the council-manager form of government. Charter commissioners in 2021 were: Matt Abel, Kathy Ahlers, Ramona Anderson, Tyler Eubank, Ben Harris, Bill Hugo, Clifford Johnson, Tom Kaiser, Carolyn Laine, Joe Schluende, Gregory Sloat, Steve Smith, Frost Simula, Susan Wiseman, and Nick Zeimet, with Council liaison Kt Jacobs.

City Council

The City Council met for a total of 46 meetings in 2021. In 2021, there were 23 regular City Council meetings held, 11 regular work sessions, 1 emergency City Council meeting, and 11 special meetings. All regular City Council meetings are recorded and available to watch at www.columbia-heightsmn.gov/streaming.

Ordinances, Resolutions and Proclamations

During 2021, nine ordinances were proposed and approved. Of the 105 resolutions requested, 101 were approved. There were 17 mayoral proclamations.

Communications and Engagement

Cable and Recording

Franchise and PEG (Public, Educational, and Governmental) fees received by Columbia Heights from Comcast totaled about \$175,000. Cable franchise fees are used to help fund cable room and broadcasting equipment, as well as a large portion of communications budget. Due to an increase in residents cutting cable and recent changes to the franchising fee laws, the fee received by Columbia Heights has and will continue to decrease each year, raising the need for alternate funding sources in future years.

The City continues to work with Tightrope Media to schedule and stream cable channel content. In 2020, the City contracted with the video recording company Swagit to record and categorize all City Council meetings. Swagit took over all City Council and Planning Commission recordings in 2021. Meetings continue to stream on Zoom, a practice that began during 2020 to allow residents to participate in meetings remotely. Council meetings, info videos, and bulletins are streamed on local channels 16 and 19, and website.

Newsletter and Recreation Brochure

The City Newsletter was mailed to every household four times in 2021: spring, summer, winter, and fall. Each season, the 12-page document, which is attached to the Recreation Brochure, is mailed to roughly 9,700 households in Columbia Heights, with 3,000 additional copies distributed to the area schools. The City contracted with Lindsey Fuhrman of PixelPoint Design to provide graphic



design support. The City continues to contract with mailing company Do-Good to ensure all newsletters reach their intended audience. Nystrom continues to be the print source for the newsletter.

Social Media

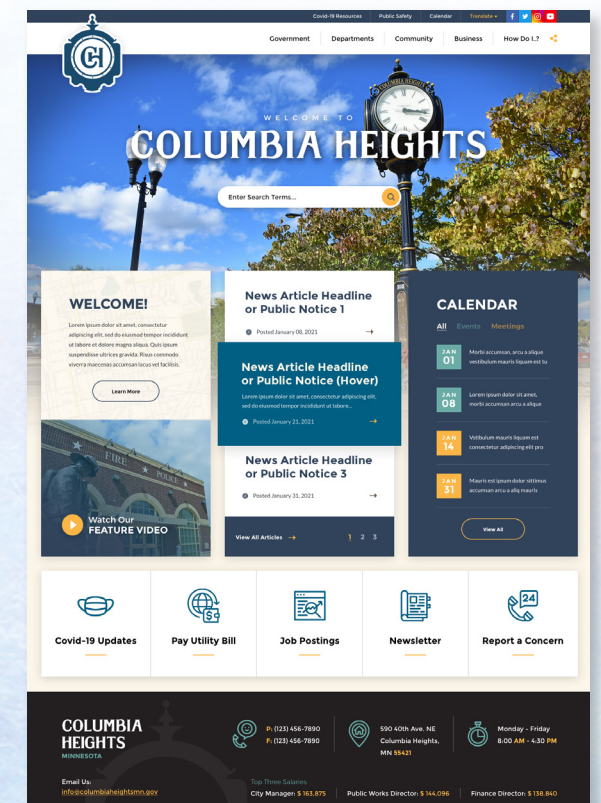
The City maintains many social media accounts, including a YouTube channel, Instagram and Twitter accounts, Nextdoor, Twitter, and Facebook accounts for the Police Department, Fire Department, Library, Top Valu Liquor, and City as a whole. In 2021, the City's Facebook page added another 700 followers, to 2,700 followers. The City continued to contract with the firm ArchiveSocial to keep track of all posts and comments made social media pages.

E-News

The City launched a monthly e-newsletter in 2021. Residents may subscribe by submitting their email address at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/enews. The monthly enews updates help Communications staff keep residents up to date on timely news items and events.

Website and Graphic Design

The City continues to contract with Revize to host the City's website and PixelPoint Design to assist with graphic design projects. The City worked with Revize to redesign the City's website in 2021.



2022 Pets of Columbia Heights

City Calendar Assembled in 2021



Submitted by Chickabee Photography



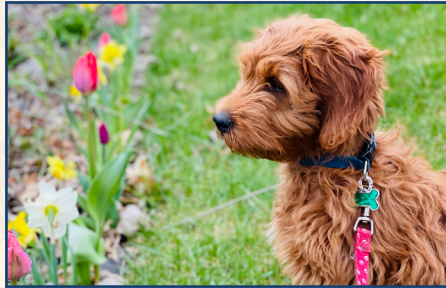
Submitted by Tracy Steinkopf



Submitted by Leah Morris



Submitted by Melanie and Matt DeGree



Submitted by Barbara Babekuhl



Submitted by Becky Groseth



Submitted by Chickabee Photography



Submitted by Erica Tollefson



Submitted by Gabby Millard



Submitted by Erik Nims and Betsy Pribyl



Submitted by Ben Harris

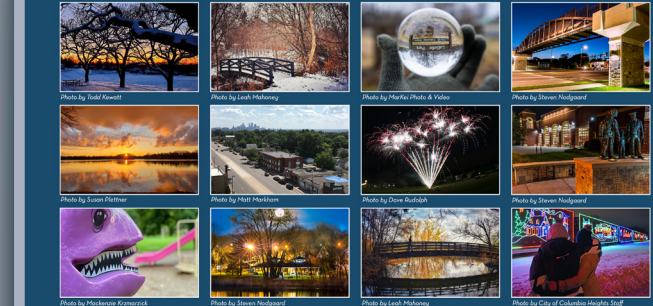
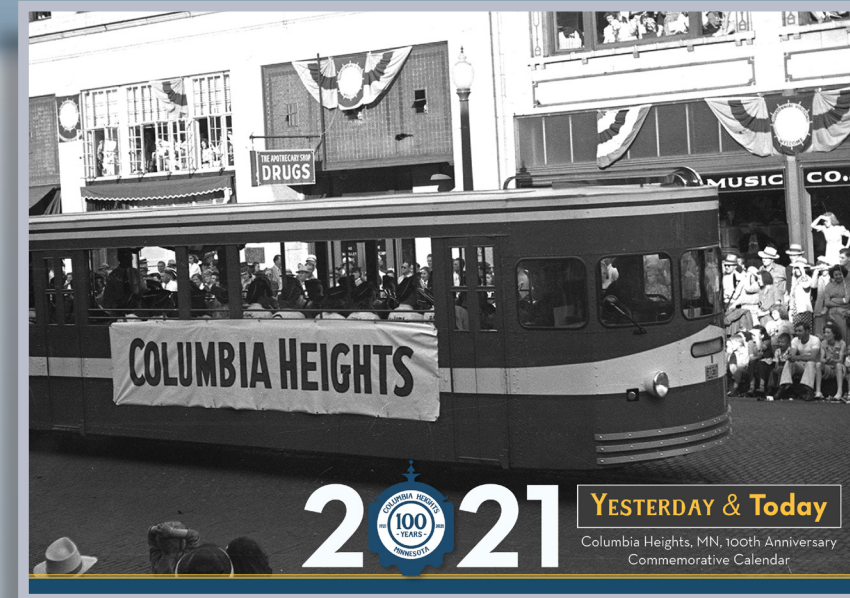


Submitted by Catherine Vesley

85 Residents Respond to Call for Pet Photos in 2021

Keeping the tradition going after the success of the City's Centennial Calendar, the City moved ahead in 2021 with a new calendar photo contest calling for residents to send in photos of their pets. The City's 2022 Pets of Columbia Heights Calendar went on sale in December of 2021, and all proceeds went to help fund City events and community activities. The calendar included 2022 dates and event info relevant to Columbia Heights and photos submitted of City pets selected with the help of communications staff from Golden Valley, Maplewood, and Ramsey County. Those whose photos were selected (see above) received a free calendar. We received 85 photo submissions. Thank you to all who submitted!

City Calendar Created for 2021 Centennial Year



100th Anniversary Edition
The photos in this calendar were selected anonymously by six judges from a group of 65 photos submitted to the 100th Anniversary Calendar Photo Contest. Judges scored the photos on a 50-point scale based on five criteria: City Representation, Overall Aesthetic, Technical Proficiency, Subject Matter and Originality, and Calendar Appropriateness. Thank you to our judges: Margo Ashmore, publisher of the Northeast Newspaper (mynortheast.com), Paige Kieffer, reporter with Life Newspaper (homelife.com), Wendy Maybury, professional photographer (luxarmy.com), Linda Mayhew, Columbia Heights art teacher, Craig VanDerSchagen, professional photographer (craigvanderschagen.com), and Dennis Zerwas Jr., professional photographer (dpsics.com). This Calendar also includes historical photos stretching back 100 years. Proceeds from this calendar go to fund 100th anniversary events, activities, and celebrations. The cover photo was provided by the Hennepin County Library. More info at columbiaheightsmn.gov or heights100.com.

City Wins First Place for Centennial Calendar

Columbia Heights held its first citywide photo contest to collect images for its first City calendar in celebration of the City's 100th anniversary. The calendar won 1st place in the category of Multipage Publications from the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators at their annual Northern Lights Awards in 2021. Proceeds from calendar sales went to fund 100th anniversary events and activities. Find out more about City calendars at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/photos.

Communications and Events Specialist

The City created the new position of Communications and Events Specialist in 2020. Will Rottler started in the position in March of 2020 and began to work on 2021 Centennial Planning in earnest.

Communications Awards

Communications staff produced a City calendar in 2020 for 2021, the first product of its kind created by the City. It went on sale at the end of 2020, and received the top award in the Multi-Page Publication Category from the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators. See page 15 for more info.

The City also received first-place in the category of Community Events and a Best-in-Show nomination from MAGC for the City’s new winter festival SnowBLAST, which debuted in Jan, 2021. See page 17 for more info.

Centennial Committee

Two 100th Anniversary Event Planning committees were created to help plan Centennial Celebrations, one made up of City staff and the other of community stakeholders. Centennial Committee meetings with internal and external staff were held monthly from early 2020 to mid-2021 with the City’s communications and events specialist, who helped coordinate and execute ideas.

These employees and community stakeholders developed ideas for new events in the City, in addition to the Centennial Celebration that took place in July.

The City debuted an outdoor winter event (Snow-BLAST), a Music in the Park series, and a Movie in the Park series, all part of the 2021 celebrations.

In addition to these events, the Committee worked with the events specialist to organize a coloring page contest, a snow sculpture contest, a community Centennial Quilt collaboration, new art commissions, logo designs, and a Centennial banner sponsorship program.

Active members or frequent contributors include: Lotus Hubbard, Tammy Schmitz, Adam Davis, Dave Rudolph, Dolores Strand, Gloria Bergstrom, Jared Severson, Sue Sjoselius, Veronica Johnson, Kristen Stuenkel, Bill Hugo, Scott Skaja, Laura Newton, Tom Letness, Drew Zuehlke, Amáda Márquez Simula, Kay “Kt” Jacobs, Nick Novitsky (Council liaison), Ben Sandell (communications coordinator), and Will Rottler (staff liaison and City events specialist).

Truck or Treat Returns

This year saw the biggest turnout yet for Truck or Treat, which returned to its normal format in 2021 after being a drive-thru only event in 2020. Staff gave out more than 1,000 goodie bags and estimate 2,500 people attended the event over the 1-5 pm period Oct 29. This was a community effort with volunteer help, funding, and donated resources from Kiwanis, HeightsNEXT, the CH Lions, Prodeo Academy, Key Club, Fridley-Columbia Heights Rotary, Rachel Bundy, Schmit Towing, CH Boosters, Community Grounds, and the recreation volunteers who ran the Puppet Wagon shows and helped judge the pet costume contest. The National Guard provided an obstacle course activity. Organizations with vehicles at the event included the Fire Department, National Guard, J&M Towing, Police, Post Office, Public Works, SACA, Schmit Towing, Monarch Bus Service, and CH Recreation. Thank you again for making it out to this year’s Truck or Treat!

Movies in the Park

The City held its first Movie in the Park event at McKenna Park Sept 18, 2020, featuring the family film Abominable. The City brought back the event in 2021 and expanded it to two nights with The Goonies and Moana.

Music in the Park

We estimate at least 200 people attended the City’s first Music in the Park event June 2. Thanks to the Tkach Band for headlining, the Columbia Heights High School choir representatives for their opening performance, the Lions Club for serving drinks, First Lutheran Church for serving free lemonade, St. Matthew Church for providing the stage, our 49 Centennial Celebration sponsors, our Centennial Committee, Curbside Productions, food trucks D’s Kitchen and The Big Red Wagon, and City staff for helping to put the show together. Music in the Park returned July 7 with Wander North in Huset Park, and was approved to become an annual series.



Community Art and Info Fair

The City expanded and changed the name of its annual Community Picnic in 2021. The Community Art and Info Fair featured dozens of community groups and art vendors. We estimate about 500 people came through the Fair June 24. Art vendors were stationed along Mill St., while City departments and community groups hosted booths through Huset Park West, and the Somali Dance Troupe performed in the parking lot across the street from Murzyn Hall.

Citywide Garage Sale

Columbia Heights hosted the fourth annual Citywide Garage Sales event June 12. More than 80 households registered their sale to be on the citywide garage sale locator map.



Music In the Park, June 2



Somali Dance Troupe at the Community Art and Info Fair



Hercules won the dog costume contest at Truck or Treat.



Fun times inside the National Guard obstacle course at Truck or Treat



Movie In the Park at Huset Park West.



Dozens of local art vendors took part in the Art and Info Fair.

Centennial Celebrations

CENTENNIAL SUMMER EVENT

The culmination of the City’s centennial year took place on July 17, 2021, as the Community came together for the City’s Centennial Celebration. This event took place at Huset Park in Columbia Heights from 11 am to 2 pm. There was a more casual picnic held on the exact anniversary date July 21.

We estimate about 600 people stopped by Huset Park for games, live music, treats, and activities during the three-hour event. Volunteers served 500 pieces of cake! Dozens of people and organizations worked together to make this event possible.

For this and other centennial events throughout the year, the City worked closely to include as many community groups, businesses, organizations, and places of worship as possible. In total, roughly 20 groups hosted free carnival games or provided free snacks and cake at the centennial event. Two Columbia Heights musical acts also took the stage to perform.

ABC Life Newspaper created a special insert leading up to the Centennial Celebration.



WINTER SNOWBLAST FESTIVAL

The City’s inaugural SnowBLAST event in Huset Park was Jan 30. The event was truly a community effort, with City staff relying heavily on volunteer support and contributions from the Lions, Kiwanis, HeightsNEXT, the Boosters, Rotary, Community Grounds, and Columbia Heights Public Schools. Attendees enjoyed ice skating, snow shoeing, sledding, s’mores stations, free hot cocoa, popcorn, and snow painting. The Boosters and White Rabbit Kitchen sold food. Dave’s Sport Shop offered deals on skate rentals. And Police and Fire were present to chat with residents. The event ran from 3-6 pm. Attendance was limited to 100 people per hour due to Covid-19 precautions. SnowBLAST was developed as a 2021 Centennial event, but was approved to return as an annual winter festival.

SnowBLAST was awarded first-place in the category of Community Events from the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators at their 2021 annual Northern Lights Awards ceremony. It was also nominated for the Northern Lights Best-in-Show award.



Centennial Logos and Sponsorships



Public Works crews hung 49 centennial banners, featuring the City’s 100th anniversary logo, along Central Ave. Each banner was sponsored by a local business or organization. Proceeds from the sponsorship program help fund our Centennial Celebration, Movie in the Park series, and Music in the Park. Thank you to the 49 sponsors that helped to make these summer events possible!



Youth Commission

Youth Commission Created

On Oct 25, 2021, the Columbia Heights City Council approved amending the City Code to create a Columbia Heights Youth Commission, with first meetings set for 2022. Staff and elected officials had discussed the creation of a youth commission several times over the last few years. In 2021, staff reached out to other government agencies with similar programs, including Rosemount, Northfield, Rochester/Olmsted County, and Eden Prairie, for feedback. The programs came highly recommended. The purpose of the Columbia Heights Youth Commission will be to serve as an advisory body to the Columbia Heights 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. City Code designates that the commission will be composed of no less than seven members and no more than 20 members, with a staff mentor and a councilmember liaison. Members must be between the ages of 14-18 years old by the start of their term. Members must also be Columbia Heights residents. More at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/youth.



Several other community events were held in 2021. Above left: On Arbor Day, the Sister Cities dedicated a tree at Łomianki Park to celebrate 30 years of the Sister Cities in Columbia Heights. Above right: HeightsNEXT Heritage Fest, planned and held in celebration of the City's Centennial. Bottom left and right: The Lions' annual Jamboree Parade.



Mayors' Monarch Pledge Takes Flight in 2021!

In 2021, Columbia Heights committed to the Mayors' Monarch Pledge pledge, a national program where mayors and other heads of local and tribal government taking action 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. Part of the Monarch's Pledge in Columbia Heights included pollinator education, a movie on the Monarch migration at Murzyn, and a Festival in Huset Park East, pictured above.



Above - Summer of 1953 during the Columbia Heights annual summer celebration parade. This car was sponsored by Hazel's Beauty Shop on Central. The Senior Queen is Shirley Lewis with princess Donna Nelson. (Credit - Anoka County Historical Society.)



Above - LeRoy Schmitz (right) of Columbia Heights shares hamburgers and root beers with his friends at the community picnic. L to R: John Troan, Richard Ruston, James Fowler, Schmitz. (Credit - Hennepin County Library.)



Left - Tycoon's Bar and patrons: The bar was owned by Norman and Abigail (Sullivan) Kinnan. (Photo credit - Dirk Schmitz and family.)



Columbia Heights Fire Department in front of the "new" fire station at 40th and 7th St in early 1920s. (Photo credit - City of Columbia Heights.)

Above middle - A dairy bar in Columbia Heights, (Photo credit - Hennepin County Library.). Above right: Heights Theater in 1926.. (Credit - Anoka County Historical Society.). Below: Streetcars were used in Columbia Heights from 1893 to 1951. (Credit - MN Streetcar Museum)



Below left: The Columbia Heights Police Department, early 1930s, was located at 40th Ave and Quincy. Below right: Columbia Heights Public School Building built in 1894 was razed in 1967. (Photo credits - Bootstrap Book)



Though it officially became a city in 1921, Columbia Heights dates back to the late 1800s. In 1892, the Minneapolis Improvement Company Northeast held a naming contest with 2,281 names submitted. The name of Columbia Heights was chosen, and Olive Louise Thornbergh received a \$150 prize in gold. Fairview Park was the runner-up selection and Hazel Heights was the third choice. On March 14, 1898, Columbia Heights separated from Fridley Township and became a village. During the early days, Columbia Heights contained 1,696 acres, 100 citizens, and 20 houses. On July 21, 1921, the Charter of the City of Columbia Heights was adopted and the City was officially formed. Today, Columbia Heights is an All-America Award-winning City with a population of about 21,000.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

Through community engagement, the Community Development Division strives to better understand the values of the community—both business and residential—and reflect those values in its programs, projects, policies, and development standards implemented throughout the year.

Throughout 2021, Community Development continued implementing the strategic plan adopted by the City Council in 2017. The strategic plan outlined the City Council’s vision for the City by 2040, but also the necessary goals and objectives required in achieving that vision. Through aggressive economic development

and incentive programs, careful and articulate municipal planning, and appropriate regulatory control over permits and licenses, Community Development ensures alignment to the vision of the City as guided by our Comprehensive Plan. Community Development is charged with the overall land use planning and development activity within the City, specifically with the implementation, administration, and enforcement of the City zoning code and respective state building codes, but also coordination of economic development activities that both directly and indirectly act as catalysts for improving the overall quality of life, business vitality, and economic performance of the City.

In 2021, as in 2020, Community Development took a major roll in the planning, coordinating, and implementation the new City Hall development on 40th and Central.

The Community Development Division performs the following four core City functions:

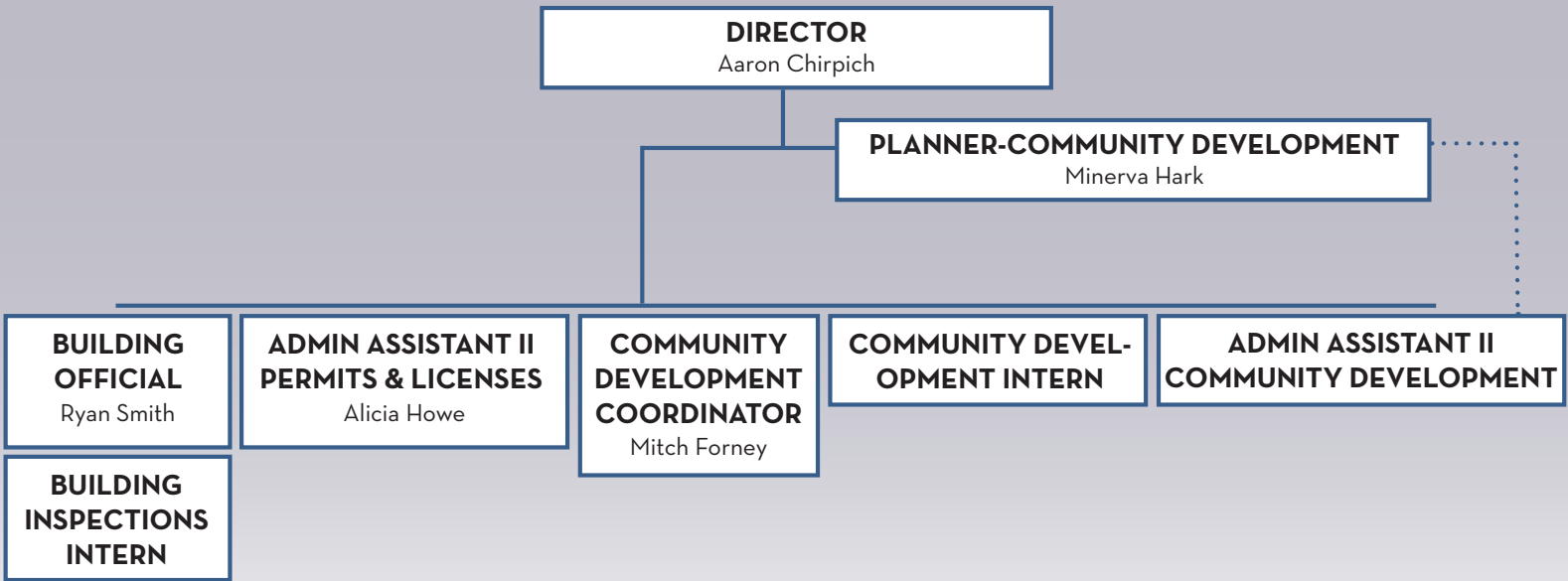
- Planning and Zoning – Long range planning and zoning administration and enforcement, development plan review, historic preservation, and corridor enhancement review.
- Economic Development Department—Business and workforce development, neighborhood stabilization, acquisition and

- redevelopment.
- Housing Department—Audit duties associated with the HRA’s former ownership of Parkview Villa.
- Building Safety Department—Building, mechanical, and plumbing permitting and inspections, code compliance and enforcement, as well as business licensing.

Each core function plays a fundamental role in achieving the City’s vision of ensuring and fostering a safe community; diverse, welcoming “small-town” feel; economic strength; excellent housing and neighborhoods; affordability; and strong infrastructure and public services.

Community Development Staff

Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Aaron Chirpich	Community Development Director	April 2, 2019	---
Minerva Hark	City Planner	March 8, 2021	---
Mitchell Forney	Community Dev. Coordinator	June 6, 2019	---
Ryan Smith	Building Official	Feb, 2019	---
Alicia Howe	Admin. Assistant	Jan 28, 2021	---



Planning and Zoning

About the Commission

The purpose of the Planning and Zoning Department is to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the community through administration of the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinances. Department staff works closely with the Planning Commission regarding Land Use Applications, Site Plan Reviews, and amending Zoning Ordinances as needed in the City of Columbia Heights.

The seven members on the Planning Commission are appointed by the City Council to serve in an advisory role concerning land use and zoning items. See page 22 for the full 2021 list of members.

2021 Planning Commission Highlights

- Completed a Site Plan Review for a proposed building addition at Minneapolis Saw, located at 831 40th Ave NE
- Reviewed a Zoning Ordinance Amendment and Conditional Use Permit to allow for the conditional use of a health or fitness club in the Limited Business District (Ordinance No. 1663)
- Reviewed a Minor Subdivision/Lot Line Adjustment for a property located at 1209 43rd Ave NE
- Reviewed the Proposed Acquisitions of 960 40th Ave NE and 1002 40th Ave NE and determined Comprehensive Plan Conformity
- Completed an Interim Use Permit for a Temporary Fireworks Sales Tent at 4005 Central Ave NE
- Reviewed and Denied a Site Plan Review for the construction of a patio addition with upper deck at Afandina Café, located at 4001 University Ave NE

- Reviewed a Variance to allow for an accessory structure (detached garage) in the front yard of the property located at 3919 Reservoir Boulevard NE
- Reviewed a Preliminary Plat, Easement Vacations, and Planned Unit Development to allow for the construction of a 4-story, 62-unit affordable housing building that includes a remainder parcel for the potential future development of the SACA Food Shelf
- Reviewed a Conditional Use Permit to allow the conversion of a single-family home into a duplex with detached garage for the property located at 3927 Hayes Street NE
- Completed a Site Plan Review for the construction of a patio addition at La Casita Mexican Restaurant, located at 5085 Central Avenue NE
- Reviewed a Variance to allow for the construction of an attached garage in the front yard and encroachments into the front yard setback for the property located at 4161 Polk Street NE
- Reviewed a Minor Subdivision to split an existing lot located at 4600 7th Street NE

Other Duties

The Planning and Zoning Division also facilitates management and enforcement of the City's Zoning Code. This includes monitoring and correcting zoning violations throughout the City. It also involves administration of the City's Sign Code, including the issuance and review of all Sign Permit applications in the City. Additionally, the City Planner works with residents who face issues associated with FEMA and/or floodplain overlay districts.

2021 Planning Commission

- Rob Fiorendino, Chair

Mark Vargas, Vice Chair

Tom Kaiser, Secretary/
Treasurer

Stan Hoium

Eric Sahnou
- Mike Novitsky

Clara Wolfe

John Murzyn Jr, Council
Liaison

Minerva Hark, Staff Liaison

2021 Economic Development Authority

- Marlaine Szurek,
President

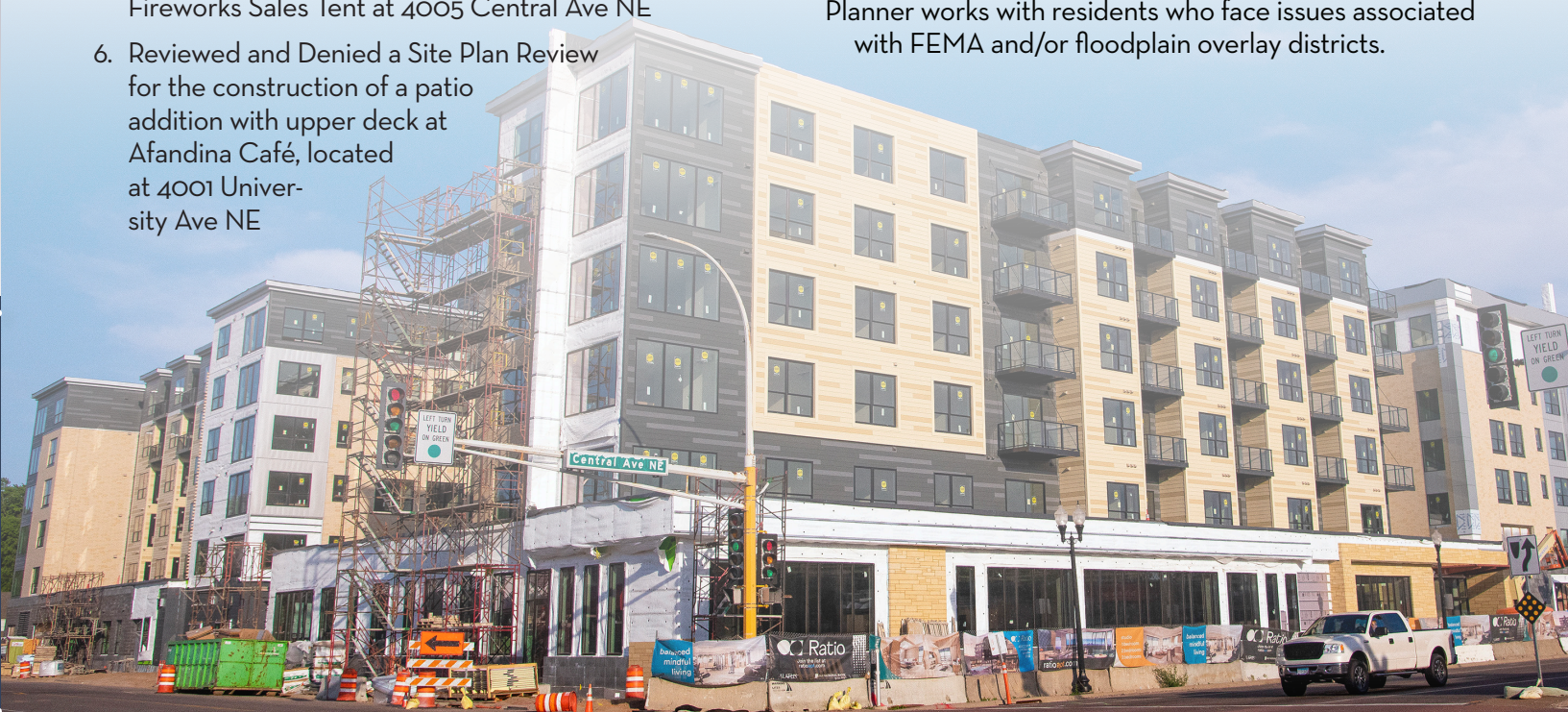
Connie Buesgens,
Vice President

Gerry Herringer,
Treasurer
- Amáda Márquez
Simula

Nick Novitsky

Kt Jacobs

John Murzyn Jr.



About the EDA

The Economic Development Department is charged with promoting economic development, redevelopment, and housing/neighborhood stabilization in Columbia Heights.

The Economic Development Department is responsible for the coordination of the EDA, which is the only City commission to have its own budget and spending authority. The EDA is made up of the City Council and two appointed commissioners. See page 22 for full 2021 list of members. The EDA considers the following goals when making decisions:

- 1. Enhance the City’s image and enhance community pride by actively promoting the many positive aspects of Columbia Heights.
- 2. Actively celebrate success in the community through press releases, website publications and other means.
- 3. Focus on reinvestment for Central Avenue that will contribute to long-term community stability through an increased tax base and business vitality.
- 4. Establish and manage a comprehensive housing program that will help increase values, manage and reduce the number of single family rental properties, generate a wider range of price point options and encourage reinvestment.
- 5. Continue to invest and reinvest in City infrastructure as a means to promote growth and shape the community.
- 6. Sustain and reinvest in residential neighborhoods.
- 7. Implement the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan.

Environmental Remediation

In December of 2021, the EDA completed the environmental remediation of the property located at 3930 University Ave NE. The property was purchased by the City in 2019 through tax forfeiture and conveyed the property to the EDA shortly after acquisition.

The site was previously used as a warehouse by Root Electric Company. In March of 2010, the main building burned down in a fire and the lot sat vacant and in disrepair until the purchase by the EDA. During the remediation, the site was cleared and a dump site containing asbestos along with 665 tons of soil were removed. The remediation was conducted to prepare the site, which borders other City owned sites, for future redevelopment.

Facade Improvement Grant Program

In a collaborative effort with the Police Department and the City, the EDA administered the Façade Improvement Grant Program for a third year in 2021. The purpose of this grant program is to encourage businesses and commercial property owners within commercial corridors to revitalize, rehabilitate, and restore exterior store fronts, but also for the CHPD to provide monitored surveillance along the City’s commercial corridors to reduce crime, as well as increase business vitality and economic performance of businesses. The grant program is setup to reimburse businesses or commercial property owners for eligible improvements up to 50% of the total project cost; for a maximum reimbursement of \$5,000. Moreover, if determined by the Police Department that an exterior surveillance system is warranted, the EDA would install surveillance equipment to monitor adjacent businesses and properties, as well as parks and open spaces and City rights-of-way.

Due to the economic impacts of the pandemic, interest in the program was limited in 2021. In total, the EDA received and approved two grant applications throughout the year. This program leveraged approximately \$4,850 in private reinvestment and paid out \$4,850 in public funds in 2021.

Building Safety Department

The Building Safety Department ensures the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and visitors of Columbia Heights through reviewing both residential and commercial construction plans and inspecting new construction to ensure compliance with State Building and Construction codes. The Building Safety Department is also responsible for issuing and monitoring business licenses. The Building Official serves as department manager for this core functional area.

Permits Issued 2016-2021 Building, Mechanical, Plumbing	
2016	1,458
2017	1,434
2018	1,108
2019	1,125
2020	1,139
2021	1,220

Building Inspection Data

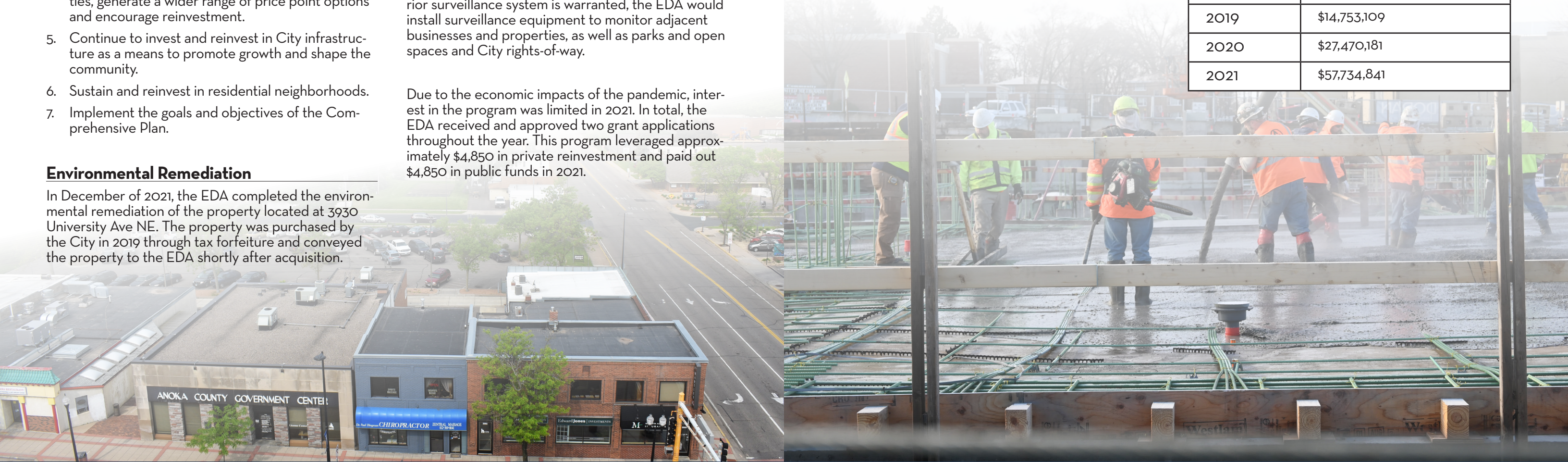
Approximately 1,578 inspections were conducted.

Permits Issued

There were 1,220 building permits issued. Large construction projects included:

- New construction of assisted living and memory care facility - Westgate of Columbia Heights (3850 Jefferson St NE)
- Construction of addition - Minneapolis Saw Company (831 40th Ave NE)
- New construction of mixed-use building including multi-family and new city hall - Alatus, LLC (3989 Central Ave NE)

Permit Valuations Building, Mechanical, Plumbing	
2016	\$35,252,845
2017	\$36,189,715
2018	\$9,095,404
2019	\$14,753,109
2020	\$27,470,181
2021	\$57,734,841



Housing and Business

Housing Department

The original purpose of the Housing Department was to coordinate the City’s Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) and oversee the operation and management of a U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) supported multifamily rental housing facility known as Parkview Villa North and South. On Sept 28, 2015, the HRA officially sold Parkview Villa North and South to Aeon, a non-profit housing organization.

Since Parkview Villa North and South were the last two properties owned by the HRA, the HRA adopted amended operational bylaws in 2016 to no longer hold regularly scheduled meetings. However, because of ongoing audit and reporting requirements mandated by HUD and the outstanding Promissory Note with the sale of Parkview Villa North and South, the HRA is required to remain an entity even though it no longer owns or operates any property.

Business Licensing

License Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Beer/Liquor	21	20	18	18	20
Contractor	252	247	238	235	153
Other	63	60	80	54	76
Total	336	329	336	307	247

The HRA is currently comprised of five members, which include the five City Council Members. In 2021, HRA Commissioners included John Murzyn, Jr. (Chair), Nick Novitsky (Vice Chair), Connie Buesgens (Treasurer), Amáda Márquez Simula and Kt Jacobs.

HRA meetings are no longer regularly scheduled and are only held if necessary. HRA staff continues to oversee the necessary reporting and auditing requirements set by HUD for Parkview Villa North and South.

Noberg Homes Assisted Living Building

In 2021, Noberg Homes completed the planning process for and began construction of a new assisted living apartment building. Located at 3850 Jefferson, the new apartment building brought 29 new units to the City including a mix of memory care and traditional assisted living units.

City Hall, Apartment Complex Mixed-Use Development at Central and 40th Moved Forward After Bank Building Razed

In fall, 2020, the City of Columbia Heights sold the land it owned at Central and 40th to the City’s development partner Alatus. Alatus hired Doran Construction to build a mixed-use development project that includes 266 apartments, a café space, and a new City Hall at 3989 Central Ave. Construction continued throughout 2021 and is expected to be finished in early 2023.

Construction work in 2021 focused on the completion of the foundation, and the framing of the entire structure.

More Details and Background

The Columbia Heights City Council voted 5-0 in September, 2019, 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 has partnered with the Leo A Daly LLC architecture firm to help design the facility. Locating a new 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 had been considered near Murzyn Hall on Huset Park West. City officials conducted a public hearing detailing the two sites in the fall of 2019.

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.columbia-heightsmn.gov/newcityhall.



Above: The new 3989 mixed-use development in progress. Below left: Demolition of the old bank building. Below right: Ribbon cutting on new construction site, Nov 12, 2020.





FINANCE

Introduction

The Finance Department is tasked with administering all the financial activities of the City. It also oversees the City’s information systems and liquor store operations.

The Finance Division, under the direction of the Finance Director, consists of three departments, each with its own manager:

- The Finance Department provides accounting, financial reporting, budgeting, and treasury services for all functions of the City. This

includes the customer billing functions for the City’s water, sewer, and refuse services.

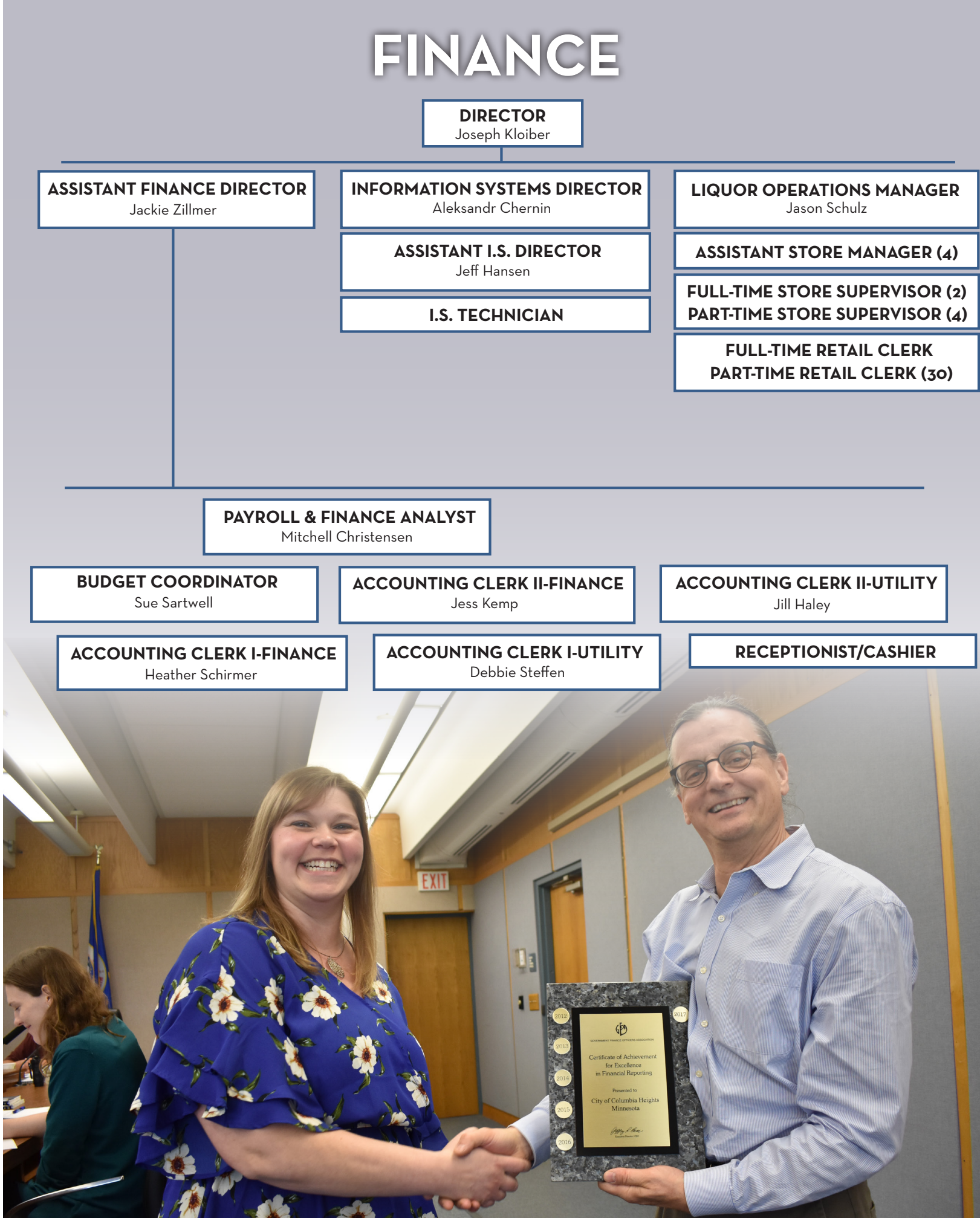
- The Information Systems Department provides information technology services for most functions of the City. Depending on the particular technology, the level of service by this department ranges from coordinating with outside vendors to implementing and maintaining systems and projects entirely in-house. Example systems include the City’s computer network, its telephone system, vid-

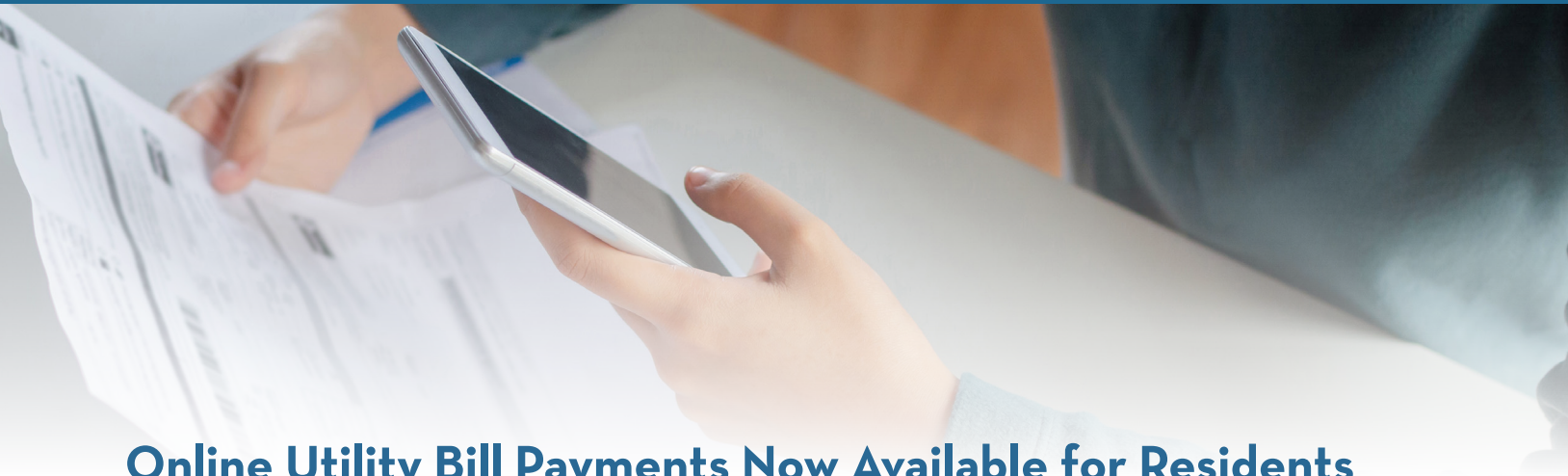
eo security, mobile device management, etc. In 2021, the City Council and staff developed a plan to create a separate IT Division, with the change scheduled for 2022.

- The Liquor Department operates three retail liquor stores located within the City of Columbia Heights. Under MN statute, the primary purpose of municipal liquor stores is to control the distribution of alcohol for public safety purposes. Municipal liquor stores can also generate income for the communi-

ty, reducing the amount of property taxes otherwise required for City functions. The City’s three-store operation has provided funds for City infrastructure and equipment, and for community policing activities such as D.A.R.E. that reduce the potential negative impacts of alcohol. In 2021, renovations and rebranding were completed for the store located at 5225 University Avenue NE. The name of the store changed from “Heights Liquor” to be “Top Valu #3”.

Finance Staff			
Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Joseph Kloiber	Finance Director	June 21, 2004	----
Jackie Zillmer	Assistant Finance Director	June 6, 2011	----
Mitchell Christensen	Payroll and Financial Analyst Accountant	Oct 5, 2020	----
Jill Haley	Accounting Clerk II-Utility	Sept 17, 2012	----
Deborah Steffen	Accounting Clerk I-Utility	Oct 22, 1990	----
Heather Schirmer	Accounting Clerk II	Nov 22, 2018	----
Sue Sartwell	Budget Coordinator	Oct 17, 2005	----
Jess Kemp	Accounting Clerk II	Sept 3, 2015	----
Paula Haynus	Receptionist/Cashier (PT)	Sept 17, 2012	Aug 19, 2021
Juanita Martinez	Receptionist/Cashier	Oct 11, 2021	----
Aleksandr Chernin	Information Systems Director	Sept 7, 1999	----
Jeff Hanson	Assistant IS Director	Oct 16, 2007	----
Steve Silverdahl	IS Technician	Sept 19, 2011	Dec 10, 2021
Jason Schulz	Liquor Operations Manager	May 10, 2017	----





Online Utility Bill Payments Now Available for Residents

The City of Columbia Heights launched a new, improved utility billing website in 2021 with easier pay online tools. The new utility billing website was part of an overall redesign of the City’s website (see page 13).

“We’re excited to finally offer interested utility customers a level of information and payment options that rival any modern e-commerce system,” said Finance Director Joseph Kloiber.

The City of Columbia Heights bills quarterly for water, sewer, storm sewer, garbage, recycling, and yard waste. Water and sewer charges are a combination of fixed quarterly fees, plus a variable charge for the volume of water passing through the meter installed at your property.

This volume data is automatically transmitted to the City’s billing system by a radio attached to the meter.

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/billing



Adjustments and Paperless Transactions

Throughout the year, the Finance department underwent process analysis and procedural changes in preparation for new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software. In September, the Finance department began the initial three-month implementation of the new program.

This upgraded software is more user friendly for both staff and residents, and significantly reduces paper records. Staff can work more independently within the system, transactions are nearly all paperless, approvals are performed electronically, and process speed has increased.

Within the utility billing portion of the system, features customers have wanted for several years first became available. Citizens are now able to look up their account balance online, see account activity, make or schedule payments, and sign up to receive paperless bills. In particular, the ability to assign recurring automatic payments

to a customer credit card account rather than a customer bank account was a frequently requested feature first made available in 2021. By the end of the year, 1,478 customers had signed up to receive paperless billing, and 4,011 electronic payments were received through the system.

ACFR Award

In 2021, the City’s 2020 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. This certificate is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, representing a significant accomplishment by a governmental unit and its management. The City’s most recent ACFRs are available on the City’s website.

Proposed 2022 Budget, Share of Property Taxes

At their Sept 27, 2021, meeting, the City Council gave initial approval to a 2022 budget that includes an average local property tax increase of 4.9%.

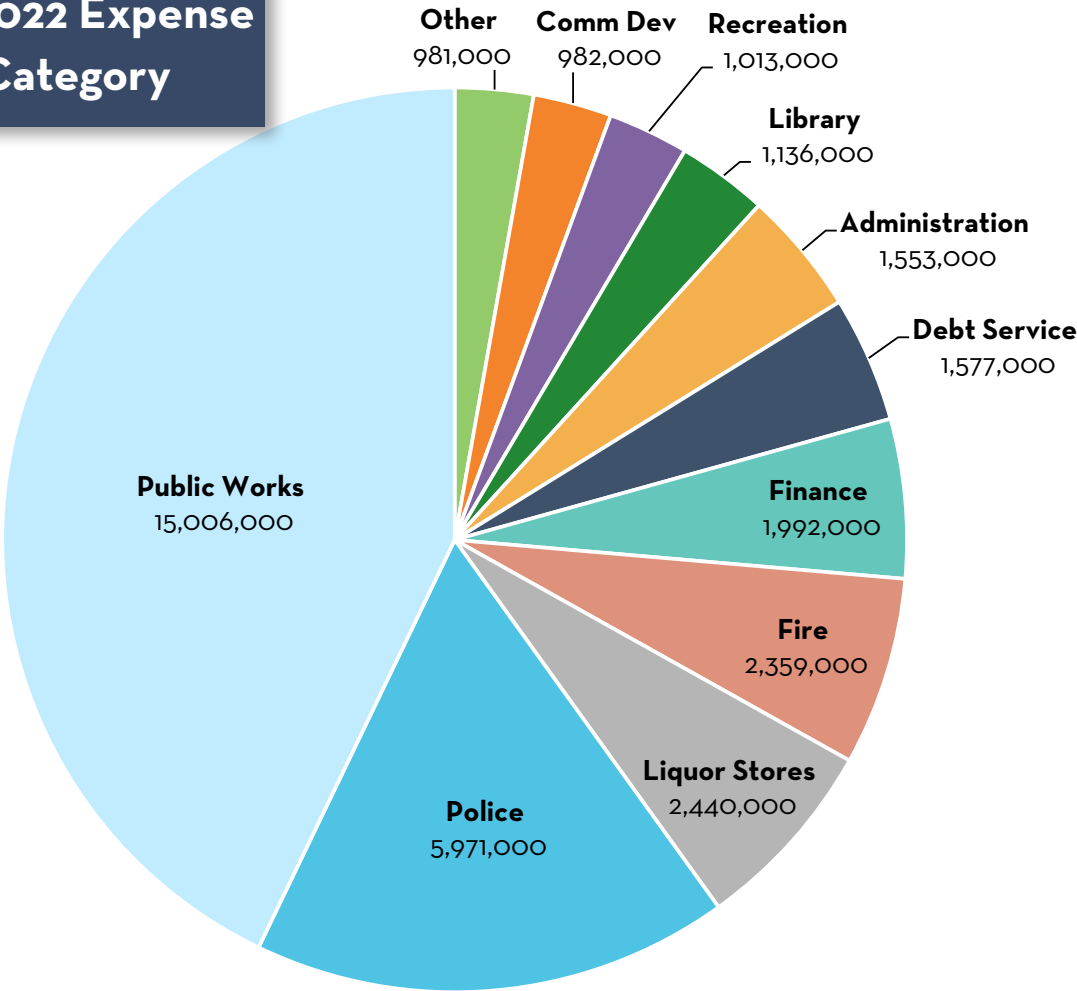
A portion of the taxes the City receives each year are from metro-area properties outside the City. This outside revenue will increase substantially for 2022, making the total tax revenue available for 2022 City operations 8.5% greater than for 2021. It’s uncertain whether the increase in outside revenue will continue after 2022 at the same level.

In 2022, the City will receive \$1,903,00 in state aid to local government (LGA). Under the City’s five-year financial plan, only \$425,000 of this LGA is used within the 2022 operating budget, while \$450,000 of LGA is applied to annual debt service on the public safety building and the library building. All remaining LGA is allocated to capital projects and major equipment purchases. Without this LGA, these capital items would otherwise be paid for with property taxes.

Under the proposed 2022 budget, tax-supported operating expenses will increase 4.5%. This includes both inflationary increases of approximately 3% on existing services, the addition of one full-time director of information technology (IT), and other costs. The new position of IT director is a key component of a five-year improvement plan for technology that was commissioned by the City Council in 2021.

In late November, Anoka County will mail each property owner a notice listing their proposed 2022 property taxes. On Dec 13, the City council will hold a public hearing on the 2022 budget prior to its final adoption.

Proposed 2022 Expense Budget by Category



Achievements and Activities

- Worked with Comcast to implement new Internet connection for the City and new virtual private network for connecting Liquor stores to the Public Safety Center
- Worked with the Liquor Stores and the vendor to transition to a new cloud-based point-of-sale retail system.
- Worked with the Liquor Stores, Public Works, contractors, and vendors during the remodeling of Top Valu 3
- Worked with Administration, Community Development and the vendor to upgrade Laserfiche document management system and implement public permit access.
- Worked with Finance and the vendor to migrate the City's financial system from AS/400 to BS&A, deploy software City wide and set up a training class for staff.
- Worked with other City departments and vendors to install new cameras at the Library, Murzyn Hall and Circle Terrace, and replace failing cameras and DVRs.
- Worked with Facilities Maintenance Supervisor and vendor to install remote access terminals for Police and Fire and prepare instructional video for Police and Fire for this system.
- Implemented recommendations from City's cybersecurity risk assessment.

Statistics

More than 200 computer users at 9 locations; almost 270 desktop PCs, virtual PCs, and portable computers; more than 270 phones with 570 phone numbers and voicemail boxes; over 7,000 hours call time; 80 physical and virtual servers and data storage systems; more than 20 network segments; more than 40 printers, copiers, scanners; almost 250 network devices and components of video security, physical access control systems, and building automation systems; 20 databases; Laserfiche document imaging system with more than 460,000 documents (3.9 million pages), roughly 100 help tickets resolved.

Restructuring

This was the last year IS (Information Systems) operated under the purview of the Finance Department. Discussions took place between staff and the City Council to create a standalone IT (Information Technology) Division with an IT Director, with a more outward approach towards support. Adding a formal IT Director position would also free up resources for network support. These changes were approved in 2021 but wouldn't go into effect until 2022.

Stores See Sales Increase in 2021

In 2021, overall sales increased by 18% for the operation with 2 of 3 stores outperforming the previous year. Top Valu #1 showed an increase of 13% and Top Valu #2 showed an increase of 34%. Whereas Top Valu #3 was down 9%. Staff attributed the increases to fewer closures and a more normalized operating year in comparison to 2020. Staff attributes the decline at Top Valu #3 to an almost 4-month closure for a major remodel. Staffing continued to be difficult in 2021 and even after the remodel, Top Valu #3 was forced to close sporadically throughout the year due to staffing shortages.

With a more normalized year, the liquor operations saw sales reach and slightly exceed pre-Covid-19 volumes. Customers who had become more accustomed to staying home and crafting cocktails continued that trend in 2021. Stores saw an increased interest in products to fill their home bars instead of going out for entertainment. New products were continually introduced at customer request and as a result of industry trends. This helped ease the national out of stocks and distributor staffing issues that caused significant gaps in distribution for certain products. New and existing customers were engaged by online marketing, social media posts and traditional paper advertising. In-store special events and tastings remained very limited in 2021.

Store Renovation Completed

Top Valu #3 closed for a remodel in early April and reopened in late July. The exterior improvements included complete roof replacement, painting, and extensive amounts of prefinished sheet metal to replace wood soffits and wood trim. This upgrade to sheet metal will substantially reduce the exterior maintenance required in the future. The interior improvements included new flooring and finishes to match the other two stores, a dropped ceiling with LED lighting, and the replacement and relocation of the checkout counters. When combined with new low voltage cabling throughout, the new interior is better suited to accommodate modern technology for both sales and security. The single restroom in the building was updated and reconfigured to be both ADA compliant and available for customer use.

Overall, the updates made to the store provide an improved shopping experience for customers and a more enjoyable working environment for employees. In keeping with this, the product line at Top Valu #3 was completely refreshed, focusing on the operation's top performing products and popular items that have historically sold well at the location. Customer traffic increased throughout the year as new customers found both the store and the new product mix to be convenient for quick trips when only a few items were needed.



Top Valu #1:
4950 Central Ave
Top Valu #2:
2105 37th Ave NE
Top Valu #3:
5225 University Ave NE

— TOP VALU —
LIQUOR

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS - FIRE DEPARTMENT -

FIRE

Introduction

Established in 1904, the Columbia Heights Fire Department has a long and proud history of community service. Through decades of growth, the expectations of and reliance on firefighters for life- and property-saving service sharply increased. Columbia Heights Firefighters continue to demonstrate their commitment by addressing these concerns proactively through advancements in training, superior quality equipment, and routine public education and community engagement.

In addition to fire suppression, the Columbia Heights Fire Department provides emergency medical services, fire prevention education, arson investigation, specialized rescue services, and inspection and enforcement

services for the Minnesota State Fire Code and the City's Property Maintenance Code.

As service expectations grew over the years, the daily hazards firefighters encountered increased just as significantly. Lightweight building construction, fire and smoke behavior, blood and air-borne pathogens, distracted drivers, and an alarming rise in cancer diagnoses have transformed the fire service workplace environment. It is more dangerous than ever to serve as a firefighter.

In 2021, one of the most notable efforts of the year was the successful planning and execution of our Community COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic. With the help

of the Anoka County Department of Health, thousands of residents were able to quickly and safely receive a free vaccine. Actions like this are vital and illustrate our mission to provide unparalleled service.

Other 2021 Highlights:

- Placed a new custom fire engine in service
- Began Property Maintenance Inspections and Code Enforcement in Hilltop
- Replaced aging equipment with the latest in technology
- Held a live burn training exercise
- Hosted KARE 11 for a fire safety announcement
- Welcomed four new paid on-call recruits
- Implemented response protocols to provide for

the safety of personnel and residents during the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Continued to ensure that all personnel met required certifications by using distance and virtual training models

Our success wouldn't be possible without the support we receive from the Mayor, City Council, and City Administration and staff. We will strive to build on our accomplishments and exemplify the honor, pride, and long-standing history of providing quality and caring service. We will uphold the traditions that are the foundation of the CHFD.

Fire Department Full-Time Members

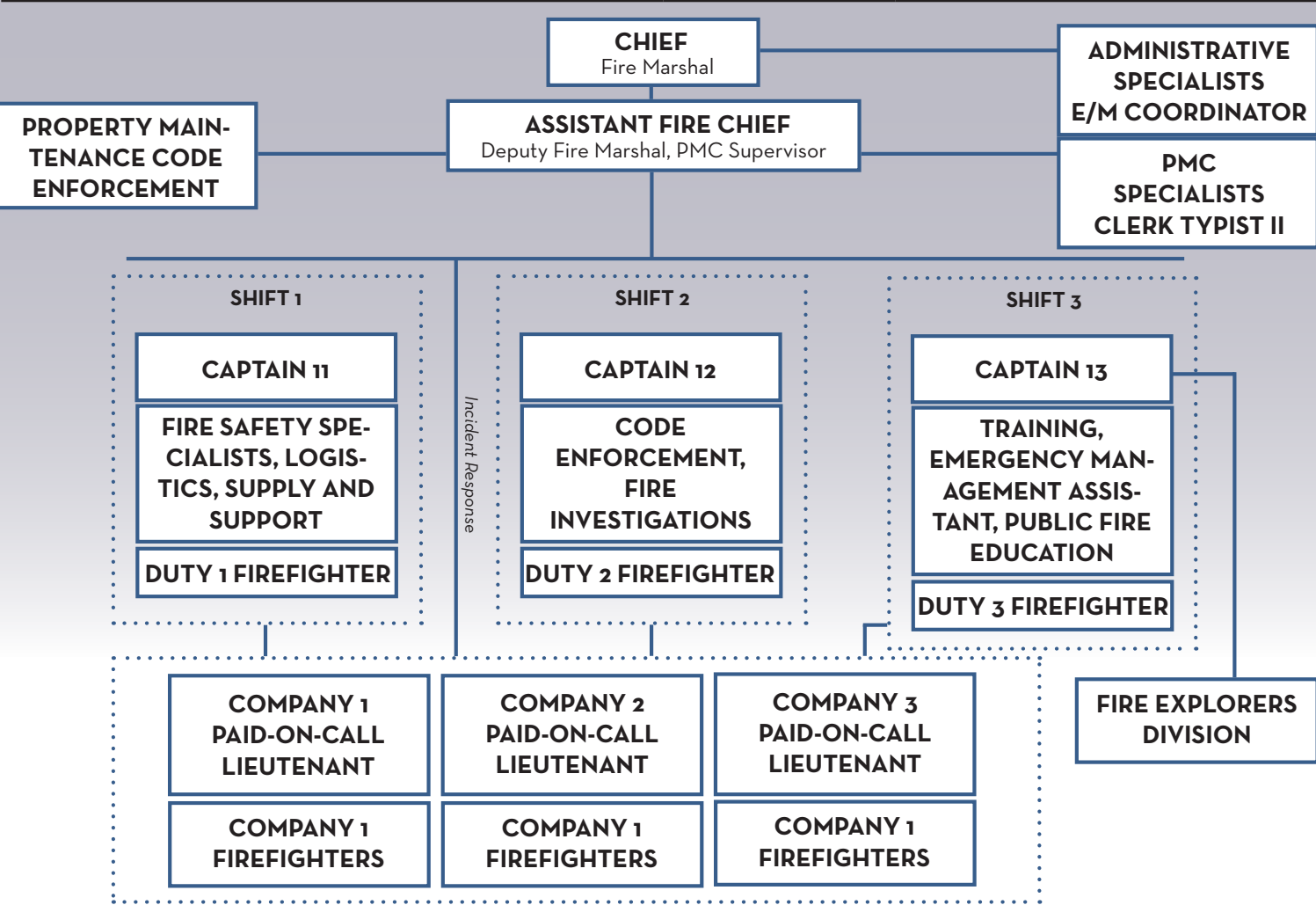
Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Charlie Thompson	Fire Chief	Aug 19, 2019	----
Daniel O’Brien	Assistant Fire Chief	Nov 30, 2019	----
Thomas Mattson	Captain	Jan 1, 1999	----
Anthony Cuzzupe	Captain	July 1, 2003	----
Zachery Picard	Captain	Jan 1, 2014	----
Grant Dickinson	Firefighter	March 1, 2016	----
John Flanders	Firefighter	Sept 1, 2014	----
Kyle Hall	Firefighter	Feb 2, 2020	----
Emily Kosman	Firefighter	May 1, 2011	----
Michael Pyka	Firefighter	March 1, 2016	----
Kristen Peterson	Fire Admin. Assistant	Feb 24, 2020	----
Jeri Caron	Fire Clerk	June 1, 2015	----

Paid On-Call Lieutenants

Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Christopher Allen	Paid On-Call Lieutenant	Nov 23, 2020	----
Kate McKay	Paid On-Call Lieutenant	Nov 23, 2020	----
Brian Polski	Paid On-Call Lieutenant	May 1, 2010	----

Paid On-Call Firefighters

Name	Start/End Dates	Name	Start/End Dates
Lisa Boatman	March 1, 2016----	Matthew Reynolds	Sept 22, 2020----
Jared Finkelson	Sept 22, 2020----	Quinn Rod	Sept 22, 2020----
Jacob Gillespie	May 1, 2011----	Bryan Schachtele	Sept 1, 2014----
Nicholas Lindberg	Sept 22, 2020----	Brianna Shuipis	Sept 22, 2020----
Andrew Ohlendorf	Sept 22, 2020----	William Shutte	March 1, 2010–Aug 31, 2021
Anahi Ordonez	April 1, 2019----	Brian Sibri	July 1, 2019----
Elizabeth Orellana	Sept 22, 2020----	Charles Struzyk	Jan 1, 2013----
Cody Oveson	May 1, 2019–Nov 17, 2021	Alyssa Super	Sept 22, 2020----
Jennifer Pena	March 1, 2016----	Greg White	April 1, 2019----



2021 Incident Statistics



2,071

TOTAL INCIDENTS

4% Decrease from 2020



514

FIRE INCIDENTS



1,557

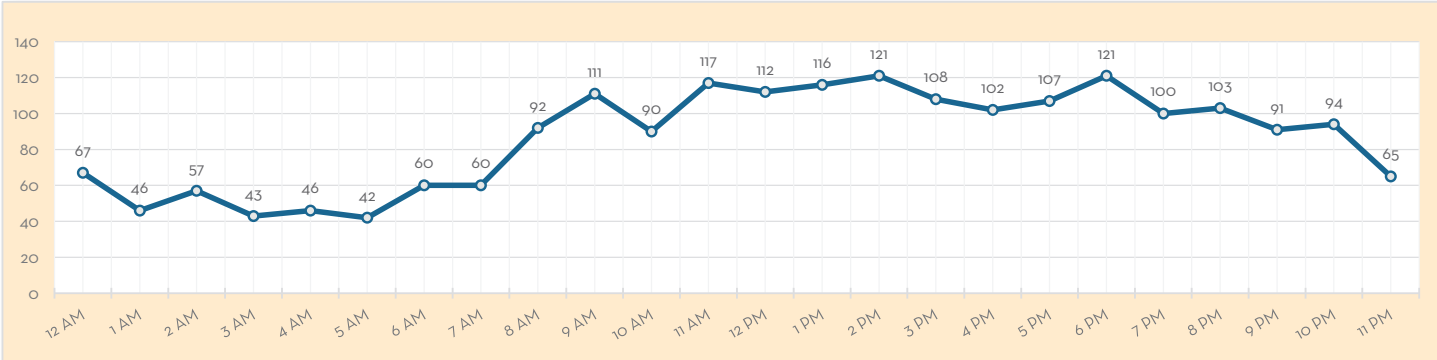
MEDICAL & RESCUE INCIDENTS

The Columbia Heights Fire Department uses the Minnesota Fire Incident Reporting System (MNFIRS) to report each emergency incident. MNFIRS is a member of the National Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Our incident response statistics are compiled with all other Fire Departments at the state and national level. These statistics are utilized to focus on current trends and problems and to predict future ones within the fire service.

ALARM SERIES SUMMARY REPORT BY MONTH

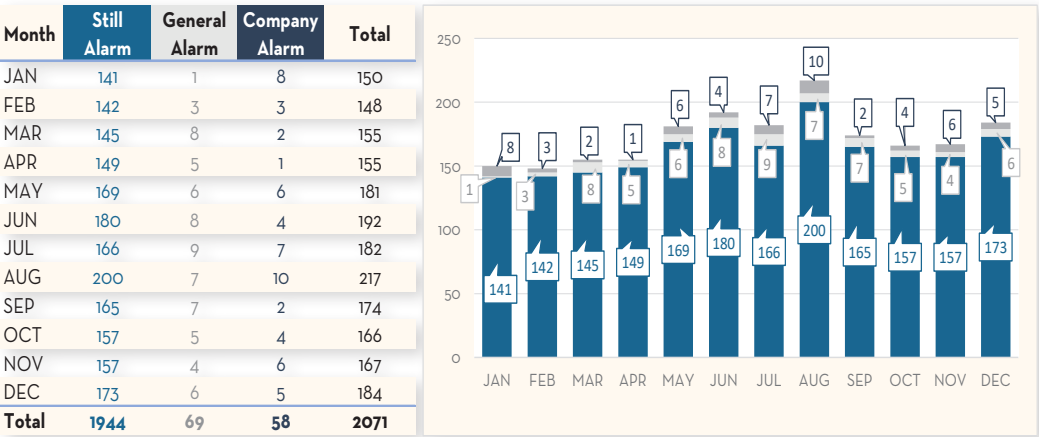
Situation	City	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
100 Fire	Columbia Heights Hilltop	6	3	5	6	7	10	11	6	4	8	2	5	73
200 Rupture/Explosion	Columbia Heights Hilltop									1			1	1
300 Rescue/EMS	Columbia Heights Hilltop	91	73	84	106	98	90	98	114	85	90	88	104	1,121
400 HazMat	Columbia Heights Hilltop	4	5	7	3	5	13	5	8	5	7	3	5	70
500 Service Call	Columbia Heights Hilltop	17	21	22	20	25	27	19	33	25	20	24	21	274
600 Good Intent Call	Columbia Heights Hilltop	16	21	12	6	22	24	26	26	25	19	18	19	234
700 False Alarm/Call	Columbia Heights Hilltop	11	8	8	3	9	8	11	15	11	9	9	10	112
900 Other	Columbia Heights					1	1					1		3
Grand Total		150	148	155	155	181	192	182	217	174	166	167	184	2,071

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL CALLS BY TIME OF DAY



2021 Incident Statistics Cont.

TYPE OF ALARMS BY MONTH

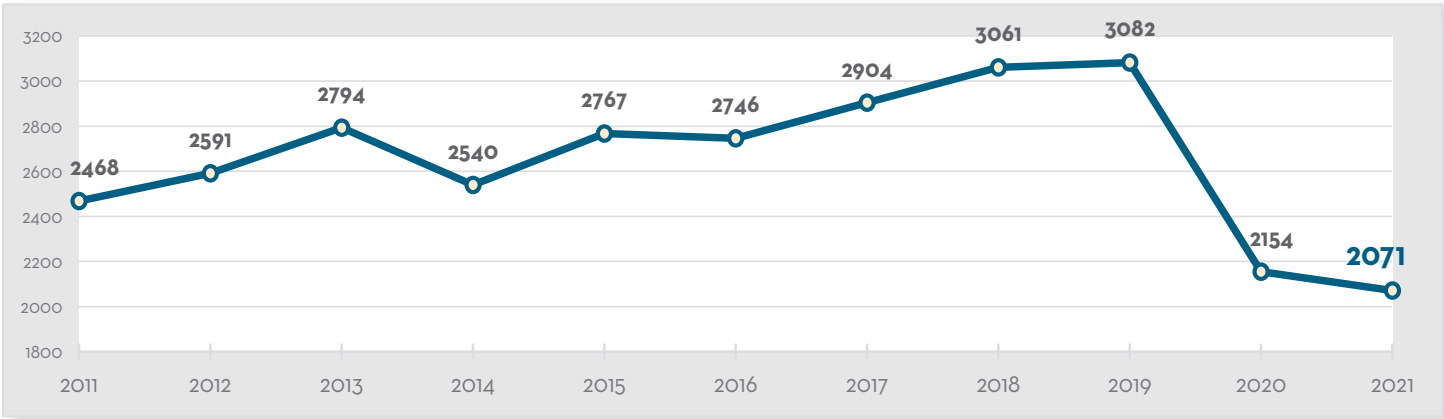



Still Alarms are handled by on-duty personnel without calling for additional help.

Company Alarms are handled by call-back of available off-duty paid personnel and approximately one half of the available Paid-on-Call membership.

General Alarms are used when the situation calls for the services of all available members.


10-YEAR COMPARISON OF TOTAL INCIDENTS






AUGUST

BUSIEST MONTH OF THE YEAR



SUNDAY

BUSIEST DAY OF THE WEEK

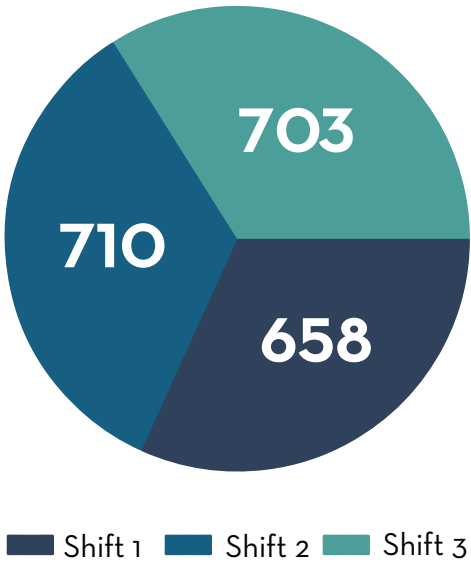


2-3 PM

BUSIEST TIME OF THE DAY



INCIDENTS BY SHIFT



Top 20 Properties for Service

Address				Calls for Service
1	The Legends of Columbia Heights Senior Living	191-Unit Senior Apartments	3700 Huset Pkwy NE	109
2	Parkview Villa Apartments	146-Unit Apartment Building	965 40th Ave NE	57
3	New Perspective Senior Living	92-Unit Assisted Living/Memory Care	3801 Hart Blvd NE	46
4	Heights Manor	85-Unit Apartment Building	3850 Stinson Blvd NE	39
5	Crest View Lutheran Home	122-Bed Nursing Home	4444 Reservoir Blvd NE	37
6	Crest View on 42nd	50-Unit Assisted Living/Memory Care	900 42nd Ave NE	32
7	Royce Place Assisted Living	50-Unit Assisted Living/Memory Care	1515 44th Ave NE	29
8	Crest View Corporation	74-Unit Senior Apartments	4458 Reservoir Blvd NE	25
9	MedExpress	Urgent Care Clinic	4880 Central Ave NE	24
10	Hart Lake Apartments	75-Unit Senior Apartments	3839 Hart Blvd NE	23
11	Hillcrest Apartments	18-Unit Apartment Building	4730 Central Ave NE	22
12	Grand Central Flats	60-Unit Apartment Building	4729 Grand Ave NE	21
13	Columbia Village	40-Unit Senior Apartments	1675 44th Ave NE	19
14	Columbia Heights Public Safety Building	Fire/Police Station	825 41st Ave NE	13
15	Winthrop Court Apartments	24-Unit Apartment Building	4630 Central Ave NE	11
16	Yan, Lee (Midwest GIRG)	17-Unit Apartment Building	3806 Stinson Blvd NE	11
17	Jones, Kyle M.	35-Unit Apartment	3838 McKinley St NE	11
18	Walgreens	Drug store	4880 Central Ave NE	10
19	Hillcrest Apartments	17-Unit Apartment Building	4750 Central Ave NE	10
20	Starlite Motel	Motel	4720 Central Ave NE	10

Classification of Alarms

Fire	Rescue/Medical Alarms (cont.)	Service Calls (cont.)
Canceled en route: Fire	Possible Narcotics	Person in distress, misc.
Cooking fire	Pregnancy/OB/Childbirth	Police matter
Fire, misc.	Rescue or EMS standby	Power line down
Grass/Brush/Vegetation fire	Rescue/Extrication, misc.	Public service
No Incident Found: Fire	Seizure	Public service, misc.
Structure fire	Stabbing	Ring or jewelry removal
Trash fire	Stalled elevator rescue	Smoke detector activation, malfunction
Trash/Dumpster fire	Substance/Drug Abuse	Smoke detector activation, no fire
Vehicle fire	Syncope/Fainting	Smoke scare, odor of smoke
Wrong Location: Fire	Unconscious/Down	Sprinkler activation, malfunction
Rescue/Medical Alarms	Vehicle accident with injuries	Steam/gas/fog mistaken for smoke
Abdominal/Flank Pain	Vehicle accident, no injuries	System malfunction, other
Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis	Vehicle/pedestrian accident	Unauthorized/Illegal burning
Assault	Weakness	Vehicle accident, general cleanup
Assist Invalid	Wrong Location: Medical	Water or steam leak
Behavioral/Psychological Problem	Service Calls	Water problem, other
Blood Pressure Issue	Alarm system activation, no fire	
Breathing Problem	Alarm system sounded, malfunction	
Burns	Alarm system, malicious false alarm	
Canceled en route: Medical	Animal rescue	
Cardiac Arrest	Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	
Chest Pain - Cardiac	Assist police/other governmental agency	
Choking/Airway Obstruction	Authorized controlled burning	
CO Poisoning/Smoke Inhalation	Canceled en route: Fire	
CVA/Stroke/TIA	Canceled en route: Medical	
Diabetic Problem	Carbon monoxide incident	
Dizziness	Citizen complaint	
DK/ETOH Ingestion (Alcohol Problem)	CO detector activation, malfunction	
DOA	CO detector activation, no CO	
Extricate victim(s) from vehicle	Combustible liquid spill	
Fall	Combustible/flammable gas/liquid hazard	
Flu Symptoms	Cover assignment/standby	
Gunshot	Defective elevator, no occupants	
Headache	Detector activation, no fire	
Heat Emergency/Hyperthermia	Electrical wiring/equipment problem	
Heroin Overdose	Excessive heat w/scorching, no ignition	
Injury/Laceration/Bleeding	False alarm/call, misc.	
Lift Assist	Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	
Lock-in	Hazmat investigation w/no hazmat	
Medical Alarm (accidental)	Lift Assist	
Medical Incident	Lock-out	
Motor Vehicle Accident	Malicious, mischievous false call, misc.	
No Incident Found: Medical	No Incident Found: Medical	
Other Cardiac Problem	Overheated motor	
Overdose/Poisoning	Overpressure/steam rupture	
Pain		
Pneumonia		



Fire Incidents With Property Loss

Date	Call #	Address	Property Use	Cause of Fire	Pre Incident Property Value	Property Loss	Property Saved
Building fire							
1/17	21-0082	4417 3rd St NE	1 or 2 family dwelling	Unintentional	\$250,000	\$50,000	\$200,000
3/11	21-0341	4911 University Ave NE	Multifamily dwellings	Undetermined*	\$619,800	\$1,000	\$618,800
4/4	21-0466	4847 Madison St NE	1 or 2 family dwelling	Unintentional	\$143,600	\$20,000	\$123,600
5/25	21-0755	3932 Ulysses St NE	1 or 2 family dwelling	Failure of equipment or heat source	\$330,000	\$3,000	\$327,000
5/29	21-0771	4322 3rd St NE #5	Multifamily dwellings	Cause under investigation	\$931,600	\$100,000	\$831,600
6/24	21-0952	5213 7th St NE	1 or 2 family dwelling	Unintentional	\$131,300	\$80,000	\$51,300
7/12	21-1054	4136 Jackson St NE	1 or 2 family dwelling	Unintentional	\$250,000	\$25,000	\$225,000
7/19	21-1091	4650 Johnson St NE #201	Multifamily dwellings	Intentional	\$1,707,600	\$1,500	\$1,706,100
8/12	21-1245	5001 4th St NE	Parking garage (detached residential garage)	Other	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
8/12	21-1246	4948 4th St NE	Parking garage (detached residential garage)	Other	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
8/12	21-1251	4717 6th St NE	1 or 2 family dwelling	Cause under investigation	\$200,000	\$70,000	\$130,000
10/14	21-1626	4145 5th St NE	1 or 2 family dwelling	Cause under investigation	\$100	\$100	\$0
10/23	21-1669	4441 University Ave NE #3	Multifamily dwellings	Undetermined*	\$510,500	\$18,500	\$492,000
Estimated totals Building fire (13 Incidents)					\$5,119,500	\$414,100	\$4,705,400
Outside equipment fire							
10/1	21-1557	4145 Madison St NE	1 or 2 family dwelling	Undetermined*	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Estimated totals Outside equipment fire (1 Incident)					\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Passenger vehicle fire							
1/23	21-0109	999 50th Ave NE	Street, other	Undetermined*	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
3/13	21-0353	5249 7th St NE	Residential board and care	Unintentional	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
4/5	21-0475	3939 University Ave NE	Restaurant or cafeteria	Unintentional	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
4/5	21-0480	o University Ave NE	Highway or divided highway	Unintentional	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0
7/3	21-0997	3818 3rd St NE	1 or 2 family dwelling	Unintentional	\$700	\$700	\$0
8/12	21-1245	5005 4th St NE	Vehicle parking area	Other	\$35,000	\$10,000	\$25,000
8/12	21-1246	4948 4th St NE	Parking garage (detached residential garage)	Other	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Estimated totals Passenger vehicle fire (7 Incidents)					\$114,700	\$89,700	\$25,000
Estimated totals for 2021					\$5,236,200	\$505,800	\$4,730,400

* Undetermined fire causes include those fires that are in the process of being investigated or have been investigated but have insufficient information to classify further.

Casualty Report

In 2021 there was 1 Civilian Casualty Injury

Date	Call #	Address	Incident Type	Primary Symptom	Severity
4/4	21-0466	4847 Madison St NE	Building fire	Breathing difficulty	Moderate

In 2021 there were 2 Firefighter Casualty Injuries

Date	Call #	Address	Incident Type	Primary Symptom	Severity
5/29	21-0771	4322 3rd St NE #5	Building fire	Breathing difficulty	Report only
8/15	21-1271	4849 Central Ave NE	Commercial Compactor fire, confined to rubbish	Cut or laceration	First aid only

* with lost time

Mutual Aid Report

Mutual aid is an agreement between fire departments to assist each other when called for by responding with available staffing and apparatus. The Columbia Heights Fire Department works closely with surrounding departments and has an “automatic” mutual aid agreement with the cities of Fridley and St. Anthony to be dispatched simultaneously for fires during the weekday hours when staffing is at its lowest.

MUTUAL AID RECEIVED

Date	Call #	Address	Incident Type	Incident Type	Department(s)
1/17	21-0082	4417 3rd St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department
3/1	21-0303	4634 Central Ave NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department
4/4	21-0466	4847 Madison St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department
4/22	21-0564	4940 Monroe St NE	Overdose/Poisoning	Mutual aid received	Fridley Fire Department
4/22	21-0565	900 42nd Ave NE	Chest Pain - Cardiac	Mutual aid received	St. Anthony Fire Department
4/23	21-0571	716 39th Ave NE	Breathing Problem	Mutual aid received	St. Anthony Fire Department
5/13	21-0696	717 47 1/2 Ave NE	Nothing found	Mutual aid received	Fridley Fire Department
5/14	21-0698	3925 3rd St NE #12	Canceled en route	Mutual aid received	St. Anthony Fire Department
5/29	21-0771	4322 3rd St NE #5	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department St. Anthony Fire Department
6/15	21-0874	960 43 1/2 Ave NE	Garbage/Dumpster fire	Automatic aid received	St. Anthony Fire Department
6/24	21-0952	5213 7th St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department
7/4	21-1006	909 46 1/2 Ave NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department
7/10	21-1041	233 42nd Ave NE #207	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department
7/12	21-1054	4136 Jackson St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department
7/12	21-1055	1032 Gould Ave NE	Overdose/Poisoning	Mutual aid received	Fridley Fire Department
7/12	21-1056	3850 Stinson Blvd NE #107	Other Cardiac Problem	Mutual aid received	Fridley Fire Department
8/12	21-1245	5005 4th St NE	Garbage/Dumpster fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department St. Anthony Fire Department
8/12	21-1246	4948 4th St NE	Garbage/Dumpster fire	Automatic aid received	St. Anthony Fire Department Fridley Fire Department
8/12	21-1251	4717 6th St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department St. Anthony Fire Department
8/20	21-1309	3850 Jefferson St NE	Fall	Mutual aid received	Fridley Fire Department St. Anthony Fire Department
9/10	21-1432	2217 40th Ave NE	Smoke Scare	Automatic aid received	St. Anthony Fire Department Fridley Fire Department
10/14	21-1626	4145 5th St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department St. Anthony Fire Department

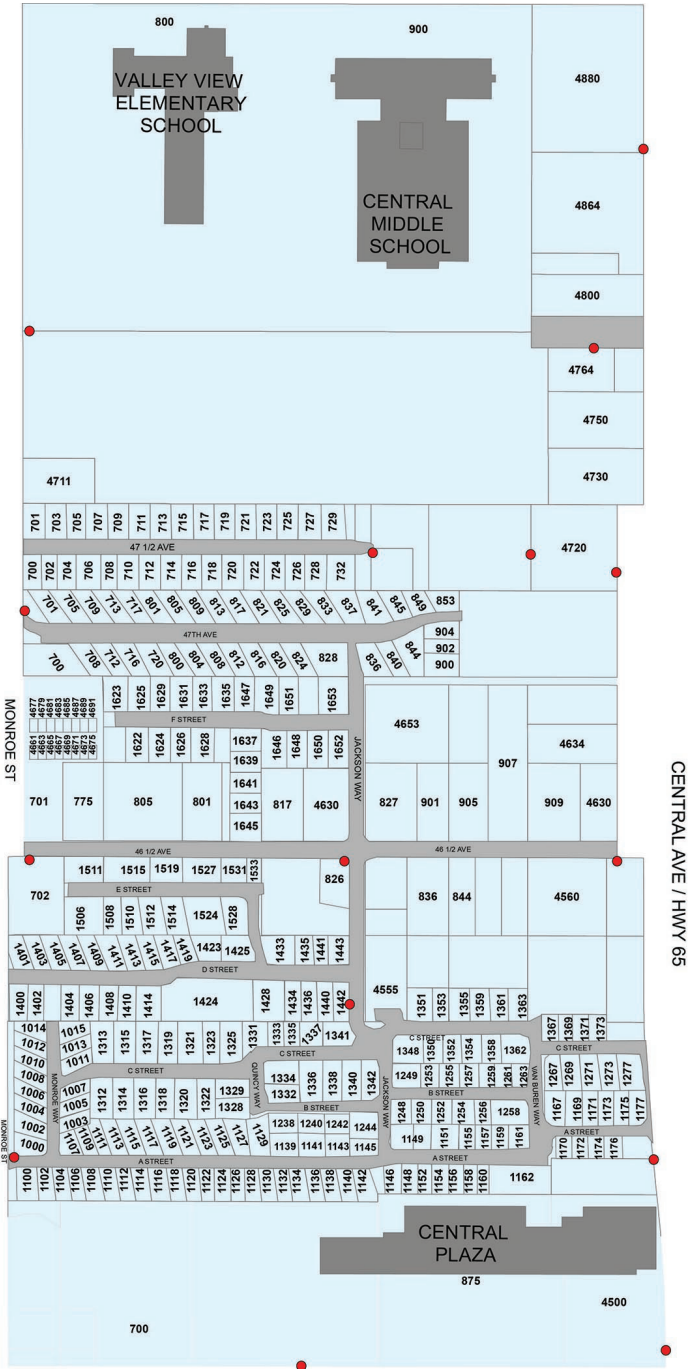
MUTUAL AID GIVEN

Date	Call #	Address	Incident Type	Incident Type	Department(s)
1/21	21-0099	137 Mississippi Pl NE #2	Canceled enroute	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
2/15	21-0228	1260 52nd Ave NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
2/17	21-0240	3632 Roosevelt St NE	Structure Fire	Mutual aid given	St. Anthony Fire Department
3/9	21-0329	7570 Highway 65 NE	Canceled enroute	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
3/12	21-0347	1274 72nd Ave NE	Canceled enroute	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
3/20	21-0403	6007 Main St NE	Canceled enroute	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
4/9	21-0498	305 53rd Ave NE #204	Canceled enroute	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
5/7	21-0647	5130 Main St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
5/22	21-0739	7071 University Ave NE	Standby at fire station	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
5/30	21-0779	5951 University Ave NE #237	Canceled enroute	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
6/12	21-0858	200 Charles St NE	Assist agency	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
6/15	21-0881	6161 Rainbow Dr NE	Canceled enroute	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
6/16	21-0890	8617 West River Rd	Structure Fire	Mutual aid given	Brooklyn Park Fire Dept
6/18	21-0906	210 Rice Creek Blvd NE	Canceled enroute	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
6/26	21-0961	6473 Taylor St NE	Electrical problem	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
6/26	21-0962	5607 4th St NE	Breathing Problem	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
7/1	21-0983	5130 Main St NE	Assist agency	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
7/4	21-1009	987 Hillwind Rd NE	Canceled enroute	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
7/5	21-1017	1314 Mississippi St NE	Canceled enroute	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
7/8	21-1030	4110 Main St NE	Cardiac Arrest	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
7/8	21-1031	1230 Cheri Ln NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
7/17	21-1081	230 57th Ave NE	Assist agency	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
7/19	21-1094	University Ave NE/46th Ave NE	Motor Vehicle Accident	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
8/19	21-1302	7178 University Ave NE	Canceled enroute	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
8/24	21-1334	6020 6th St NE	Canceled enroute	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
8/27	21-1355	6021 Main St NE #4	Assist agency	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
9/15	21-1451	6425 Van Buren St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
9/25	21-1504	6831 York Pl	Structure Fire	Mutual aid given	Brooklyn Center Fire Department
9/27	21-1525	5301 East River Rd NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
10/10	21-1608	1267 Onondaga Way NE	Structure Fire	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
10/16	21-1634	University Ave NE/Interstate 694	Canceled enroute	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
10/30	21-1712	6751 Madison St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
11/2	21-1726	6329 5th St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
11/8	21-1769	7590 Lyric Ln NE #2	Assist agency	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
12/5	21-1919	University Ave NE/Mississippi St NE	Canceled enroute	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
12/22	21-2012	6051 5th St NE	Canceled enroute	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
12/28	21-2052	1030 Hathaway Ln NE	Assist agency	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
12/29	21-2061	1400 73rd Ave NE	Canceled enroute	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department

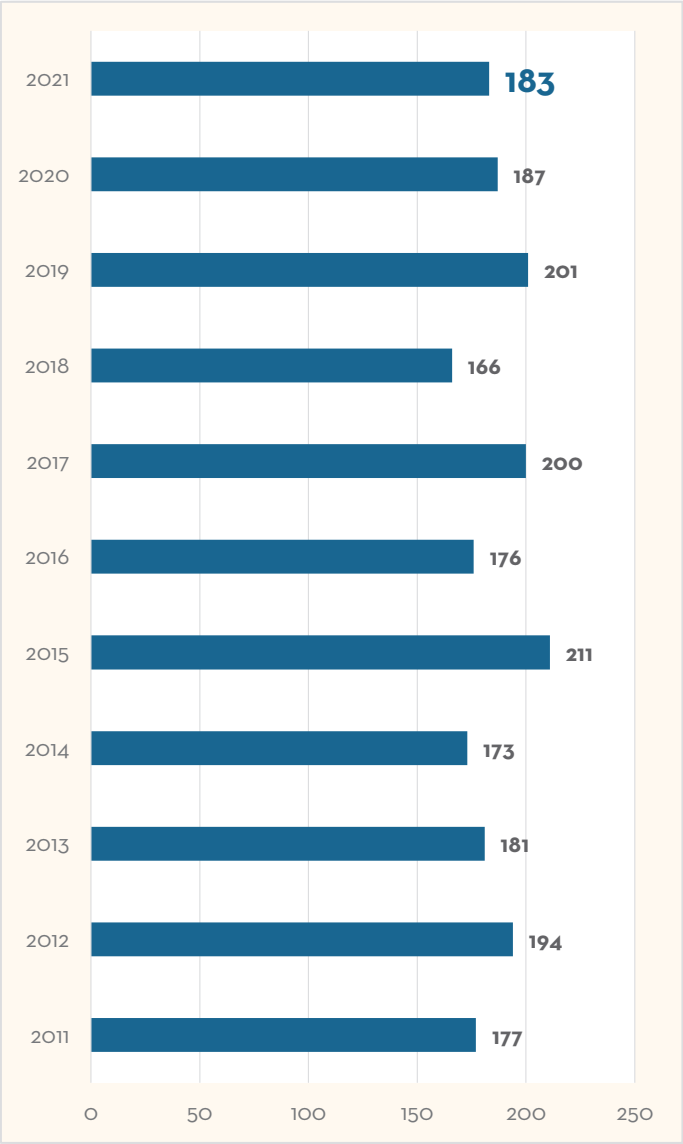
Hilltop Agreement

The Columbia Heights Fire Department has an agreement to provide full fire suppression, emergency medical services, and fire inspection services for the City of Hilltop. In September 2021, the cities of Columbia Heights and Hilltop signed a new agreement which added inspection, enforcement, and administration of Hilltop's Rental Licensing Program to the list of services provided.

Over the next several months, the fire department worked with Hilltop to develop and adopt their Rental Licensing and Property Maintenance codes. The licensing program launched the last week of December when the fire department sent notice of the rental licensing requirements to Hilltop landlords.



10-YEAR SUMMARY OF HILLTOP INCIDENTS



Inspections

The Fire Department Inspection Program is supervised by the Assistant Fire Chief and involves the eight full time firefighters as inspectors. All inspectors are cross trained for both fire and property maintenance inspections, allowing for flexibility in scheduling.

The fire department conducted a total of 4,862 inspection, license, and inspection-related data entry activities during 2019. This report summarizes inspections which are broken into categories including commercial/industrial inspections, rental property inspections, single-family home inspections, and other actions performed by the inspection office.

2021 marked the first full year of commercial inspections

performed grouped by occupancy. Grouping inspections has helped with inspection consistency as inspectors can focus on the specific hazards of each type of business occupancy and the applicable codes.

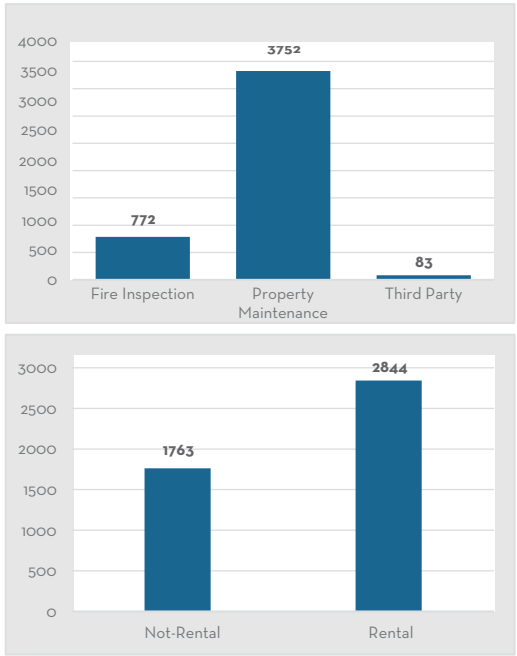
Emphasis was placed on updating property contacts and working to ensure that fire protection systems of the businesses performed their required annual testing and maintenance. Staffing and supply chain shortages caused lengthy delays in system servicing for businesses.

The year also saw several new construction and renovation projects in Columbia Heights which generated lots of practice of plan review for fire alarm systems and suppression systems.

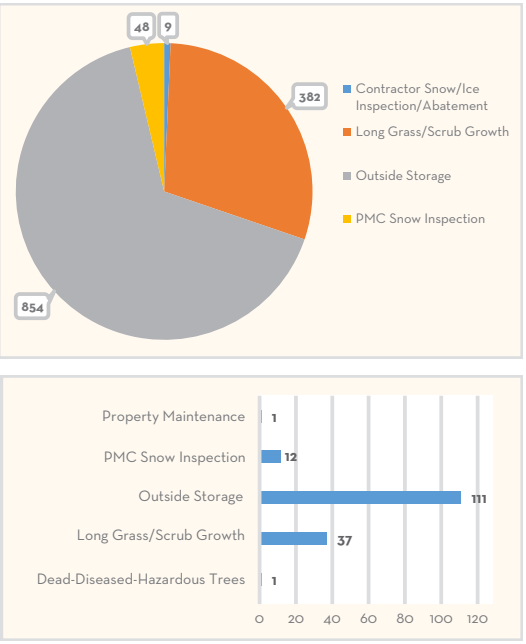
TOTAL INSPECTIONS BY YEAR



INSPECTIONS BY TYPE



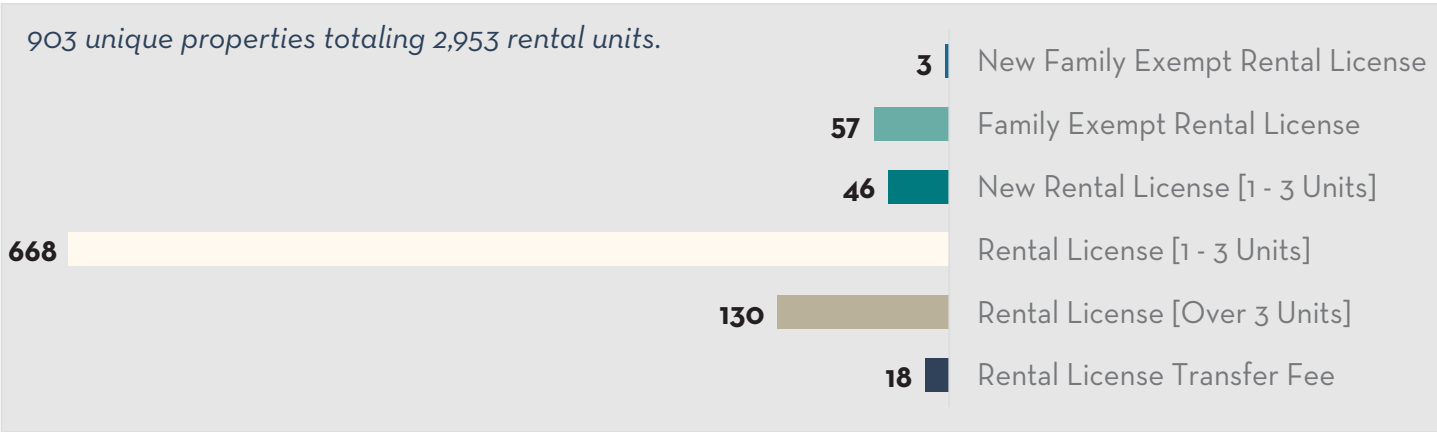
ABATEMENT INSPECTIONS



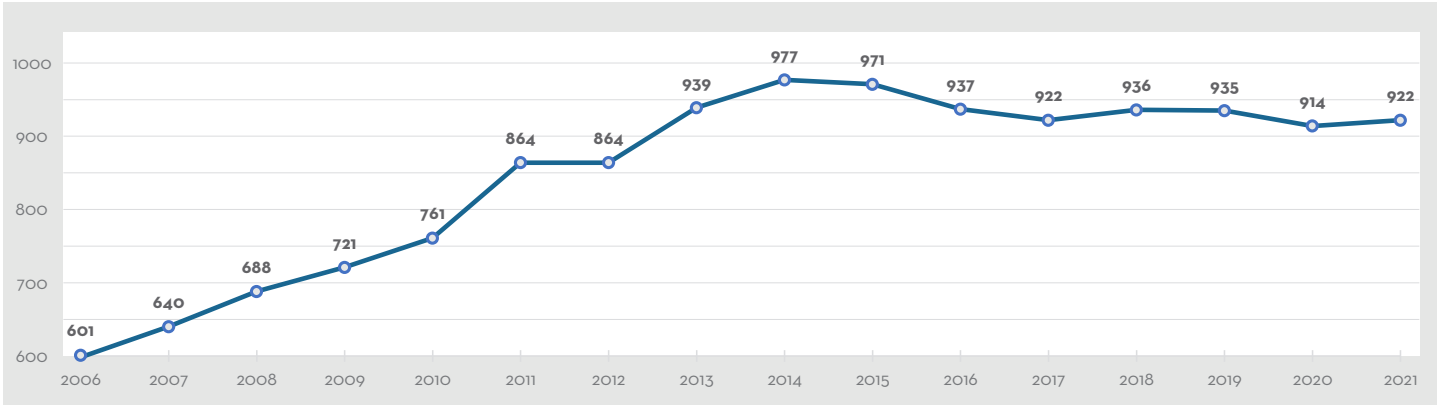
Rental Licenses

The overall number of rental properties in the city has stabilized following the sharp increase after the recession. In 2019, the inspection department issued 43 new rental licenses, however there is little change in the overall total number of rental properties due to an offset of rental properties converting back to single family residences and no longer requiring a license. Property exteriors and common areas are inspected on an annual basis and interior inspections of rental properties are performed bi-annually. Complaints on properties are investigated in a timely manner.

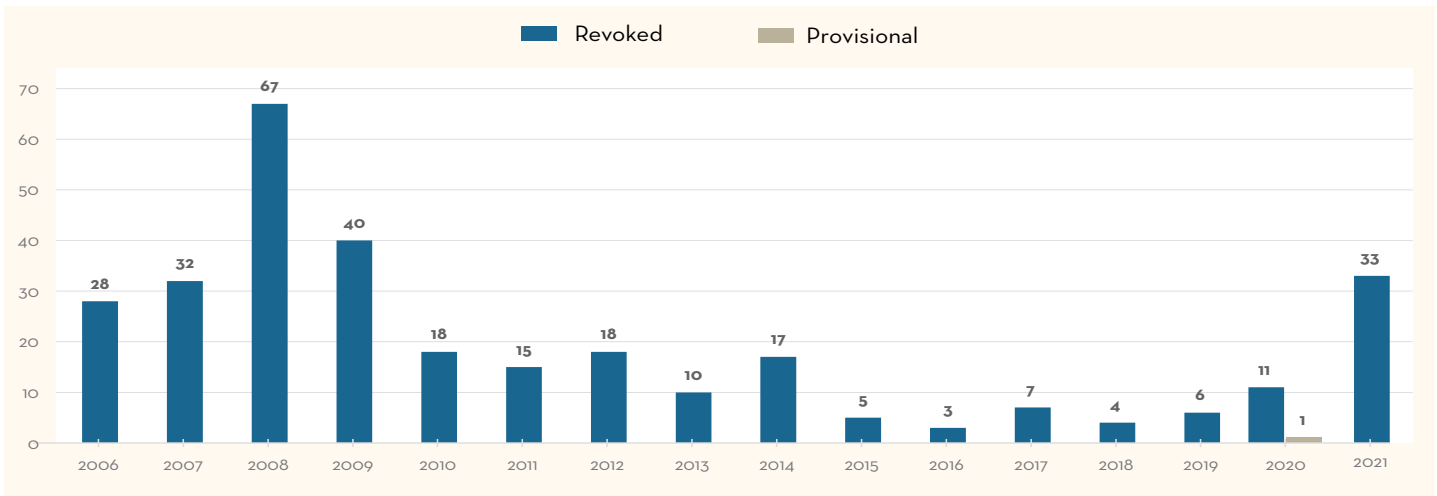
2021 RENTAL LICENSE TYPES



TOTAL RENTAL LICENSES BY YEAR



RENTAL LICENSE STATUS BY YEAR



Public Education

While Covid-19 still remained on the forefront of every aspect of the fire service for 2021, the need for Public education did not stop. Several annual events that the fire service is known for came back this year with modifications. Through innovation, Columbia Heights Fire Department was able to reach out to the public in new ways.

Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc. are all ways the Fire Department reached out through technology when Covid-19 precautions kept us apart. We will always provide content and information in the city newsletter, but the ability to get the word out quickly and offer multiple different ways to have information at ones fingertips can be priceless. We couldn't do our work without teamwork from other city departments to provide professional media and convey it in a timely manner. The number of fire safety messages we posted on the website, Facebook, Twitter, etc. are too many to list! Here are just a few from this past year.

The Fire Department teamed up with the City's Communi-

cations Department and put out a fire hydrant video that showcased the importance of shoveling out a hydrant in the winter. There was also a summer time video put out that had summertime safety tips as well! Great Job Captain Mattson and Will Rottler!

In honor of Women's History Month, CHFD firefighter Emily Kosman sat down with Denise DeMars to talk about her career as a Columbia Heights firefighter.

Even in the local news! Firefighter Kosman was interviewed by Kare 11 about the dangers of the hot, dry conditions that triggered a Red Flag Warning for much of the state in June.

Every call is a chance to reach out and make a positive, long-lasting impact on those who call us for service. Columbia Heights Firefighters are beyond fortunate to have had such amazing interactions with the young and old and many diverse backgrounds of those who live and work here in Columbia Heights.

Fire Explorers

Since 1978, the Columbia Heights Fire Explorer Program has been working with young adults, ages 14-21, who are interested in learning about the Fire and EMS service. The group meets weekly and trains using the same fire and EMS curriculum as the fire department. In its history, the program has generated dozens of dedicated and competent firefighters across the state.

As with so many organizations, 2021 was a year of significant change and transition. The Explorers started the year with weekly distanced/online drills and had three active Explorers. In the spring, the program transitioned back to in-person drills with COVID precautions and working with breathing apparatus (SCBAs) often. Throughout the course of the year the program membership grew substantially and ended the year with a roster of nine members.

Logistics

Throughout the year a steady flow of broken tools, equipment, and fire apparatus we maintained and repaired. A web-based "equipment service request form" was implemented that allows department members to use a cell phone to perform inventory and make maintenance requests. This process streamlined the organization and follow-up on maintenance and equipment issues.

Logistics maintains all department supplies and consumables; everything from office supplies, cleaning products, toiletries, laundry soap, EMS equipment, medications, and shop supplies. Annual equipment services including fire pump testing, aerial and ground ladder testing, breathing air system and compressor service, SCBA testing and firefighter fit testing. The implementation of a firefighter turnout gear decontamination and repair program uses a local company that provides great quality, reliable service, and quick turnaround. This firefighter gear "decon" program greatly reduces firefighter exposure to the multitude of car-

cinogen's commonly encountered during our structure fires.

A significant amount of time was spent working on the specifications for a new fire engine. Already known as Engine 4 officially, the apparatus is being built by Pierce Fire Apparatus in Appleton, WI. The new engine has many safety improvements including modern suspension and brake systems and electronic safety features included in new vehicles. These safety features will make this engine much safer on and off the road as vehicle accidents are the second biggest cause of injury and death to firefighters.

With the assistance of the Police Department, the City's compliment of Automated External Defibrillators was replaced. These life saving devices are now in all fire and police vehicles and all public City buildings.

Logistics was also responsible for ordering, maintaining, and dispersing the City's pandemic response personal protective equipment inventory to all departments within the City.

Summer Events



The Fire Department took part in the 2021 Lions' Jamboree Parade. It's tradition that the Employee of the Year appear in the parade, but since the event was canceled in 2020, Employees of the Year from 2019 and 2020 were present: Above, 2020 EOY Chief Charlie Thompson. Below, 2019 EOY Fire Cpt. Tony Cuzzupe. Tony marched in the color guard and was identified as EOY by a fellow firefighter marching behind.



Above, the Fire Department takes part every year in the VFW's Flag Retirement Ceremony. A sanctioned ceremonial burning like this is the official and proper way to dispose of old or tattered American Flags. Firefighters oversee the event to ensure safety.

At left, Assistant Fire Chief Dan O'Brien examines the cotton candy machine at the City's 2021 Centennial Celebration. Firefighters helped make and distribute about 500 funnels of free cotton candy at the event.



Fire Station Events



After skipping a year in 2020, the Columbia Heights Fire Department Open House returned Oct 9, 2021, as part of National Fire Prevention Week with an estimated 400 attendees. The three-hour event featured a live fire demonstration that showed off how fast fires can spread inside living spaces, a "smoke tunnel" obstacle course for kids, information booths from multiple vendors, and free ice cream.



Attendees had a chance to spray a real fire hose, explore fire trucks, meet local firefighters, select a free pumpkin from the pumpkin patch provided by the family of Patricia Sowada, and pet dalmatians from the MN Dalmatian Club, and more! Thank you to event collaborators and vendors: Columbia Heights Fire Association, CenterPoint Energy, the Greater Twin Cities Dalmatian Club, Allina Health, the Fridley Fire Department, CHFD Explorers, CH Athletic Boosters, CH Recreation, SACA, Grandpa's Ice Cream, Heights Rental, John Sowada for the pumpkins, the Columbia Heights Lions, Bows 4 Badges, CH Public Works, and City Administration. A big thank you to everyone who attended. It was good to be back!

Free COVID-19 vaccine clinics were held at the Public Safety fire bays spring 2021. At the first clinic in April, hundreds of people dropped by for their first-dose Pfizer shots administered by trained Columbia Heights fire and police officials in partnership with Anoka County. Follow-up shots were given in May. Walks ups were welcome on a first-come, first-served basis. This clinic was open to anyone 16+ looking for their first round of COVID-19 vaccine doses.





In 2021, the home that stood at 230 40th Ave, Columbia Heights, took well over five hours to burn to the ground and gave our firefighters an incredible 18 training evolutions inside the structure before the roof and floors grew too unstable for safety. In its last act, the solidly built, two-story home and garage provided crucial, real-world experience for both veterans and rookies.



This kind of training doesn't come around often. The last time our firefighters had a chance to train at a live home burn was 2019 and eight years before that. The house stood just across University Ave from Sarna's and had been acquired by the City. Instructors stuffed the house with straw to facilitate ignition. The practice was particularly important due to the large number of newer recruits on the team. The City Communications Coordinator Ben Sandell took photos of the day.



Columbia Heights firefighters gained experience managing zero visibility conditions, using air tanks and full gear, completing heat and smoke ventilation procedures (which involved using a fire hose spray to blast out the windows), and collaborating as a team under high-pressure situations, to name just a few of the lessons. In burn conditions like this, the temperature at standing level is so high, it instantaneously turns sweat to white-hot steam. If firefighters don't remain low to the floor, they quickly learn the lesson. This is why experience reading smoke patterns to gain information about the severity of a fire is a life-saving skill, a skill all our firefighters will be better at thanks to this training. Training started at 8 am and ended at about 2 pm when the house was allowed to burn down completely. Members of the family that had owned the property observed. Firefighters posed for photos once the lessons had ended.



LIBRARY

Introduction

Founded in 1928, the Columbia Heights Public Library is owned and operated by the City in partnership with the Anoka County Library system. It receives more than 115,000 visits per year.

The mission of the Columbia Heights Public Library is to serve the individual and community with responsive collections, innovative programming, professional staff and access to resources. The library participates in MELSA (the regional system), METRONET (through a contract with the Anoka County Library), and

the Statewide Borrowers' Compact. The library is a department of the City and is governed by a policy-making Library Board.

In 2021, the Library remained open and delivered service throughout the year, despite ebbs and flows in active COVID cases in the community. Gradual returns to pre-pandemic service levels occurred in February with an increase in weekly public service hours from 32 to 40, and again in September with an increase to 47 hours per week. Curbside pickup of library materials was avail-

able upon request as was delivery of materials for homebound patrons. Library programs were delivered either virtually or in-person at outdoor venues through the end of August.

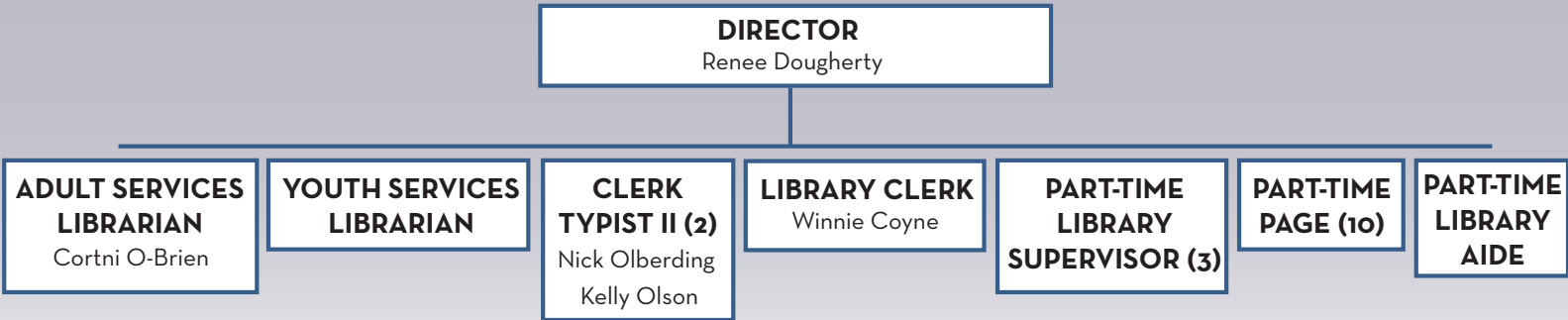
In-person, in-building programming resumed after Labor Day. Some programs continued to be offered virtually throughout the year.

Grab and Go kits for youth and Take and Make kits for adults, piloted in 2020, were offered in the first half of the year and then discontinued in mid-summer. However, monthly self-direct-

ed, socially-distanced programs such as story strolls and poems in City parks continued in 2021. Library furniture was reinstalled, and patrons were encouraged to linger in the building during the summer months when vaccines had become widely available for teens and adults. Public meeting and study rooms were re-opened in September, with a newly implemented rental fee for use of the community room. Available public computer stations were limited to allow for social distancing.

Library Staff			
Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Renee Dougherty	Library Director	April 1, 2013	----
Cortni O'Brien	Adult Services Librarian	July, 10, 2017	----
Brianna Belanger	Youth Services Librarian	Oct 19, 2015	Oct 22, 2021
Nick Olberding	Clerk Typist II -- Adult	July 5, 2016	----
Kelly J. Olson	Clerk Typist II -- Children's	June 1, 1992	----
Winnifred Coyne	Clerk	Jan 26, 2015	----
Alexandre Adrian	Library Supervisor	Aug 31, 2020	Oct 30, 2021
Katherine Estall	Library Supervisor	Aug 31, 2020	----
Al Mamaril	Library Supervisor	Oct 8, 2007	----
Farrah Briest	Library Aide	June 24, 2019	----
Maria Fink	Library Page	Dec 5, 2016	----
Nadira Hussein	Library Page	Oct, 18, 2021	----
Alison Marzolf	Library Page	Aug 1, 2007	Sept, 3, 2021
Alison Muotka	Library Page	Oct 18, 2021	----

Library Staff Continued			
Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Rachel Meyers	Library Page	May 1, 2008	----
Yuliana Morocho-Calderon	Library Page	Feb 2, 2020	----
Samuel Rinne	Library Page	April 29, 2019	----
Karen Yaeger	Library Page	Jan 11, 2016	----
Tammie Yin Powell	Library Page	Dec 5, 2016	----
Rosa Boda	Library Page (substitute)	March 2, 2015	----
Gianna Ritzko	Library Page (substitute)	Jan 17, 2012	June 4, 2021
Michelle Wermerskirchen	Library Page (substitute)	June 23, 2010	----



LIBRARY BOARD
 Tricia Conway, Chair
 Christopher Polley, Vice Chair
 Teresa Eisenbise, Secretary
 Carrie Mesrobian
 Gerri Moeller
 Nick Novitsky, Council Liaison

FOUNDATION BOARD
 Marlaine Szurek, President
 Bruce Magnuson, Vice-President
 Kit Burgoyne, Secretary
 Sharon Shedlov, Treasurer
 David Larson
 Terry Nightingale
 Jane Polley

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
 Robert Odden, President
 Renee Sawyer, Secretary
 Betty Robbins, Treasurer

2021 In Review

Like many City departments, the library continued to redefine public service in the second year of a global pandemic.

In 2021, the library was open to the public for 2,056 hours and was visited by 58,861 people, a 17% increase over 2020. Checkout of library materials grew 23%. A total of 127,837 items was borrowed in multiple formats with physical items (books, CDs, DVDs, cake pans, games) continuing to be the most popular; although 15% of circulation was virtual.

The electronic collection of ebooks and downloadable audiobooks was migrated from CloudLibrary and RBDigital to Overdrive/Libby in 2021. The adoption of the Libby platform gives Columbia Heights cardholders access to the e-collections of all other metro-area public libraries. Kanopy streaming video was also introduced for Columbia Heights cardholders in 2021, opening access to critically acclaimed movies, documentaries, foreign films, and educational videos. The collection of

physical items owned by the library at the end of 2021 was 51,741.

Despite increases in open hours, visitors and borrowing, the use of library computers and the free wireless network decreased.

With the widespread availability of vaccines, library programs could once again be delivered live and in-person. The library offered 109 programs for kids, teens, and adults that were attended by over 1,305 people. Another 1,440 people participated in self-directed library activities such as take and make kits, story strolls and poems in City parks. Study and meeting rooms reopened in the fall and were used 761 times in the last quarter of the year.

Additional details on the library collection, community partnerships, programs for youth and adults, facility and technology enhancements, and staffing can be found below.

Upgrades to Library Technology

- Existing cameras were upgraded and additional cameras and servers were installed to enhance security inside and outside the building.
- Quipu, a software used to migrate online card registrations into the integrated library system, was acquired and implemented.
- A change of internet service provider resulted in increased performance and speed on public computers.
- Dialers for the fire and security monitoring and alarm systems were upgraded.
- Patron self check kiosks and security gates were repaired as needed.

Repairs to Library Facility

- Leaks in the boilers supplying building heat and the sidewalk snow melt system were fixed.
- A coolant leak in the air conditioner for the community room, lobby, and restrooms was repaired.
- The east entry door was vandalized requiring extensive frame repair.
- Orkin, Horowitz, and TrueGreen provided regular ongoing preventative maintenance for pests, the HVAC system, and landscaping.
- A point-of-use water heater in the workroom was replaced.

- Carpets and upholstery were cleaned.
- Building systems automation was adjusted to maximize energy efficiency.
- Public restrooms and the children's nook were painted.
- The automated external defibrillator (AED) was replaced.
- Ceiling light fixtures were repaired or replaced as necessary.

Changes to Library Staff

Two Librarians, Supervisor Alexandre Adrian and Youth Services Librarian Brianna Belanger, resigned to pursue other opportunities. Two Library Pages, Allison Marzolf and Gianna Ritzko, resigned. Two new Pages were hired, Nadira Hussein and Alison Muotka.

Full-time staff created and delivered training to their peers at Staff Day in May. Topics included Clifton Strengths, the Overdrive/Libby e-book platform, American Sign Language basics, conducting research in library databases and database BINGO, reader's advisory for youth and parents, the Minnesota Digital Library, and combating compassion fatigue.

The Library hosted a young adult through the Empowers Youth program of the Anoka County Job Training Center. The library provided a twelve-week summer work experience and direct supervision; the JTC provided orientation, ongoing developmental counseling, and wages.



Youth

Innovative programs for children and teens included storytimes in a variety of formats, including pre-recorded Facebook videos, live virtual meetings, in-person outdoor events in City parks, and in-person in-library programs. All storytimes incorporate talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing to help children get ready to learn. Family storytimes are intended for preschool kids ages two to five; Baby Read, Baby Grow storytimes are intended for babies from birth to twenty-four months and their caregivers.

Programs for school-aged children were partially funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund and a federal Department of Education grant for 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Programs fostered cross-cultural understanding (mandalas of India, Dia de los Muertos, West African drumming). Others focused on science, technology, engineering, or mathematical (STEM) concepts (science of sound, chemistry of color, qualities of light/kaleidoscopes, pollinators, what do engineers do?, LEGO building challenges, environmental exploration, green leadership, and computer coding.) Hands-on, creative programs were offered on block printing, book binding, clay sculpture, fiber felting, paper collage, comic creation, movie making, fabric dying, and zombie makeup.

Outdoor programs at Silverwood Park allowed families to explore Nordic walking, learn winter survival techniques, make art with found objects and explore springtime soil.

Reading programs for all ages were held in Janu-

ary and February (Winter Reads) and June through August (Summer Adventures). Youth also had opportunities to “Read Down” fines in February, June, July and August. Fifteen minutes spent reading earned \$1 off overdue fines for youth under eighteen years of age. Through a partnership with Columbia Heights Public Schools, library staff distributed a week’s worth of lunches for families whose children were at risk of going hungry without free and reduced-price school lunches.

Book clubs continued to be popular with tweens and adults, whether online or in-person. Adult book clubs focused on fiction, wine and words, and resiliency-building.

The library distributed monthly “Grab and Go” discovery kits for youth and “Take and Make” craft kits for adults so that people could learn and create in the safety of their own homes. Self-directed activities, held outside, allowed people to enjoy literacy-building events in a socially distanced manner. Story Strolls were held monthly, weather permitting, and Poems in the Park were held in the spring, summer and fall.

Adult

Adult programs were centered on personal enrichment and lifelong learning (meditation, planting for pollinators, bird identification, birdscaping, tree identification, bullet journaling, bike fix-it clinics, local architecture tours, photography, and art and crafts classes including ceramics, glass painting, fabric dying, tapestry weaving, and watercolor).



Collection

Kanopy streaming video was made available for Columbia Heights Library cardholders in January. The Kanopy streaming collection includes critically acclaimed movies, documentaries, foreign films, and educational videos. Cardholders receive 10 play credits per month. Kanopy Kids, which includes movies and TV shows especially for kids, offers unlimited plays.

The Anoka County Library electronic collection was migrated to a new platform: Libby by Overdrive. Migration of e-content, namely ebooks from CloudLibrary, and e-magazines and downloadable audiobooks from RB Digital, started in winter and was completed by June. The adoption of the Libby platform provides Columbia Heights cardholders access to the e-collections of other metro-area libraries, greatly increasing the total number of ebooks, emagazines and eaudio available for download.

Binge Boxes, which contain 4-6 movies around a theme, were added to the collection.

Weeding, the practice of removing outdated, worn, and non-circulating materials, occurred continually to insure that the physical collection fits the available space. At yearend, the physical collection contained 51,741 items.

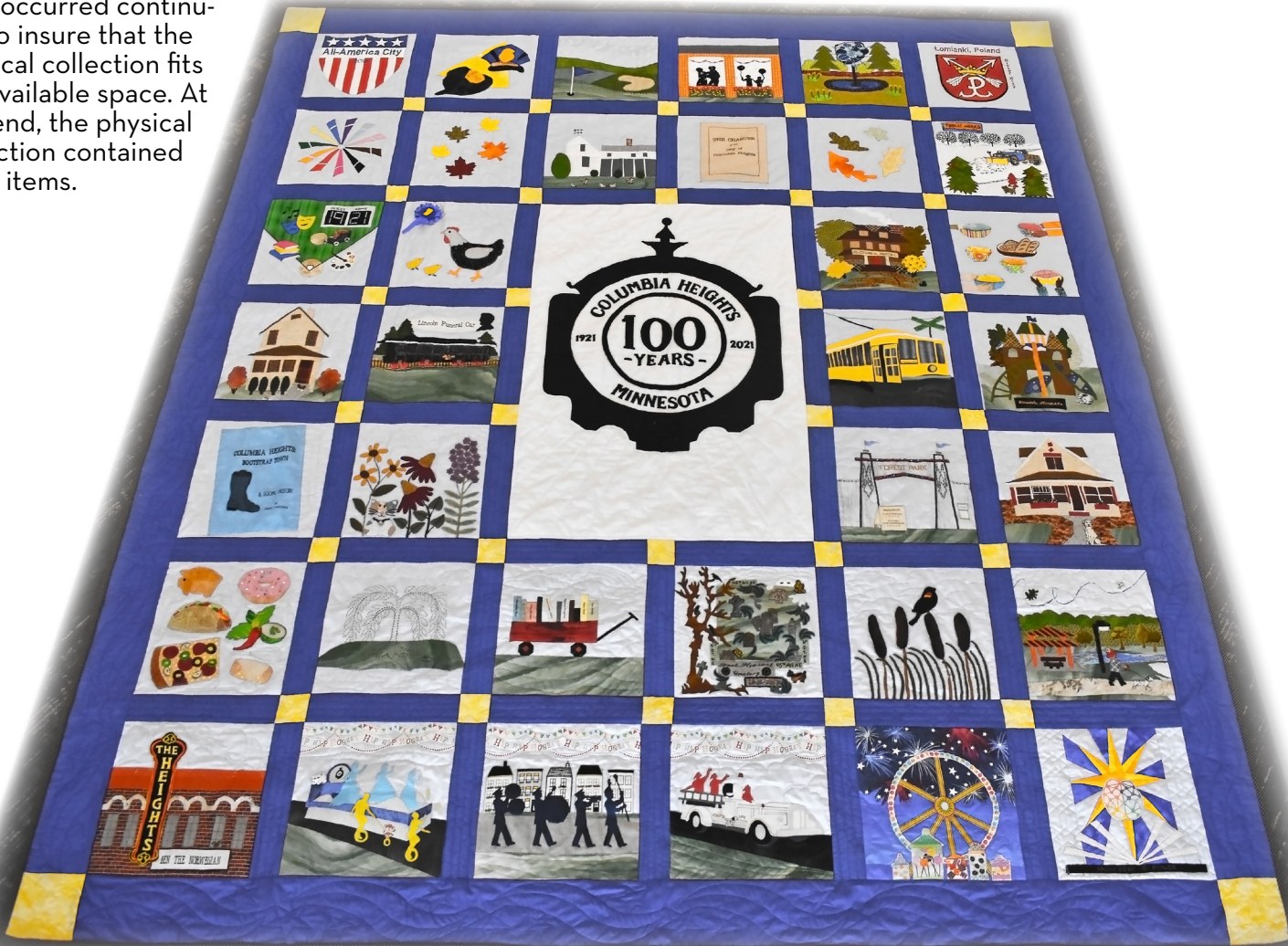
Displays

A Centennial quilt, designed and created by a local quilting league, was installed in the library lobby to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the City of Columbia Heights.

The League of Women Voters- Anoka, Blaine Coon Rapids provided a display and voter registration forms for National Voter Registration Day on Sept 28.

The glass display case featured installations on:

- Columbia Heights Centennial memories (1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s, 2010s)
- Anoka County Childcare Licensing
- Computer Coding
- Feeding Birds in Winter
- Pollinators (in support of the Mayor’s Monarch Pledge)
- Polish American Heritage Month by the Columbia Heights/Lomianki Sister Cities International
- Tiny Art Show



Outreach

The mayoral proclamation declaring National Library Week (April 4 - 10, 2021) was delayed until April 26 because of the cancellation of the regular Council meeting during a curfew order following the death of Duante Wright.

Youth services librarian Brianna Belanger created videos for local schools in celebration of “I Love to Read” month, to share book reviews and to promote the summer reading program. She also provided library tours for student groups from CHPS Mini Adventures and the Immaculate Conception School’s summer camp. She made a virtual visit to a kindergarten class. The Library also provided e-cards, library cards which provided access to learning and research databases and ebooks, to the students and teachers at Columbia Academy for the 2020-2021 school year and for two elementary classes in the fall of the 2021-2022 year.

Adult Services Librarian Cortni O’Brien participated in a consortium of groups providing services to seniors in Columbia Heights and made a presentation on library services at the Murzyn Senior Center in May.

Director Renee Dougherty met with Representative Sandra Feist as part of Library Legislative Week in March.

The Library partnered with HeightsNEXT to offer a self-directed pet bed making project. Thirty beds were delivered to Midwest Animal Rescue Service (MARS) in April.

In September, Robbin Lofton, a social worker with Guild Services, began been meeting clients and doing outreach with persons experiencing homelessness on Wednesdays.

Library staff attended community celebrations including the City Arts and Information Fair (June) and Centennial Celebration (July), Summer Fun Night at the Lee Carlson Bridgeview Center (August) and the Pride Festival (October).

Governance

Seeking to observe term limits outlined in City code and to increase citizen representation on Boards and Commissions, the Council interviewed an unprecedented number of applicants in 2021. Carrie Mesrobian and Gerri Moeller were appointed to the Library Board in April. New members were oriented to the functioning of City commissions and library operations and took an oath of office at their first meeting.

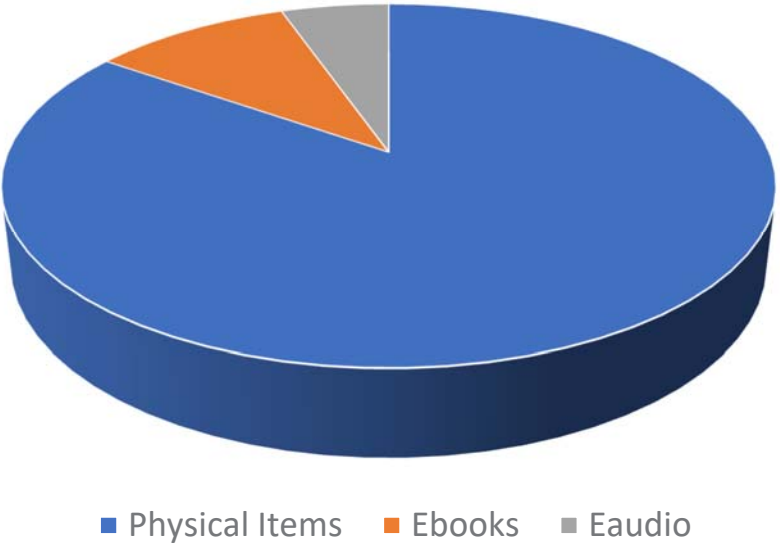
Staff adopted the Municode content management system for preparing and publishing meeting agendas, supporting documents, and minutes, greatly enhancing the efficiency of meetings and the transparency of board discussions and recommendations.

The board continued to revise policies and procedures, many of which hadn’t been reviewed in a decade, and updated or rescinded them as needed.

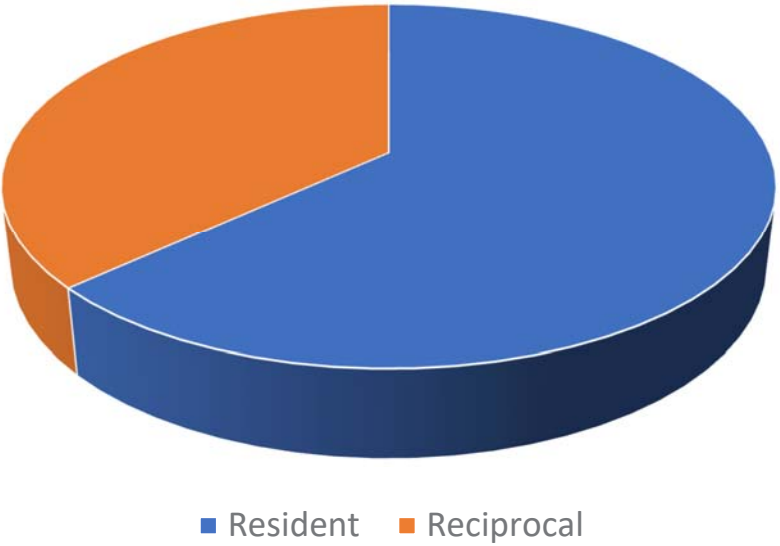
The borrowing limit for physical items was increased from 50 to 100 items on May 1, 2021, to boost circulation and provide greater access for family and home-school borrowers.

The board extensively discussed possible questions to include on a resident survey; a recommendation to eliminate overdue fines; and the enactment of rental fees for use of the library community room. They also met with the Library Foundation and the communications coordinator to improve public awareness of the library and library services.

CIRCULATION: 127,837



BORROWERS SERVED: 18,760



Circulation	
Physical Items	108,256
EBooks	12,710
EAudiobooks	6,871
Total Circulation	127,837



2021 Public Service Data Cont.

Collection	
Print Materials (Books and Magazines)	43,611
Audio Materials (Music and Books on CD)	3,921
Video Materials	4,208
Other Physical Materials	1
Donated Items Added to the Collection	84
Total Collection Items	51,741
Programs at the Library	
In-Person Adult Programs	16
In-Person Youth Programs	39
In-Person Teen Programs	3
Live Virtual Children Programs	20
Live Virtual Teen Programs	4
Live Virtual Adult Programs	25
All-Ages Programs	2
Self-Directed Activities	42
Reference Questions	
Reference Questions	10,777
Volunteer and Public Service Hours	
Volunteer	121
Public Service	2,056

Public Service Data Cont.

Public Internet Use	
Users	9,708
Computer Sessions	14,537
Minutes Used	525,466
Wi-Fi Sessions	18,639
Website Visits	2,132
Views of Recorded Program Content	91
Total Visitors and Users	
Total Visitors at the Library in 2021	58,861
Deliveries to At-Home Patrons	50
Institutional Borrowers (Businesses, Churches, Schools, etc.)	12
Active Borrowers	18,760
Magazine Subscriptions	81
Curbside Pick-ups	17
Additional Services	
Interlibrary Loans for Items Unavailable at City/County Libraries	865
Items Supplied for Statewide Interlibrary Loans	352
Room Use By Public	
Total room use by public	761

POLICE

Introduction

In 2021, the CHPD overcame unique challenges that are turning into the new normal in policing. The Department is fortunate to have strong community partnerships to help the Department provide best services possible for the citizens of Columbia Heights.

The murder of George Floyd continued to weigh heavily on the hearts and minds of officers and professional office staff as they prepared to assist the City of Minneapolis with Operation Safety Net in preparation for the trial of former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin. It was during this time that several Columbia Heights Officers had to respond to civil unrest occurring in Brooklyn Center due to an officer involved shooting where Daunte

Wright was killed by Brooklyn Center Police Officer Kim Potter. The event involved several hundred officers and became a highly dangerous, rapidly evolving situation. The responding officers demonstrated outstanding leadership, teamwork, courage, and professionalism under these incredibly stressful circumstances. These and other situations inspired the CHPD to launch a new podcast with special guests discussing public safety topics relevant to the public as an additional form of community engagement and transparency.

The CHPD partnered with Parks and Recreation and conducted security and crime prevention analysis of the Huset and Sullivan Park. This information was used to upgrade lighting

and cameras at the parks to provide a safer environment for community members using the park. The CHPD also started new collaborative efforts with the Adult Education Center in Columbia Heights, the Columbia Heights Library Foundation, and the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia to develop curriculum for immigrants who are relatively new to this country and the community.

The CHPD is also happy to announce that it received a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) which allowed the police department to partner with Canvas Health for a new embedded social worker position. Find out more about this and other initiatives in the following pages.

The CHPD also saw the retirement of Sgt. Ted Fischer. Sergeant Fischer honorably served with the CHPD for twenty-nine years. During that time, he served in a variety of capacities, including Community Policing Officer, Investigator, DARE Officer, Use of Force Instructor, Firearms Instructor, Field Training Officer, and Sergeant.

The CHPD is at its best in partnership with the larger community. The community's support and involvement is never taken for granted.

An active, involved citizenry is more important now than ever as the CHPD continues its mission of protecting life and property, developing innovating solutions, and enhancing the safety and quality of life in the community.

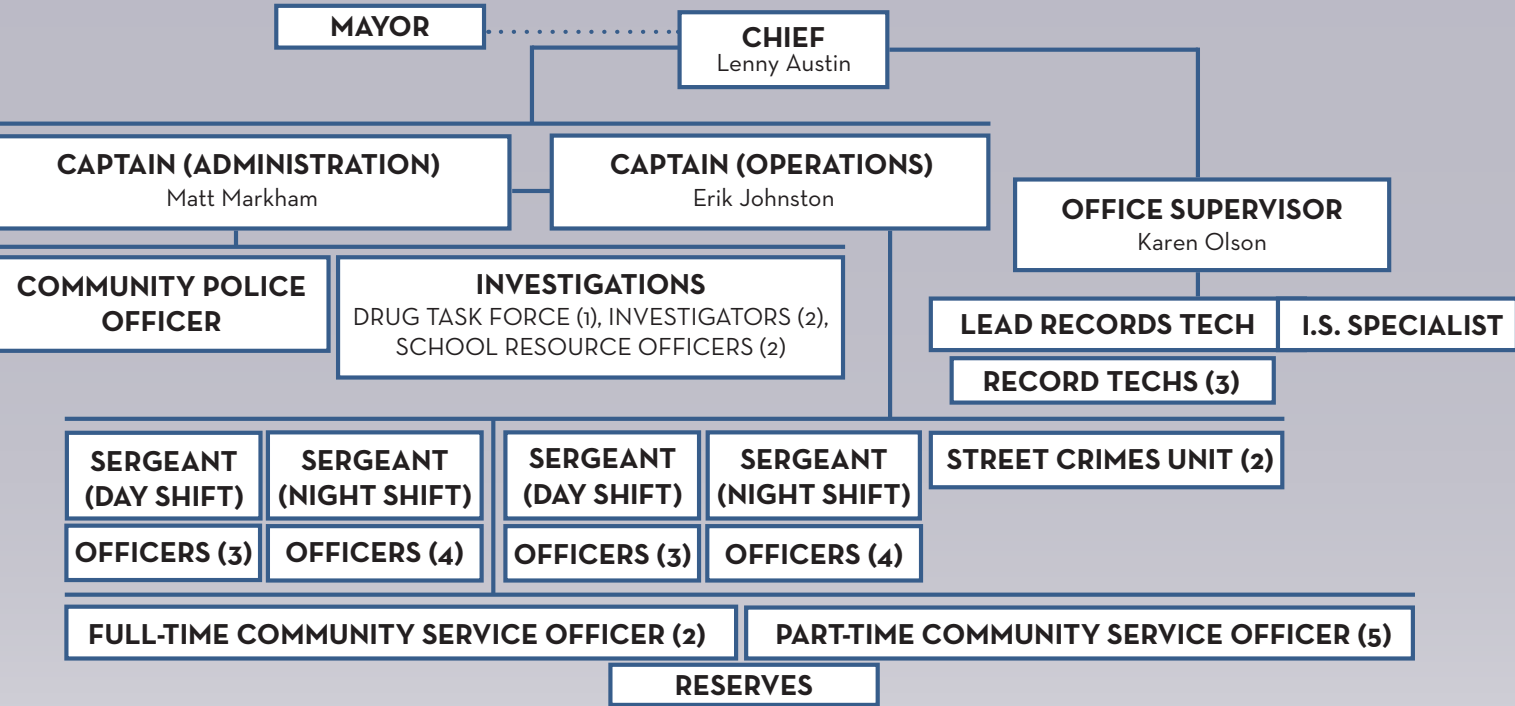


Police Department Staff Roster			
Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Lenny Austin	Chief of Police	Feb 2, 1995	----
Erik Johnston	Captain	Dec 2, 2002	----
Matthew Markham	Captain	Aug 31, 1998	----
Ted Fischer	Sergeant	Oct 30, 1992	March 31, 2021
Justin Pletcher	Sergeant	May 24, 2010	Dec 30, 2021
Erik Hanson	Sergeant	Feb 5, 2007	----
Timothy Noll	Sergeant	Nov 19, 2012	----
Paul Bonesteel	Drug Task Force	Sept 8, 1994	----
Gregory Sinn	Police Officer	June 5, 2000	----
Jason Piehn	High School Liaison	April 4, 2005	----
Joseph Pikala	Police Officer	Aug 12, 2008	----
William Monberg	Community Policing Coord.	Oct 13, 2008	----
Jacob Hilden	Police Officer/Investigator	May 14, 2013	Jan 31, 2021
Mohammed Farah	Police Officer	Jan 13, 2015	----
Tabitha Wood	Investigator	Sept 14, 2015	----
Ibrahim Farah	Middle School Liaison	April 27, 2016	----
Jacquelyn Urbaniak	Investigator	Nov 28, 2016	----

Police Staff Roster Continued			
Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Darry Jones	Police Officer	Feb 2, 2017	June 6, 2021
Jamie Mittelstaedt	Police Officer	May 21, 2018	Jan 11, 2021
Thomas Hall	Police Officer	Aug 30, 2018	March 21, 2021
Mitch Weisser	Police Officer	Jan 14, 2019	----
Guy Juran	Police Officer	Feb 10, 2020	----
Alex Barrot	Police Officer	Feb 28, 2018	----
Steve Wagner	Police Officer	Aug 10, 2020	----
Shelby Tombers	Police Officer	Sept 13, 2017	----
Sam Foy	Police Officer	Feb 7, 2021	----
Tony Miller	PT Community Service Officer Police Officer	Oct 26, 2016 Promoted Feb 6, 2021	----
Trevor Norlien	Police Officer	July 19, 2021	----
Andrew Nightingale	Police Officer	Aug 25, 2021	----
Kelvin Yang	PT Community Service Officer Police Officer	Aug 12, 2019 Promoted Feb 8, 2021	----
Karen Olson	Office Supervisor	Feb 19, 1986	----
Jessica Racchini	Lead Records Tech	Sept 16, 2019	----

Police Staff Roster Continued

Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Ramon Gomez	Records Technician	Nov 4, 2013	June 4, 2021
Becky Romanic	Records Technician	March 14, 2018	----
Jennifer Parra	Records Technician	Oct 13, 2020	----
Nick Fedor	Information Systems Specialist	Sept 18, 2018	----
Sanjin Boskovic	Community Service Officer	May 5, 2021	----
Evan McNair	PT Community Service Officer	Feb 8, 2021	Nov 26, 2021
Robert Tombers	PT Community Service Officer	Aug 30, 2018	Dec 30, 2021
Luke Troyak	PT Community Service Officer	Nov 20, 2019	Sept 3, 2021
Eli Haddorff	PT Community Service Officer	Dec 14, 2020	----



Sgt. Ted Fischer Retires After 29 Years With CHPD

Sergeant Fischer honorably served with the CHPD for twenty-nine years before he retired in 2021. During that time, he served in a variety of capacities that included Community Policing Officer, Investigator, DARE Officer, Use of Force Instructor, Firearms Instructor, Field Training Officer, and Sergeant.

Sgt Fischer also worked with the Minnesota Chief’s Association where he taught several sessions at their annual leadership academy. It was during this time that he was able to pass on his great wisdom to the future leaders in policing. Because of Sergeant Fischer’s leadership at the department, he was able to lay the groundwork of the CHPD’s training program and moved it forward in a way that benefited both officers and the community. He left a legacy with all the officers working here today. The CHPD wishes Sergeant Fischer the best in his retirement.



Before Sgt. Fischer’s last day in March, he participated as the special guest for the CHPD’s official podcast Roll Call. After the recording, he posed for this photograph with (from left to right), Officer Darry Jones, Investigator Tabitha Wood, Officer Mohammed Farah, and Officer Tony Miller.

2021 Awards

The CHPD’s 2021 Department Awards were presented at the Feb 28 City Council meeting in 2022.

Award of Commendation

- Erik Hanson
- Steve Wagner
- Jason Piehn
- Tabitha Wood

On April 11, 2021, these officers responded as part of a regional response to civil unrest in the City of Brooklyn Center following an Officer Involved Shooting there. The situation was highly dangerous and rapidly evolving. These officers demonstrated outstanding leadership, teamwork, courage, and professionalism under incredibly stressful circumstances.

Mentor Award

- Erik Hanson
- Jason Piehn
- Ibrahim Farah
- Greg Sinn
- Mohammed Farah
- Jackie Urbaniak
- Guy Juran
- Steve Wagner
- Bill Monberg
- Mitch Weisser

These are Field Training Officers for the CHPD tasked with training 10 new recruits over the past two years, which is an unprecedented number. FTOs are required to coach, train, and mentor each new officer, and are also responsible for passing on the values and culture of the department to the next generation of officers.

Above and Beyond

Mitch Weisser

This award was given to recognize Officer Weisser’s efforts to de-escalate a combative male. Due to his efforts, the male calmed down and cooperated with officers without injuring himself or others.

Above and Beyond

- Alex Barrott
- Jackie Urbaniak
- Mitch Weisser
- Steve Wagner
- Greg Sinn

These officers are Use of Force and Firearms instructors whose workload increased during 2021 when the CHPD implemented a new style of Use of Force that required all instructors to be re-trained, new lesson plans to be written, and all officers to be trained in the new methods. This new training incorporates de-escalation as well as a team-focused concept which should reduce the potential for injury to officers and persons involved in Use of Force incidents.



CHPD Implements New Non-Lethal BolaWrap Restraint Technology

The Columbia Heights Police Department added a new, non-lethal crime-fighting tool this year called the BolaWrap. A hand-held remote restraint device, the BolaWrap discharges a Kevlar tether eight feet long that entangles a subject at a range of 10-25 feet. This allows officers to temporarily restrain a subject at a safe distance and potentially reduce the person's ability to struggle, minimizing the need to use higher levels of force. Even though it sounds like a gun shot being fired, the device is less likely to injure somebody compared to electronic control devices like the Taser. It doesn't incapacitate subjects like other use-of-force options. The BolaWrap is cutting-edge technology, currently only in use at a handful of police agencies throughout Minnesota. The CHPD places minimal reliance on use-of-force in its priority to protect the dignity and liberty of all persons and places. The application of deadly force is a measure to be employed in only the most extreme circumstances. Because of this, the CHPD continues to research and implement innovative technology to minimize risk and ensure officers are properly equipped to perform their job tasks at a high level. Video of the tool in action is available at www.chpolice.com.

2021 CHPD Use-of-Force Incidents Remain Low, Report Is Online

The Columbia Heights Police Department has compiled its annual Use-of-Force statistics for 2021 and the results are in line with 2020 numbers. Police agencies are required to report any use of-force resulting in death or serious body injury, as well as the discharge of a firearm toward a subject. The Columbia Heights Police Department did not have any incidents that met this criteria in 2021. The police department responded to 23,418 calls for service, and used force in 80 incidents. Open hand techniques (escort holds or joint locks) were the most common type of force used. A copy of our summary report is available on the police department website at www.chpolice.com. More details on page 79.

Cpt. Erik Johnston Graduates from Intensive 10-Week Program

On Dec 3, 2021, Cpt. Erik Johnston graduated from the Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command, an intensive 10-week program that prepares law enforcement managers for senior level positions by combining academics with practical applications. Ensuring that police employees are properly trained is a key part of the CHPD's strategic plan.



Search and Rescue Drones Deployed at Public Safety

The Columbia Heights Police Department began operation on a UAS (Drone) program for Public Safety in 2021. The City purchased two drones in 2020 as part of a Public Safety drone program in conjunction with the Fire Department. The Police Department will be operating under the recent legislative changes that outline the use for drones by law enforcement. The drones will be used for search and rescue and emergency response.

100th Anniversary Badge Design

For 2021, the CHPD designed a 100th anniversary badge that combines the styles of the department's original badge with the recognition of this year's City centennial celebration. Officers had the option to purchase the badge. It's authorized for uniform wear in 2021. The CHPD will also be sharing snapshots from its department history throughout the year to highlight the rich and storied history of the department.



DOJ Grant Funds CHPD Social Worker

Eileen Sowry, LICSW, is the Columbia Heights Police Department's new embedded social worker. In this role, Sowry will be a part of a co-responding program with our officers where she will respond in real-time to 911 crisis calls. On those calls, she will offer support, crisis stabilization, and de-escalation, as well as link individuals who have a mental health or substance use need to relevant resources. In October, the US Department of Justice awarded the Columbia Heights Police Department with an incredibly rare grant to fund a full-time social worker stationed at the police department for the next two years. Columbia Heights is one of only 34 cities nationwide to receive the grant. The grant is part of the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) community policing initiative. It has distributed funds to support promising practices through the development and testing of innovative strategies, building knowledge about effective outcomes, and designing creative approaches to preventing crime and promoting safe communities.



"I am honored and excited to lend my crisis stabilization and trauma response skills to assist our community's police officers in becoming an even better resource when it comes to keeping our communities safe," Sowry said. "Together, I am confident that we will change the way we deliver services to those in need for the better." Sowry is detailed from the Canvas Health's Anoka County Mobile Response Team, which provides crisis response to Anoka County residents when residents call (763) 755-3801. She most recently served at an Adult Detention Center in Fairfax, VA. In that role, she assessed and provided mental health services to county inmates, stabilized suicidal, homicidal, and acutely psychotic individuals, and provided crisis and mental health interventions. She also has served as a crisis counselor and has provided mental health services in a variety of settings including clinics, a domestic violence shelter, and a nursing home. Sowry joined CHPD officers as a guest on the Police Department's podcast Roll Call to discuss her new role and the role of mental health in policing. Listen at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/podcast.

Police Department Launches New Podcast, 'Roll Call'

As a new community engagement tool, the CHPD launched a monthly podcast in March, titled Roll Call, to discuss law enforcement and public safety topics relevant to the community. Each podcast features a different topic and special guest expert(s) to speak on that topic. CHPD

Officers Mo Farah and Darry Jones (through episode 4), Investigator Tabitha Wood, and Communications Coordinator Ben Sandell co-host the monthly discussions. The CHPD released six episodes in 2021. To listen, visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/podcast. Or look up Roll Call on Spotify!

CHPD Teams Up With Local Organizations and National Constitution Center to Develop Curriculum for New Immigrants

Captain Matt Markham and four CHPD Officers joined five Adult Basic Education Center (ABE) teachers in a trip to Philadelphia's National Constitution Center in August for an education and training workshop on "Rights and Responsibilities of Community and Police." This collaborative project, funded in large part through the Library Foundation, was three years in the making. The ABE and CHPD plan to use what they learn to develop a customized curriculum taught by ABE teacher faculty and CHPD Officers to new immigrants attending the Adult Basic Education Center. The goal is to improve civic dialogue and help everyone have a better understanding of government, policing, and the responsibilities of U.S. Citizens.

Kathleen Moriarty, North Metro Adult Basic Education

Center program supervisor, joined CHPD officers to discuss this partnership on the Police Department's Roll Call podcast, available at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/podcast.

About the Constitution Center

The National Constitution Center in Philadelphia brings together people of all ages and perspectives, across America and around the world, to learn about, debate, and celebrate the greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution. A private, nonprofit organization, the Center serves as America's leading platform for constitutional education and debate, fulfilling its congressional charter "to disseminate information about the U.S. Constitution on a nonpartisan basis."

The Columbia Heights Police Department continues to focus on the core philosophy of Community Oriented Policing (COP), as years of focusing on COP have proven it leads to a strong partnership between community and police where problems are solved together. While the pandemic has presented unprecedented challenges to some of our traditional methods of community outreach, we've been able to adapt many of our programs to be conducted in a safe manner. Here are some highlights of community outreach functions from 2021:

Landlord Outreach

CHPD views our partnership with landlords as an integral part of creating a safe and enjoyable community. The police department has regular interaction with our rental community. In 2021, we had contact with over 800 landlords and hosted forums with topics including legislative updates, lease enforcement, code violations, and information on the civil and eviction processes, which changed drastically because of the pandemic.

Business Watch

The police department continues to partner with our business and retail community in the form of our Business Watch program. Members of the police department visit many of our business locations throughout the year to check-in and work on crime-prevention partnerships.

National Night Out

National Night Out is the first Tuesday of August each year. In 2021, the CHPD attended over 35 parties and collected more than 1,200 pounds of food donations for SACA! This event serves as a great opportunity to connect with the residents and provide an update on CHPD happenings.

Cuts With a Cop

On Sept 4, 2021, the Columbia Heights Police Department partnered with Moler Barber School to host the annual "Cuts with a Cop" event. Officers brought snacks, hand-

outs, and other goodies for families who brought their kids in for free haircuts. The Moler Barber School was gracious enough to give all students a free back-to-school cut, allowing police officers to sit and chat with kids and their parents about the upcoming school year, the community, and anything else they could think to ask.

Truck or Treat

More than 2,500 residents attended the fourth annual Truck or Treat event at Huset Park in October. The Columbia Heights Police Department again partnered with Administration, Recreation, and other City departments to host. A very special thanks to the Lions and Schmit Towing for their generous donations toward purchasing candy for the event! For full details and list of all participants, visit the Administration section of the Annual Report on page 14.

Eat and Greet

Each year, CHPD holds an "Eat & Greet" event at a local park in which food and activities are provided, as well as an opportunity to meet with officers for casual conversation and demos of various police equipment. The 2021 Eat & Greet was postponed due to extreme heat, but rescheduled date was held at McKenna Park. Many of our community stakeholders were on hand as well, and attendees received McDonalds food, played outdoor games, explored squad cars, and watched a drone demonstration.



Left and above: Officers visited with community members at the City of Peace Neighborhood Center during National Night Out, 2021

The Columbia Heights Police Department has been preparing an annual Strategic Plan since 2009. The plan outlines goals and objectives that are important to our mission. The strategic plan contains the following categories: problem-oriented policing, community-oriented policing, communication, accountability, and training/equipment. In the final months of the year, civilian employees, officers, and supervisors reviewed the previous year's strategic plan to create a new strategic plan for the following year. We seek input from multiple community members to include the Columbia Heights School District, business owners, neighborhood watch members, members of the Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee, and other City department members. The input is discussed with officers, civilian employees, and supervisors to be considered for the new strategic plan. The strategic plan helps the CHPD address the community needs and goals as well as provide direction and focus for the organization. Visit www.chpdice.com to view the full plan.

Security and Lighting Improvements

CHPD partnered with Public Works, Park and Rec, Public Library, and the IT Department to address security concerns at City owned buildings and parks due to an increase in use and incidents during the pandemic. A nighttime light study was completed on City parks and recommendations were made to improve lighting in order to prevent crime. Security cameras upgrades were completed at the City of Peace Neighborhood Center on Circle Terrace Blvd, Public Library and Murzyn Hall. Surveillance cameras were installed at Huset Park.

Partnership Projects

National Constitution Center Project

In 2021, the Columbia Heights Police Department partnered with educators from the Columbia Heights/Fridley Adult Basic Education Center to form a new partnership titled "Rights and Responsibilities of Community and Police." Columbia Heights Police Officers and ABE educators worked with the National Constitution Center to create a curriculum and learn about the history of the constitution and policing. Officers and educators met with an educator from the National Constitution Center over zoom for a seven-week course. Then, in August, Officers and educators took a trip to Philadelphia for a two-day training at the National Constitution Center. Officers and educators learned about the Reconstruction Era, which helped officers understand the history of policing in America. Civil dialogue training was also a focus for the final day of training. The officers involved in this initiative were Captain Matt Markham, Officer Bill Monberg, Officer Mohamed Farah, Officer Tabitha Wood, and Officer Ibrahim Farah. Officers and educators put their curriculum to work in the fall of 2021 and met over zoom twice a week with ABE students for a total of 15 sessions. A grant from the Columbia Heights Library Foundation helped fund this initiative.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The police department partnered with the Red Cross to organize a blood drive at the training room of the public safety building. The event was by-appointment only, and all

40 spots were booked. The CHPD partners with the Red Cross annually for blood drive events.

Columbia Heights Public Schools ISD 13

One of the City's closest and most trusted partnerships is with the Columbia Heights Public Schools. For decades, the Columbia Heights Police Department and ISD 13 have worked together with the common goal of supporting our community's youth. Early on, this partnership inspired traditional programs such as DARE, bicycle safety, and stranger danger. Over the years, it has evolved to 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 us in connecting with youth and their families. At a time when other schools shut down their partnerships with their police departments completely, Superintendent Zena Stenvik and her school staff continued to be supportive and dedicated to these programs and innovatively sought ways to safely keep the CHPD connected whenever possible. The schools and the police department partnered in a joint campaign to increase public awareness of COVID-19. CHPS hosted vaccination drives and gave the CHPD access to their facilities to allow for socially distanced outreach events. The Columbia Heights school district has been flexible and creative in committing resources and experience in support of our community goals.

Anti-Bullying

The Columbia Heights Police Department continues to partner with the Columbia Heights School District with our anti-bullying reading program initiative. CHPD employees go into classrooms twice a year and read a book that provides an important message about bullying to the students. The visit also teaches students on how to prevent, respond and safely report incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, or retaliation. The visits also provide the young students with an opportunity to ask the officer questions they have and meet with an officer in a positive interaction. Although in 2021 students were participating in distance learning, School Resource Officer Ibrahim Farah was able to read to students via online. The School Resource Officers have access to the School District's Bullying report forms, and they work with school staff as an additional resource for students to intervene with bullying concerns and behaviors. This continues to be a positive way for students and staff to have an opportunity to address any bullying concerns.

Open Gym

The Columbia Heights Police Department hosts a weekly Open Gym every Tuesday and Thursday at Columbia Academy for middle school students and at the Hylander Center for high school students. The Open Gyms are supervised by the School Liaison Officers at these schools, with assistance from Community Service Officers. In 2021, a total of 995 kids attended Open Gyms. The number had dropped due to Covid-19 safety protocols. Both the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and CDC strongly recommended the consistent use of layered mitigation strategies to help limit the spread of Covid-19 among children and our youth. Social distancing became the norm as this practice provided protection by reducing the risk of exposure and limiting the number of close contacts. The Open Gym program is still very popular and many kids return week after week. The students also love playing basketball games with officers and CSOs. We expect the numbers will increase into 2022.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters

CHPD has partnered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters Twin Cities since 2011. The partnership first started at Highland Elementary. Columbia Heights is the only department in Anoka County involved in this program. Department staff who volunteer to be a Big Brother or Sister go into the school to meet their matched student. The two will play games, read, make crafts and develop a mentoring relationship. The program has now expanded to Valley View Elementary and Columbia Academy.

Cooking With the Cops

The "Cooking With The Cops" program started in 2019. The program is designed to bring youth and police together in the kitchen. Officers are paired with students in a 6-team Cook-off. The students pick the dish they will make. The School Resource Officer partners with the School's Food Service Coordinator (Family and Consumer Science Teacher). Once the dishes are done, they are provided to the judges who determine the winners. Our judges have been local celebrities in our community (Mayor of Columbia Heights, County Attorney, CHHS principal, and the Chief of Police). We partnered with the girls' softball team in 2019, and the girls' basketball team in 2020. We were unable to do this program in 2021 due to the Covid-19 and schools doing distance learning. During this program, students have the opportunity to partner with and meet officers that work in their community.

3 On 3 Basketball Tournament

CHPD also hosts a 3-on-3 Basketball tournament as a spin-off of the Open Gym program. The tournament was designed to give the students who participate in the open gym program throughout the year a fun way to end the school year and to foster continued interest in the program for the upcoming summer and following school year. Approximately 150 students participated in or came to watch, 3-on-3 tournaments in past years. The basketball tournament was put on hold in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Another tournament is being planned for 2023.

Chemical Abuse Awareness/Prevention

Since 2016, the High School SRO has conducted classroom presentations on alcohol and opioid abuse for the 10th-grade health classes. In 2021, there were approximately 300 kids that took part in the presentations, which were broken down into smaller classes of about four classes each. For the alcohol presentation, the SRO utilizes fatal vision goggles to show students what happens when their vision is impaired (simulating alcohol use) while trying to perform basic tasks such as walking, balancing, or operating basic equipment. During the Opioid presentation, the SRO shows the video "Chasing the Dragon" to the students, and then conducts a classroom discussion/presentation with the assistance of guest speakers. The guest speakers are brought in to talk with students to discuss the harsh reality of chemical abuse and give real-life examples. This is done twice per year and we reach about 300 students a semester.

Teen Academy

CHPD hosts a teen academy each year over MEA week in October in partnership with the Columbia Heights School District. The program is two days long. The students who successfully completed the two-day program got to participate in a ride-along with a CHPD officer! This academy was designed for students who have an interest in law enforcement or are considering a career in law enforcement. Teen Academy bridges the gap between today's youth and law enforcement officers. Teen Academy covers topics including the use of force, traffic law, criminal law, and criminal investigation. The students were also able to participate in scenarios such as traffic stops and domestic calls. The students were able to see Fridley Police K-9 demonstration as well as CHPD use of the UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems) or drone. Thirteen students participated in Teen Academy in 2021. The students graduate with a better understanding of law enforcement and are provided with resources for those interested in becoming future police officers.

Backpack Giveaway

One of the challenges the pandemic has presented to community policing has been the inability to meet in person, especially indoors. In 2020, CHPD began a drive-thru style

backpack giveaway before the start of the school year to provide local students with backpacks and other school supplies that were donated from local religious organizations. The event was also held in 2021, where over 800 backpacks and other resources were provided to students and the school district.

Bicycle Giveaway

Each year, CHPD recovers numerous bicycles that have been abandoned around the City, and are frequently unable to identify an owner. CHPD works with the school district to identify students who may be in need of a new bike, refurbishes the bikes as needed, and presents them to students at the end of the school year. In 2021, we provided bicycles to nine students in the school district. A very special thanks to Jeffrey Haddorff, a bicycle enthusiast and father of our Community Service Officer Eli Haddorff, who donated his time refurbishing the bikes!



Additional Outreach

Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee

The CHPD's Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) has been in existence since 2015 with the primary purpose of working progressively toward improving community-police relations. The current committee is composed of 15 community stakeholders and meets bi-monthly to address recent activities involving CHPD as well as topics affecting law enforcement and the community in general. CHPD is grateful for the time, ideas, and feedback contributed by the committee members.

If you are interested in joining the MAC, please contact Officer Bill Monberg at bmonberg@columbiaheightsmn.gov.

Shop With a Cop

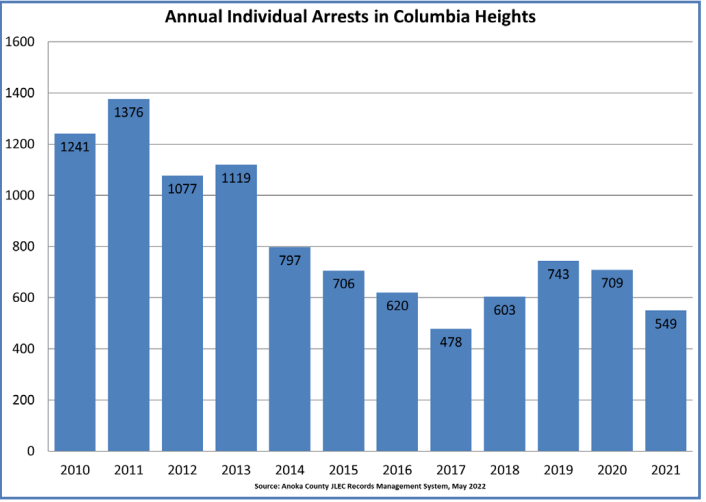
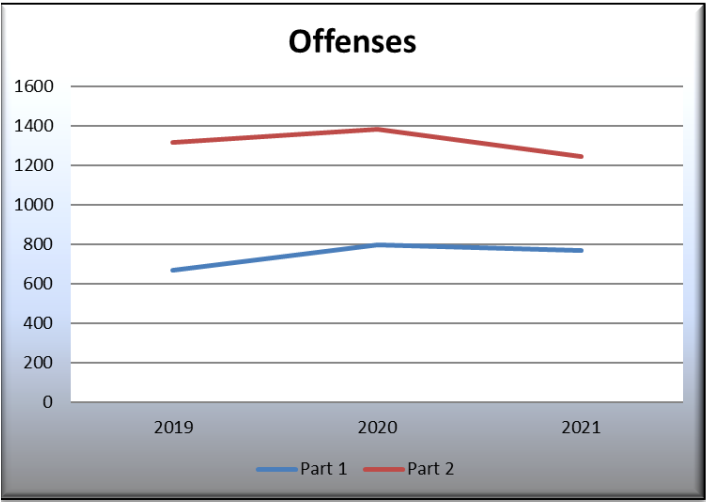
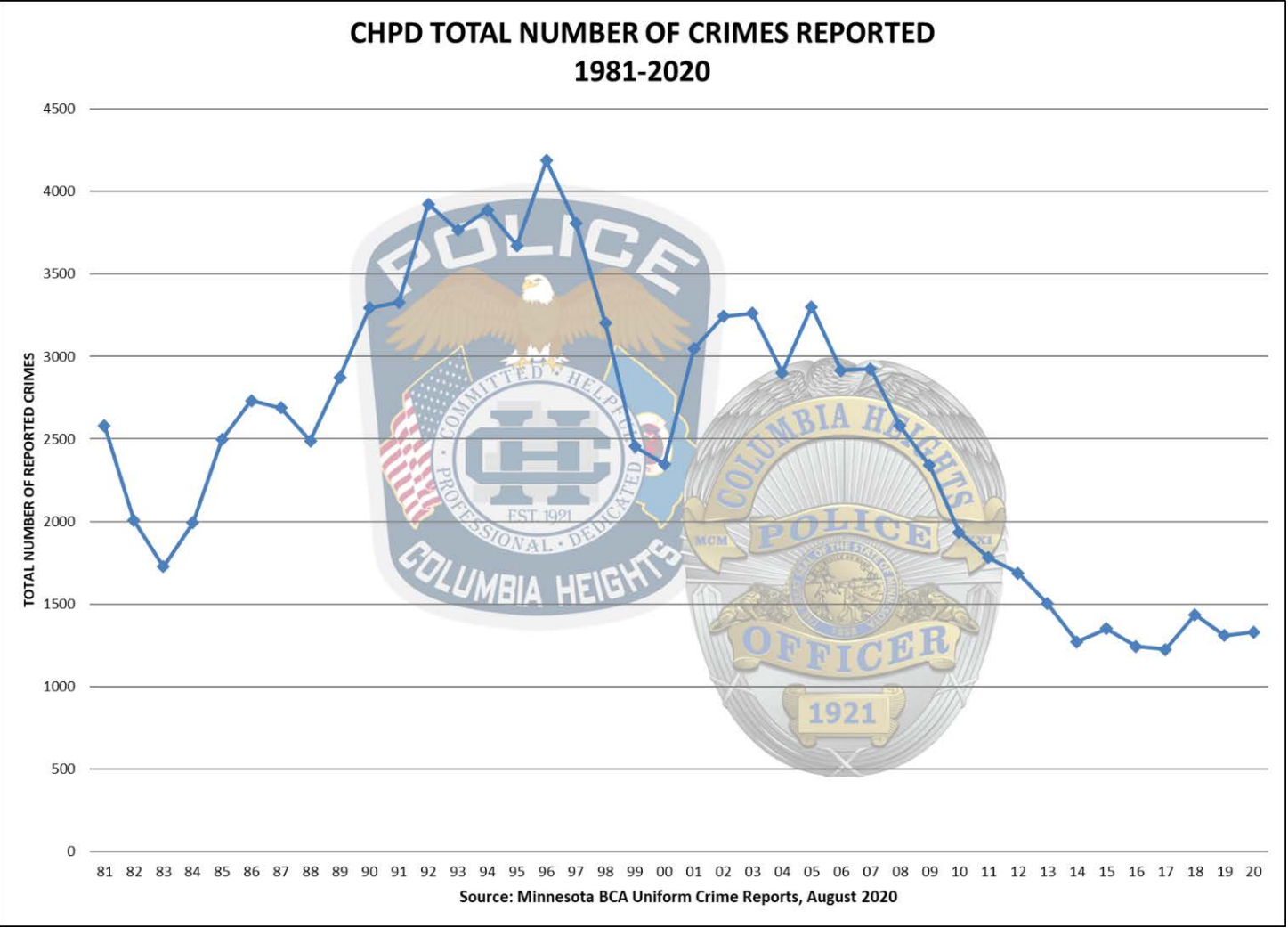
The Columbia Heights Police Association, or CHPA, had another great year despite the challenges of the pan-

demic. On May 10, 2021, Columbia Heights officers distributed 60 meals to the Islamic Center for Iftar, greeting our Muslim neighbors as they prepared to break their fast during Ramadan. We continued our partnership with the Columbia Heights High School by providing our annual Curt Ramsdell Scholarship. The 2021 recipient was Sam-sam Mohamoud.

Lastly, our 2021 Shop with a Cop Program was our most successful yet. Through the generosity of our community and our CHPA members, as from our lasting partnerships St. Timothy's Church, the Lions, the VFW, and other charitable donations we were able to provide food, clothes, and gifts for 35 families and over 100 children this holiday season. Since the inception of the Shop with a Cop program, we have partnered with Target who has generously provided the program with a 10% discount on merchandise for the families.

Crime Statistics

In 2021, Columbia Heights saw an 8% reduction on reported crimes overall, with a 4% decrease on Part 1 crimes and a 10% decrease in Part 2 crimes. These numbers are currently trending down. After two years of increased arrests, the Columbia Heights Police Department reported a significant decrease in total people arrested in 2021.



Additional Reports

Police Reserves

The CHPD Reserve Unit is a volunteer organization composed of members of the Columbia Heights community. These members support the police department and the Columbia Heights-Hilltop community through a variety of tasks that include patrol, transports and participating at special events. Reserve members receive specialized training related to their areas of responsibility.

The Reserve Program has been a part of the Columbia Heights Police Department for over half a century, and thousands of hours of volunteer time have been donated. The CHPD continues to be grateful for their service to their community.

Training

In 2021 new laws and MN POST Board regulations took effect. In order to better equip CHPD staff, we made changes to our use of force training. The department use of force instructors became certified in a new form of defensive tactics that starts with a Jiu-Jitsu foundation. This foundation moves away from the traditional method of striking to body control tactics that will reduce injuries to both the officer and suspect. This method also requires two officers for handcuffing those under arrest to reduce the risk of escape and resistance. In order to build competency with the new concepts, staff trained four separate times throughout 2021. All CHPD staff went through duty to intervene training in 2021. Officers

attended four hours of Autism training. Officers also attended training covering report writing, court testimony and updates on the changes to the MN Deadly Force Statute. In addition to the training outlined above, officers attended additional mandatory training and individual developmental training.

Use-of-Force

Columbia Heights officers continue to hold the highest regard for the dignity and liberty of all persons, and place minimal reliance on the use of force. The police department respects the value of every human life, and the application of deadly force is a measure to be employed in the most extreme circumstances. The CHPD goes beyond the state and federal reporting requirements to monitor our use of force incidents and ensure compliance with state and federal law and department policy.

In 2021, officers responded to 23,418 calls for service (Anoka County Communications). A minimal amount of force was used in 0.34% of these calls, with a total of 80 incidents for the year. Of those incidents, open hand techniques were the most common type of force used and 97% of the subjects involved where force was used reported no injury. Of those that reported injuries, minor pain or abrasions were the most common. We continue to have a supervisor review every reported use of force to ensure legal and policy requirements are met. At the same time, we look for new tools and techniques we can use to minimize the times we are required to use force.

Police Department Budget Summary

The Police Department's budget for 2021 was authorized at \$5,704,300. This budget is composed of three main sections, the first being Personal Services which is by far the largest portion at \$5,019,400. This section includes all the line items related to the payment of the department's personnel. The CHPD has an authorized roster of 29 police officers, two full-time and five part-time Community Service Officers, and six Support Services employees.

The Supplies section is the smallest portion of the Police Department's budget. Set at \$169,800 for 2021, this section includes such items as office supplies,

uniform items to include protective vests, computer equipment and general supplies.

Other Services and Charges is the third section of the budget, with a 2021 amount of \$515,100. Other Services and Charges is made up of the line items for things like training, cell phones and building utilities, and maintenance of the department's vehicles.

The 2021 Police Capital Equipment budget was \$151,700, which included funds for the purchase and outfitting of two marked utility vehicles for patrol use, and one unmarked vehicle.



PUBLIC WORKS

Introduction

The Public Works Department provides many basic services to the residents of Columbia Heights. These include but are not limited to the maintenance of City streets, parks, water mains, and sanitary and storm sewer systems. Other services include planning, design, construction, and assessing functions of the Engineering Department; vehicle and equipment maintenance and purchasing by the Central Garage; administration of garbage, recycling and organics collection, hazardous waste programs; and management of urban forestry.

Public Works handles many special projects that include but are not limited to an In-flow-Infiltration Reduction Program, street lighting, and water meter replacement programs. The Public Works department must follow many state and federal mandates for water testing, NPDES permitting, and storm water requirements.

Staff also responds to an array of City and residential emergency needs at all times. 2021 continued to be a challenging year due to the impacts of COVID-19. The follow-

ing reports by the various departments in Public Works provide an overview of each department's many activities. These reports are composed of words and numbers, but please remember that these accomplishments are only possible through the dedication of the individuals who show up every day to do their jobs.

It is these people, using their skills and experience, that make it possible for residents to enjoy the quality of life that is available in Columbia Heights. Few people realize that

in addition to normal everyday maintenance operations, each time there is a heavy snowfall, a major water break or emergency repair, or a plugged sewer, Public Works employees respond regardless of the time of day or night. Often while the rest of us are enjoying time with our families, Public Works employees are clearing the streets of snow and ice or ensuring that our residents have water or sewers that work properly.

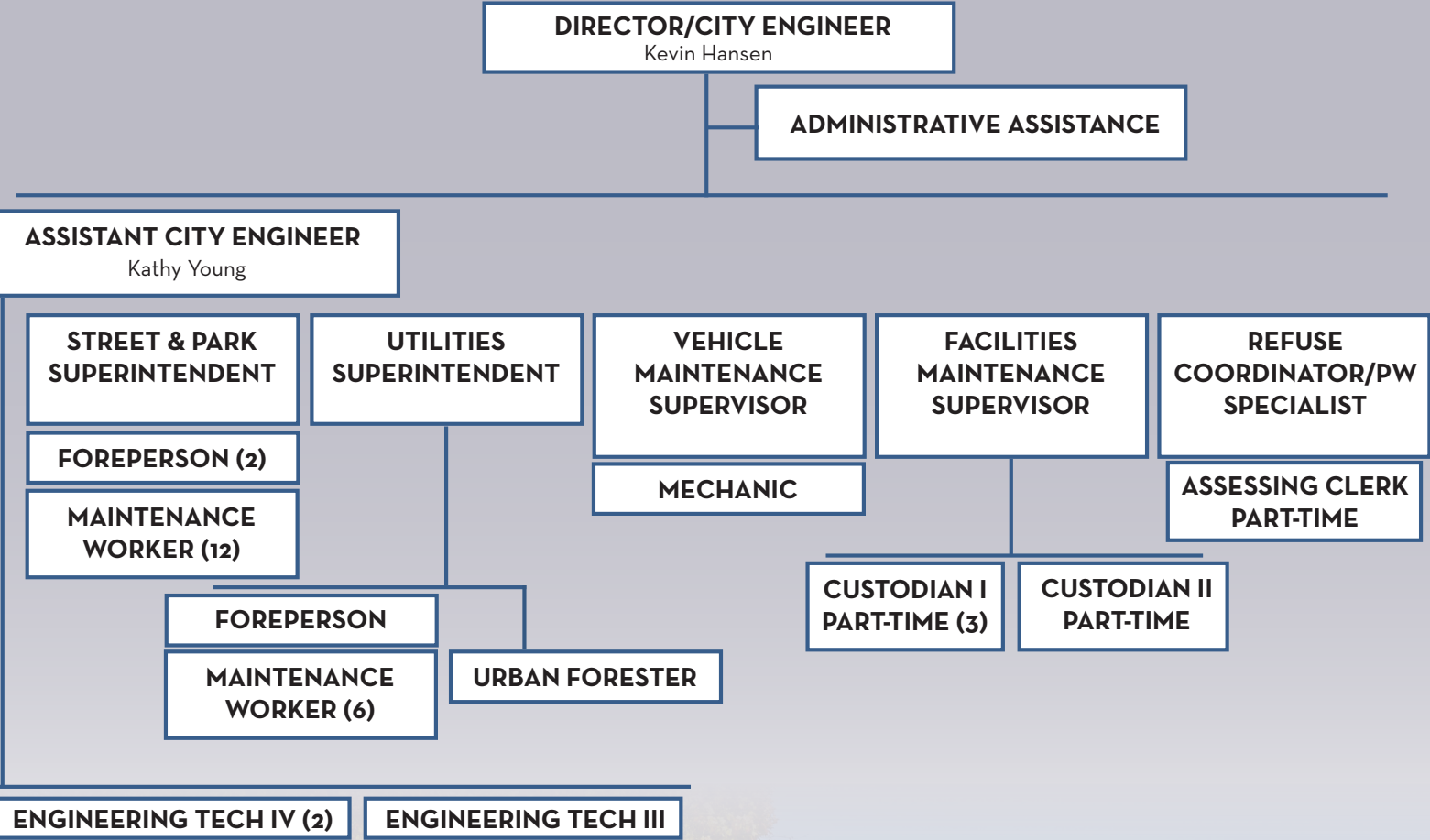
Public Works Staff			
Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Kevin Hansen	Public Works Director/City Engineer	Dec 1, 1997	----
Kathy Young	Assistant City Engineer	Aug 11, 1986	----
Lauren Letsche	Engineering Tech	May 5, 2014	----
Ben Lund	Engineering Tech	April 3, 2020	----
Jesse Davies	Refuse & Recycling Dept.	Sept 13, 2004	----
Sue Schmidtbauer	Admin Assistant	March 1, 2010	----
Barb Thomas	Purchasing/Assessing Clerk	Sept 29, 2008	----
Eric Hanson	Facilities Maintenance Supervisor	July 9, 2013	----
James Hauth	Utilities Superintendent	April 29, 2019	----
Liam Genter	Urban Forestry Specialist	July 1, 2019	----
Jeff Hook	Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor	April 28, 1997	----
Cody Overson	Mechanic	March 27, 2017	----
Ted Kriesel	Sign Department	May 24, 2016	----

Street & Park Department			
Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
David Cullen	Street & Park Superintendent	Sept 30, 2019	----
Ben Mathson	Foreperson (streets)	Oct 14, 2019	----
Tim Lund	Foreperson (parks)	May 2, 1994	----
Matthew Edwards	Maintenance Worker	March 4, 2019	----

Street & Park Department			
Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Jacob Fish	Maintenance Worker	Dec 2, 2019	----
Kelly Fetzer	Maintenance Worker	June 12, 1995	----
James Green	Maintenance Worker	Feb 2, 2015	----
Jeremy Hansen	Maintenance Worker	Aug 25, 2014	----
Janelle Niznik	Maintenance Worker	May 20, 2019	----
John Nordlund	Maintenance Worker	March 26, 2001	----
Jonathan Perkins	Maintenance Worker	Dec 2, 2019	----
Tim Sandquist	Maintenance Worker	June 12, 2017	----
Jackie Wohlers	Maintenance Worker	Dec 3, 2002	----

Sewer & Water Department			
Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Sherri Jensen	Foreperson	Aug 23, 1999	Dec 28, 2021
Ben Arlt	Maintenance Worker	June 1, 2020	Oct 29, 2021
Nicholle Bartolic	Maintenance Worker	Nov 22, 2021	----
Kyle Burns	Maintenance Worker	Jan 27, 2016	----
Duane Hopkins	Maintenance Worker	May 8, 2017	----
John Maki	Maintenance Worker	June 2, 2020	Sept 22, 2021
Jeff Olson	Maintenance Worker	June 25, 2018	----
David Quady	Maintenance Worker	March 30, 2015	----

PUBLIC WORKS



Traffic Commission

Adam Davis, Chairperson
Jared Finkelson, Vice-Chair
Allen Ciesynski
Stacy Nekora
Joe Schluender

Sue Chapman, Administrative Assistant
Kathy Young, Assistant City Engineer
Police Cpt. Matt Markham
Amáda Márquez Simula, Council Liaison

Major Accomplishments in 2021:

- The design for the reconstruction of 37th Ave from Central Ave to Stinson Blvd with the City of Minneapolis moved from concept to 30% design stage. This work is planned for 2023 construction. As part of this, the design for water main replacement was completed and will be bid for 2022 installation prior to the road work.
- The annual Water Main Cleaning and Lining program was continued with water main replacement in the SE quadrant of the city. This is still considered program work in cases where cleaning and lining would not be effective due to a history of breaks.
- The design of the new City Hall at 40th and Central Ave was completed with bidding documents initiated at the end of the 2021. The Public Works Director has been closely involved in all planning for the new City Hall, set to open in spring of 2023.
- The firm of Alatus continued construction of the mixed-use development where City Hall will be located. Staff provides construction inspections of utilities, connections to public utilities and roads, and site erosion control.
- The annual Sanitary Sewer Lining Program was continued in 2021 with over 6,300 lineal feet of pipe lining in all collection districts to address I/I problems, and to help offset the annual surcharge from the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services.
- The Utilities Department continued the annual Sanitary Sewer Line Cleaning Program with over one-half of the entire system being cleaned in 2021.
- The City was awarded a Safe Route to Schools grant of nearly \$500,000 to support additional sidewalks and pedestrian safety improvements on 49th Avenue in the area of the ISD 13 schools.
- The annual Street Rehabilitation Program included continuing work on Municipal State Aid streets in 2021, with 11 blocks of streets rehabilitated in Zones 4B and 5 blocks in the NW quadrant of the City.
- Federal ARPA funds allowed the City to further invest in aging infrastructure with design work on the Central Ave sanitary sewer improvements from 37th to 45th Avenues and additional water main replacement in the SE quadrant of the city.

Design and Construction Work

- Project 1907: State Aid Street Mill and Overlay 37th Ave, 5th St to Central Ave*
- Project 2000: Miscellaneous Concrete
- Project 2002: Street Rehabilitation Zone 4B and Zone 5
- Project 2010: Pump Station 3 Upgrades*
- Project 2014: Monopole Construction (Cellular Tower)*
- Project 2100: Miscellaneous Concrete
- Project 2101: Seal Coat - Zone 3B
- Project 2103: Water Main Construction

Street Seal Coat

- Project 2021: Zone 3B - Area bounded by Central Ave to Johnson St from 49th Ave to North Corporate Limit.

Street Rehabilitation Program

- Project 2002: Partial Street Reconstruction - Zone 4B 4th St, 48th to 52nd Aves (52nd to 53rd Aves was delayed to 2022.) 5th St, 48th to 49th Aves and 51st to 53rd Aves 6th St, 48th to 50th Aves and 51st to 52nd Aves Mill and Overlay - Zone 4B 7th St, 48th to 52nd Aves Washington St, 48th to 51st Aves Madison St, 48th to 51st Aves Mill and Overlay - Zone 5

6th St, 47th to 48th Aves
Washington St, 44th to 46th Aves

Surveying/Design Work

- Project 2007: State Aid Turnabout/Trail - 53rd Ave, Sullivan Park to Central Ave*
- Project 2110: Street Reconstruction with Multi-use Trail - 37th Ave, Central Ave to Stinson Blvd*
- Project 2202: Street Rehabilitation - Zone 6 and Zone 7
- Project 2205: State Aid Street Rehabilitation 44th Ave, Jefferson St to Central Ave
- Project 2206: State Aid Street Rehabilitation 47th Ave, Central Ave to Fillmore St
- Project 2306: Street Reconstruction with Multi-use Trail - 37th Pl*

* Work coordinated with other agencies or consulting engineer/architect.

Other Work Performed

Other work performed included warranty inspections and review of corrective work done by contractors, preparation of record drawings, and review of building permits. Staff prepared for and attended Traffic Commission meetings. Work was done on GIS database expansion and metafile development. Staff also addressed erosion and drainage concerns on commercial and residential properties and provided public outreach for the Adopt-A-Drain program. The Public Works Director and Stormwater Specialist were involved during the year with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization and Rice Creek Watershed Management Districts for input and coordination of projects.

Sanitary Sewer Maintenance

Sanitary Sewer Cleaning

The Utilities Department cleans over 40% of all sanitary sewer mainlines in the City annually. In 2021, 23.3 miles of sewer mains were cleaned using a hydraulic method to remove dirt, grease, and root penetrations. Columbia Heights is divided into three separate districts for the Metropolitan Council Environmental Ser-

vices (MCES) flow metering. Each year cleaning efforts focus on completing one MCES metering district and lines in the other two districts identified as needing more regular cleaning. In 2021, all 58,151 feet of District 2 was cleaned; an additional 64,933 feet of sanitary sewer main requiring regular or emergency cleaning was completed in District 1 and District 3.

Cleaning the City-owned sanitary sewer lines helps minimize backups that can affect residents, other infrastructure, and the environment. In 2021 the Utilities Department received 12 calls for possible sanitary sewer backups. It was determined that four of the backups were the result of the City-owned sanitary sewer. The other backups were private sanitary service issues. In all 12 cases, City staff responded, identified the issue, cleaned the sanitary sewer line, and when necessary, eliminated the blockage.

Sanitary Sewer Televising

In 2021, the Utilities Department completed 80,312 feet of sanitary sewer televising. Duane Hopkins, Utilities Maintenance Operator, has taken on the role of lead for televising work. Duane has ensured proper maintenance and repair of our equipment to limit downtime. His leadership and commitment have drastically increased the amount of televising inspection work the City is able to complete. The information that is gained from Closed-Circuit Televising (CCTV) videos of sanitary sewer main lines assists in the assessment of condition and maintenance needs. From the pipe inspection results, determinations are made on cleaning priority and repair schedule. Each year televising records are used to identify sanitary sewer to repair with cured in place pipe (CIPP). Larger repairs can be identified through the inspection. Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) can be located using these inspections as well. The Utilities Department continues to prioritize sewer inspections and focus on inspecting sewer mains that have never been inspected. This way unknown issues can be found and repaired before they impact the sanitary sewer service.

Sanitary Sewer Improvements

The sanitary sewer system requires continual maintenance and repair to protect the public and environment from sanitary sewer backups and overflows. System repairs also help minimize the amount of rainwater, ground water and snow melt entering the sanitary system. When clear water enters Columbia Heights' sanitary system it must be treated, and treating clear water costs the city money. Rehabilitating manholes and lining sewer pipes helps reduce the cost of treating sanitary sewage and improves the performance and reliability of the system.

Each year the Utilities Department plans to line 6,000 feet of sanitary sewer pipe. These repairs improve broken and deteriorating pipe and eliminates groundwater infiltration from the system. In 2021, 6,322 feet of sanitary sewer was rehabilitated using Cured in Place Pipe (CIPP), a method that eliminates the need to dig into the street to replace the pipe. In addition to lining sanitary sewer pipes, manholes are also inspected and repaired as needed.

Sanitary Sewer Lift Station Maintenance

As a result of changes in elevation throughout Columbia Heights, sanitary lift stations are required to maintain proper flow dynamics within the sanitary sewer system. These stations pump sewage upward from a lower elevation of the city and allow it to then rejoin the gravity sewer system. The stations require annual maintenance and weekly inspections to ensure they are performing as intended and that the pumps, motors and other equipment are in good working order. Each year the stations are cleaned twice, once in the spring and once in the fall. These station cleanings remove deposited materials from the walls and base of the wet well, or holding tank, that collects sewage before it is pumped uphill. By cleaning the wet wells twice annually, Utilities staff ensures no material breaks off causing damage or clogging to occur on the pumps. The pumps in the sanitary sewer lift stations are some of the hardest working pieces of equipment in our sanitary sewer system and run regularly. The pumps and motors are required to start many times per day and expected to perform without fail in the conveyance of sanitary sewage.

The weekly inspection of the stations ensures pump noise and any other minor changes in the operation of the station are observed and can be remedied before they become larger problems. This year the transducer (level measuring device) failed at Argonne Lift Station. While the transducer was not functioning properly, the station went into float backup mode. This redundant backup system continued to operate properly, and the transducer was repaired in June.



Hydrant Flushing

The potable water system in Columbia Heights consists of more than 72 miles of water main, 565 hydrants, 1,715 valves (529 hydrant valves and 1,186 system valves), two pumping stations and one elevated water tower. To maintain aesthetically pleasing water throughout the entire water system hydrant flushing is performed every spring. By isolating water mains and forcing water out of the system at higher than normal velocities, tuberculation and deposits are removed from the pipe walls and water quality complaints are reduced. As part of the hydrant flushing program all hydrants are inspected for damage, leaks, and difficult operation. Ninety-six hydrants were identified during inspection as needing repairs. After reinspecting, 71 hydrants were repaired in May.

Valve Operation Program

A preventative maintenance valve operation program was started in 2019. The program was continued and in 2021 staff turned 209 valves. In the first three years of the program, 54% of all system valves have been operated. The goal is to turn all system valves in the City in 5-7 years. Turning valves on a regular basis ensures that

when an emergency repair for a water main break arises the water can be shut off and the impact to homes can be minimized.

Water System Repairs

In 2021, the integrity of the water supply system was more important than ever. The Twin Cities experienced a historic drought throughout the summer months that led to extremely high water usage rates. A typical summer day in July will see a citywide usage of 1.62 million gallons. In 2021, the highest usage occurred on June 13 with a citywide usage of 2.37 million gallons (46% above average). In June and July, the water system saw 24 days of usage over 2 million gallons, 14 days in a row from June 6-19. To ensure the water system operates properly, the Utilities Department responded to and repaired 16 water main breaks, 71 hydrants, 3 valves and 3 valve stacks. They were able to successfully repair all water main breaks on the same day the repair started. Utilities staff worked diligently to reduce the length of water outages for residents and no Columbia Heights residents were without water overnight.



Watering Restrictions in 2021 as Dry and Hot Weather Conditions Continued

Because Columbia Heights purchases water from Minneapolis, it enacts all water-use restrictions when notified by Minneapolis of a change. Ongoing hot and dry weather in August led to extremely high water demands prompting Minneapolis to implement an odd-even day watering restriction designed to save water and help ease the high demand on the Mississippi River. The watering restrictions applied to ALL properties within the City of Columbia Heights and lasted for several weeks.

The Utilities Department is responsible for responding to many types of customer requests and concerns throughout the year. Citizen requests include water service issues, sanitary sewer concerns, and general inspection of contractor repaired or installed pipe and valves. Staff responded to 257 customer requests and performed 1,949 locates for Gopher State One Call. They also collected 648 water samples to ensure compliance with all Minnesota Department of Health requirements.

Storm Sewer Operations

Storm Sewer Overview

Every year the storm sewer system requires continual maintenance and inspection to keep operating as it is intended. After every significant rain event the Street Department inspects and cleans the pond inlet and outlet structures, street catch basins, and monitored areas that have historically flooded because of large rainfall events. Performing these inspections and required maintenance help keep Columbia Heights streets and neighborhoods safe, the infrastructure in working order and the system operating.

Jackson Pond

In partnership with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO), Columbia Heights Public Works manages and maintains an iron enhanced sand filter at Jackson Pond. On an annual basis the sand filter must be cleaned, and the pump schedule and operations monitored to ensure the filtering goals for the pond are being met. In 2021, the Utilities Department optimized the filtration system by running the pumps that direct water to the filter bed every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 7 am and 1:30 pm. Running the pumps on alternating days allowed the filter bed to dry out, which is a best management practice for the filter. The MWMO installed monitoring stations on the filter discharge locations to measure the amount of water passing through the filter bed and identify if it is operating as intended. Jackson Pond also requires continual monitoring to ensure the water level in the pond does not reach flood levels. All Public Works maintenance staff worked together to maintain the Iron Enhanced Filter Bed throughout the year, breaking up the iron filings that have a tendency to clump together as they age, clearing the filter bed of weeds and plant growth, and picking up trash.

The process for maintaining the turf around Jackson Pond changed in 2021. Staff determined that the slopes could be left in an uncut state and only grass near the fence line was maintained. This change improved worker safety, decreased the cleaning necessary for the Iron Enhanced Sand Filter, and decreased staff hours for cutting the slopes.

Storm Sewer System Operations

Every year the storm sewer system requires continual maintenance and inspection to keep operating as it is intended. After every significant rain event the Street Department inspects and cleans the pond inlet and outlet structures, street catch basins, and monitored areas that have historically flooded because of large rainfall events. Performing these inspections and required maintenance help keep Columbia Heights streets and neighborhoods safe, the infrastructure in working order and the system operating.

Training and Education

In 2021 the Utilities Department received training in AWAIR, Right to Know, Slips, Trips and Falls, Fall Protection, Fire Extinguisher Operation, Vehicle Hoist Operation and Safety, Backhoe Safety and Procedures, Confined Space, Gas Monitor Operation and Calibration, Water Operator Certification, Scissor Lift Operation, Work Zone Safety and Wastewater Operator Certification. The training and knowledge of Public Works staff is vital to ensuring the safety and best management of the City's infrastructure. By providing opportunities and training for all staff to learn good habits, proper techniques and equipment operation requirements, daily tasks run more smoothly, equipment is maintained and employees are kept safe.

Columbia Heights Wins Adopt-a-Drain Challenge

In 2021, Columbia Heights competed against the cities of Blaine, Andover, and Fridley in the Adopt-a-Drain Challenge and won! For the Adopt-a-Drain Challenge, residents claimed storm drains and reported their storm drain cleanings through www.Adopt-a-Drain.org from March to October. Overall, residents of the four participating cities adopted 421 new drains, reported 896 drain cleanings, and got 161 new adopters to sign up through @AdoptaDrainMN! A big thank you to all those who

adopted and cleaned their drains this year through Adopt-a-Drain MN. All your hard work really adds up to help protect our waters!

Debris removal from storm drains is especially important in the fall. Fallen leaves contain nutrients that fuel algae growth and can lead to algal blooms the next summer. Removing leaves from drains keeps our waters healthy. It can also lead to less street flooding in the fall and winter.

More About the Adopt-a-Drain Program

Adopt-a-Storm Drain, a program aimed to protect area lakes, rivers, and wetlands, calls on residents in the seven-county Metro Area and Rochester to adopt a storm drain by committing to keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris. The simple act of sweeping up around a storm drain protects local lakes and rivers by preventing pollution from entering the shared waterways.

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.



Winter Operations

In late October 2021, the Street Department strategically placed 110 orange snow markers around curb lines, bump-outs, and transition areas to reduce the amount of snowplow-related damage.

In early November, six salt/sand barrels were placed throughout the City for resident use. One large box container of salt/sand mix was also placed outside the fence at the Recycling Center located at 3801 Madison St in October.

The 2020-2021 winter season produced 16 citywide plowable events. The first plowable event was on October 6, 2020, and the last was on March 16, 2021.

In March of 2021, Public Works committed to ordering 400 tons of treated rock salt purchased through the state contract awarded vendor. A total of 775 gallons of brine was purchased from the City of Fridley Public Works. Staff later mixed the brine with a "hot mix" liquid deicer to increase its effectiveness when temperatures fell below 15 degrees Fahrenheit. A total of 184 tons of salt was used for 2020 - 2021 winter events. After temperatures dropped below the practical use for sodium chloride, staff applied a mixture of salt and sand a total of 25 times.

After snow events the Street Department monitored pedestrian crossings and bus stops on Highway 65 (Central Ave) from 37th to 53rd Ave and Highway 47 (University Ave) from 37th to 45th Ave, for pedestrian accessibility. In between snowfalls, the Street Department hauled stockpiles of snow out of city-owned parking lots throughout the winter. On one occasion Public Works maintenance staff worked an overnight shift change to remove snow berms along the Central Ave business district from 37th Ave to 43rd Ave.

Staff removed snow berms along 50th Ave, 49th Ave, University Ave to Fairway Dr (south side), 41st Ave, Central Ave to Jackson St (north side), and 44th Ave, McLeod to Central Ave (north side) as needed throughout the winter. The 2021 winter season came to an end on March 16 with a total of 51.1 inches of snow. When spring arrived and the snow had melted, each route driver was assigned to patrol their areas and address any right-of-way turf damage with black dirt and seed.

Street Sweeping

The Street Sweeping program is temporarily staffed by two fulltime Street Department employees that operate one regenerative air and one mechanical

sweeper, plus any additional supporting staff.

In adhering to MS4 clean water requirements, the Street Department completed two full rounds of street sweeping. The first round started on March 22 and ended on April 13. Staff collected 370 cubic yards of debris during this event. The second round began on June 10 and ended on June 20, collecting over 150 cubic yards of debris.

The Street Department also swept all city-owned parking lots, flood-prone elevation areas and the MSC shop yard on an as-needed basis.

In July, a Trommel was rented to process 520 cubic yards of collected street sweeping material for disposal or reuse. A total of 60 cubic yards of screened waste was hauled to a specialty landfill.

Fall street sweeping started on November 11 and ended on December 3. A total of 1,151 cubic yards of leaves were collected and hauled away for disposal to The Mulch Store in Shakopee.



Asphalt Repair/Paving Operations

In the fall of 2021, Public Works purchased 10 tons of cold mix to have on hand for winter road repair.

The Street Department purchased 632 tons of bituminous material for road repairs in 2021. Of the 632 tons purchased, 115 tons of asphalt were used to repair the roadways after water main breaks. Alley repair, mill and fill operations, general street repairs and potholes required 393 tons of bituminous material.

Approximately 34 tons of asphalt MV4 and 65 tons of asphalt fines were used to repair failing street alley and seal coat zone work. The Street Department paved 52 tons of asphalt over the existing basketball court at Prestemon Park to improve the court condition and facilitate the introduction of Columbia Heights first dual use outdoor pickleball/basketball court.

Asphalt and Dirt Disposal

In 2021 Public Works purchased and delivered 132 tons of Class 5 road base for street repair projects. The Street Department hauled away 186 tons of asphalt and concrete rubble from the MSC storage lot to Barton Sand and Gravel.

Storm Sewer Maintenance

After significant rain events and annually each month, the Street Department inspects and cleans, if necessary, pond inlets and outlets, street catch basins, and monitors other flood-prone problem areas.

Numerous floating bogs that plug the Sullivan Lake outlet were removed throughout the year. Clogged drain lines were jetted and cleaned, along with the extensive removal of pond debris from around the outfall on an as-needed basis.

Misc Activities

- In July the Street Department applied a nonselective herbicide along the city right-of-way for weed control located on Central Ave from 37th to 53rd Ave and University Ave from 37th to 45th Ave. Staff also sprayed various locations around the city on an as-needed basis.
- Public Works stockpiled recyclable metal from construction projects, equipment maintenance, and illegal dumping violations in a dedicated metal recycling dumpster to reduce landfill waste and generate extra revenue for the City.
- Staff monitored the MSC yard condition and cleaned up dirt, sand, and other Public Works related debris to prevent it from entering the local storm sewers.
- The Street Department also responds 24/7 to all storm tree reported damage that blocks public roadways or sidewalks.

Personnel

The Street Department consisted of seven full-time employees in 2021.

Training

Staff received training in AWAIR, Right to Know, Slips, Trips and Falls, Fall Protection, Fire Extinguisher Operation, Vehicle Hoist Operation and Safety, Confined Space, Gas Monitor Operation and Calibration, Forklift Operation, Work Zone Safety and Wastewater Operator Certification.

The training and knowledge of Public Works staff is vital to ensuring the safety and best management of the City’s infrastructure. By providing opportunities and training for all staff to learn good habits, proper techniques and equipment operation requirements, daily tasks run more smoothly, equipment is maintained, and employees are kept safe.

Winter Activities

On Jan 30, Columbia Heights hosted the 1st Annual SnowBLAST in Huset Park. In addition to flooding and maintaining the skating rink and snow plowing areas for additional activities, the Park Department supplied and set up the event’s fire rings, firewood, benches, picnic tables, straw bales, trash, composting and recyclable containers.

The Silver Lake aeration system was activated on Feb 24 when oxygen levels in Silver Lake reached critical thresholds as set by the MN Department of Natural Resources. The baffle system of the aeration system developed a significant leak on March 3 resulting in erosion of the hillside where it is installed. As a result, the aeration system was shut down and is inoperable. Inquiries have been made to the MN Department of Natural Resources as to how to best proceed with repairs and or replacement of the system.

From late November into early December, the Park Department installed Christmas lighting at City Hall, the clock tower, Wargo Court Park, on Mill Street, and at Edgemoor Park.

Ice Skating Rinks

Above-average temperatures delayed opening the skating and hockey rinks located at McKenna and Ostrander Parks until Dec 23, 2020. The rinks remained open until Feb 24, 2021, when daytime temp were above 32 F.

Park and Pathway Maintenance

A Toro Grounds Master, Ventrac Tractor, and MT Trackless equipped with either a snow blower, broom, or a reversible snow blade were used by the Park Department to maintain public sidewalks, park pathways, and City-owned building entrances and sidewalks.

Turf Maintenance

The Park Department is responsible for maintaining turf conditions at 51 locations throughout the City ranging from small lots to large parks. With the early spring, mowing operations began on April 20 and continued into November, along with fall leaf clean-up operations.

The Park Department mowed the service road and right-of-way located on the east and west sides of TH 47 (University Ave) bi-weekly throughout the growing season. Road signs, traffic signals, and signposts were hand-trimmed when vegetation growth reached an undesirable level.

The City of Columbia Heights contracted all herbicide and fertilizer applications through TruGreen ChemLawn. TruGreen completed spring weed and feed applications at Huset, Edgemoor, McKenna, LaBelle, Prestemon, Sullivan, Ramsdell, Silver Lake Beach, and Keyes Parks. Mid-summer and late fall applications were applied to the Ramsdell Park ballfield, and Gateway and Wargo Court Parks.

TruGreen ChemLawn provided pre-emergent and fertilizer applications at City Hall, the Library, SACA/MS, 4400 Reservoir Blvd, 1307 42nd Ave, Water Tower, Jackson Pond, Public Safety, and the liquor stores on Central Ave and 37th Ave. They applied vegetation growth retardant along the 37th Ave hillside and applied tree, shrub, and weed bed control at Central and University Avenues, Public Safety, the Library, and the liquor stores.

The majority of athletic turf locations, the liquor stores, and City-maintained properties were aerated and overseeded in the fall. Dips and holes that caused tripping hazards throughout the parks system were filled and overseeded. Park areas with poor soil conditions resulting in thinly growing grass were top-dressed with high-quality grass seed and a mixture of screened compost sand and dirt.

Sign Department



The Sign Department completed regular curb and crosswalk painting, sign installation/repair, street/traffic re-lamping, traffic counter maintenance/installation, flag raising and lowering, and tree pruning for clearance around street signs and lights.



Park Improvements

Screening was installed for the portable toilet at LaBelle Park. Also, an overgrown shrub bed with a failing retaining wall was removed and landscaped. In early September a concrete pad was poured next to the Prestemon warming house for the placement of a future park bench. Grading took place at the Ostrander Skating rink to improve the ice conditions when flooded. Numerous painting projects and repairs occurred throughout the year.

Ball Fields

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, 2021 had considerably more scheduled ballgames than 2020. Anywhere from one to five ballfields were prepared daily from April through October for scheduled use. Soccer returned in the fall as well with four soccer fields being laid out and maintained in Huset Park.

Wading Pools and Splash Pad

The wading pools and splash pad opened for the season on May 28. Before opening, park staff painted the pools. Stabilized chlorine was in short supply in 2021 so calcium hypochlorite was used along with cyanuric acid to maintain the water quality of the pools. Except for two faulty activator buttons, the splash pad operated smoothly all summer. The wading pools and splash pad were closed for the season on Sept 7.

Irrigation Systems

The Park Department is responsible for the irrigation start up and shut down at 37th Ave, Huset Parkway, Lions Park, Wargo Court, Gateway, and Ramsdell Parks.

Shrub Bed Maintenance

The Park Department is responsible for maintaining shrub beds at 22 locations throughout the city. Typical shrub bed maintenance includes pruning, trimming, mulching, weeding, watering, plant replacement, and applying weed control.

Playground

Playgrounds and the playground equipment remained open during COVID -19 restrictions.

Routine safety inspections continued monthly and staff repaired broken playground parts and equipment on an as-needed basis. Unfortunately, acts of vandalism occurred at the Ramsdell and Huset West playgrounds. Vandalized Minipod links were replaced on the Ramsdell playground and a vandalized slide at the Huset West playground was replaced.

Huset, Ostrander, Keyes, Sullivan, and Ramsdell playgrounds all received a top dressing of mulch exclusively designed for safe playground use. All park entrance signs were cleaned and sealed. Full-time and part-time staff participated regularly in park and playground litter, trash and other various types of clean-ups.

Aerator Fountains

Aerator fountains were installed and operated on ponds at Huset Park on May 4 and at LaBelle on May 19. The fountains were removed, cleaned, winterized, and stored for winter on Oct 1.

Park Events

Numerous community events were held in the parks throughout the year. Huset Park was host to Music in the Park events on May 2, June 2, July 7, and Aug 4. An art fair was held in Huset Park on June 24. Numerous Columbia Heights Jamboree events also took place at Huset Park. There was a car show Aug 21 and Fall Boogie Bash Sept 21. Truck or Treat took place Oct 30. Movie in the Park events took place at Huset Park in August and at McKenna Park in September. Gauvitte Park hosted Wilderness Inquiry June 21 through July 30. The library put on numerous programs in Huset, Sullivan, Keyes, LaBelle, and Prestemon parks throughout the year.

With the easing COVID-19 restrictions, reservations for picnic shelter and other uses of park facilities increased significantly. Picnic areas and bathrooms are thoroughly cleaned in preparation for these events and cleanup takes place following the picnic.

Reservations

In complying with the Minnesota COVID-19 mandates and following the Minnesota Stay Safe Plan, picnic reservations and park facilities rentals were significantly reduced in 2020. With the easing COVID-19 restrictions in 2021, reservations for picnic shelters and other uses of park facilities increased significantly.

Training

John Nordlund recertified his pesticide license in March. Tim Lund and John Nordlund recertified their Tree Inspector license in March.

Personnel

The Park Department consisted of six fulltime employees: one foreperson and five maintenance workers. From April through September, eight seasonal employees assisted with park maintenance duties.

Miscellaneous Activities

- Park Department staff assisted the City Forester with tree maintenance and planting throughout the year.
- Staff also assisted the Library, Recreation, City Hall, and the liquor stores with special projects and tasks such as hanging pictures, televisions, and bulletin boards, moving furniture, remodeling projects, and addressing basement water problems. projects and tasks. Such tasks included hanging pictures, televisions, and bulletin boards, moving furniture, remodeling projects, and addressing basement water problems at City Hall and the liquor store on 37th Ave.



Central Garage

The Central Garage is responsible for evaluating over-all cost, fuel use and labor involved in the operation and maintenance of all city-owned equipment.

Work Orders

The Central Garage processed 1,824 repair and work orders totaling 2,398 chargeable hours at \$74.00 per hour, plus a \$5.40 surcharge per work order. Repair orders consist of requests by the operators for repairs or maintenance on the vehicles. Work orders consist of preventive maintenance procedures generated by the CFA Fleet Maintenance Program.

The Police Department, Park Department, Street Department, Water Department, and Fire Department generated the most work orders in 2021.

Major Repairs

Major repairs in 2021 which resulted in equipment down time or altered daily work programs were:

- #3712 Engine Repair \$5,459.91
- #0135 Replace Transmission \$2,918.24
- #0359 Replace Probe in Tank #2 \$2,331.53
- #0083 Replace EGR Cooler \$1,998.60
- #0021 Replace Box Liner \$1,928.40
- #0130 Replace DEF Injector \$1,719.00

Retired Equipment

- #0175 - 1996 Ford F250 - Sewer/Water
- #0454 - 20xx Ford Crow Vic - Recreation
- #0459 - 1999 Ford Mini Bus - Recreation

New Capital Equipment

- #0004 - 2021 Daihatsu Hijet Mini-Truck - Street
- #0011 - 2020 Metal Pless Pro1248 Plow - Street
- #0040 - 2021 CAT 272D3 Skid Steer - Street
- #0041 - 2021 CAT Cold-Planer - Street
- #0044 - 2021 Erskine Snow Blower - Street
- #0335 - 2021 Miller Pipeworx Welder - Garage
- #0452 - 2020 Ford Transit Van - Recreation
- #8210 - 2021 Chevrolet Traverse - Police
- #8211 - 2021 Interceptor Utility - Police
- #8212 - 2021 Interceptor Utility - Police

Fuel Usage

The City purchased 32,923 gallons of unleaded gasoline and 13,972 gallons of diesel fuel. The total cost of fuel purchased in 2021 was \$98,388.

The total fuel used by the City in 2020 was 46,582 gallons; 32,255 gallons of unleaded gasoline and 14,357 gallons of diesel fuel.

The Police Department, Street Department, Park Department, and Fire Department used the highest amounts of fuel in 2021.

Personnel

Kelly Fetzer from the Park Department and Ben Arlt from the Utilities Department worked part time in the city garage over the winter months.

Planting/Adopt a Boulevard Tree Program

2021 was a very successful year for tree planting in Columbia Heights. Over the course of 13 planting days in Sep/Oct, the City forester and public works staff planted 164 bareroot trees in right-of-ways along streets and in parks citywide. These trees arrived in May and spent the summer/early fall being watered and cared for in the community gravel bed constructed in 2020.

Construction of the gravel bed was made possible in part through a generous donation by the Lions Club. Tree planting activities were partially funded by the MnDNR through an urban and community forestry grant received in 2019. Communications created a video about the arrival of this year’s bareroot tree cohort.

2021 was the first year of the new Adopt a Boulevard Tree program. This program very successfully recruited volunteers who were willing to “adopt” a city-owned boulevard tree planted in the right-of-way adjacent to their property. Volunteers agreed to provide supplemental water for the trees for the first two years; all other care and maintenance is provided by City staff. The program successfully matched volunteers with all trees planted in right-of-ways along streets, with a total of 100 trees adopted. The opt-in nature of this program should drastically increase watering compliance by residents, thereby increasing survival and growth rates of newly planted trees.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management

EAB was confirmed in Columbia Heights in 2019. Urban forestry continues to manage EAB according to the comprehensive City EAB Management Plan (2014).

The City entered into a contract with Rainbow Treecare to provide preventative EAB injections for City-owned trees, as well as a discounted rate for residents of the city interested in treating privately owned ash trees. As part of the contract Rainbow mailed a postcard to all residents of the City informing them of this opportunity.



131 city-owned ash trees were injected in June 2020 to prevent EAB infection. Residents took advantage of this opportunity to treat ash trees at a discounted rate and a total of 52 privately owned trees were treated by Rainbow Treecare in 2021.

To provide for outreach to private residents about EAB management, urban forestry collaborated with city communications staff to produce EAB articles in the spring and summer City newsletters.

Management activities and replacements for removed trees have been accelerated due to extramural funding from the MnDNR-- \$100,000 awarded under the Preparing for EAB in Community Forests Grant (2020-2022).

The City forester spoke about Columbia Heights EAB grant activities and participated in a ceremonial tree planting at the MnDNR Climate Week kickoff celebration held in Eden Prairie, MN in September of 2021. Other speakers included the mayor of Eden Prairie, the commissioners of the MnDNR and MPCA, and state representative Rick Hansen.

2021 Reimbursable Grant Activities

- 109 ash trees removed and stumps ground
- 164 replacement trees planted
- Progress reports were completed and filed at the June 1 and Dec 1, 2021, filing deadlines.

The City was reimbursed a total amount of \$36,400 by the DNR for grant-related expenditures incurred in 2021.

Tree Inspection for Residents

Fifty-eight tree inspections were made for residents upon request. Issues included: Emerald Ash Borer infestations and treatments, height of mature spruce tree, wounds and structural concerns, drought, storm damage, early fall color, Dutch Elm Disease and much more.

Facility Maintenance

- In 2021, the Facility Maintenance Department worked with the liquor operations manager on the remodel of Heights Liquor on University Ave.
- Interior lights were retrofitted to LED fixtures at the Public Safety building.
- Top Valu 1 and 2 retrofitted the show floor 2x2 troffers to LED fixtures.
- The Police Department replaced damaged cubicles with new ones.
- CenterPoint Energy replaced the gas line at City Hall.
- More renewable energy was purchased, as more solar garden subscriptions came online.
- There were 206 helpdesk requests in 2021.

Arbor Day Celebration/Arbor Day Tree Sale

The City partnered with our own Sister Cities International chapter to commemorate and celebrate Arbor Day in 2021. The celebration was held in late April at Lomianki Park and included speeches by the Mayor of Columbia Heights, a greeting from the Mayor of Lomianki, Poland, and a ceremonial watering of the Arbor Day tree. The tree was planted by city staff and commemorates 30 years of the Sister Cities partnership with the city of Lomianki, Poland. The species selected was a Linden tree, the national tree of Poland.

The City also held its first Arbor Day Tree Sale in 2021. Forty-six trees were purchased from a local nursery and sold to residents at a significant discount. These trees will beautify our community and provide valuable ecosystem services for decades to come. Staff hopes to continue and grow this sale in the future.

Community Engagement and Outreach

In April of 2021, the City forester taught a virtual lesson about urban forestry to students from the Immaculate Conception School. Topics covered in the lesson included: benefits of trees, history of urban forestry, community forest management in Columbia Heights, and Emerald Ash Borer. The students were very engaged and had many excellent questions to ask after the lesson ended.

In October of 2021 the City forester taught a tree identification workshop at the library as part of the adult education series. The class had 10 attendees and was very well received. Additional tree identification workshops will be held in the future.

MPCA Alternative Landscaping Equipment Grant

The City forester applied for and was awarded a \$4,750 Alternative Landscaping Equipment grant from the MN Pollution Control Agency in July of 2021. This grant provided funding to replace 2-stroke gasoline landscape equipment with battery-powered equipment. With this funding the city was able to retire 8 pieces of aging gasoline equipment and replace them with brand new Husqvarna battery equipment. The grant also provided funding to purchase additional batteries, chargers, and inverters to allow charging in vehicles; the equipment was purchased from our hometown saw shop, Minneapolis Saw. City staff will utilize these quiet and clean pieces of landscaping equipment to maintain city parks and buildings starting in 2022.

Tree Removals

- 149 total trees removed
- 109 ash trees (EAB grant)
- 8 construction (Engineering project area sidewalk repairs)
- 26 storm damage/hazardous
- 6 diseased (Dutch Elm Disease)

Collaboration with Fire Department

Forestry staff assisted the Fire department with tree-related issues during rental inspections and property maintenance inspections. Staff also assisted the Fire department with the abatement of five nuisance trees condemned during property inspections.



The Refuse and Recycling Department managed solid waste disposal for approximately 6,400 residential properties in Columbia Heights. Services included curbside trash, recycling, yard waste/organic composting, and special curbside collections (bulk, appliances, electronics, and mattresses/bedsprings), as well as a drop-off Recycle Center. Of these properties, 154 are multi-dwelling with four or more units totaling over 2,500 apartments or condominiums. Total expenditures for all refuse operations were over \$2.1 million in 2021.

The City disposed of 7,024 tons of residential solid waste which was 5% less than in 2020. The City recycled 1,778 tons of material from residential curbside single-sort and other curbside collections (including organics) as well as the City Recycle Center, which is a 12% drop from the previous year. This is probably due to the easing of stay-at-home pandemic restrictions. The City increased organics service by 2% since 2020 and currently 1,510 properties have a compost cart, which is 23% of all residential properties in Columbia Heights.

In addition, the City collected approximately 1,000 tons of yard waste for composting. All the trash was landfilled due to the lack of Refuse-to-Fuel facilities, i.e., where the trash is burned for electricity.

The Refuse and Recycling Department resolved over 1,000 escalated service issues for residents, processed 551 service changes, and handled over 1,000 field or recordkeeping audit problems.



The City of Columbia Heights is a member of the Recycling Association of MN, MN Composting Council, and Reuse MN. Staff attended several meetings, webinars, and conferences to learn about trending technologies and processes in the industry.

The Refuse and Recycling Department completed the required tasks according to the Anoka County Residential Recycling Agreement and received over \$106,000 in MN State SCORE funds.

We thank the many vendors we utilize to accomplish solid waste collection, disposal, and recycling.

- Waste Management hauling services
- Waste Management Materials Recycling Facility
- Recycle Technologies
- Trex, INC
- Coon Rapids Recycle Center
- Loe's Oil
- Second Chance Recycling
- Xcel Energy (via SlipStream services)
- Anoka County Haz waste and yard/tree waste drop-off sites
- Realliance Steel

Thanks also to our community partners for working with the department to improve recycling in Columbia Heights.

- Columbia Heights/Fridley Kiwanis Club
- Columbia Heights Lions Club
- HeightsNext
- Anoka County Recycling Ambassadors
- Columbia Heights School District Community Education Department
- Anoka County Recycling Resource Solutions Office

The department participated with several programs and events for recycling activities.

- Recycling Champions recognition
- Spring and Fall recycle class & tour
- High school Key Club compost fundraiser
- Citywide garage sale & Reuse promotion
- Spring & Fall recycle guides
- Lions Club spring/fall cleaning events



RECREATION

Introduction

The mission of the Columbia Heights Recreation Department is to provide recreational and service opportunities for people of all ages. The Recreation Department offers a vast, year-round, comprehensive program that strives to meet the needs of the whole community.

Under the Recreation Department umbrella are these major areas: Youth Athletics/Programs,

Traveling Athletics, Youth Enrichment Programs, Adult Athletics, 55+ Senior Center, Active Agers 55+ Outings and in-house Activities, Special Events, John P. Murzyn Hall, Community Garden Plot Rentals, Neighborhood Event Wagon Rentals, Park Scheduling, and the Hylander Gym and Fitness Center.

The Columbia Heights Recreation Department

takes pride in offering a motivating program of activities and sports for youth and adults throughout the year. We did not allow COVID-19 to inhibit our goal to enhance the lives of our residents. The following pages provide a summary of the activities and events our community benefited from in 2021. Although our numbers are slightly down from previous years, the quality of our programs excelled with social distancing taking precedence.

Additionally, the efforts of our seasonal staff were instrumental in making all our activities fun and safe.

With the support of the Mayor, City Council, Park and Recreation Commission, City Manager, and the many civic and community organizations, the high quality delivery of services and opportunities are provided through the dedicated work of the Recreation staff and our numerous volunteers.

Recreation Department Staff			
Name	Title	Start Date	End
Keith Windschitl	Recreation Director	Aug, 1997	----
Deanna Saefke	Recreation Secretary	July, 2005	----
DeLynn Mulligan	Senior Citizen Coordinator	Sept, 2012	----
Katie Holznagel	Recreation Program Coordinator	April, 2019	----
Candy Lack	Half-time Recreation Clerk	Jan, 2017	July, 2021
Paula Haynus		Sept, 2000	----
Doodnauth Bisnauth	John P Murzyn Hall Custodian II Part-time	Sept, 1996	----
Sue Wolney		May, 1999	
Brian Maharaj		Aug, 2011	
Steve Lindberg		May, 2020	
Randy Peterson		Sept, 2020	
Ashley Sivoravong		Oct, 2020	July, 2021
Karl Bridges		June, 2021	Sept, 2021

DIRECTOR
 Keith Windschitl

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/
CLERK-TYPIST II**
 Deanna Saefke

PART-TIME RECREATION CLERK
 Paula Haynus

**PROGRAM
COORDINATOR**
 Katie Holznagel

**SENIOR CITIZENS
COORDINATOR**
 Delynn Mulligan

**PART-TIME
PROGRAM
COORDINATOR**

**COURSE INSTRUCTORS, VOLUNTEER
COACHES, YOUTH VOLUNTEERS**

**CUSTODIAN II
PART-TIME (9)**

CITY PARK ADDRESSES & AMENITIES	BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELDS	BASKETBALL COURTS	INDOOR BATHROOM RENTALS	T- TENNIS V= VOLLEYBALL B=BOCCIE BALL	PORTABLE OUTHOUSE	GRILLS	HOCKEY & SKATING RINKS	PAVED FIELD SPACE	PICNIC TRAILS	PICNIC TABLES	PICNIC SHELTER WITH OUTLETS	PLAYGROUND	SLEDDING HILL	SPLASH PAD	SWIMMING BEACH	WADING POOL	NATURE AREA/NATIVE GRASSES
BRUCE NAWROCKI 1271 CIRCLE TERRACE BLVD		•	•						•	•	•						
EDGEMOOR 3950 EDGEMOOR PLACE										•							
GAUVITTE 4333 2ND STREET	•	•			•	•		•		•	•						
HILLTOP 4657 HEIGHTS DRIVE					•		•		•	•							
HUSET EAST 3965 JEFFERSON STREET	•	•	•	V		•		•		•	•						
HUSET WEST 3965 JEFFERSON STREET	•			B	•	•		•	•	•	•		•				•
KEYES 1345 45 1/2 AVENUE	•				•			•	•		•	•					
LABELLE 1150 42ND AVENUE					•			•	•	•	•						•
LOMIANKI 80 39TH AVENUE								•		•							
McKENNA 4757 7TH STREET	•		•		•	•	•		•		•	•				•	•
OSTRANDER 1500 40TH AVENUE						•	•	•		•							
PRESTEMON 3900 MCKINLEY STREET	•	•			•			•	•	•		•					•
RAMSDELL 4956 JOHNSON STREET	•		•		•	•		•	•	•	•				•	•	
SILVER LAKE 4305 STINSON BOULEVARD				V	•	•		•	•	•	•			•			•
SULLIVAN LAKE 721 51ST AVE			•	T	•	•		•	•	•	•						•

Park and Recreation Commission

- Tom Greenhalgh, Chairperson
 Anne Carder
 Sean Clerkin, Jr.
 Bruce Evans
 Marsha Stroik
 Becky Groseth
 Rachel James
 Nicole Peterson
 Brian Clerkin
 Connie Buesgens, City Council Liaison
 Kevin Hanson, Director of Public Works/City Engineer
 Keith Windschitl, Recreation Director
 Deanna Saefke, Recreation Secretary

Summary

The Recreation Department provides a wide variety of social, educational, and recreational programs for youth and adults. Youth programs are divided between athletics and enrichment programs. Youth in-house athletics are designed for children in grades K-6, with traveling athletics designed for experienced players in grades 3-12. It is envisioned that growth will be found in enrichment programs, like the summer park programs (i.e. Glitter-Bugs, Dyno-Hites, Sparks, Puppet Wagon, T.N.T., Theater, community special events, youth enrichment and engineering-based programs).

Autumn of 2020 was the start of an extended grant program (21CCLC), with the Columbia Heights School District, that focuses on offering enriching youth experiences during out of school time for grades 4 and up. The grant was extended for another 3 years, in the hopes that in 2023 another 3 years will be renewed. Adult athletics consists of league play in softball during the summer and fall seasons. More adult recreation and athletic opportunities have been added, including Yoga + Meditation and Zumba. Continued adult programs are still going strong with consistent participants.



Park Scheduling

While City parks are maintained by the Park Department, the parks usage is scheduled through the Recreation Department. Both Departments work hand-in-hand to provide the highest quality service to the residents who utilize our parks. In 2021, rental of park facilities were provided for a small fee of \$46.67 plus tax for Columbia Heights residents, \$70.01 plus tax for non-residents, and \$116.69 plus tax for large groups of 100 plus people. A \$100.00 key deposit was once again required to improve security of the park buildings. The \$100.00 deposit is returned if parks are left in good condition after the event and the key is returned.

Total number of park reservations in 2021: 166

Neighborhood Event Wagon

The Neighborhood Event Wagon is a 16-ft trailer equipped with tables, chairs and a variety of sports equipment. The recreation staff delivers the trailer to the residence for their use during their event. Once their event is complete, the recreation staff picks up the trailer and completes an inventory of all supplies. In 2021, a fee of \$60.67 plus tax was charged for use of the wagon. The Columbia Heights V.F.W. Post #230 donated the wagon. The sports equipment, tables, and chairs were supplied by the Recreation Department.

Total number of community event wagon rentals in 2021: 18

Community Garden Plots

The Recreation Department offered Community Garden Plots located on Reservoir Boulevard. In 2021 residents were able to rent a 10 x 15 foot garden plot for the summer at a cost of \$23.34 plus tax. The garden plots are maintained by the Recreation Department and tilled by the Parks Department.

Total number of garden plots rented in 2021: 48

The families and kids in our community bring so much joy to the Recreation Deptment! We have many returning participants in recreation activities and events. Although in 2021 we were still navigating COVID-related regulations and changes, the families, kids, and staff continued to show up and do their part to keep things as safe as possible. Rec at Home activity kits continued to be a hit throughout 2021; most kits even had a waitlist. Despite the changes of the world, we felt we had a successful year and continued to establish relationships with the people of our community and surrounding areas.

Youth, Community Enrichment and ENCORE Grant Programs

Listed are the youth enrichment and special event programs offered in 2021.

Youth Enrichment	Total Attendees
20 Minute Kids Kraft	24
Dance: Preschool, Boys and Girls	27
Summer Park Programs:	
Dyno-Hites and Glitter Bugs	76
Mini Musicians	4
May Madness Scavenger Hunt	27
Get Egged	35
Young Rembrandt Art Camp	10
Total	203
Community Enrichment Events	Total Participants
70's Dance Night	30
Halloween/Holiday at Home Craft Kits	44 kits
Chalk Art Artists	22 sidewalk sections
Wreath Making	9
Total	105
ENCORE: 21st Century Learning Communities, Grant Funded	Total Participants
Adventure/Trips	137
Arts and Science	62
Summer Park Programs:	
S.P.A.R.K.S. and T.N.T.	66
Theater and Puppet Wagon	82
Youth Development and Sports	36
Total	383

Audiences and Miscellaneous Programs	Estimated Totals
Theater and Puppet Wagon Audience/Also presented online	346
Columbia Heights ISD #13 School Lunch Program	1388
TOTAL	1,734
Youth Trips - Holiday and non-school day trips (Coded/funded under the After School Programs Budget)	Attendance
Hylander Center/Youth Lab	32
TOTAL	32
Youth Programs - Merchandise Sold	
Youth trip T-shirts	31
Sweatshirt	0
TOTAL	31

Youth Athletics

Programs are divided between in-house and traveling. Youth in-house athletics are designed for children in grades K-6, with traveling athletics designed for experienced players in grades 3-12. The in-house leagues and programs focus on learning the fundamentals of the game and having fun with friends. In the traveling programs, youth travel to other communities throughout the metro area in a more competitive environment. Communities all over the US have seen a decline in youth sports participation, and we have not been immune to that decline. We are hopeful that we will see an upswing in the future. COVID-19 was also a factor in 2021 for many close-contact youth sports programs with lower participation numbers.

Youth Athletics Programs	Attendance
Include: Ice Skating, Baseball, Soccer, Martial Arts, Softball	295
TOTAL	295

Adult Athletics, 55+ and Enrichment	Attendance
Stompin' At The Hall	52
Adult Aerobic Dance	46
Total Body Conditioning	35
Crochet Class	23
Zumba & Yoga	92
Adult Softball	
Slow Pitch Summer-Fall Men's/CoEd	26 teams/338 players
Jamboree Tournament	11 teams/143 players
TOTAL	729



Senior Center

The Active Agers Senior Program offers a wide variety of programs for people 50 plus. We continued to offer the programs and activities they love. Seniors are still happy that we continue to offer opportunities despite COVID-19 still being present in the world. Many seniors are wanting to get out and socialize with others despite the ongoing presence of COVID-19.

Projects: Collecting eye glasses & hearing aids for Lion’s Club

Columbia Heights was the only Senior Center in the area that stayed open during the year. Listed below is an attendance summary of programs held in 2021.

Senior Programs (regularly occurring)	Attendance
Regular Occurring	4,720
Art Classes	400
Specialty Events and Classes	710
Defensive Driving Refresher Course	100
Mini Bus Day Outings	480
Motor Coach Day Trip Outings	None in 2021
Total	6,410



John P. Murzyn Hall

Similar to years past, Murzyn Hall was booked for most weekends throughout 2021. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the total facility rentals were still less than in past years. Renters of Murzyn Hall either canceled or postponed their events. Some events were able to be held a few months later and others choose a new date in 2022.

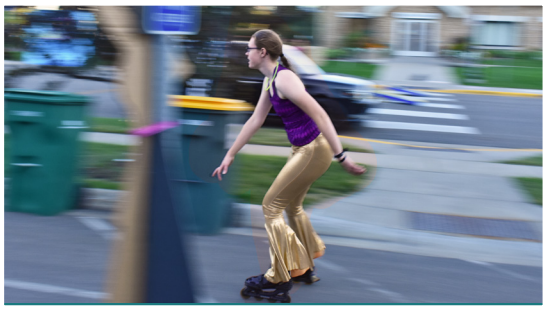
In addition to housing the Recreation Department, Murzyn Hall was used by many local civic and community groups in one capacity or another in 2021. The ability to use any licensed caterer is another very attractive feature offered at Murzyn Hall. Our flexibility and willingness to work with various renters puts Murzyn Hall in a class of its own.

The following consists of various community users that receive a reduced or waived rental fee (City organizations and related groups also use Murzyn Hall for various events, such as the Employee Holiday Lunch, the Library Foundation Fundraiser, and elections).

John P Murzyn Hall Rentals in 2021	
AARP	Columbia Heights Recreation Department
American Red Cross	Community Education - ISD #13
Anoka County - Housing/ACCAP	Friends of the Library
Anoka County Senior Issues Network	Girl Scouts - 3 troops
Association of Recycling Managers	Happy Feet Foot Care, Inc.
Beautification Committee	Heights Next
Columbia Heights Administration	Immaculate Conception School
Columbia Heights Athletic Banquets	Independent School District #13
Columbia Heights Athletic Boosters	Kiwanis Club
Columbia Heights Basketball Association	Midwest Polka Association
Columbia Heights Fire Department	Minnesota Deaf Senior Citizens
Columbia Heights Fire Explorers	Park & Recreation Commission
Columbia Heights Fire Fighters Association	Parkview Townhomes
Columbia Heights High School Class Reunions	Reuniting After War
Columbia Heights IS Department	SACA
Columbia Heights Library Foundation	Sister Cities
Columbia Heights Lions Club	Toastmasters
Columbia Heights Liquor Operations	Train Collectors
Columbia Heights Police Department	University Heights Condominiums
Columbia Heights Public Works	

John P. Murzyn Hall Cont.

John P. Murzyn Hall (Packages: Hall, Kitchen, LaBelle Lounge)	Totals
Resident Rentals	25
Non-Resident Rentals	38
Paid Rentals: Includes Packages	Totals
Funerals	4
Birthday Parties	24
Classes/Seminars/Meetings	10
Parties/Banquets	23
Holiday Parties	0
Wedding Receptions	25
Fundraisers	0
Total	86



Top three photos: Youth volunteers at Recreation’s 2021 Fall Boogie Bash and the Columbia Heights employee luncheon. Middle right: Recreation’s year-round staff. Middle left: Rec and Admin staff at SnowBLAST. Bottom left: Year-round staff at Boogie Bash. Bottom middle: Recreation at the 2021 Jamboree Parade. Bottom right: Puppet Wagon at Truck or Treat.

THANK YOU!

On behalf of all City Departments, Division Heads and Staff, thank you for your support! It's an honor to serve the City of Columbia Heights and its residents.
See you in 2022!

