



CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS ANNUAL REPORT

2022

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COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
REDISCOVER THE HEIGHTS

OVERVIEW

In 2022 ...

In 2022, the City of Columbia Heights...

...conducted a citywide, scientific survey of its residents, gaining valuable feedback from the community.

...created a new Youth Commission and welcomed 10 inaugural members in the spring with four more joining in the fall. The Youth Commission has held seven meetings so far.

...held two citywide elections, the primary Aug 9, and the General Election Nov 8. Residents cast more than 7,500 ballots during the 2022 midterms.

...won the Adopt-a-Drain Challenge for the second year in a row. The City beat Andover, Fridley, and Blaine with its total number of adopted drains and reported cleanings between March and October, 2022.

...celebrated the grand opening of the Alatus apartment complex at the corner of 3989 Central Ave and oversaw significant progress on the new City Hall space that will be housed in the same building. The new City Hall is expected to open in May.

...negotiated and approved a joint contract with Walters Recycling & Refuse and Haul Star collection services to take over for Waste Management in 2023.

...eliminated fines at the Columbia Heights Public Library to help make sure everyone in the community has access to materials and resources.



...welcomed Eileen Crosby as Columbia Heights' new embedded social worker with the Columbia Heights Police Department. Later in the year, Erin Buller, a second social worker, joined the team. Since the beginning of the year, the social workers have responded to more than 1,700 reports.



...developed and launched a new Business of the Year nomination program and expanded the Façade Improvement Grant Program to include all eligible businesses along Central Ave.

...began lending seven-day state park passes at the library on June 1 through a partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

...completed the removal of all public ash trees marked for removal, a multi-year, citywide endeavor to combat the infestation of the emerald ash borer beetle.

...won first place in community engagement from the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators for the CHPD podcast Roll Call.

...won first place in photography from the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators for the Fire Department Open House photo series.

...hosted many major events, including Truck or Treat, SnowBLAST, the Community Art and Info Fair, three Music in the Park concerts, three Movie in the Park showings (expanded from two the previous year), and a citywide garage sale, to name a few.

...saw the opening of multiple new developments, including the 29-unit Personal Care Senior Living complex at 3850 Jefferson St NE. That project completes the existing redevelopment plans for the area that includes Huset Park, the surrounding town homes, and Dominion's senior living complex.

...started a formal sponsorship program for City events.

...saw the debut of the Minneapolis St. Patrick's Day Parade in Columbia Heights. City Manager Kelli Bourgeois was the grand marshal.

...named System Administrator Jeff Hanson Employee of the Year and resident Veronica Johnson Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

...deployed a new fire truck. The City's new fire truck is a 2022 Pierce Impel 1,500 gallon-per-minute pumper, a state-of-the-art apparatus designed and outfitted by members of the Columbia Heights Fire Department with the specific needs of the community in mind.

...welcomed back the CP Holiday Train, which stopped in Columbia Heights on a rainy night this December for the first time in three years.

...received 51 entries in the third annual Columbia Heights Wall Calendar photo contest.

...completed construction on the City's first pickleball court in Prestemon Park.

...was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for the City's 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR).

...and so much more.

Thank you everybody for another great year!



2022 Recognitions

Outstanding Citizen

And the 2022 Outstanding Citizen Award Winner Is...

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

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

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

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



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

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

As for Veronica, we can’t end this article without talking about her at least a little bit. Veronica is the current president of the local Kiwanis Club, a long-time member of the Sister Cities group and American Association of University Women, a regular volunteer at SACA, Community United Methodist Church, and the League of Women Voters, an Anoka County Recycling Ambassador, a regular Adopt-a-Drain participant, a dependable election judge for City elections, member of the Community Centennial Committee, and regular volunteer at City events. She was nominated by Dolores Strand and Karen Karkula and selected by the Mayor in consultation with last year’s Outstanding Citizen winners. To find out more about the Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award, learn about past winners, or to nominate someone, visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/outstanding. Congratulations, Veronica!



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

2022 Recognitions

Employee of the Year

2022 Employee of the Year Award Goes to Jeff Hanson

The 2022 Employee of the Year, the 43rd employee to win the honor, is Information Technologies System Administrator Jeff Hanson.

The nominator described Jeff as having top-notch customer service skills, always polite, helpful, and good-humored anytime he interacts with a colleague, council member, vendor, or resident.

He was described as keeping a positive attitude even in the most stressful situations, even when the problems never seem to stop piling up.

IT staff assist every employee and department in the City. Through this work, Jeff has gained the trust and respect of his co-workers and demonstrates true expertise in his job, which is no easy task considering the range of complex problems he's expected to solve daily in a field that is relentlessly evolving.

During his 15 years with Columbia Heights, Jeff has worked many early mornings, late nights, and weekends to perform necessary tasks to prevent or resolve major disruptions to the City in a cost-conscious manner.

He plays a key role in the installation and upgrade of network equipment and cabling for City buildings during construction and remodeling. He was crucial during the installation and upgrade of the Liquor store point-of-sale terminals, the March Networks video monitoring system, and the phone and voicemail systems for 270 phones and nearly 600 phone numbers.

Whether it's creating training videos for co-workers, educating staff on cyber security, tackling time-sensitive IT emergencies, or answering daily help tickets from 200 computer users across nine locations, Jeff has been vital to the core functioning of the City of Columbia Heights.

Congratulations, Jeff!

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. This year, the selection committee reviewed nine nominations.

When a person is selected as Employee of the Year, their name and year of award is engraved on a large plaque displayed at City Hall. They receive a congratulatory letter, an extra day off of their choosing, a feature 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.



Mayor Márquez Simula, left, presents Jeff Hanson with an Employee of the Year plaque at the City's annual employee holiday luncheon.



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, Community Engagement



Specialist, and Administrative Assistant-HR. 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 an election in 2022, and the City Council and Mayor candidates will be sworn in at the start of the next 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, now Community Engagement Specialist position was created in 2020 to support these efforts and help plan the City's centennial year in 2021.

The City hosts numerous city-wide events to provide free entertainment and community building for its residents.

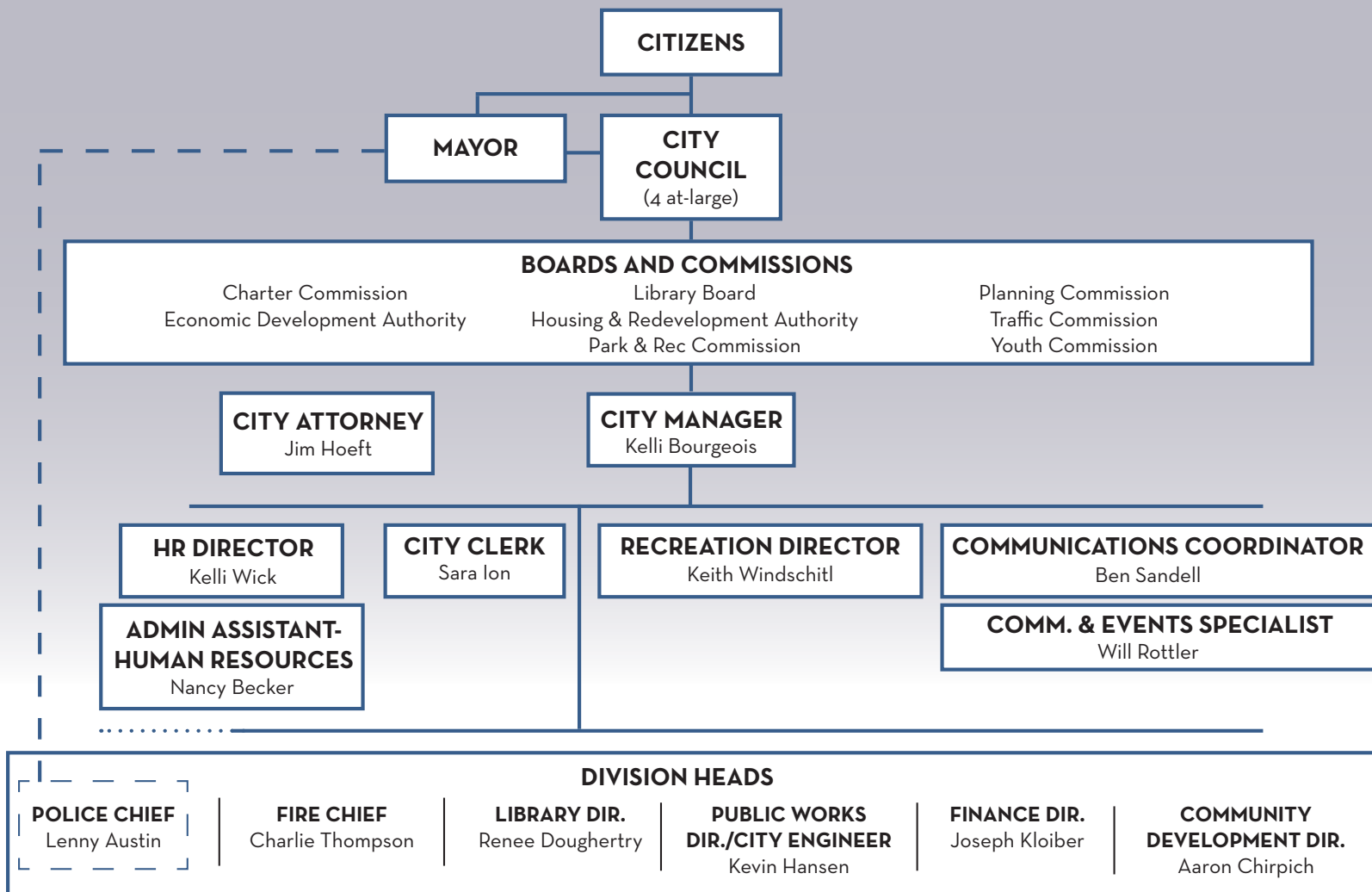
Administration Department Staff

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	----
Ben Sandell	Communications Coordinator	April 23, 2018	----
Sara Ion	City Clerk	Sept 2, 2021	----
Nancy Becker	Admin. Assistant for HR	Sept 1, 2015	----
Will Rottler	Community Engagement Specialist	March 16, 2020	----
Yu	Elections Assistant (Temporary)	April, 2022	Nov 10, 2022
Adam Davis	Cable Intern	Oct 23, 2000	June 1, 2022



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



2022 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

2022 Charter Commission

Matt Abel, Commissioner
 Kathy Ahlers, Commissioner
 Ramona Anderson, Commissioner
 Larry Betzold*, Commissioner
 Tyler Eubank, Commissioner
 Ben Harris, Commissioner
 Bill Hugo, Commissioner
 Clifford Johnson, Commissioner
 Veronica Johnson*, Commissioner
 Carolyn Laine, Vice President
 Joe Schluender**, Commissioner
 Gregory Sloat, Commissioner
 Steve Smith, President
 Frost Simula, Secretary
 Susan Wiseman, Commissioner
 Nick Zeimet, Commissioner

* Commissioner Larry Betzold was appointed in April 2022, and Veronica Johnson was appointed in September 2022.

**Commissioner Joe Schluender resigned following the April 2022 meeting.

At the end of 2022, there were 15 Commissioners.

Human Resources Report

New Hires

Once again, the City experienced several personnel changes this year. In 2022, the City hired 15 full-time employees (of which six were on a promotional basis), 19 part-time employees, 4 paid-on-call firefighters, and many seasonal and temporary positions.

Years of Service Awards

The following employees were recognized for their years of service:

Five years: Connie Buesgens (Council), Thomas Greenhalgh (Liquor Dept.), Duane Hopkins (Public Works), Nick Novitsky (Council), Cortni O'Brien (Library), Cody Oveson (Public Works), Bernadette Pogreba (Liquor Dept.), Timothy Sandquist (Public Works), Kay Schmidt (Liquor Dept.), Jason Schulz (Liquor Dept.), Arnett Smith (Liquor Dept.), and Shelby Tombers (Police Dept.).

Ten years: Jill Haley (Finance Dept.), Delynn Mulligan (Recreation), Jessica Nelson (Liquor Dept.), and Timothy Noll (Police Dept.).

Fifteen years: Erik Hanson (Police Dept.), Jeffrey Hanson (IT Dept.), Albert Mamaril (Library), and Joseph Pikala (Police Dept.).

Twenty years: Timothy Gouras (Liquor Dept.), Erik Johnston (Police Dept.), Benjamin Mathson (Public Works), and Jacqueline Wohlers (Public Works).

Twenty-five years: Thomas Costello (Liquor Dept.), Kevin Hansen (Public Works), Jeffrey Hook (Public Works), and Keith Windschitl (Recreation).

Thirty years: Kelly Olson (Library).

Labor Contracts

All six collective bargaining agreements were negotiated and approved through December 31, 2024.

No grievances or furloughs filed in 2022.

City Clerk Report

City Council

The City Council met for a total of 52 meetings in 2022. There were 23 regular City Council meetings held, 11 regular work sessions, and 18 special meetings (including meetings for interviewing board and commissioners, special assessment hearings, and election canvassing). All regular City Council meetings are recorded and available to watch at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/streaming.

Elections and Councilmembers

The 2022 General Election resulted in two new members and one incumbent sworn in on Jan 3, 2023. Mayor Amáda Márquez Simula (returning incumbent), Justice Spriggs and Rachel James (replacing John Murzyn, and Nick Novitsky) joined Connie Buesgens and KT Jacobs as council members.

Ordinances, Resolutions and Proclamations

During 2022, ten ordinances were proposed and nine were approved. Of the 119 resolutions requested, 104 were approved. There were 28 mayoral proclamations.

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 2022 were: Matt Abel, Kathy Ahlers, Ramona Anderson, Larry Betzold; Tyler Eubank, Ben Harris, Bill Hugo, Clifford Johnson, Veronica Johnson Tom Kaiser, Carolyn Laine, Gregory Sloat, Steve Smith, Frost Simula, Susan Wiseman, and Nick Zeimet. Commissioner Larry Betzold was appointed in April 2022, and Commissioner Veronica Johnson was appointed in September 2022. Commissioner Joe Schluender resigned following the April 2022 meeting.

Communications and Engagement

Cable and Recording

Franchise and PEG (Public, Educational, and Governmental) fees received by Columbia Heights from Comcast totaled about \$181,100. Cable franchise fees are used to help fund cable room and broadcasting equipment, as well as a large portion of the 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 2022: 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 2022, the City's Facebook page added another 384 followers, reaching over 3,000 followers. The City continued to contract with the firm ArchiveSocial to keep track of all posts and comments made on City social media pages.

E-News

The City continued its e-newsletter, which was launched 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.



2023

Art of Columbia Heights City Calendar Assembled in 2022



Submitted by Steven Nodgaard



Submitted by Erikka Curran



Submitted by Levi Berg



Submitted by Todd Kewatt



Mural by Rebecca Krueger



Submitted by Tjody deVaal



Photo by Aaron Guzman



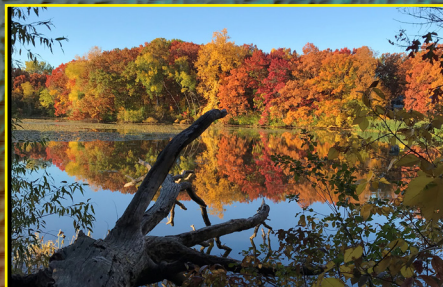
Submitted by Phillip Zuidema



Submitted by Phillip Zuidema



Submitted by Steven Nodgaard



Submitted by Gretchen Bias



Submitted by Ben Sandell

51 Photos Submitted for 2023 Art Calendar

Keeping the tradition going after the success of the City's Centennial Calendar, the City moved ahead with a new calendar photo contest in 2022, calling for residents to send in photos of their art. The City's 2023 Art of Columbia Heights Calendar went on sale in December of 2022, and all proceeds went to help fund City events and community activities. The calendar included 2023 dates and event info relevant to Columbia Heights. Those whose photos were selected (see above) received a free calendar. We received 51 photo submissions. Thank you to all who submitted!

Communications Staff Garner MAGC Awards



Every year, the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators, a statewide non-profit composed of communications and community engagement staff from all government organizations within the state, holds the Northern Lights Awards to honor special achievements in a range of categories.

Out-of-state judges score all entry submissions and choose to recognize winning entries in one of four award categories: merit, bronze, silver, and Northern Lights. The bronze, silver, and Northern Lights awards go to one entry in each category while the merit awards may go to multiple submissions. In 2022, the City of Columbia Heights earned four MAGC awards.

- **Northern Lights 1st Place in the category of Community Engagement for “Roll Call, a CHPD Podcast”**
- **Northern Lights 1st Place in Photography for Fire Burn Demo photo**
- **Silver Award, 2nd Place in website design for the City’s website redesign**
- **Bronze Award, 3rd Place in Special Events for the 2021 Centennial Celebration**

Community Engagement and Events

Community Survey

The City of Columbia Heights hired the Morris Leatherman survey company to conduct a scientific survey of the City's residents regarding public services, facilities, utilities, events, and other items important to the City and the community. The surveyors spoke with a random sample of 400 residents over three weeks in February 2022. Results were received in early March. Survey results have a +/- 5% margin of error.

Surveyors would make several repeated attempts to reach any resident who was randomly selected to take the survey, and allowed residents to schedule a time that would be convenient for them to respond. The non-response rate for this survey was roughly 5 percent, well within the normal range. Some demographic adjustments are made to control for non-response discrepancies. Visit the City's website for the results.

Truck or Treat

We estimated more than 1,000 people attended the 2022 Truck or Treat event. This was a community effort. So many organizations and people made the event possible by providing volunteer help, funding, vehicles, activities, and donated resources, including Anoka County Recycling Ambassadors, Allina, Cardinal Towing, Columbia Heights Athletic Boosters, Columbia Heights Lions Club, Columbia Heights Public Schools, Community Grounds, Fridley-Columbia Heights Rotary, Healing Hearts Rescue, HeightsNEXT, J&M Towing, Key Club, Kiwanis, Lifelink, Metro Transit, Mid-Continent Engineering, Minnesota National Guard, New Horizon Academy, Prodeo Academy, SACA, Schmit Towing, St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, the Columbia Heights Youth Commission, Columbia Heights VFW Post 230, Northeast Bank, Columbia Heights Fire, Police, Public Works, Admin, and Recreation, and the recreation volunteers who ran the Puppet Wagon shows. Thank you again for making it out to this year's Truck or Treat! See you next Halloween!

Movie in the Park

The City expanded its Movie in the Park series with three dates in 2022. The series featured Ferris Bueller's Day Off, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, and Encanto (with Spanish subtitles). The first two movies took place at Huset Park West, while the series finale was held at McKenna Park. All three movies included free popcorn for movie-goers.

Music in the Park

The City brought back its Music in the Park series for a second year in 2022. The second series featured Bluedog, the Jolly Ramblers, and Pickle. All three concerts took place at Huset Park East.

Community Art and Info Fair

The Community Art and Info Fair took place once again in June. In 2022, the Community Art and Info Fair featured a live band, a petting zoo, two food trucks, free ice cream, multiple vendors, and informational booths.

Citywide Garage Sale

Columbia Heights hosted its fifth annual Citywide Garage Sale. In 2022, the event expanded to three days from one, and seventy addresses were registered.

SnowBLAST

Columbia Heights' SnowBLAST festival, returned for its second year Feb 5 in Huset Park, drawing an estimated 500 attendees! Activities included an open skating rink, free pony rides for kids (sponsored by Northeast Bank), free popcorn, a puppet show, a s'mores station, fire pits, food trucks, and free hot beverages.

This event was truly a community effort, with City staff from recreation, public works, police, fire and administration relying heavily on volunteer support and contributions from several community groups and organizations, including Anoka County Parks, Columbia Heights Athletic Boosters, Columbia Heights Community Education, Columbia Heights Key Club, Columbia Heights Lions, Columbia Heights VFW Post 230, Community Grounds, Corner Church, Dave's Sport Shop, Girl Scouts Troop 17617, HeightsNEXT, and Northeast Bank.



Kids of all ages were able to take photos in vehicles at Truck or Treat.

Community Events, Monarch Pledge, Youth Commission



Several other community events were held in 2022. Left and middle, the Columbia Heights Jamboree Parade. Top right: the Minneapolis St. Patrick's Day Parade and bottom right: the 2022 Canadian Pacific Holiday Train.



Mayors' Monarch Pledge Continued in 2022

In 2021, Columbia Heights committed to the Mayors' Monarch Pledge pledge, a national program where mayors and other heads of local and tribal government take 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 Pledge in Columbia Heights included a festival at Sullivan Lake Park.

Youth Commission

Youth Commission Begins

In 2022, the Columbia Heights Youth Commission held its first official meeting. The Youth Commission meets with staff, elected officials, and members of the community to get a deeper understanding of local government.

The purpose of the Columbia Heights Youth Commission is 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 government engagement.



Anoka County Attorney Tony Polombo met with the Youth Commission and talked about his role with the County.



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 2022, the Community Development Division 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, the Community Development Division ensures alignment to the vision of the City as guided by our Comprehensive Plan. The Community Development Division 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.



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

- 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	----

2022 Planning Commission

Tom Kaiser
 Eric Sahnaw
 Mike Novitsky
 Mark Vargas
 Clara Wolfe

Laurel Deneen (after May)
 Rob Fiorendino (before May)
 Stan Hoium

2022 Economic Development Authority

Gerry Herringer
 John Murzyn Jr.
 Nick Novitsky
 KT Jacobs
 Marlaine Szurek

Amáda Márquez Simula
 Connie Buesgens

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 work 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.

In 2022, the Planning Commissioners included: Eric Sahnaw (chair), Tom Kaiser (Vice Chair), Mark Vargas (Secretary/Treasurer), Laurel Deneen, Stan Hoium, Mike Novitsky, and Clara Wolfe. John Murzyn Jr. served as Council liaison to the Planning Commission. Minerva Hark served as its staff liaison.

2022 Planning Commission Highlights

1. Approved a final plat and easement vacation for an existing lot located at 825 41st Ave NE
2. Swore in new planning commission member Laurel Deneen
3. Approved a conditional use permit and variance for public safety site perimeter fence located at 825 41st Ave NE
4. Completed an interim use permit for a temporary fireworks sales tent at 4001 Central Ave NE

5. Approved a conditional use permit for a brew pub located at 4001 Central Ave NE
6. Reviewed and approved the rezoning of the City's liquor stores from General Business (GB) to Public or Open Space (PO)
7. Approved a conditional use permit for a dynamic LED Sign at the City's Top Valu Liquor Store #3, 5225 University Ave NE
8. Reviewed and approved a Minor Subdivision to allow a shared lot line adjustment at 4217 and 4221 Reservoir Blvd NE
9. Reviewed a Conditional Use Permit to allow accessory outdoor storage of vehicles in conjunction with an automobile repair use (Din Auto, Inc.) located at 660 39th Ave 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.

Economic Development Authority

About the EDA

The Economic Development Department is charged with promoting economic development, redevelopment, housing, and neighborhood stabilization in Columbia Heights. The Economic Development Department is responsible for coordination of the EDA.

EDA members include the City Council and two appointed members. In 2021, members included: Marlaine Szurek (President), Connie Buesgens (Vice President), Gerry Herringer (Treasurer), Amáda Márquez Simula, Nick Novitsky, Kt Jacobs, and John Murzyn Jr.

Fire Suppression Grant Program

In 2022, the EDA established the new Fire Suppression Grant Program. As part of the City's Business Retention and Expansion Strategy, the EDA identified the need to bolster public safety and improve the commercial stock within the city. Setting out to encourage the revitalization, rehabilitation, and restoration of older, underutilized commercial spaces within the City. Many of the older commercial structures throughout the city lack basic fire suppression systems or infrastructure for said systems. As businesses seek to develop in the city, they are limited by code requirements for the installation of fire suppression systems. These improvements are very costly, making it difficult for small businesses to enter and utilize many of the City's older and smaller commercial spaces. The Fire Suppression Grant Pilot Program seeks to assist businesses and property owners in partially alleviating the costs of installing fire suppression systems.

The Grant Program reimburses businesses or commercial property owners for eligible improvements up to fifty percent (50%) of the total project cost; for a maximum reimbursement of \$30,000. The applicant is reimbursed once the improvements are completed in accordance with program guidelines. The building or business owner must apply for, be approved for, and sign a grant agreement before doing the work in order to receive the grant.

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 fifth year in 2022. 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 Central Avenue NE in an effort to reduce crime, as well as increase business vitality and economic performance of businesses. The grant program is set up 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 grant provides installation of 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 2022. In total, the department received and approved 6 grant applications throughout the year. This program leveraged \$136,00 in private reinvestment and paid out \$20,000 in public funds in 2021.

Business of the Year Program Launched

In 2022, the Columbia Heights Economic Development Authority approved a new Business of the Year nomination program. It will work similarly to the City's annual Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award. Anyone not on the EDA may nominate a business of their choice. The EDA will review all nominations and make the final selection in April.

The winning business will be highlighted in the City newsletter, receive a plaque at a City Council meeting, and take part in the annual Jamboree Parade. Selections will be based on multiple criteria such as community involvement, major accomplishments, and history with the City. All criteria are listed in the nomination form.

Building, Mechanical, Plumbing Permits

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.

Building Inspection Data

Approximately 1,560 inspections were conducted.

Permits Issued

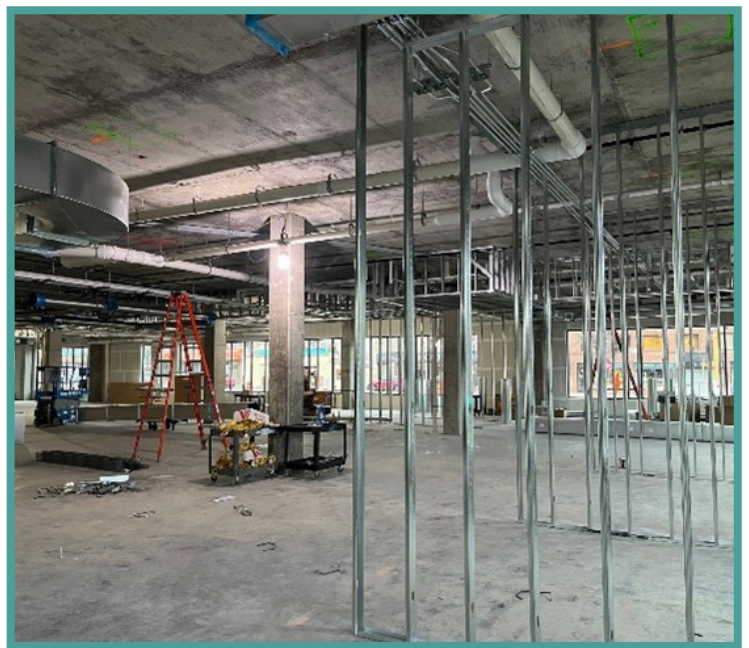
- There were 1,403 building permits issued. Large construction projects included:
- New multi-family construction of The Col (800 42nd Ave NE)
- Build out of City Hall (3989 Central Ave NE)

Permits Issued 2017-2022 Building, Mechanical, Plumbing

2017	1,434
2018	1,108
2019	1,125
2020	1,139
2021	1,220
2022	1,403

Permit Valuations Building, Mechanical, Plumbing

2017	\$36,189,715
2018	\$9,095,404
2019	\$14,753,109
2020	\$27,470,181
2021	\$57,734,841
2022	\$29,666,711



Above: Photos of the New City Hall under construction in 2022.

Housing and Business

Housing Department

The original purpose of the Housing Department was to coordinate the 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 September 28th, 2015, the HRA officially sold Parkview Villa North and South to Aeon, a non-profit housing organization in Minnesota, for \$7,470,000. The agreed upon purchase price was structured for Aeon to pay \$885,000 at time of closing and \$6,585,000 on or before December 31, 2047. The deferred portion of the purchase price was by means of a Promissory Note, dated Sept 25, 2015, and amended on Aug 2, 2017.

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.

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

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

Noberg Homes Assisted Living Building

In 2022 Rueter Walton completed the planning process for and began construction of a new affordable housing apartment building. Located at 800 42nd Ave, the new apartment building will bring 62 affordable units to the city.

The parcel was previously owned by the city and served as an out lot to the public safety facility. It has been a goal of the city to redevelop the lot as it sat vacant since the building of the public safety facility. The Housing Department has continued to work with Rueter Walton in assuring a safe completion of the project.

License Type	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Beer/Liquor	20	18	18	20	17
Contractor	247	238	235	153	107
Other	60	80	54	76	81
Total	329	336	307	247	205

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

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 2022. In October, Alatus completed the apartment building and immediately started to lease the units. By the end of the year, they had leased approximately 20% of the building. Construction work in the new city hall ramped back up as the apartments were completed. Towards the end of the year, the new city hall had been framed with a large portion of the plumbing and mechanical work being close to completion.

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 City Hall and Ratio Apartments under construction in 2022.



FINANCE

Introduction

The Finance Department administers all the financial activities of the City. This includes accounting, financial reporting, budgeting, and treasury services, as well as the customer billing functions for the City's water, sewer, and refuse services. In late 2021, the City implemented the first new comprehensive suite of financial software applications purchased in over a generation.

During its first full year of use in 2022, Finance Department staff and staff in all other departments went through a significant learning curve with the new system. We cannot overstate the degree to which this was not merely a change from one tool to another, but was in fact a dramatic change in the way that staff works. From the standpoint of the day-to-day financial work process, this change was the equivalent of replacing hard copy inter-office memos with email.



The Finance Department Director also provides oversight & direction to the municipal liquor operations. 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 community, 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.

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	----
Juanita Martinez	Receptionist/Cashier	Oct 11, 2021	Feb 4, 2022
Sarah Lenz	Customer Service/Accounting Clerk I	March 21, 2022	----
Jason Schulz	Liquor Operations Manager	May 10, 2017	----

Finance In 2022

Adjustments and Paperless Transactions

In September 2021, the Finance department began implementing new financial software for use throughout all City departments for substantially all financial and budget activity. It is also used by customers and employees utilizing various self-service options available in the new software.

This significant change from the City's legacy financial systems required extensive updates to procedures, manuals, and the redesign of entire processes, which began in 2021 and continued throughout 2022. Finance staff attendance at additional training in 2022 taught them additional ways to better serve customers using this software.

These new processes have dramatically reduced the volume of hard copy records created and archived by the Finance Department. The payroll process has become almost completely paperless, with the exception of about a dozen paper checks mailed per month. The new accounts payable process relies on digital authorizations rather than multiple wet signatures, and the City has moved several vendors to electronic payment. Staff are able to email customer invoices and correspondence easily, with this communication retained within the system in a way that is associated with the customer's account.

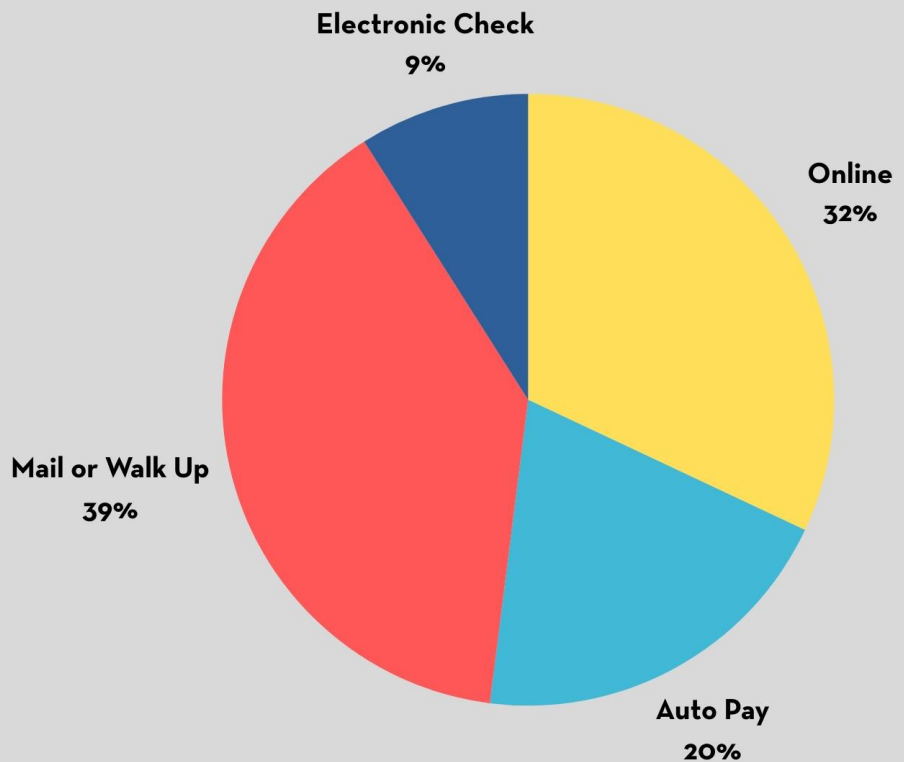
The related reduction in the volume of hard copy records archived by the finance department is very timely with the coming 2023 relocation of city hall. The remaining volume of hard copy records that the department needs to either scan to electronic format or move to the new city hall has been reduced from a semi-truck load to something that can fit in a cargo van.

Concurrently, the city's customers have also opted to go "green." By the end of 2022, over 3,000 utility customers, or nearly half of all utility customers have opted for paperless billing since it became available in the fall of 2021. Utility customers are also enjoying a variety of payment options now available to them with the new software. Over 60% of customers are using online options for payment.

ACFR Award

In 2022, the City's 2021 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.

2022 Utility Payment Methods



Proposed 2023 Budget, Share of Property Taxes

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

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

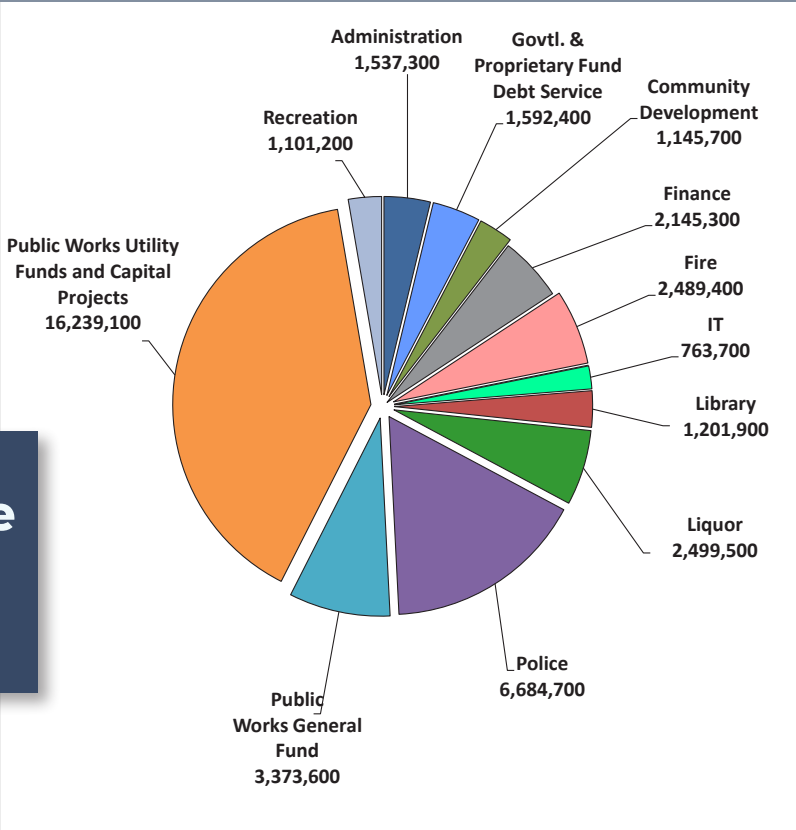
For 2023, the subsidy provided to Columbia Heights will decrease by 5%. Unfortunately, this will cause Columbia Heights property owners to pay a greater share of the City property tax levy for 2023 than for 2022. For local property owners, this effectively results

in an average increase of 12.7% in City property taxes for 2023. Keep in mind, the actual 2023 property tax on any one individual property in Columbia Heights is affected by any 2023 change in relative property value.

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

The Columbia Heights City Council held a public hearing on the proposed 2023 City budget and the final version of the 2023 City property tax levy Dec 12, approximately 6 pm, in the City Council chambers. Members were able to attend the public hearing in-person or by Zoom.

Proposed 2023 Expense Budget by Category



City-Owned Top Valu Liquor

Sales Increase Overall

In 2022, overall sales increased by 4.5% or \$398,000, with two of the three stores outperforming the previous year. Staff attribute the increase to a more normalized year of business, with no store closures for the year, as compared to the prior two years. Staffing remained a challenge throughout 2022, which led to some reduced store hours at Top Valu Liquor #3 at the beginning of the year.

Staff believe the 2022 decrease in total sales at Top Valu Liquor #1 and a corresponding 2022 increase at total sales at Top Valu Liquor #3 shows tremendous brand loyalty; with store #3 customers returning to the newly remodeled Top Valu #3 in 2022 after temporarily shopping at store #1 in 2021 while store #3 was closed for construction.

The liquor operations saw sales above \$9,000,000 for the first time in the operations history finishing at \$9,339,000 for 2022. Sales increases were led by Canned Cocktails (+68%), Tequila (+21%), Imported Beer (+21%) and Non Alcoholic Beer/Wine/Spirits (+18%). Top Valu Liquor stayed ahead of the trends by expanding offerings in hot categories and drove customer buying habits by offering products other area liquor stores do not carry. Customers were reached through social media posts, direct mail marketing, online marketing,

and traditional print advertising. Smaller product tasting events were also reintroduced into the stores in 2022, with plans for larger events to come back in 2023 for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The profits from the liquor operation continue to help reduce property taxes paid by residents of Columbia Heights. In 2022, the liquor fund made annual contributions of \$50,000 to the City's infrastructure fund and \$10,000 to the City's community policing programs, such as D.A.R.E. and Business Watch. These contributions are in addition to the share of the City administrative overhead allocated to the liquor fund, and the continued growth in the City's equity investment in the stores properties.

Partnerships

Partnerships were limited in 2022 as the stores eased back into tastings and special events. Future plans include partnerships with local organizations and continuing to be active with the Minnesota Municipal Beverage Association.



Top Valu #1:
4950 Central Ave

Top Valu #2:
2105 37th Ave NE

Top Valu #3:
5225 University Ave NE

— TOP VALU —
LIQUOR



Information Systems Staff

Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Jesse Hauf	IT Director	Dec 3, 2021	----
Aleksandr Chernin	Network Engineer	Sept 7, 1999	----
Jeffrey Hanson	Systems Administrator	Oct 16, 2007	----
Jessica Lundberg	IT Technician	Jan 31, 2022	March 25, 2022
Kennedy Colsch	IT Technician	April 25, 2022	----

Information Systems

The IT Department is tasked with procuring, maintaining and advising on all technology related subjects City-wide. Our need and dependency on technology continues to grow exponentially. IT has worked diligently over the last few years implementing the City's strategic technology plan. IT has transitioned to a forward-thinking, project-oriented department ready to tackle the unique needs presented by City departments. We are ready and prepared to grow as the pace of technological advancement picks up.

2022 Achievements and Activities

Replaced 24 public access computers at the Library. Computers are free to use during operating hours by patrons. The computers are secure and automatically reset after each use.

Transitioned to cloud-based Office 365 and provided in-house training to staff on its operation.

Deployed Log360 to aggregate security logs across all appliances and services. Logs are reviewed by Police Information Support for Criminal Justice Information Systems compliance CJIS.

Deployed new Help Desk software to streamline the management of IT, replacing a 20 year-old system.

Welcomed a new Graphical Information Systems Analyst into the Engineering department and supported installing new ESRI products.

Welcomed a new Application Support Technician to help support, consolidate and improve the City's software applications.

Deployed a new endpoint management and security solution to all computers City-wide.

To support a connected and collaborative workforce, IT launched a mobile-first initiative deploying laptops City-wide allowing staff to operate from wherever their work takes them.

Hardened network and endpoint security including adding multi-factor authentication for all Police logins to the CJIS network.

Statistics

- Cyber security, threat mitigation and penetration testing
- Deploy and maintain over 550 endpoints including computers printers and phones
- Maintain and secure over 60 servers for various City-wide applications and remote access
- Expansive network of fiber, copper and wireless across 16 City buildings
- City-wide security cameras, building access controls, building automation payment processing
- Resolved 1017 Help Desk tickets



COLUMBIA HEIGHTS - FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE

Introduction

Our mission remains rooted in safeguarding lives, properties, and the well-being of our citizens. This year, our focus persisted on multifaceted fronts: training, public education, fire prevention, and maintaining the highest standards of safety and quality housing.

Our firefighters, both career and paid-on-call members, are the backbone of our department. The dedication they exhibit through rigorous training sessions and continual education programs is commendable. It ensures they are always prepared to face any challenge and protect our community with the highest level of expertise.

Public education remains a cornerstone of our endeavors. Through various initiatives, we've reached out to schools, community centers, and events to instill fire safety practices. Educating our citizens on prevention strategies has been pivotal in reducing potential risks and promoting a safety conscious environment.

Preventing fires before they occur is a priority. Our department's dedication to regular inspections for fire and life safety compliance has been unwavering. The Property Maintenance and rental licensing programs have significantly contributed



to maintaining quality housing standards and ensuring the safety of rental properties. By upholding these standards, we prioritize the well-being of our citizens and the preservation of their homes.

One of the year's highlights was the acquisition of the new Pierce Fire engine. This state-of-the-art apparatus stands as a symbol of our commitment to enhancing our response capabilities. It's equipped to tackle modern challenges, ensuring our firefighters have the necessary tools to respond swiftly and effectively in emergencies.

At our annual Fire Department awards banquet, we celebrated the exceptional service and dedication of our members. It's essential to acknowledge their tireless efforts and bravery in serving our community. These individuals exemplify our values and inspire others to uphold the highest standards of service.

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our dedication to serving the community. Our commitment to excellence, continuous improvement, and the safety of our citizens remains unwavering.

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---- Oct 24, 2022	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----Dec 21, 2022
Andrew Ohlendorf	Sept 22, 2020----	Fabio Mariuci	July 19, 2021----
Anahi Ordonez	April 1, 2019----	Brian Sibri	July 1, 2019----
Elizabeth Orellana	Sept 22, 2020----	Charles Struzyk	Jan 1, 2013----
Tou Lee	July 19, 2021----	Alyssa Super	Sept 22, 2020----
Jennifer Pena	March 1, 2016----	Greg White	April 1, 2019----
David Sawyer	July 19, 2021----	Christopher Spetcher	July 19, 2021----

2022 Incident Statistics



2,110

TOTAL INCIDENTS



557

FIRE INCIDENTS



1,553

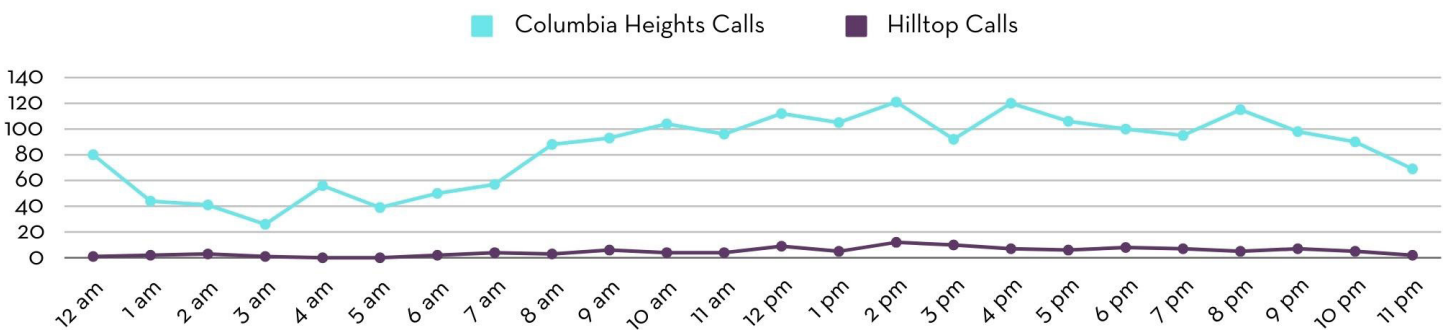
MEDICAL & RESCUE INCIDENTS

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	11 2	2 1	4 1	11	10	7	8	10	4	6 1	6 1	4	83 6
200 Rupture/Explosion	Columbia Heights					1			1					2
300 Rescue/EMS	Columbia Heights Hilltop	113 4	88 4	89 7	91 12	83 13	98 5	109 4	103 4	104 5	85 1	103 3	112 4	1,178 66
400 HazMat	Columbia Heights Hilltop	3	1	7	3	7	11	11	12	5 1	9	2	8	80 1
500 Service Call	Columbia Heights Hilltop	22 4	15	11 1	15 1	27	19 1	21	25 1	24 1	22	26	25	252 9
600 Good Intent Call	Columbia Heights Hilltop	29 2	21 3	18 3	21	25 2	24 1	36 2	22 2	24 1	13 3	17 2	26 1	276 22
700 False Alarm/Call	Columbia Heights Hilltop	12 1	8 2	13	9 1	12 2	11	9 2	10	11 1	7	11	12	125 9
800 Severe Weather	Columbia Heights								1					1
Grand Total		203	146	154	164	182	177	202	191	181	147	171	192	2,110

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL CALLS BY TIME OF DAY



2022 Incident Statistics Cont.

TYPE OF ALARMS BY MONTH

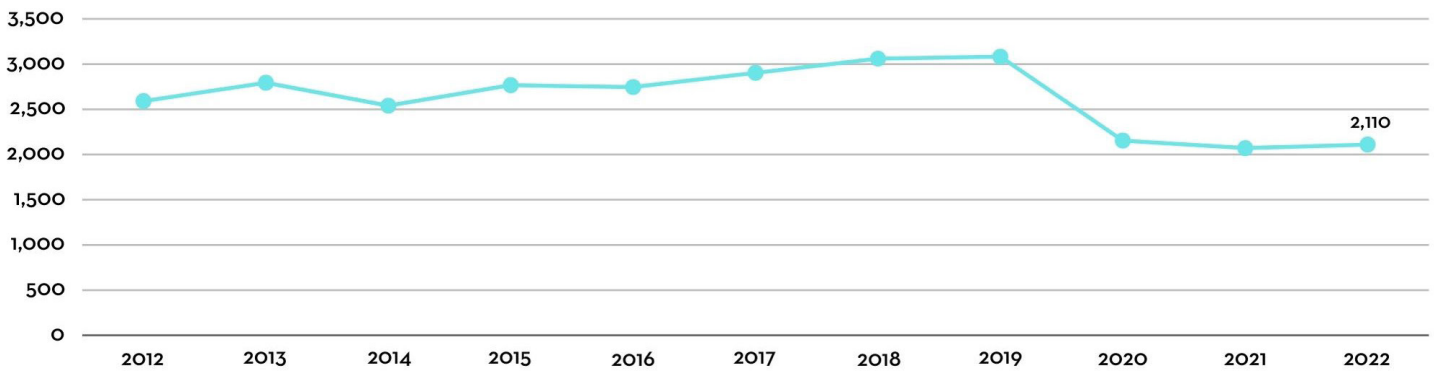
MONTH	STILL ALARM	GENERAL ALARM	COMPANY ALARM	TOTAL
JAN	189	4	10	203
FEB	145	1	0	146
MAR	152	0	2	154
APR	150	5	9	164
MAY	167	7	8	182
JUN	171	2	4	177
JUL	192	4	6	202
AUG	182	3	6	191
SEP	168	6	7	181
OCT	142	1	4	147
NOV	165	1	5	171
DEC	180	8	4	192

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



BUSIEST MONTH
OF THE YEAR

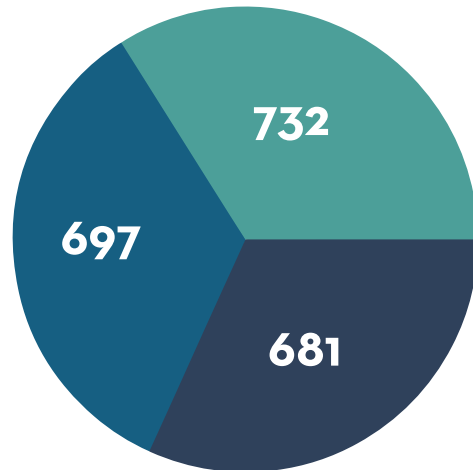


BUSIEST DAY
OF THE WEEK



BUSIEST TIME
OF THE DAY

INCIDENTS BY SHIFT



■ Shift 1 ■ Shift 2 ■ Shift 3

Top 20 Properties for Service

Address				Calls for Service
1	The Legends of Columbia Heights Senior Living	191-Unit Senior Apartments	3700 Block of Huset Pkwy NE	93
2	Parkview Villa Apartments	146-Unit Apartment Building	900 Block of 40th Ave NE	92
3	Crest View Lutheran Home	122-Bed Nursing Home	4400 Block of Reservoir Blvd	48
4	Northeast Seniors Housing	85-Unit Apartment Building	3800 Block of Stinson Blvd NE	41
5	Crest View on 42nd	50-Unit Assisted Living/Memory Care	900 Block of 42nd Ave NE	36
6	New Perspective Senior Living	92-Unit Assisted Living/Memory Care	3800 Block of Hart Blvd NE	36
7	Grand Central Flats	88-Unit Apartment Building	1000 Block of Grandview Way	30
8	Jones Family Investments LLC	75-Unit Senior Apartments	3800 Block of Hart Blvd NE	23
9	Crest View Corporation	74-Unit Senior Apartments	4400 Block of Reservoir Blvd	22
10	Single Family Residence	Single Family	4700 Block of 6th St NE	18
11	Single Family Residence	Single Family	1000 Block of 43 1/2 Ave NE	16
12	Jones Family Investments LLC	35-Unit Apartment	3800 Block of McKinley St NE	15
13	Central Heights Apartments, LLC	7-Unit Apartment Building	900 Block of 39th Ave NE	14
14	Columbia Village	40-Unit Senior Apartments	1600 Block of 44th Ave NE	13
15	Global Health Link Inc	8-Unit Apartment Building	4500 Block of Tyler St NE	13
16	MedExpress	Urgent Care Clinic	4800 Block of Central Ave NE	12
17	Yard 47 Apartments	17-Unit Apartment Building	4700 Block of Central Ave NE	12
18	For Gods Glory LLC	6 Unit Apartment	4200 Block of Main St NE	11
19	Single Family Residence	Townhome	4100 Block of 3rd St NE	11
20	GS Columbia Holdings, LLC	17-Unit Apartment Building	3800 Block of Stinson Blvd NE	11



Classification of Alarms

Fire	
Canceled en route: Fire	61
Cooking fire	28
Forest, woods, or wildland fire	2
Grass/Brush/Vegetation fire	2
No Incident Found: Fire	38
Structure fire	40
Trash fire	5
Trash/Dumpster fire	6
Vehicle fire	6
Wrong Location: Fire	1

Service Calls	
Alarm system activation, no fire	41
Alarm system sounded, malfunction	8
Alarm system, malicious false alarm	5
Animal rescue	4
Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	11
Assist police/other governmental agency	33
Authorized controlled burning	8
Canceled en route: Fire	8
Canceled en route: Medical	2
Carbon monoxide incident	27
CO detector activation, malfunction	13
CO detector activation, no CO	20
Combustible liquid spill	1
Detector activation, no fire	3
Electrical wiring/equipment problem	2
Excessive heat w/scorching, no ignition	2
Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	14
Hazmat investigation w/no hazmat	45
Lift Assist	150
Overheated motor	1
Person in distress, misc.	1
Police matter	15
Power line down	24
Public service	9
Public service, misc.	2
Ring or jewelry removal	1
Smoke detector activation, malfunction	13
Smoke detector activation, no fire	26
Smoke from barbecue, tar kettle	1
Smoke scare, odor of smoke	12
Sprinkler activation, malfunction	2
Sprinkler activation, no fire	2
Steam/gas/fog mistaken for smoke	1
System malfunction, other	1
Unauthorized/Illegal burning	33
Vehicle accident, general cleanup	1
Water or steam leak	11
Water problem, other	1

Rescue/Medical Alarms	
Abdominal/Flank Pain	13
Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis	17
Assault	14
Assist Invalid	1
Attempted Suicide	3
Back Pain - Non Traumatic	6
Behavioral/Psychological Problem	19
Blood Pressure Issue	4
Breathing Problem	284
Canceled en route: Medical	86
Cardiac Arrest	24
Chest Pain - Cardiac	122
Choking/Airway Obstruction	10
CVA/Stroke/TIA	32
Diabetic Problem	17
Dizziness	6
DK/ETOH Ingestion (Alcohol Problem)	24
DOA	18
Electrocution or potential electrocution	1
Fall	55
Flu Symptoms	24
Gunshot	1
Headache	1
Heat Emergency/Hyperthermia	2
Heroin Overdose	13
Injury/Laceration/Bleeding	17
Lift Assist	36
Medical Incident	41
Motor Vehicle Accident	4
No Incident Found: Medical	35
Other Cardiac Problem	10
Overdose/Poisoning	26
Pain	25
Possible Narcotics	2
Pregnancy/OB/Childbirth	11
Rescue or EMS standby	4
Rescue/Extrication, misc.	110
Respiratory Arrest	3
Seizure	81
Stabbing	3
Stalled elevator rescue	8
Substance/Drug Abuse	4
Syncope/Fainting	19
Unconscious/Down	30
Vehicle accident with injuries	34
Vehicle accident, no injuries	24
Vehicle/pedestrian accident	11
Weakness	28

Fire Incidents With Property Loss

Date	Call #	Address	Property Use	Cause of Fire	Pre Incident Property Value	Property Loss	Property Saved
Building fire							
1/2	22-0012	3900 block Central Ave NE	Multifamily dwellings	Undetermined*	\$1,282,400	\$25,000	\$1,257,400
1/3	22-0024	4600 block Central Ave NE	Multifamily dwellings	Cause under investigation	\$1,349,600	\$20,000	\$1,329,600
1/28	22-0188	4700 block Heights Dr NE	1 or 2 family dwelling	Unintentional	\$275,000	\$10,000	\$265,000
4/20	22-0611	3900 block Reservoir Blvd NE	1 or 2 family dwelling	Cause under investigation	\$332,000	\$80,000	\$252,000
4/22	22-0618	1200 block Circle Terrace Blvd NE	1 or 2 family dwelling	Unintentional	\$350,000	\$30,000	\$320,000
6/1	22-0850	4200 block 3rd St NE	Multifamily dwellings	Unintentional	\$1,500,000	\$3,000	\$1,497,000
7/11	22-1095	1400 block 43rd Ave NE	1 or 2 family dwelling	Unintentional	\$274,500	\$10,000	\$264,500
9/5	22-1447	4300 block 5th St NE	1 or 2 family dwelling	Unintentional	\$25,000	\$500	\$24,500
12/19	22-2019	4100 block Tyler St NE	1 or 2 family dwelling	Undetermined*	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
12/27	22-2079	5100 block 7th St NE	1 or 2 family dwelling	Unintentional	\$287,500	\$2,500	\$285,000
Estimated totals Building fire (10 Incidents)					\$5,726,000	\$231,000	\$5,495,000
Fire in portable building, fixed location							
10/20	22-1690	42nd Ave NE/Fillmore St NE	Vehicle parking area	Undetermined*	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0
Estimated totals Outside equipment fire (1 Incident)					\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0
Passenger vehicle fire							
5/17	22-0779	5200 block 7th St NE	1 or 2 family dwelling	Undetermined*	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
7/17	22-1130	4500 block Polk St NE	1 or 2 family dwelling	Cause under investigation	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$0
11/5	22-1766	4000 block 4th St NE	Vehicle parking area	Unintentional	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
11/15	22-1831	800 block 45th Ave NE	Vehicle parking area	Unintentional	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
12/12	22-1978	4200 block Polk St NE	1 or 2 family dwelling	Undetermined*	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
Estimated totals Passenger vehicle fire (5 Incidents)					\$93,000	\$93,000	\$0
Estimated totals for 2022					\$5,822,500	\$327,500	\$5,495,000

* 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 2022 there were three Civilian Casualty Injuries

Date	Call #	Address	Incident Type	Primary Symptom	Severity
2/26	22-0332	4200 block 3rd St NE	Trash or rubbish fire, contained	Abrasion	Minor
7/23	22-1168	4100 block Quincy St NE	Cooking fire, confined to container	Smoke inhalation	Minor
8/9	22-1298	1100 block Khyber Ln NE	Building fire	Cut or laceration	Minor

In 2022 there was one Firefighter Casualty Injury

Date	Call #	Address	Incident Type	Primary Symptom	Severity
9/1	22-1422	4100 block Central Ave NE	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	None	Treated by physician

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 Cont.

MUTUAL AID RECEIVED

Date	Call #	Address	Incident Type	Incident Type	Department(s)
1/3	22-0024	4630 Central Ave NE #201	Structure Fire	Mutual aid received	Fridley Fire Department St. Anthony Fire Department
1/28	22-0188	4742 Heights Dr NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department St. Anthony Fire Department
3/2	22-0361	53rd Ave NE/University Ave NE	Motor Vehicle Accident	Mutual aid received	Fridley Fire Department
3/3	22-0366	4636 Jackson St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department St. Anthony Fire Department
4/8	22-0542	3839 Hart Blvd NE #305	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department St. Anthony Fire Department
4/20	22-0611	3922 Reservoir Blvd NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department St. Anthony Fire Department
4/22	22-0618	1208 Circle Terrace Blvd NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department St. Anthony Fire Department
5/11	22-0724	3801 Hart Blvd NE #100	Assist agency	Mutual aid received	St. Anthony Fire Department
5/11	22-0725	4141 6th St NE	Fall	Mutual aid received	St. Anthony Fire Department
5/14	22-0758	4750 Central Ave NE #APT 29	Accidental alarm	Mutual aid received	Fridley Fire Department
5/19	22-0791	4040 Central Ave NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department St. Anthony Fire Department
5/23	22-0811	721 51st Ave NE	Vegetation fire	Mutual aid received	Fridley Fire Department
6/12	22-0911	4000 Stinson Blvd NE	Traumatic Injury - Laceration/ Bleeding/Hemorrhaging	Mutual aid received	Fridley Fire Department
6/26	22-0994	5012 Madison St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department St. Anthony Fire Department
7/23	22-1168	4117 Quincy St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department St. Anthony Fire Department
8/9	22-1298	1131 Khyber Ln NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department St. Anthony Fire Department
8/14	22-1328	4546 Tyler St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department St. Anthony Fire Department
9/6	22-1452	4441 University Ave NE #101	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	St. Anthony Fire Department Fridley Fire Department
9/29	22-1581	4757 Central Ave NE	Smoke Scare	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department St. Anthony Fire Department
9/30	22-1596	43rd Ave NE/Pierce St NE	Nothing found	Automatic aid received	St. Anthony Fire Department
10/6	22-1624	4839 Washington St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department
12/16	22-2008	651 46th Ave NE	Unauthorized burning	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department St. Anthony Fire Department
12/19	22-2019	4100 Tyler St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid received	Fridley Fire Department St. Anthony Fire Department
12/27	22-2079	5159 7th 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)
1/6	22-0049	3445 Viking Blvd NW	Structure Fire	Mutual aid given	Oak Grove Fire Department
1/6	22-0056	7171 Commerce Cir W	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
1/12	22-0098	851 Kennaston Dr NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
1/12	22-0099	1290 Cheri Ln NE	Accidental alarm	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
1/13	22-0102	5840 East River Rd NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
1/22	22-0152	459 63rd Ave NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
1/26	22-0173	1400 73rd Ave NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
1/31	22-0202	53rd Ave NE/Central Ave NE	Motor Vehicle Accident	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
2/1	22-0210	1937 Eagle Trl	Structure Fire	Mutual aid given	ACFIT
2/24	22-0316	921 Pandora Dr NE	Canceled en route	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
3/18	22-0451	6558 Clover PI NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
4/2	22-0520	7325 Evert Ct NE	Canceled en route	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
4/12	22-0565	7200 University Ave NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
4/18	22-0596	7901 Main St NE	Structure Fire	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
4/23	22-0623	7400 Taylor St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
4/23	22-0624	7438 Baker Ave NE	Structure Fire	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
4/24	22-0626	120 Mississippi PI NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
5/4	22-0678	3701 Chandler Dr NE #104	Canceled en route	Mutual aid given	St. Anthony Fire Department
5/4	22-0683	5750 Main St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
5/5	22-0684	550 Osborne Rd NE	Canceled en route	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
5/14	22-0752	5640 East River Rd NE	Canceled en route	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
5/15	22-0764	7901 Main St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
5/21	22-0798	753 53rd Ave NE	Garbage/Dumpster fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
5/23	22-0807	5660 East River Rd NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
6/13	22-0918	8260 Hickory St NE	Chest Pain - Cardiac	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
6/16	22-0938	305 53rd Ave NE #102	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
7/1	22-1031	1013 73rd Ave N	Structure Fire	Mutual aid given	Brooklyn Center Fire Department
7/8	22-1074	4005 Wildwood Dr NE	Structure Fire	Mutual aid given	Ham Lake Fire Department
7/11	22-1095	1416 43rd Ave NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
7/15	22-1121	5695 Hackmann Ave NE	Canceled en route	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
7/31	22-0451	6558 Clover PI NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department

Mutual Aid Cont.

MUTUAL AID GIVEN

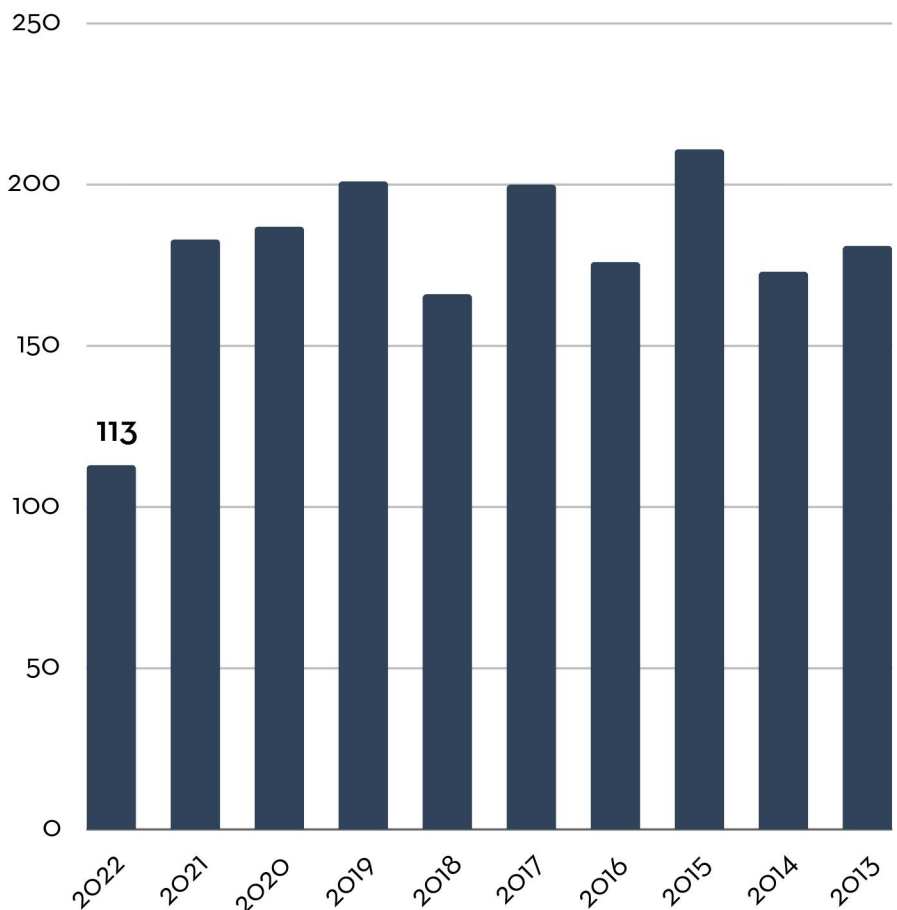
Date	Call #	Address	Incident Type	Incident Type	Department(s)
8/7	22-1278	East River Rd NE/Northern Stacks Dr NE	Motor Vehicle Accident	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
8/27	22-1384	5840 East River Rd NE	Smoke Scare	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
8/30	22-1411	6483 5th St NE	Canceled en route	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
9/6	22-1450	83rd Ave NE/81st Ave NE	Canceled en route	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
9/16	22-1496	6351 Monroe St NE	Canceled en route	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
9/16	22-1497	7901 Main St NE	Structure Fire	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
9/25	22-1549	6901 East River Rd NE	Canceled en route	Mutual aid given	Fridley Fire Department
9/25	22-1551	Hackmann Ave NE/Hackmann Cir NE	Smoke Scare	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
9/30	22-1591	5851 East River Rd NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
10/5	22-1620	7335 Central Ave NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
10/28	22-1724	5220 Main St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
11/5	22-1771	5800 East River Rd NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
11/25	22-1893	6740 Jackson St NE	Structure Fire	Automatic aid given	Fridley Fire Department
11/26	22-1896	1580 Mississippi St NE	Structure Fire	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.

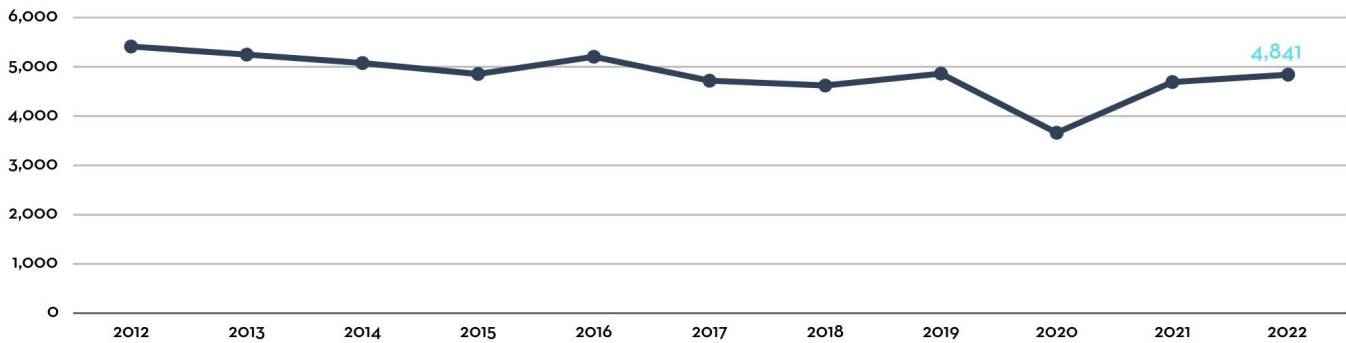
The Fire Department conducted a total of 4,841 inspection, license, and inspection-related data entry activities during 2022. This report summarizes inspections which are broken into categories including commercial/ industrial inspections, rental property inspections, single-family home inspections, and other actions performed by the inspection office.

2022 Inspections



*Includes inspections performed by other city departments or contractors.

TOTAL INSPECTIONS BY YEAR



The Fire Department administers the City Codes that do not allow the growth of long grass, weeds, and scrub growth over nine inches tall on any property. If a violation is found, a notice is placed on the property, a follow up inspection is performed, and any outstanding violations are abated.

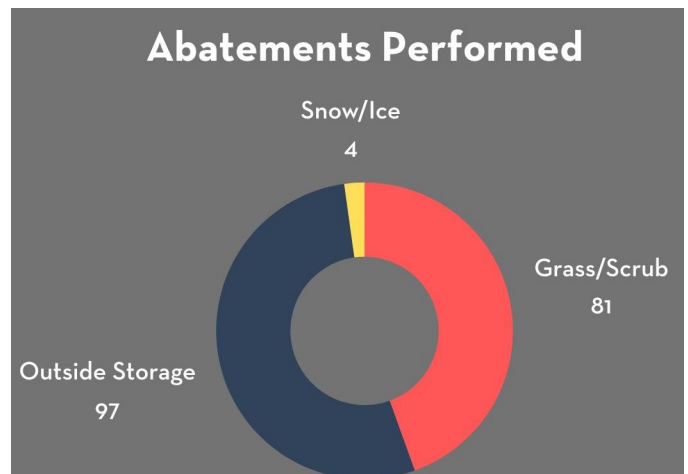
The Fire Department also administers the sections of City Code that do not allow for the accumulation of unacceptable exterior storage on a property and for the accumulation of ice and snow on all sidewalks, walkways, stairs, driveways, parking spaces, and similar areas of any property.

The process for outside storage and snow shoveling violations consists of an inspection of a property where, if found, a notice of violation is placed on the property and a follow up inspection is performed. Outstanding violations not corrected upon the follow up inspection are corrected by a contractor. These corrections, authorized by the City Council, are called "Immediate Abatements".

ABATEMENT INSPECTIONS

Outside Storage	885
Grass/Scrub	864
Snow/Ice	47
Public Nuisance	4
Emergency Abatement	1

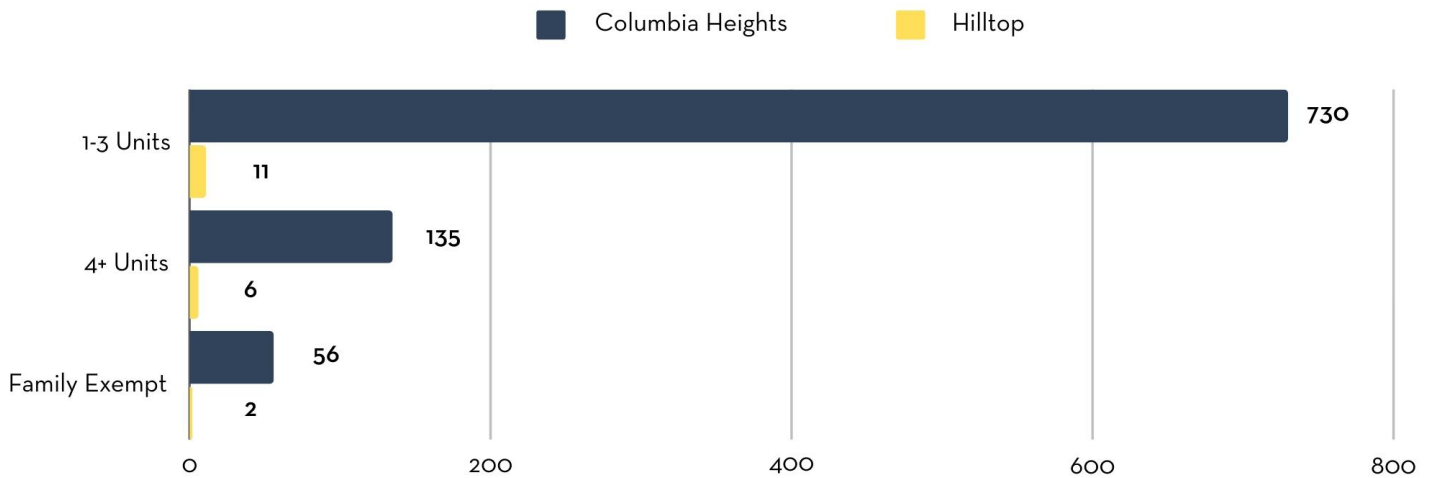
Abatements Performed



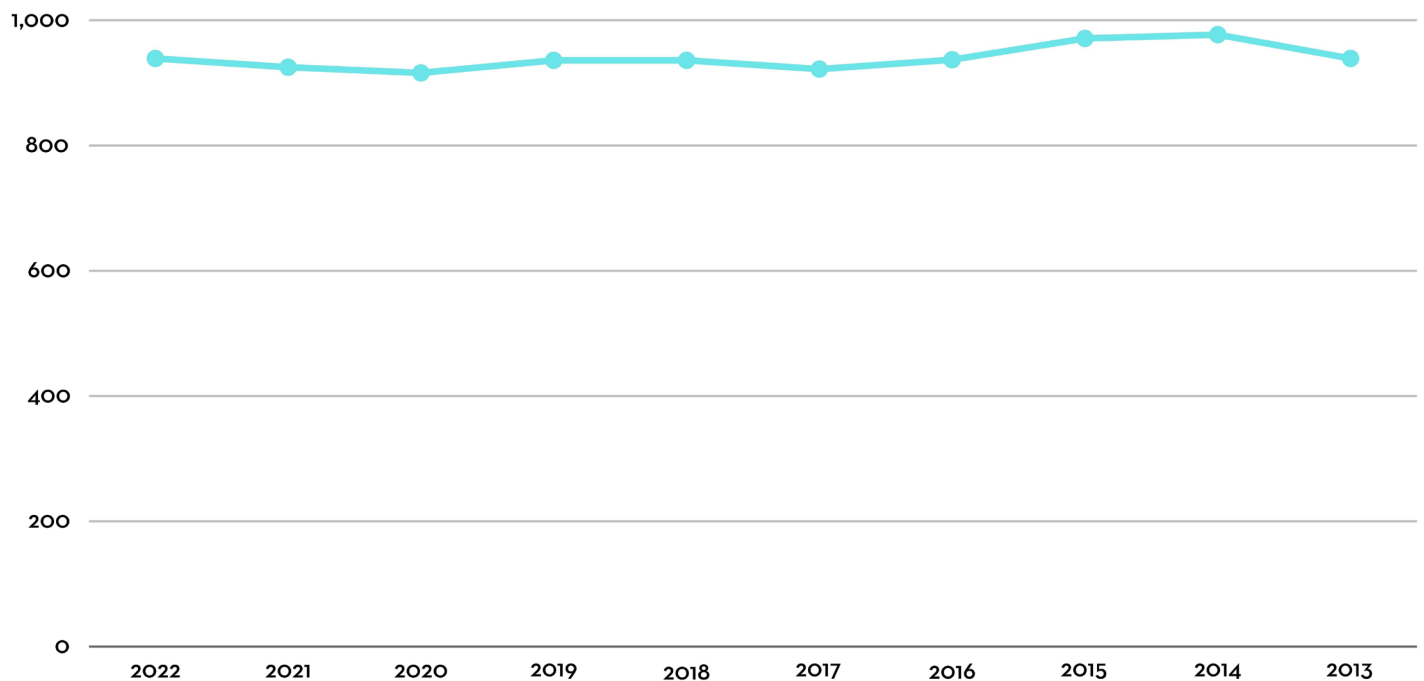
Rental Licenses

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.

2022 RENTAL LICENSES TYPES



RENTAL LICENSES ISSUED BY YEAR



Public Education

In the year 2022, the Fire Department dedicated substantial efforts to public education and fostering community connections through a myriad of impactful activities.

Engaging with the Valley View Carnival, our firefighters interacted with families, spreading crucial fire safety messages in a lively and approachable manner. Participation in the City Job Fair allowed us to communicate fire service career opportunities and highlight the importance of fire safety in workplaces.

Focused on our seniors' welfare, the department conducted tailored presentations on safety and fall prevention, emphasizing proactive measures to ensure their well-being. Station tours provided an immersive experience for community members, enabling them to witness firsthand the dedication and readiness of our firefighters that defines our Fire Department.

Celebrating community togetherness, National Night Out became a pivotal event for us to forge deeper connections. Interacting with residents, sharing safety tips, and fostering camaraderie were at the core of our involvement.

Undoubtedly, a highlight of our outreach efforts was the Annual Fire Prevention Open House held in October. This event was a beacon of fire safety awareness, offering engaging demonstrations, educational sessions, and interactive experiences for all ages. Through these initiatives, we strengthened our bond with the community, empowering individuals with the knowledge and resources to keep themselves and their loved ones safe.

These endeavors reflect our unwavering commitment to proactive engagement, ensuring a safer and more informed community while embodying the ethos of service that defines our Fire Department.

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.

Our explorers have been active ambassadors, representing the department with enthusiasm at various community outreach events such as the Jamboree Parade, Night to Unite, Community Picnic, and our renowned Fire Prevention Open House. Their commitment and involvement underscore the program's invaluable role in shaping the future of firefighting and EMS service in our community and beyond.

Training

In 2022, the Columbia Heights Fire Department dedicated an impressive collective of approximately 12,250 hours toward comprehensive training initiatives, covering an extensive array of vital topics. From mastering Fire Apparatus Operation to honing Emergency Medical Service proficiency, our firefighters delved deep into fire control tactics, safety protocols, emergency management strategies, water rescue techniques, vehicle extrication, search and rescue methodologies, and a myriad of other essential subjects.

Moreover, the commitment to readiness extends beyond our regular training curriculum. Several of our department members play pivotal roles in county-wide specialized teams. These specialized units, such as the North Metro Specialized Rescue Team (NMSRT), the North Metro Chemical Assessment Team (NMCAT), and the Anoka County Fire Investigation team, operate with a singular

focus on expertise and excellence. Their ongoing dedication involves regular team meetings and rigorous, ongoing training sessions aimed at staying at the forefront of their respective fields.

The significance of this multifaceted training regimen cannot be overstated. It not only elevates the individual capabilities of our firefighters but also ensures a cohesive and well-coordinated response in emergency situations. The dedication of our department members to continuous learning and specialization not only enhances our local response but also contributes to the broader network of emergency services across the county. It is through these tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to training that we stand ever-ready to serve and protect our community, no matter the challenge.



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.

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's vision is to nurture diversity, community, creativity, opportunity and knowledge in Columbia Heights.



The library participates in MELSA (a regional eLibrary collection), METRONET (a state funded library network, in partnership with 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 2022, the library returned to pre-pandemic levels of service, including the return of all public computers, full programming, and suspension of social distancing limits.

Library Staff

Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Renee Dougherty	Library Director	April 1, 2013	----
Cortni O'Brien	Adult Services Librarian	July, 10, 2017	----
Eliza Pope	Youth Services Librarian	Jan 3, 2022	----
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	----
Georgia Cook	Library Supervisor	Jan 19, 2022	----
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	Jan 25, 2022
Nadira Hussein	Library Page	Oct, 18, 2021	----
Alison Muotka	Library Page	Oct 18, 2021	Jan 24, 2022
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 Poquette	Library Page	Dec 5, 2016	Sept 10, 2022
Rosa Boda	Library Page (substitute)	March 2, 2015	Jan 24, 2022
Michelle Wermerskirchen	Library Page (substitute)	June 23, 2010	----

Staff Updates

- Eliza Pope was hired as Youth Services Librarian.
- Georgia Cook was hired as a Library Supervisor.
- Four Library Pages resigned and were not replaced (Rosa Boda, Maria Fink, Alison Muotka, and Tammie Yin Poquette).
- Full-time and supervisory library staff joined county colleagues for Anoka County Library Staff Day in May. Topics included serving neurodiverse patrons and increasing public access to library collections, especially in difficult-to-discuss subject areas such as addiction, mental illness or sexual abuse.
- Full time staff received orientation to resources and services for job seekers from the Director of the Anoka County Job Training Center as part of the CareerForce corner initiative.
- The Director and a Library Associate received training in handling active shooter incidents from the Anoka County Sheriff's Department.

LIBRARY BOARD

Teresa Eisenbise, Chair
Gerri Moeller, Vice Chair
Carrie Mesrobian
Christopher Polley
Rachelle Waldon
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
Veronica Johnson, Secretary
Betty Robbins, Treasurer

2022 In Review

Collection

On June 1, three State Park Passes were added to the collection through a partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Park Passes may be borrowed and used for seven days of free admission to any Minnesota State Park. By the end of the year, the park passes had circulated 45 times.

One hundred and five donated and numerous purchased items were added to the collection. At year end the physical collection contained 48,752 items.

COVID Response

The library returned to pre-pandemic levels of service, including the return of all public computers and suspension of social distancing limits. Daily time limits for using computers were increased from ninety minutes to four hours. The number of library programs for children and adults more than doubled and attendance nearly tripled compared to the previous year.

Displays

The glass display case featured these installations:

- Winter Reads reading program for adults
- Examples of pet beds for the self-directed project for local animal shelters
- Presidents' Day
- Columbia Heights Adopt-A-Drain
- Department store memorabilia promoting the "Thank you for Shopping" author program
- Examples of youth art from summer programs
- Souvenirs and maps promoting the Doug Ohman Minnesota from the Road series
- Polish American Heritage Month and Columbia Heights/Lomianki Sister Cities International
- Tiny Art Show

Library visitors also learned about environmental impacts through two traveling exhibits from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: "Pollinators" and "Fix a Leak."

Facility

- A major leak in the boiler supplying building heat was repaired.
- One boiler pump was replaced.
- The self-propelled floor vacuum was repaired.
- A coolant leak in the air conditioner for the network server room was discovered and repaired.
- Citywide, Orkin, Horowitz, and TrueGreen pro-

vided regular cleaning or preventative maintenance for windows, pests, HVAC systems, and landscaping.

- Fire extinguishers were inspected and certified.
- The ventilation component of the HVAC system was retrofitted with external brackets to accept non-specified filters; the first filter change since building construction in 2016. Best practice is to replace system filters every five to seven years.
- Ceiling light fixtures were repaired or replaced as necessary.
- The automated materials handler received annual cleaning and maintenance.
- Five vandalized footstools were re-upholstered.
- Vandalism to paper towel dispensers, baby changing tables, thermostats, plumbing fixtures, and doors occurred in the public restrooms. Paper towels and the public phone were removed to prevent or mitigate further instances of vandalism.
- Gas lines were replaced on Central Ave which necessitated shut-off of the fireplace and heating boilers.

Technology & Digital Literacy

Twenty-four new desktop computers with larger monitors were installed for public use, replacing thin clients purchased in 2015 and eliminating the need for a dedicated server. The use of public computers and the public Wi-Fi network remained relatively consistent to the previous year.

A partnership with Target Tech enabled the library to offer two classes on using Android smartphones.

Coding Club for teens was held for eight weeks during April and May. Marie Gottschalk from Code Savvy and a teen volunteer led a group of school-age youth in coding projects each week, with youth learning how to remix the Google logo, create line chasing games, and animate digital cards using Scratch. Youth had forty-five minutes each week to work on their projects and fifteen minutes at the end to showcase their projects to the other youth.

The Library Director assisted the Information Technology Director with an initial application for E-Rate, a Federal Communications Commission program to make telecommunications and information services more affordable for schools and public libraries. The acquisition of E-Rate enables the city to receive discounted internet for library patrons as well as staff.

Staff were migrated to Cloud Based Office 365 to enable remote work and increased yet secure access to city networks.

2022



COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY

IN REVIEW



17,367

ACTIVE LIBRARY CARDHOLDERS

*INCLUDING ACTIVE PATRONS FROM
NEIGHBORING LIBRARY SYSTEMS



71,909

VISITORS

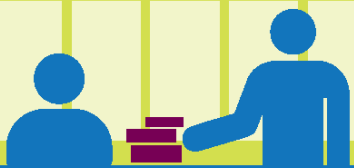


237

TOTAL PROGRAMS

3,346

TOTAL PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE



138,499

 ITEMS
BORROWED

20

 SELF-
DIRECTED
ACTIVITIES

1,129

 PARTICIPANTS

14,774

PUBLIC
COMPUTER
SESSIONS

21,371

 WI-FI SESSIONS

9,373

REFERENCE
QUESTIONS
ANSWERED

*BASED ON DATA FROM
QUARTERLY SURVEY WEEKS

Program Highlights

The library hosted a wide variety of in-person programs for children and adults. Two hundred and thirty-seven programs were offered, which were attended by 3,346 people! Offered programs doubled, and program attendance nearly tripled compared to the previous year.

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 foster cross-cultural understanding, improve understanding of STEM concepts, and allow kids to imagine and create art.

21st Century Community Learning Centers grant programs, under the umbrellas of Encore and Tinker Time, gave youth the opportunity to create, experiment, and learn about a variety of topics.

Tinker Time brought youth from multiple schools together on Tuesdays after school and on Wednesdays during the summer. They learned new skills, helped each other solve problems, and had fun with different activities each week. Clay programs were consistently popular. Teaching artists from Artistry and Parcel Arts taught youth hand building and modeling techniques to create luminaries, creatures, garden tiles, mugs and more. Slime programs were requested and attracted lots of participants. Youth learned basic chemistry and how to follow a base recipe for slime, as well as adjustments to accommodate various add-ins and textures.

Local artist and Minneapolis College of Art and Design adjunct professor Natasha Pestich taught a four-week screen printing workshop for teens. Teens learned about the screen-printing process, how to create an image that would translate to the printing medium, and how to actually screen print onto a t-shirt to create a wearable piece of art. Other successful teen programs included needle felted toadstools, spooky faux terrariums, and candle making.

A self-directed summer reading program (Summer Adventures) was offered from June through August. Three hundred and two youth (82 in Birth-Kindergarten, 179 in Grades 1-6, and 41 teens) registered and read over 1,800 hours collectively! Those who read 20 or more hours and returned a completed reading log were entered into prize drawings for State Fair and Twins tickets.

In conjunction with the summer reading and special programs, staff served 263 meals to youth during the summer. Lunches were served to-go style in paper bags, giving families the flexibility to eat in the library or take them home. Summer meals were made possible through a partnership with Columbia Heights Public Schools to serve children at risk of going hungry without free and reduced-price school lunches.

Weekly storytimes for preschoolers throughout the year brought families together to grow early literacy skills and connect with others in the community. All storytimes

incorporate talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing to help children get ready to learn. Monthly storytimes for local daycares allow multiple kids and a local home daycare provider to share books, songs, and rhymes, so children can grow their early literacy skills.

The Early Literacy Play Space was reopened in early 2022 and learning toys were returned to the children's' area with regular sanitizing. The play space and learning toys encourage families and children to play together, foster improved social skills, and build community, individual imaginations, and vocabulary. The play space featured a make-believe post office, farmer's market, and ice cream shop.

Adult programs focused on personal enrichment and life-long learning. Highlights included:

- A three-part financial literacy and fitness series offered in partnership with Northeast Bank
- A lecture from Kristal Leebrik, author of "Thank You for Shopping" on the history of the grand department stores of Minneapolis and St. Paul (Sponsored by the Friends of the Library)
- MN from the Road, a celebration of Minnesota history, culture, and flavor with photographer and storyteller Doug Ohman (Sponsored by the Library Foundation)
- Twice-weekly Conversation Circles for English language learners facilitated by community volunteers
- A presentation on the murders at Duluth's Glensheen Mansion by former Star Tribune reporter and author Joe Kimball
- Two Bike Fix-it Clinics with community bike enthusiasts
- Multiple bird identification, tree identification, and landscaping classes
- Art and craft classes funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund such as Charcoal en Plein Air, Design Your Own Wrapping Paper, Watercolor Pen and Floral, Folk Arts of India, and Needle Felted Fall Foliage
- Poems in the Parks

Winter Reads, a Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA)-sponsored self-directed reading program held throughout January and February, encouraged adult readers to write and share short book reviews. Participants' names were entered into weekly prize drawings, and grand prize winners Mariana Mac and Emily Anderson received gift cards to the Heights Theater. Adults also participated in the library's Summer Adventures Reading Program.

The Adult Book Club met monthly in the community room. The Wine and Words Book Club was offered in partnership with the Recreation Department's Active Agers program at Murzyn Hall.

Library Governance & Partners

Governance: Library Board

The city proclamation of National Library Week (April 3-9, 2022) was made by Council President Nick Novitsky on March 28.

Library Board Chair Tricia Conway resigned to move out-of-state. The City Council received much citizen interest and enthusiasm for serving on the Library Board. Rachele Waldon was appointed as a new trustee, and Christopher Polley was reappointed to fill the remainder of Tricia Conway's term.

The Library Board advocated to eliminate overdue fines and on March 1 they were eliminated for library users in Columbia Heights. Partner Anoka County Library continued to charge fines for the late return of items.

In coordination with the Anoka County Library, the Board recommended the elimination of rental fees for borrowing newly released DVDs on April 1.

On Nov 1, Columbia Heights and Anoka County Libraries implemented automatic renewal for eligible materials.

Volunteers

The library continued to be grateful for the dedication of a core group of teen and adult volunteers. Seven teens contributed a total of 123 hours over the summer. They helped serve meals, prepared storytime materials, sanitized toys, shelved picture books, registered youth for summer reading, created art, and assisted with

youth and teen programs. Eighteen adult volunteers contributed 260 hours as ELL Conversation Circle leaders, greeters for library programs, and performing various tasks in the library.

Library Foundation

The Columbia Heights Public Library Foundation donated funds and goods valued at over \$9,000 in 2022. Funds were used to present a six-program series with Minnesota historian and photographer Doug Ohman and to refresh the early literacy play/learning space with new equipment and toys. An oil painting "Entering the Ouroboros" by local artist Rachel Klismith was installed in the children's area.

The Foundation also made a \$10,000 gift to Columbia Heights Public Schools to purchase diverse and inclusive reading materials for libraries in all five schools.

The Foundation canceled their annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser.

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Columbia Heights Library is a social service organization that supports library programs and projects. In 2022, the Friends served as greeters at library events and created engaging, educational displays in the library's display case. The Friends funded an author talk with Kristal Leebrick (Thank You for Shopping: The Golden Age of Minnesota Department Stores) in June, and curated several displays in celebration of the event.



Outreach & Community Partnerships

Immaculate Conception School, Highland Elementary, and North Park School for Innovation partnered with staff to host English Language Learner Family Nights at the library. The schools promoted the events, supplied food and door prizes, and provided a Spanish interpreter. The library provided an overview of library services and special programs for youth, a scavenger hunt to familiarize families with the space, and staff to help families get library cards and find resources.

The partnership with Columbia Heights Public Schools' Early Childhood and Family Education continued. During the first half of the year, parent educator Lauren Mitchell attended storytimes at the library to connect with area families. During the second half of the school year, Youth Services Librarian Eliza Pope visited five ECFE classrooms to present a sample storytime and educate families about library resources.

Deposit collections (or bulk loans) were prepared for classrooms at Immaculate Conception and CHPS Mini-Adventures after-school program.

E-cards were provided to all students at Columbia Academy. E-cards provide access to learning and research databases and ebooks, e-magazines, and downloadable audio books during the academic year.

Eliza Pope visited summer CHPS Encore programs at North Park School for Innovation in July. She reached over three hundred students in pre-K-5th grade with stories, literacy activities, and encouragement to register for the Summer Adventures reading program at the library.

Eliza also re-established and renewed connections with Prodeo Academy, Immaculate Conception School, and Bultum Academy.

Adult services librarian Cortni O'Brien continued her participation in a consortium of groups providing services to seniors in Columbia Heights. She also served on the Community Education Advisory Committee for the school district. She virtually visited selected classes at the MetroNorth Adult Basic Education Center, who continue to meet online rather than in-person.

A CareerForce Corner was added at the library in March through a partnership with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and the State Library. The CareerForce Corner provides curated, and up-to-date CareerForce resources to help library staff further assist job seekers. In addition, CareerForce Corner helps library staff more easily connect Minnesotans needing greater support in their job search or access to additional programs and services with CareerForce staff or partners. This partnership also enables resume building workshops for job seekers.

The library worked with the League of Women Voters - Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids to encourage registration of new voters, publicize the primary and general elections, and educate voters about the contents of their ballot with a mock voting booth in the library.

Through a partnership with EveryMeal, the library served as a community distribution site for meal kits during the month of August. EveryMeal seeks to fight food insecurity for children, especially during times when they don't have access to school meal programs.

Director Renee Dougherty and staff from the Anoka County Library met with Representative Sandra Feist and Senator Mary Kunesh as part of Library Legislative Week in March. Library staff and supporters thanked elected officials for supporting libraries and asked them to support library bonding requests and an increase to regional library basic system support (RLBSS.)

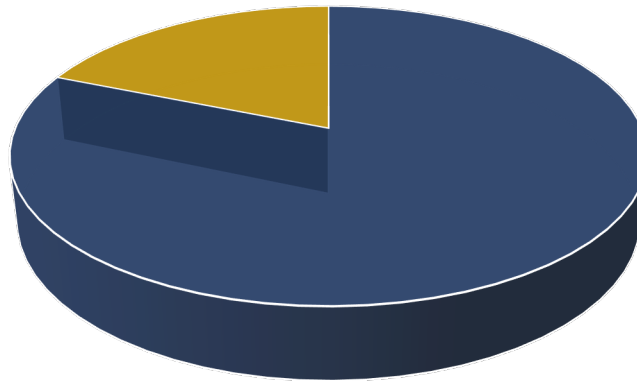
Social workers from Guild Services continued to visit the library twice each week to meet clients and connect with persons experiencing homelessness.

Library staff or trustees attended community celebrations including the City Arts and Information Fair (June), the Mayor's Monarch Festival (August) and the Pride Festival (October).



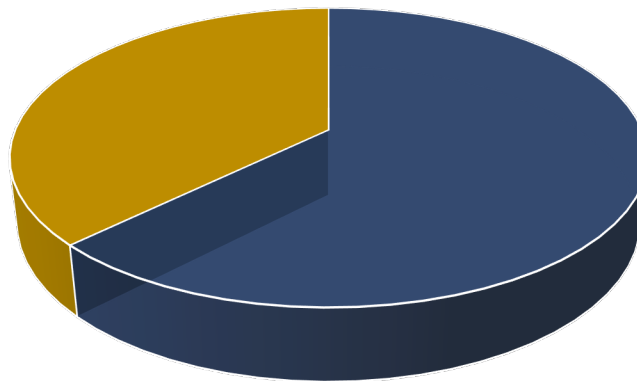
2022 Public Service Data

Circulation: 138,509



■ Physical Items ■ Digital Items

Borrowers Served: 17,367



■ Columbia Heights Residents ■ Reciprocal Borrowers

Circulation	
Physical Items	112,373
EBooks	26,136
Total Circulation	138,509

2022 Public Service Data Cont.

Collection	
Print Materials	41,833
AV Items	6,919
Total Collection Items	48,752

Programs at the Library	
Adult Programs	122
Adult Attendance	1,035
Youth Programs	115
Youth Attendance	2,311
Total Programs	237
Total Attendance	3,346

Reference Questions	
Reference Questions	10,777

Volunteer Hours	
Teen Volunteer Hours	123
Adult Volunteer Hours	260
Total Hours	383

Study and Meeting Room Use	
Total room use by public	2,316

Public Service Data Cont.

Public Internet Use

Computer Sessions	14,774
Wi-Fi Sessions	21,371

Total Visitors and Users

Total Visitors at the Library in 2022	71,909
Active Borrowers	17,367

Additional Data

Self-Directed Activities	20
Self-Directed Activity Participation	1,129
2022 Open Hours	2,333



The Columbia Heights Public Library saw 71,909 visitors in 2022.



POLICE

Introduction

The year of 2022 saw us slowly come out of the COVID-19 pandemic which has certainly challenged the community, and policing.

The CHPD saw the retirement of Officer Greg Sinn who retired on June 30, 2022. Officer Sinn honorably served this community for 22 years and worked in many assignments during his time with the police department. He worked for several years as an Investigator, firearms and use of force instructor, and field training officer. We wish Officer Sinn the best in his retirement from the CHPD.

On July 30, the CHPD held a memorial service at Ramsdell Park in honor of fallen Officer Curtis Ramsdell who was killed in the line of duty on July 30, 1977. This marked the 45th anniversary of Officer Ramsdell giving the ultimate sacrifice. Officer Ramsdell had been with the CHPD for 14 years and was survived by his wife and two children. I would like to thank Sergeant Jason

Piehn for his incredible work to make this the memorable event that it was.

The CHPD also saw several promotions take place in 2022. In September, Record Technician Becky Romanik was promoted to Lead Records Technician, Officer Jackie Urbaniak was promoted to Sergeant, and Officer Jason Piehn was promoted to Sergeant. Lead Technician Romanik has been with the CHPD for five years, Sergeant Urbaniak has been with the CHPD for six years, and Sergeant Piehn has been with the CHPD for 17 years.

Education and training continue to be a key part of the CHPD's strategic plan. In December, Sergeant Tim Noll completed graduate school at Concordia University, St. Paul, and received a master's degree in criminal justice leadership. Also in December, Captain Matt Markham graduated from the Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command. This is an intensive



10-week program that prepares law enforcement managers for senior level positions by combining academics with practical, real-world applications.

The CHPD has been fortunate to have an embedded Social Worker Program and conducted its first one-year analysis of the program in 2022. The program has been very successful and has significant impact in the Columbia Heights community. The CHPD currently has two full-time embedded social workers which allows for expanded coverage to respond to citizens more effectively. Columbia Heights is one of the few agencies in Anoka County, and in the State of Minnesota that have this program. Given the success of this program, we anticipate most agencies will work towards having an embedded social worker program.

In the fall of 2022, the Police Department expanded its efforts in Neighborhood Watch

and now has a monthly Neighborhood Watch Update via Zoom. This 30-minute update is designed to share information with Neighborhood Watch Block Captains on a monthly basis in order to keep the community informed on public safety activities in the community. This pilot project has seen success and it has been a new and exciting way to work closely with the block leaders of Columbia Heights.

The CHPD believes that the community is an integral part of our community policing policy, and we have benefited greatly from the relationship with the Columbia Heights community. We appreciate your partnership, and we look forward to continuing to work closely with you on our mission of protecting life and property, innovatively solving problems, and enhancing the safety and quality of life in the community we serve.

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	----
Timothy Noll	Sergeant	Nov 19, 2012	----
Jacquelyn Urbaniak	Police Officer/Sergeant	Nov 28, 2016	----
Jason Piehn	Police Officer/Sergeant	April 4, 2005	----
Erik Hanson	Sergeant	Feb 5, 2007	----
Paul Bonesteel	Drug Task Force	Sept 8, 1994	----
Gregory Sinn	Police Officer	June 5, 2000	----
Joseph Pikala	Police Officer	Aug 12, 2008	----
William Monberg	Community Policing Coord.	Oct 13, 2008	----
Mohammed Farah	Police Officer	Jan 13, 2015	----
Tabitha Wood	Investigator	Sept 14, 2015	----
Ibrahim Farah	Middle School Liaison	April 27, 2016	----
Mitch Weisser	Police Officer	Jan 14, 2019	----
Guy Juran	Police Officer	Feb 10, 2020	----

Police Staff Roster Continued

Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Alex Barrot	Police Officer	Feb 28, 2018	April 6, 2022
Steve Wagner	Police Officer	Aug 10, 2020	----
Shelby Tombers	Police Officer	Sept 13, 2017	----
Sam Foy	Police Officer	Feb 7, 2021	----
Tony Miller	Police Officer	Oct 26, 2016	----
Trevor Norlien	Police Officer	July 19, 2021	----
Andrew Nightingale	Police Officer	Aug 25, 2021	----
Timothy Dougall	Police Officer	April 11, 2022	----
Ricardo Basurto Ayala	Police Officer	Aug 22 2022	----
Anthony Guzdkiwicz	CSO/Police Officer	Mar 9, 2021	----
Sanjin Boskovic	CSO/Police Officer	May 5, 2021	----
Airreon Austin	CSO/Police Officer	Jan 3, 2022	----
Kelvin Yang	Police Officer	Aug 12, 2019	----
Karen Olson	Office Supervisor	Feb 19, 1986	----
Jessica Racchini	Lead Records Tech	Sept 16, 2019	Jan 24, 2022
Becky Romanik	Records Tech/Lead Rec Tech	March 14, 2018	----
Jennifer Parra	Records Technician	Oct 13, 2020	----

Police Staff Roster Continued

Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Nick Fedor	Information Systems Specialist	Sept 18, 2018	----
Hannah Belka	PT Community Service Officer	Jan 3, 2022	----
Patrick Baumgardner	Community Service Officer	April 12, 2022	----
Pylve Her	PT Community Service Officer	Aug 23, 2022	----
Venaya Kinnunen	PT Community Service Officer	June 8, 2022	----
Eli Haddorff	PT Community Service Officer	Dec 14, 2020	Aug 27, 2022
Benjamin Keuler	Community Service Officer	June 8, 2022	----

Several Employees Advance within the Department

There were several promotions within the Police Department in 2022. Three employees who were hired on as Community Service Officers were promoted to the position of Police Officer: Anthony Guzdikiewicz, Sanjin Boskovic and Airreon Austin.

In September, Officers Jackie Urbaniak and Jason Piehn were promoted to the position of Sergeant.

Also in September, Record Tech Becky Romanik was promoted to the Lead Record Tech position.

These employees embody our core values of Committed*Helpful*Professional*Dedicated, and we are pleased to have them serving the citizens of Columbia Heights.



Sgts. Jackie Urbaniak (right), Jason Piehn (left) and Lead Record Tech Becky Romanik (middle) were recognized at a promotion ceremony in September.

2022 Awards

Medal of Commendation

Tim Noll

Tim Dougall

Tony Miller

Guy Juran

Sergeant Noll, along with Officers Miller, Juran and Dougall responded to a call of a male waving a gun around. Upon arriving, the armed male fled from officers into the nearby neighborhoods and the officers chased the armed suspect on foot. The officers were able to locate the male a short time later and take him into custody with no one getting hurt. The quick actions of officers in the face of obvious danger led to the safe and successful apprehension of a dangerous person.

Sergeant Tim Noll was also recognized for his role in responding to a domestic related arson call. He arrived to find the home engulfed in fire. Noll worked to wake up neighbors and move people away from the burning building. Once neighboring units had been evacuated, he assisted the Fire Department with running a water feed line a couple of hundred yards up the inclined road. Sergeant Noll's quick actions helped to save lives and prevent further damage.

Above and Beyond

Sanjin Boskovic

Award of Merit

Tony Miller

Paul Bonesteel

T. Nightingale Community Service Award

Lead Record Tech Becky Romanik was recognized for embracing the department's community policing philosophy on a daily basis.

The Team from Canvas Health was also recognized. Social workers Eileen Crosby and Erin Buller, along with their supervisor Jessica Torrey, have increased our ability to solve problems and improve service delivery. This team has been extremely responsive in delivering with high quality on a consistent basis.



The Canvas Health Team was honored with the T. Nightingale Community Service Award.

VFW Public Servant Award

Officer Paul Bonesteel received the VFW Public Servant Award citation from Columbia Heights VFW Post 230. Our thanks to the VFW for recognizing Officer Bonesteel's efforts over his law enforcement career.

Community Oriented Policing

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. In 2022, we began reestablishing several of our programs that had largely been put on hold during the pandemic. Here are some highlights of community outreach functions from 2022:

Citizens Justice Academy

New in 2022, the Citizens Justice Academy was a partnership between CHPD and the Anoka County Attorney's Office (ACAO) and was held over the course of five weeks in November/December. ACAO Senior Attorney Paul Young, Chief Austin, and other staff presented on a wide range of topics within the criminal justice system, with the goal of providing context and perspective that may not be fully-realized in the general public. The sessions were well-attended and the program will likely be expanded in future years.

Business Watch

The 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 2022, the CHPD attended over 40 parties and collected more than 900 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.

Neighborhood Watch

The Neighborhood Watch program connects neighborhood leaders with the Police Department to assist with community communication and reporting suspicious activity. CHPD provides training sessions for the more than 140 block leaders and attends neighborhood events throughout the year. No one knows a neighborhood better than the people that live there and we view this program as a vital partnership in keeping our community safe. We are currently seeking additional block leaders - to learn more, contact Officer Monberg at 763-706-8142.

Eat and Greet

Each year, CHPD holds an "Eat & Greet" event at a local park, which provides food and activities, as well as an opportunity to meet with officers for casual conversation and demos of various police equipment. The 2022 Eat & Greet was postponed due to extreme heat, but a rescheduled date was held at McKenna Park. Many of our community stakeholders were on hand as well, and attendees received McDonald's food, played outdoor games, explored squad cars, and watched a drone demonstration.



Jason Piehn spending time with community members at National Night Out.

Strategic Plan

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 and 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 us to address the community needs and goals as well as provide direction and focus for the organization.

Training

In 2022, the Columbia Heights Police Department added more use of force and firearms instructors. The department went into year two of its Jiu-Jitsu-based defensive tactics that focus more on control than striking, which is intended to reduce injury to officers and suspects. New officers continue to receive 40 hours of Crisis Intervention Training within their first year of employment. All Minnesota licensed peace officers are required to attend four hours of autism training, six hours of crisis intervention training, one hour of conflict management, one hour of implicit bias training, and another four hours of training in any of the four categories to renew their license every three years. Officers also went through traffic stop, door breaching, building search, and active shooter training in 2022. The department transitioned to the Axon Taser 7 in the fall of 2022.

Partnership Projects

National Constitution Center Project

Throughout 2022, the CHPD continued to partner with educators from the Columbia Heights/Fridley Adult Basic Education Center for their offering titled "Rights and Responsibilities of Community and Police." Columbia Heights Police Officers and ABE educators continued to use the curriculum they created to teach the History of the Constitution and Policing twice a week with Adult Education students via Zoom for a total of 15 sessions, which were each 1.5 hours. The officers involved in this initiative were Chief Lenny Austin, Officer Bill Monberg, Officer Mohamed Farah, Officer Tabitha Wood, and Officer Ibrahim Farah.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The Police Department partnered with the Red Cross to host three blood drives during 2022. At these events, there were 118 units of blood collected, which equals over 350 potential lives touched through these blood donations! We're proud of our work with the Red Cross and look forward to continuing these events into the future.



The Police Department partners with the Red Cross for numerous blood drives throughout the year.

Youth Outreach

Anti-Bullying

We continue to partner with the Columbia Heights School District on 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. Staff members and teachers can help prevent bullying by talking about it, building a safe school environment, and creating a community-wide bullying prevention strategy. These visits also teach student on how to prevent, respond to, and safely report incidents of bullying, cyber-bullying, 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.

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 Wednesday 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 2022, a total of 2,000 kids attended Open Gyms. The Open Gym program continues to grow, and in 2022 a girls Open Gym was added that was requested by the Muslim Student Association at Columbia Heights High School.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters

CHPD has partnered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters Twin Cities since 2011 and 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 schools to meet their matched student and play games, read, make crafts and develop a mentoring relationship. The program started at Highland Elementary and has now expanded to Valley View Elementary and Columbia Academy.

Cooking With the Cops

The "Cooking With The Cops" program started in 2019 and is designed to bring youth and police together in the kitchen. Officers are paired with students into six

teams, and 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 judges who determine the winners. Our judges have been local celebrities in our community such as the Mayor, County Attorney, CHHS principal, and the Chief of Police. The students get to enjoy the meals they make with their classmates, officers, and judges. For 2022, we partnered with the Muslim Student Association for this program.



Officer Farah drove two students to school as part of a contest at Truck or Treat.

School Safety

On April 7, 2022, School Resource Officers Ibrahim Farah and Mitchell Weisser assisted with a crisis drill, training, and information session with Columbia Heights High School Staff. The training was put together by CHHS Principal Todd Wynne. Teachers were divided into small groups and provided with multiple scenarios consisting of persons with a weapon, mental health crises, chemical hazards, or active incidents outside of schools. They were taught the different ways to respond to these types of incidents, including contacting emergency services. This training allowed an opportunity for school staff to understand and prepare should an event actually occur in a school building.

Since 2013, the Police Department has been providing extra traffic control assistance created during start and dismissal of the school day at Valley View Elementary and Columbia Academy. The traffic assistance provided by the Police Department has been successful in raising drivers' awareness and makes for a safer route to and from school for students who walk to school. The benefit is obvious in the patience shown by drivers when extra Police personnel are not present.

Youth Outreach Cont.

Chemical Abuse Awareness/Prevention

In 2022, approximately 300 10th-grade students took part in presentations on alcohol and opioid abuse, 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 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 during the MEA week in October in partnership with the Columbia Heights School District. The students who successfully complete the two-day program get 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 and covers topics including the use of force, traffic law, criminal law, and criminal investigation. The students are also able to participate in scenarios such as traffic stops and domestic calls. The students are able to see a Fridley Police K-9 demonstration as well as CHPD use of the UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems) or drone. Nine students participated in Teen Academy in 2022. 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 & Cuts with a Cop

The department combined its annual back-to-school events in 2022 and gave away backpacks and free haircuts at Moler Barber School, who generously donated the haircuts for students heading back to school.

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 2022, we pro-

Additional Outreach

Iftar Meals

On April 30, members of the Police Association delivered Iftar meals to our friends at the Islamic Center of Minnesota. Iftar is the main meal of the fasting day, which occurs at sunset during Ramadan.

Shop With a Cop

Shop with a Cop, which is administered by the Columbia Heights Police Association, raises funds throughout the year from current and former police employees as well as other donors who contribute a significant amount of money to the cause. Families in need of assistance are paired with police employees who shop with the family on their own time. In 2022, we were able to take 20 families including more than 50 children shopping for the holiday season! Once again, CHPA was proud to partner with Target who generously provides the program with a 10% discount on merchandise for the families.

In addition to Shop with a Cop, the Police Association also donated several new winter coats and hats to the Columbia Heights Public Schools after hearing that there was an urgent need for warm winter gear for the students.

Multicultural 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 comprised of 14 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, and is excited to have added three new members in 2022!

Embedded Social Worker Program

In partnership with Canvas Health, the CHPD completed its first full year of its embedded co-responder social worker program. Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) Eileen Crosby started with the department in December of 2021 and LICSW Erin Buller was added to the team in the summer of 2022. A social worker is now available between 10 am and 11 pm Monday through Friday.

The program has delivered impressive results in just one year. A total of 457 clients have been served by the social workers and 312 of those were engaged during a co-response with the police. The 457 clients have created 1,954 interactions between clients and the social workers. One of the important goals of the co-responder program was to reduce the

73% of CHPD officers believe that the embedded social workers have reduced the number of times force would have been needed on calls.

need for police use of force. Out of the 312 co-responder calls, 303 were resolved without the need for use of force, 307 did not involve the individual going to jail, 275 did not require the client to be hospitalized, 276 clients were referred to medical treatment, 145 individuals were provided with new resources, and 126 were re-engaged with established services. Over the past year, the number of calls from Columbia Heights to Anoka Mobile Crisis has increased by 177%.

This means more residents know about the crisis line and are using it compared to 2021. A majority (73%) of CHPD officers believe that the embedded social workers have reduced the number of times force would have been needed on calls.

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.

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 2022, officers responded to 24,909 calls for service (Anoka County Communications). A minimal amount of force was used in 0.34% of these calls, with a total of 85 incidents for the year. Of those incidents, open hand techniques were the most common type of force used and 93% 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 2022 was authorized at \$5,785,360. This budget is comprised of three main sections, the first being Personal Services, which is by far the largest portion at \$5,032,160. 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 \$174,900 for 2022, 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 2022 amount of \$578,300. 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 2022 Police Capital Equipment budget was \$185,900, 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 services that contribute to the quality of life of Columbia Heights residents. These include 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 and hazardous waste programs; and management of urban forestry.

Public Works handles many special projects that include an Inflow-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.



In 2022 we regained a sense of normalcy as we recovered from the impacts of COVID-19. The following reports provide an overview of each department's many activities. These reports are comprised 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 or a water or sewer emergency, 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	July 29, 2022
Sulmaan Khan	Assistant City Engineer	Jul 19, 2022	----
Lauren Letsche	Engineering Tech	May 5, 2014	----
Ben Lund	Engineering Tech	April 3, 2020	----
Jesse Davies	Refuse & Recycling Dept.	Sept 13, 2004	----
Sue Chapman	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	----

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	----
Jacob Balistrieri	Maintenance Worker	Nov 29, 2021	----

Street & Park Department

Name	Title	Start Date	End Date
Andra Ward	Maintenance Worker	Nov 23, 2021	----
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
Duane Hopkins	Foreperson	May 8, 2017	----
Nicholle Bartolic	Maintenance Worker	Nov 22, 2021	----
Kyle Burns	Maintenance Worker	Jan 27, 2016	----
Jeff Olson	Maintenance Worker	June 25, 2018	----
David Quady	Maintenance Worker	March 30, 2015	----

Major Accomplishments in 2022:

- The design for the reconstruction of 37th Ave from Central Ave to Stinson Blvd with the City of Minneapolis was completed and approved.
- Preliminary design of 53rd was initiated in two separate projects on 53rd Avenue from Central Ave to University Ave.
- The design of the new City Hall was completed, a construction manager (Doran) was hired, and 28 separate contracts were approved for the build-out. Construction began at the end of October.
- Development firm Alatus completed construction of the mixed-use development that includes the new City Hall. Staff provided construction inspections of utilities, connections to public utilities and roads, and site erosion control.
- Federal ARPA funds allowed the City to further invest in aging infrastructure with completion of Central Ave sanitary sewer improvements from 37th Ave to 44th Ave and additional water main structural lining in the SE quadrant of the city.
- The annual Sanitary Sewer Lining Program continued in 2022 with over 9,000 lineal feet of pipe lining installed on Central Ave from 37th Ave to 44th Ave to address I/I problems and help offset the annual surcharge from 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 2022.
- The annual Street Rehabilitation Program continued with 21 blocks of streets rehabilitated in Zones 6 and 7 of the City. The Program will be suspended until 2026 or 2027 to focus on large State-Aid projects and consecutive years of concrete alley reconstruction.
- The City was awarded HSIP Funds from the State for safety improvements on Central Avenue from 43rd Ave to 47th Ave, which are planned for 2025 construction.



Engineering and Construction Activities

Design and Construction Work

- Project 2200: Miscellaneous Concrete
- Project 2203: Water Main Structural Lining
- Project 2204: Sanitary Manhole Replacement
Central Ave from 37th Ave to 43rd Ave
- Project 2207: Public Safety Building Security Fencing
- Project 2101: Seal Coat - Zone 3B
- Project 2208: Gould Avenue Street Reconstruction
Central Ave to Peters Pl

Street Rehabilitation Program

- Project 2002: Partial Street Reconstruction - Zone 4B
4th St, 52nd to 53rd Aves
- Project 2202: Partial Street Reconstruction - Zone 6
Mill and Overlay - Zone 6 & 7
- Project 2206: State Aid Mill and Overlay
47th Avenue

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 2305: Street Reconstruction with Multi-use
Trail - 53rd Ave, University Ave to Sullivan
Lake Park*
- Project 2306: Street Reconstruction with Multi-use
Trail - 37th Pl, 37th Ave to Stinson Blvd*

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

Other Work Performed

- Warranty inspections on completed construction projects and review of corrective work done by contractors. Prepared record drawings of public improvements.
- Review of building permits.
- Street striping, citywide.
- Miscellaneous surveys, traffic counts, and reports.
- Traffic Commission agenda and meetings.
- In-house and off-site seminars to enhance job knowledge and performance.
- Annual NPDES annual report, annual Public Works training, and implementation of best management practices (BMP).
- Public outreach with Adopt-A-Drain to encourage resident participation. Columbia Heights won the Anoka County Community Adopt-a-Drain Challenge for the second year in a row in 2022.
- Worked with a consultant and other partners to create an illicit discharge video to meet MS4 permit requirements.

Sanitary Sewer Maintenance

Sanitary Sewer Cleaning

The Utilities Department cleans over 40% of all sanitary sewer mainlines in the city annually. In 2022, 25.7 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 as well as lines in the other two districts identified as needing more regular cleaning. In 2022, all 77,521 feet of District 3 were cleaned; an additional 58,062 feet of sanitary sewer main requiring regular or emergency cleaning was completed in Districts 1 and 2.

Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Cont.

Cleaning the city-owned sanitary sewer lines helps minimize backups that can affect residents, other infrastructure, and the environment. In 2022, the Utilities Department received 21 calls for possible sanitary sewer backups. It was determined that nine of the backups were the result of the city-owned sanitary sewer. The other backups were private sanitary service issues. In all 21 cases, city staff responded, identified the issue, cleaned the sanitary sewer line, and when necessary, eliminated the blockage.

Sanitary Sewer Televising

In 2022, the Utilities Department completed 20,470 feet of sanitary sewer televising.

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 sewers to repair with cured in place pipe (CIPP). Larger required repairs are also 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 to identify and proactively repair issues before they impact 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 the City's sanitary system it must be treated, and treating clear water costs the city money. Rehabilitating manholes and lining sewer pipes reduces the cost of treating sanitary sewage and improves the performance and reliability of the system.

In 2022, no sanitary sewer lining was performed. Instead, the manholes and sections of broken sewer main were replaced on Central Ave from 37th Ave to 44th Ave. In total, 17 manholes were replaced or lined and nearly 1,000 feet of sanitary sewer were replaced. The project lasted all summer and led to significant

traffic changes along that stretch of Central Ave. The work on Central Ave was completed in preparation for lining work to be completed in 2023 and to improve the infrastructure under the MnDOT right of way. Bus Rapid Transit plans are moving forward, and having reconditioned or replaced infrastructure under the roadway will ensure its continued operation for years to come.

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 loose, causing damage or clogging to occur in 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 are 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.

Water System Operations

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. Twelve hydrants were identified during inspection as needing repairs; the hydrants were repaired in May.

Valve Operation Program

A preventative maintenance valve operation program was started in 2019. In 2022, staff turned 80 valves. In the first four years of the program, 61% of all system valves were 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 2022 the integrity of the water supply system was more important than ever. The Twin Cities experienced continuation of 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 2022, the highest usage occurred on July 30 with a citywide usage of 2.04 million gallons (26% above average).

To ensure the water system operates properly, the Utilities Department responded to and repaired 13 water main breaks, 12 hydrants, and four valves. 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.



Sgts. Jackie Urbaniak (right), Jason Piehn (left) and Lead Record Tech Becky Romanik (middle) were recognized at a promotion ceremony in September.

Utilities Customer Response

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 162 customer requests and performed 1,826 locates for Gopher State One Call. They also collected 648 water samples to ensure compliance with all Minnesota Department of Health requirements, and ensure the water being delivered to all homes and businesses is safe to drink.

Storm Sewer 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.



Utilities Training & Education

In 2022, 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.

Adopt-a-Drain Program

Columbia Heights Wins Adopt-a-Drain Challenge

In 2022, 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. Columbia Heights residents adopted 66 new drains, reported 421 drain cleanings, and got 16 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.

Street Maintenance

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 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 2021-2022 winter season produced 16 citywide plowable events. The first was on November 13, 2021 and the last was on April 14, 2022.

In March of 2022, Public Works committed to ordering 400 tons of treated rock salt through the state contract awarded vendor. A total of 1,400 gallons of brine were 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. A total of 226 tons of salt were used for 2021-2022 winter events. After temperatures dropped below the practical use for sodium chloride, staff applied a mixture of salt and sand a total of 36 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 2021-2022 winter season came to an end on April 14 with a total of 50.6 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 full-time 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 21 and ended on April 13. Staff collected 220 cubic yards of debris during this event. The second round began on June 13 and ended on June 24, collecting over 130 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 September a Trommel was rented to process 350 cubic yards of collected street sweeping material for disposal or reuse. A total of 15 cubic yards of screened waste was hauled to a specialty landfill.

Fall street sweeping started on October 31 and ended on November 12. A total of 525 cubic yards of leaves were collected and hauled away for disposal to The Mulch Store in Shakopee.

Street Maintenance Cont.

Asphalt Repair/Paving Operations

In the fall of 2022, Public Works purchased 10 tons of cold mix asphalt from the City of Saint Paul Public Works to have on hand for winter road repair.

The Street Department purchased 520 tons of bituminous material for road repairs in 2022. Of the 520 tons purchased, 79 tons of asphalt were used to repair the roadways after water main breaks. Alley repair, general street repairs and potholes required 121 tons of bituminous material. Approximately 62 tons of asphalt MV4 and 136 tons of asphalt fines were used to repair failing street alley and for seal coat zone work.

In the spring 58 tons of asphalt was used to pave a pad on the east side of the Huset Park building that will serve as a stage for future music in the park and other events.

Asphalt and Dirt Disposal

In 2022 Public Works purchased and delivered 64 tons of Class 5 road base for street repair projects. The Street Department hauled away 84 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 non-selective herbicide for weed control along the city right-of-way 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 2022.

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.

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 Department

Winter Events

On Feb 5, Columbia Heights hosted the 2nd 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.

Ice Skating Rinks

Above-average temperatures delayed opening the skating and hockey rinks at Huset, McKenna, and Ostrander Parks until January 3, 2022. The rinks remained open until February 26, 2022, when daytime temperatures 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 54 locations throughout the city ranging from small lots to large parks. With the early spring, mowing operations began on May 9 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. The Toro 5910 wing mower, working in conjunction with the John Deere Zero Turn mower and mowing crew, maintained parks, athletic fields, and large open spaces. 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 was unable to complete spring weed and feed applications at Huset, Edgemoor, McKenna, LaBelle, Prestemon, Sullivan, Ramsdell, Silver Lake Beach, and Keyes parks before severe drought conditions occurred. Treatments were rescheduled for early fall with excellent results. Mid-summer and late fall applications were applied to the Ramsdell Park ball field, and Gateway and Wargo Court parks.

TruGreen ChemLawn provided pre-emergent and fertilizer applications at City Hall, the Library, SACA/MSC, 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.

Most athletic turf locations, liquor stores, and city-maintained properties were aerated and over-seeded in the fall. Dips and holes that cause tripping hazards throughout the parks system were filled and over-seeded. 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. At Keyes Park, staff assisted by the City Forester applied a specific blend of BioChar and compost to reduce compaction, increase the soil's water-holding capacity, and improve the overall profile of the athletic field.



Park Department Cont.

Park Improvements

To aid in ice rink flooding operations, the Park Department hauled in material to correct grading issues at the Ostrander Hockey rink.

As part of the Huset East picnic shelter paving project, the Park Department replaced worn-out charcoal grills. Part-time and full-time staff completed numerous painting projects and repairs throughout the city.

Furnace failures that led to freezing water pipes at Keyes and Huset parks required substantial plumbing and building repairs.

Ball Fields

One to five ballfields were prepared daily from April through October for scheduled use. Improvements were made to infield surfaces with the addition of new ag lime. Soccer returned in fall with four soccer fields being laid out and maintained in Huset Park.

Wading Pools and Splash Pad

The wading pools and splash pad were opened for the 2022 season on June 3. Stabilized chlorine was again in short supply in 2022. Working with a new vendor, the Park Department was able to acquire enough chlorine to operate the pools. The splash pad operated smoothly all summer. The wading pools and splash pad were closed for the season on Sept 6.

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.

Playgrounds

Routine safety inspections occurred on a monthly basis and staff repaired broken playground parts and equipment on an as-needed basis. Huset, Ostrander, Keyes, Sullivan, and Ramsdell playgrounds all received a top dressing of mulch exclusively designed for safe playground use. Full-time and part-time staff participated regularly in park and playground litter, trash, and other various types of cleanups.

Aerator Fountains

Aerator fountains were installed and operated on ponds at Huset and LaBelle parks on May 3. Aerator fountains at LaBelle Park became inoperable due to low water levels. The fountains were removed, cleaned, winterized, and stored for winter on Sept 20.



Park Department Cont.

Park Events

Numerous community events were held in the parks throughout the year. Huset Park was host to Music in the Park events on June 1, July 6, and Aug 3. The Art & Info Fair was held in Huset Park on June 23. Truck or Treat took place Oct 29. Movie in the Park events took place at Huset Park in August and at McKenna Park in September. The library put on numerous programs in Huset, Sullivan, Keyes, LaBelle, and Prestemon parks throughout the year.

Reservations

Park buildings and picnic shelters were used extensively throughout the year. There were 40 instances when park shelters were reserved on consecutive weekend days and required weekend service from public works staff. Picnic areas and bathrooms are thoroughly cleaned in preparation for these events and cleanup takes place following the picnic.

Training

Tim Lund re-certified his pesticide license in January. Tim Lund and John Nordlund re-certified their Tree Inspector license in March.

Personnel

The Park Department consisted of six full-time employees in 2022. Two seasonal employees assisted with park maintenance duties from April through December.

Miscellaneous Activities

- Park Department staff assisted the City Forester with tree maintenance and planting throughout the year.
- The Park Department assisted the Library, Recreation, City Hall, and the liquor stores with special projects and tasks including 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

Central Garage

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

Work Orders

The Central Garage processed 1,725 repair and work orders totaling 2,318 chargeable hours at \$76.50 per hour, plus a \$5.75 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, Park, Street, Water, and Fire Departments generated the most work orders in 2022.

Major Repairs

Major repairs in 2022 which resulted in equipment down time or altered daily work programs included:

• #3715	Replace Cylinder Head	\$9,753
• #8172	Replace Transmission/PTU	\$6,678
• #0083	Replace Hydraulic Cylinder	\$5,979
• #0130	Replace Tires	\$3,094
• #0473	Replace Transmission	\$2,269
• #0083	Repair Wing Plow	\$2,101
• #0083	Repair Transmission	\$2,087

Retired Equipment

- #0101 - 2006 International Jetter, Sewer
- #0201 - 2011 John Deere Gator, Parks

- #0211 - 2011 John Deere Z-Turn Mower, Parks
- #0411 - 2011 Ford Crown Vic, Sewer/Water
- #0405 - 2009 Lincoln MKS, Engineering
- #0501 - 2001 E250 Ford Van, Liquor
- #3711 - 2011 Ford Crown Vic, Fire

New Capital Equipment

- #0190 - 2022 International Jetter, Sewer
- #0203 - 2022 John Deere Z-turn Mower, Parks
- #0216 - 2022 Kromer line stripper, Parks
- #0480 - 2022 Daihatsu Hijet Mini Truck, Parks
- #0401 - 2022 Ford Mach-E, Engineering
- #0405 - 2022 Ford E-Van, Engineering
- #3722 - 2021 Pierce Fire Engine, Fire
- #3785 - 2022 Zodiac Rescue Boat, Fire

Fuel Usage

The City purchased 27,979 gallons of unleaded gasoline and 15,522 gallons of diesel fuel in 2022. The total cost of fuel purchased was \$137,149.

The City used 29,023 gallons of unleaded gasoline and 16,291 gallons of diesel fuel for a total of 45,314 gallons in 2022.

The Police, Street, Fire, and Park Departments used the highest amounts of fuel in 2022.

Personnel

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

Facility Maintenance

- In 2022 the Facility Maintenance department worked with the liquor operations manager on the second phase of LED retrofits for both Top Valu 1 and 2. This included LED lights around the show floor and additional lights at the checkout at Top Valu 1. CenterPoint Energy replaced the gas line and relocated the meter at Top Valu 2.
- An EV charger was installed at Public Works for two new EV vehicles.
- New LED bollards were installed in the front of the Public Safety building.
- The Facility Maintenance Supervisor worked with multiple departments and vendors on upgrading the fence around the Public Safety building.
- More renewable energy was purchased as more solar garden subscriptions came online.
- A new custodian was hired in 2022. Cassandra Spears took over cleaning City Hall for Juana who retired.

Urban Forestry Operations

Planting/Adopt a Boulevard Tree Program

Tree planting activities were partially funded by the MnDNR through a new urban and community forestry grant received in 2022.

The grant will run through June 2025 and includes planting 525 new trees over that time period, as well as EAB treatment for 275 city-owned ash trees. The total grant amount awarded to Columbia Heights was \$63,450.

2022 was the second year of the 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 will be provided by city staff. The program successfully matched volunteers with all trees planted in right-of-ways along streets in 2022, 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’s contract with Rainbow Treecare to provide preventative EAB injections for city-owned trees had its final year in 2022. Again, a discounted rate for residents interested in treating privately owned ash trees was provided. As part of the contract, Rainbow Treecare mailed a postcard to all residents of the City informing them of this opportunity.

Ninety-two city-owned ash trees were injected in June 2022 to prevent EAB infection. To provide outreach to property owners and residents about EAB management, urban forestry collaborated with city communications staff to produce EAB articles in the spring and summer city newsletters. A postcard was also mailed to all addresses in the city to increase outreach and sound the alarm about the critical levels of EAB infestation in the city.

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), as well as a newly awarded grant for \$63,450.00—Protect Community Forests by Managing Ash for EAB (2022-2025). Activities under the newly awarded EAB grant include the planting of 525 new trees to help replace valuable canopy cover lost to

EAB, as well as the continued preservation of 275 city-owned ash trees.

2022 Reimbursable Grant Activities

- 82 city-owned ash trees removed and stumps ground
- 166 new bare root trees planted
- EAB treatment of 92 city-owned ash trees by contractor (Rainbow Treecare)

The city was reimbursed a total amount of \$51,496.57 by the MnDNR for grant-related expenditures incurred in 2022.

Tree Inspection for Residents

Seventy-six free tree inspections were made for residents upon request. Issues included: Emerald Ash Borer infestations and management options, tree identifications, wounds and structural concerns, unusual bark shedding, box elder insects, encroachment upon buildings, drought, storm damage, early fall color, Dutch Elm Disease, and much more!

Tree Removals

- 118 total trees removed in 2022.
- 84 ash trees (82 as part of EAB grant)
- 3 construction-related (Engineering project area sidewalk repairs)
- 31 storm damage/hazardous

Collaboration with Fire Department

Forestry staff assisted the Fire department with tree-related issues during rental inspections and property maintenance inspections.

Urban Forestry Operations (Cont.)

Arbor Day Celebration/Arbor Day Tree Sale

The city partnered with Columbia Heights Public Schools to commemorate and celebrate Arbor Day in 2022. The celebration was held in late April at Ramsdell Park with 4 kindergarten classes and their teachers. Festivities included a speech by the Mayor of Columbia Heights and the planting/watering of the Arbor Day tree. An Eastern Red Cedar tree was planted by city staff and the participating kindergartners were given the opportunity to help water the tree.

The city also held its second annual Arbor Day Tree Sale in 2022. Forty-one 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. The Arbor Day tree sale was a collaborative effort by the city forester and events communication specialist. We hope to continue and grow this sale in the future.

Community Engagement and Outreach

In June of 2022 the city forester taught a tree identification workshop at Sullivan Park as part of the adult education series offered by the library. The class had 15 attendees and was very well received. Additional tree identification workshops will be held in the future.



Lim Genter and the City of Columbia Heights partnered with Highland for an Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony.

Refuse and Recycling

The Refuse and Recycling Department managed solid waste disposal as required by City Code Chapter 4: Municipal Services, Article VII: Garbage and Recycling Services, and further detailed in the Solid Waste Operating Policy. Services included curbside trash, recycling, yard waste & organic composting, plus special curbside collections (bulk, appliances, electronics, and mattresses/bedsprings), as well as a drop-off Recycle Center. The City provided these services to over 6,300 properties of which 154 are multi-dwelling with four or more units totaling over 2,500 apartments or condominiums. Total expenditures for all refuse operations were approximately \$2.3 million in 2022.

2022 was a very challenging year as our primary hauler, Waste Management, struggled to provide contracted services due to a severe lack of qualified drivers. This was the final year of their contract and staff had difficulty obtaining bids for services. Companies were citing a lack of qualified workers. Through great effort, staff was able to find alternate haulers to perform some of the services that Waste Management could not keep up with. By the end of the year, staff had secured new hauling contracts with Walters Recycling and Refuse for street side trash and recycling, Haul Star Sanitation for alley trash and recycling, and College Hunks Hauling Junk for bulk collection services. Walters was also awarded a contract to empty dumpsters. Haul Star was also awarded a one-year contract to empty the compost carts as we await a decision from our compost vendor about the long-term practicality of the compost cart collection system.

The City recycled 1,866 tons of material from residential curbside single-sort and other curbside collections (including bulk and organics) as well as the Recycle Center, which is a 4% increase from the previous year. The City increased organics service by 6% and currently 1,605 properties have a compost cart, which is 25% of all residential properties in Columbia Heights. In addition, the City collected yard waste for composting. All 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 numerous escalated service issues for residents, processed 571 service changes, and handled over 1,000 audit problems.

Refuse and Recycling (Cont.)

We thank the many vendors we partner with to accomplish solid waste collection, disposal, and recycling in the City:

- Better Futures
- Walters Recycling & Refuse
- Haul Star Sanitation
- Eureka Recycling
- College Hunks Haul Junk
- 1-800-Got-Junk
- Recycle Technologies
- Loe's Oil
- Second Chance Recycling
- Shred Right
- Anoka County Haz waste and yard/tree waste drop-off sites
- Waste Management hauling services
- Waste Management Materials Recycling Facility
- Biobag Americas
- Specialized Environmental Technologies
- Morrell trucking

The department participated in several programs and events for recycling activities in 2022:

- Recycling Champions recognition
- Citywide garage sale and reuse promotion
- Spring and fall recycle class and tour
- Spring recycle guide
- High School Key Club compost fundraiser
- Lions Club spring/fall cleaning events
- Multifamily building recycling improvement program
- Citywide garage sale and reuse promotion
- Spring recycle guide
- Lions Club spring/fall cleaning events

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 \$107,000 in MN State SCORE funds.

Thanks also to our community partners for working with the department to improve recycling:

- Columbia Heights/Fridley Kiwanis Club
- Columbia Heights Lions Club
- Anoka County Recycling Ambassadors
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- Re-Alliance Steel
- Xcel Energy (via SlipStream services)
- Trex, Inc.
- Coon Rapids Recycle Center
- Columbia Heights School District Community Education Department
- MN Composting Council
- Anoka County Recycling Resource Solutions Office



The City of Columbia Heights and the Columbia Heights Public Schools partner to visit recycling plants in the metro area.



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 following pages contain a vast number of community members that the Recreation Department reaches, hopefully enriching the quality of life.

With the support of the Mayor, City Council, Park and Recreation Commission, City Manager, and our 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	----
Paula Haynus	Half-time Recreation Clerk	Sept, 2000	----
Doodnauth Bisnauth Sue Wolney Brian Maharaj Steve Lindberg Randy Peterson Jessi Hennings Danny Fischer Jonathan Naula-Carchi	John P Murzyn Hall Custodian II Part-time	Sept, 1996 May, 1999 Aug, 2011 May, 2020 Sept, 2020 Oct, 2021 Jan, 2022 Feb, 2022	----

CITY PARK ADDRESSES & AMENITIES	BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELDS	BASKETBALL COURTS	INDOOR BATHROOM	T= TENNIS	V= VOLLEYBALL	B=BOCCIE BALL	GRILLS	HOCKEY & SKATING RINKS	OPEN FIELD SPACE	PICNIC TRAILS	PICNIC TABLES	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	•				•			•	•			•	•				
LA BELLE 1150 42ND AVENUE					•			•	•	•	•						•
LOMIANKI 80 39TH AVENUE								•		•		•					
MCKENNA 4757 7TH STREET	•		•		•	•	•	•		•		•				•	•
OSTRANDER 1500 40TH AVENUE					•	•	•	•		•		•					
PRESTEMON 3900 MCKINLEY STREET	•	•			•			•	•	•		•	•				•
RAMSDALL 4956 JOHNSON STREET	•		•		•	•			•	•	•	•				•	•
SILVER LAKE 4305 STINSON BOULEVARD				V	•	•			•	•	•	•			•		•
SULLIVAN LAKE 721 51ST AVE			•	T	•	•		•	•	•	•	•					•

Park and Recreation Commission

Tom Greenhalgh, Chairperson
 Sean Clerkin, Jr.
 Becky Groseth
 Rachel James
 Nicole Peterson
 Brian Clerkin
 Dayna Gulley
 Andy Macko

Connie Buesgens, City Council Liaison
 Kevin Hanson, Director of Public Works/City Engineer
 Keith Windschitl, Recreation Director
 Deanna Saefke, Recreation Secretary

Recreation Highlights

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 three years, in the hopes that in 2023 another three 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 2022, rental of park facilities was provided for a small fee of \$46.67 plus tax for Columbia Heights residents, \$140.02 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 2022: 210

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 2022, 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



The City of Columbia Heights Community Garden Plots are very popular and fill up every year.

Community Garden Plots

The Recreation Department offered Community Garden Plots located on Reservoir Boulevard. In 2022 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 2022: 48

Youth Programs

The families and kids in our community bring so much joy to the Recreation Department! We have many returning participants in recreation activities and events. Listed below are the youth enrichment and special events programs provided for youth in 2022. They are broken down into specific areas that show the variety of programs offered.

Youth, Community Enrichment and ENCORE Grant Programs

Listed are the youth enrichment and special event programs offered in 2022.

Youth Enrichment	Total Attendees
Dance: Ages 4-14, Boys and Girls	89
Summer Park Programs:	
Dyno-Hites and Glitter Bugs	67
Mini Musicians	14
Get Egged - Dinosaur	32
Total	202
Community Enrichment Events	Total Participants
Great CH Bake Off	11
Wreath Making	8
Total	19
ENCORE: 21st Century Learning Communities, Grant Funded	Total Participants
Adventure/Trips	353
Arts and Science	245
Summer Park Programs:	
S.P.A.R.K.S. and T.N.T.	85
Theater and Puppet Wagon	107
Youth Development and Sports	61
Total	851



Not only does the Columbia Heights Recreation Department offer programming to get active, but also offers programming in STEM.



Youth Programs (Cont.)

Audiences and Miscellaneous Programs	Estimated Totals
Theater and Puppet Wagon Audience/Also presented online	1,069
Columbia Heights ISD #13 School Lunch Program	1,419
TOTAL	2,488
Youth Trips - Holiday and non-school day trips (Coded/funded under the After School Programs Budget)	Attendance
Hylander Center/Youth Lab	32

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. Overall, our numbers have increased in all areas of youth athletics.

Youth Athletics Programs	Attendance
Include: Ice Skating, Baseball, Soccer, Martial Arts, Softball, Basketball	531

Athletics and Classes

Adult Athletics, 55+ and Enrichment	Attendance
Stompin' At The Hall	70
Adult Aerobic Dance	73
Total Body Conditioning	77
Crochet Class	40
Zumba & Yoga	140
Adult Softball	
Slow Pitch Summer-Fall Men's/Co-Ed	21 teams/273 players
TOTAL	673

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

Listed below is an attendance summary of programs held in 2022.

Senior Programs (regularly occurring)	Attendance
Regular Occurring	4,600
Art Classes	286
Specialty Events and Classes	600
Defensive Driving Refresher Course	127
Mini Bus Day Outings	460
Total	6,073



Above: The Columbia Heights Active Agers program is full of fun and activities for people over 50 plus.

John P. Murzyn Hall

Similar to years past, Murzyn Hall was booked for most weekends throughout 2022. Almost all Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays were booked from April through September.

In addition to housing the Recreation Department, Murzyn Hall was used by many local civic and community groups in one capacity or another in 2022. 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 2022	
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 Lion's Club	Toastmasters
Columbia Heights Liquor Operations	Train Collectors
Columbia Heights Police Association	University Heights Condominiums
Columbia Heights Police Department	West Coast Swing Dance
Columbia Heights Public Works	

John P. Murzyn Hall Cont.

John P. Murzyn Hall (Packages: Hall, Kitchen, LaBelle Lounge)	Totals
Resident Rentals	50
Non-Resident Rentals	25
Paid Rentals: Includes Packages	Totals
Funerals	2
Birthday Parties	39
Classes/Seminars/Meetings	10
Parties/Banquets	36
Holiday Parties	0
Wedding Receptions	11
Fundraisers	0
Total	99



THANK YOU!

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

