

CITY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2019



Cover photo by Dustin Scholl

Finally! Summer is here and the Huset Park West splash pad is scheduled to open by June 1. The annual Community Picnic will be held around the splash pad June 27. More info on page 3.

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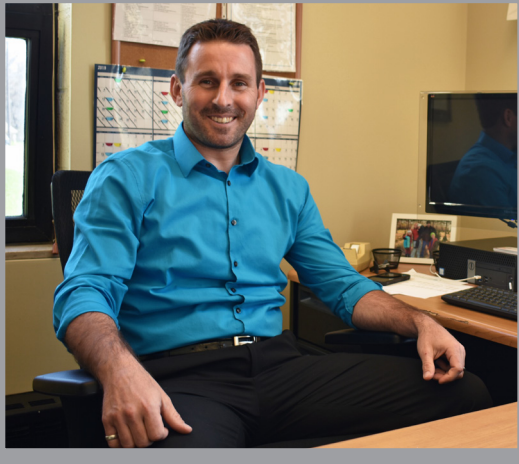
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
REDISCOVER THE HEIGHTS

SEE FLIP SIDE FOR RECREATION PROGRAMS

PRRST STD
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TWIN CITIES, MN

City of Columbia Heights
590 40th Ave., N.E.
Columbia Heights, MN 55421
763-706-3600

Columbia Heights Welcomes New Community Development Director



Aaron Chirpich started as new Community Development Director April 2, 2019.

Aaron Chirpich is passionate about helping communities reach their maximum potential, and he sees a lot of opportunity in Columbia Heights.

“We have great people here,” Chirpich said. “Our geographical location is strong. Our commercial properties create great redevelopment opportunities. I’m excited to get started.”

Chirpich became the City’s new Community Development Director this April, taking over from former director Joseph Hogeboom, who left the position this winter. Chirpich previously worked as Community Development Specialist for the City of New Hope and Development Director for the Headwaters Regional Development Commission in Bemidji. He has a master’s degree in public administration from Metropolitan State University and an undergraduate degree from Bemidji State University, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude.

“I like to help communities grow. I like to change the trajectory and bring something new,” Chirpich said. “There’s a lot of redevelopment potential, but it’s also important not to lose sight of the value of single-family neighborhoods. We want to make sure people continue to be happy about where they live. It’s about finding the right balance between commercial redevelopment and residential improvement. It’s all interconnected.”

For more information, the Community Development Department can be reached at 763-706-3670.



FACADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

Eligible business and commercial property owners can apply now for a chance to receive up to \$5,000 in matching grant aid for exterior storefront improvements through the Facade Improvement Grant Program, a collaborative effort between the Economic Development Authority and Columbia Heights Police Department, now in its second year. Any commercial properties located along Central Ave NE, between 37th and 47th Ave NE, and along 39th or 40th Ave NE, are eligible to apply.

In an effort to reduce crime and enhance safety in area business districts and along Central Ave, the Columbia Heights Police Department will also use the grant program to provide monitored surveillance adjacent to participating businesses.

Find the application at columbiaheightsmn.gov or visit City Hall to pick one up.

REVITALIZE • REHABILITATE • RESTORE

Application deadline: May 31



— JUNE 27 — Community Picnic and Art & Craft Fair

Community Picnic

4:30—7 pm, Huset Park West

The City of Columbia Heights' annual Community Picnic returns Thu, June 27, from 4:30 to 7 pm at Huset Park West. This year, the picnic will be offering an expanded arts and craft fair inside Murzyn Hall, so people can walk back and forth to each event. The Jamboree Carnival will also open June 27, so residents can make a day out of visiting Huset Park!

The picnic will feature booths with officials from City and community organizations, children's activities around the splash pad, a fishing clinic, and free tacos and refreshments while supplies last. Check columbiheightsmn.gov for full details.



Art and Craft Fair

4:30—7:30 pm, Murzyn Hall

Check out the wares of local artisans at the Art and Craft Fair occurring in conjunction with the Community Picnic June 27. There will be about 30 vendors inside Murzyn Hall with art, crafts, and other hand-made products for sale. There will also be free wine samples courtesy of Top Valu Liquor, and beer for sale.

To sign up to be a vendor, please call 763-706-3734.

Jamboree celebrations occur June 26-30, with the parade June 28 and fireworks June 29. For a full calendar of events, visit columbiheightsmn.gov/departments/recreation/jamboree.php





The Columbia Heights Bike Fixit Station, installed this spring, can be found near the library's back entrance and includes all the tools necessary to perform basic repairs, from changing a flat to adjusting brakes. The tools and air pump are attached with steel cables and tamper-proof fasteners.

Bike Fix-It Clinic at Library

Sat, June 1, 11 am-1 pm

Join bike hobbyist and enthusiast Keith Pearson for a Bike Fix-It Clinic at the library's new bike fix-it station! Drop in anytime between 11 am and 1 pm for help with tune-ups, tire repair, changing tires, adjusting brakes and dérailleurs, and any bike-related questions you might have in order to hit the roads and trails this summer.

Free. No registration required.

Library Card Smartpass

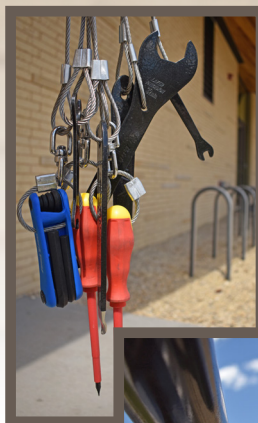


Did you know? If you have a library card in the Twin Cities, you have the opportunity to reserve free and/or

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

FIXIT STATION

*All the tools you need
for basic bike maintenance can be found
at the newly installed
Columbia Heights Public
Library Fixit Station!*



The installment helps support the library's mission to provide residents access to resources, information, and technology in a welcoming environment that can improve their lives. The bike fixit station combines tools and technology with apt informational resources at the library like "The Bicycling Guide to Complete Bicycle Maintenance and Repair," "Bicycle Repair: Step by Step," "Kids Easy Bike Care" and "Bike Repair and Maintenance for Dummies," so that library users can get back in gear.

For more info, visit www.anokacounty.us.

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

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



Library Program Highlights

Below is a small sampling of upcoming activities at the library. For a full list, visit www.anokacounty.us/events, or call 763-706-3690 to register.

Adult Programs

Author Talk: Colin Mustful

Wed, June 19, 6 pm

Resisting Removal, an historical account of the Sandy Lake Tragedy, will be presented by the author.

Intro to Hardanger Embroidery

Wed, June 26, 5:30-7:30 pm

Registration required.

Presentation: Road to Stardom

Wed, July 10, 6 pm

Kathleen Baxter talks about Highway 14's influence on three MN authors: Maude Hart Lovelace, Wanda Gag, and Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Library Book Club

10 am: June 19, July 17, Aug 21

Senior Surf for Adults 55+

9:30-11:30 am, June 5, July 3, Aug 7

Get hands-on computer and internet experience at these monthly educational workshops. Registration required.

English Conversation Circles

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

Drop in for these English language group practice sessions.

Teen Programs

Improv 101*

Thu, June 13, 2-4 pm

For teens who want to sharpen their improvisational skills and learn basic improv techniques. Registration required. Grades 6 and up.

Aquaponics*

Thu, July 18, 2-3:30 pm

Learn the basics of growing food in a aquaponics system. Grades 6 and up. Registration required.

Printmaking for Apparel**

Thu, June 27, 2-3:30 pm

Fuse the world of fashion and art by creating original T-shirt designs. Grades 6 and up. Registration required.

Embroidery 101

Thu, Aug 8, 2-4 pm

Learn a set of basic embroidery stitches and create a take-home project. Grades 6 and up. Registration required.

Kid Programs

Birding Day Camps*

Tue, June 18, 2-4 pm. For grades K-2

Wed, June 19, 2-4 pm. For grades 3-5

Thu, June 20, 2-4 pm. For grades 6-8

Registration required.

Spark Y STEAM Camp*

July 24-26, 2-4 pm

Learn about circuitry and DNA extraction, and build a hydraulic tentacle! Grades 3-6. Registration required.

Hand-Sewn Necklaces**

Tue, Aug 6, 2-4 pm

Learn to hand sew and use appliqué techniques to create a mini-pouch necklace. Grades K-5.

Storytelling Camp**

July 9-11, 2-4 pm

Learn storytelling and performance skills! Grades 1-5. Registration required.

Library Live!

2 pm: Schiffelly Puppet show (June 26), Siama's Congo Magic (July 17), Reptiles and Amphibians (July 31)

*This program is partially funded with a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education using federal funding, CFDA 84.287, Every Student Succeeds Act, Title IV B-21 Century Community Learning Centers. The content of this program does not necessarily represent the policy of the federal Department of Education or the Minnesota Department of Education. **Funded by the MN Arts and Cultural Heritage fund.

Storytime @ the Library

June 10-July 22

Family Storytime

Mondays, 10:30-11 am

Summer Reading Kickoff!

Wed, June 12, 1-3 pm

Juggling, crafts, and fun for families

Library Hours

Mon-Wed, 9 am to 8 pm

Thu-Fri, 9 am to 5 pm

Sat, 11 am to 4 pm

Library Closures

Mon, May 27 • Thu, July 4 • Sat, Aug 31

3939 Central Ave NE • (763) 706-3690

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov

Cable Channel 19

Facebook: @ColumbiaHeightsPublicLibrary

FAQs: Summer Projects & Permits

Driveways

- A Building Permit is NOT required to replace a driveway except in cases where the driveway is being moved or widened, altering the curb cut, in which case a work-within-right-of-way permit is required.
- Minimum driveway width is 12 feet.
- All off-street parking areas, all driveways leading to such parking areas, and all other areas upon which motor vehicles may be located must be surfaced with a dustless all-weather hard surface material. Acceptable surfacing materials include asphalt, concrete, brick, concrete pavers, or similar materials rated for use on driveways and parking lots per industry standards.
- Crushed rock is NOT considered an acceptable surfacing material
- Storm water runoff from the driveway must be directed to the street or alley.
- Storm water runoff cannot pass onto adjacent properties or drain toward the house.

Residential Fences

- Fences less than 6-feet tall do NOT require a permit. Fences above 6 feet require a conditional-use permit.
- Maximum front yard fence height is 42 inches, unless the fence is less than 50% opaque.
- All fence posts and supports must be within the property lines where the fence is located. The property owner is responsible for locating all property lines prior to fence construction.
- The finished or more attractive side of the fence must face toward the public.
- Fences within a recorded City easement must be moved by the owners when access to the easement would require the removal of the fence.
- Approved fence material: galvanized/vinyl chain-link, wood-treated, wood naturally resistant to decay.

Swimming Pools

- A building permit IS required for above-ground pools in residential areas where the pool walls are entirely above the adjacent grade and the capacity exceeds 5,000 gallons, or the depth exceeds 42 inches.
- Portable pools must not be located within 5 feet of any side or rear lot line, or within any required front or side yard
- Portable pools must not be in place longer than six months of a calendar year.
- Pools must be set back at least 5 feet from any property line, including any walks, paved areas or related structures or equipment.

For more info on fences and pools, call 763-706-3670. For more info on driveways, call 763-706-3700.



**3rd Annual
Citywide
Garage Sale**

June 8

Visit columbiaheightsmn.gov or call (763) 706-3670 to get on the map!



Charter commissioners from left to right: Steve Smith, Patrick McVary, Rob Fiorendino, Kathy Ahlers, Carolyn Laine, Joe Schluender, Tom Kaiser, Gregory K. Sloat, Kt Jacobs, Ramona Anderson, Frost Simula, Bill Hugo, Matt Abel, Susan Wiseman. Not pictured: Tyler Eubank

Commission Spotlight

The City of Columbia Heights has several boards and commissions that advise the City Council on specific policies and make recommendations based on research and staff expertise. Columbia Heights has seven boards and commissions: The Charter Commission, the Economic Development Authority (EDA), the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), the Library Board, the Parks and Rec Commission, the Planning Commission, and the Traffic Commission. Over the next year, a different commission will be highlighted in each newsletter.

Charter Commission

The Columbia Heights City Charter determines the procedures of City government in accordance with state statutes and the Minnesota State Constitution. The Charter enables the City of Columbia Heights to be a self-governing City under the municipal home rule provisions of the Constitution. Under the Charter, the City has adopted the council-manager form of government.

The Council receives advice about Charter changes and updates from the Charter Commission, which is charged with keeping the document current under procedures authorized by state statutes. The Charter Commission

must have no more than fifteen and no less than seven members, who are appointed to four-year terms by the Chief Judge of Anoka County District Court. Any Columbia Heights resident of legal voting age can apply to the commission. Expiring board and commission terms are reviewed annually in the spring.

The Charter Commission meets quarterly on the third Thursday of the month in January, April, July and October, usually in Conference Room 1 of City Hall. The public is free to attend these meetings. The complete City Charter can be read at columbiaheightsmn.gov.

IMPORTANT CITY CONTACTS

CITY OFFICES.....(763) 706-3600
 Administration.....(763) 706-3610

 Public Works Dept.(763) 706-3700
 Garbage/Refuse Pick-up/
 Recycling (Waste
 Management)(888) 960-0008
 Utility Billing.....(763) 706-3640

 Fire Dept. Administration & Information/
 Emergency
 Management.....(763) 706-8150
 Fire Chief.....(763) 706-8152

Police(763) 706-8100

 Community
 Development.....(763) 706-3670

 Bldg. Permits/
 Licenses.....(763) 706-3678

 Recreation Dept.....(763) 706-3730
 24-Hour Info. Line-Murzyn Hall info., Weather
 Cancellations,
 Directions(763) 706-3737
 Murzyn Hall Rental.....(763) 706-3734

Mayor Donna Schmitt.....(763) 706-3607
 Councilmember Buesgens.....(763) 788-5072
 Councilmember Murzyn(763) 781-4983
 Councilmember Novitsky.....(612) 760-4463
 Councilmember Williams(763) 788-1113

 City Newsletter editor(763) 706-3615

 Emergency.....911

MORE INFO AT:
www.columbiaheightsmn.gov

Police Department Welcomed Four New Officers Over the Last Year

In the last year, the Columbia Heights Police Department welcomed four new officers: Thomas Hall, Avery Harris, Jamie Mittelstaedt, and Mitchell Weisser. As candidates, all of these officers had not only demonstrated an interest in law enforcement, but they also shared a passion for community service, something the CHPD heavily values when considering officer candidates, said Chief Lenny Austin.



Avery Harris, who became an officer through the department's Pathways program, was sworn in by Chief Lenny Austin March 20, 2019

In addition to real-world experience in community outreach, the CHPD also looks for officers with experience working with multi-cultural communities and at-risk youth, Austin said. The CHPD strongly encourages those seeking employment as an officer with the department to obtain their bachelor's degree in criminal justice or a related field, volunteer in their communities, and show an interest in learning more. The CHPD offers a police ride-along to anyone interested, and several other educational opportunities. More info at columbiaheightsmn.gov.



Mitchell Weisser, pictured here with his parents on his swearing-in day, was sworn in Jan 14, 2019



Jamie Mittelstaedt (left), pictured here at a Coffee With a Cop event, was sworn in May 21, 2018



Thomas Hall was sworn in Aug 30, 2018.

2019 National Night Out Is Tue, Aug 6

National Night Out is an annual community-wide event that promotes strong police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer places to live and work. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. The next National Night Out is Tue, Aug 6. For info on hosting/registering your own event, call 763-706-8142.

Curfew Reminder

Columbia Heights City Ordinance sets curfew limits for youth 17 and younger.

Curfew for children 15 and under is 10 pm on weekdays and 11 pm Friday and Saturday. Curfew for 16- and 17-year-olds is 11 pm on weekdays and midnight Friday and Saturday.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Columbia Heights Police Department office is open Mon-Fri, 8 am to 4:30 pm. The telephone number is (763) 706-8100. Call 911 in an emergency. The office is located in the Public Safety building, 825 41st Avenue NE. The police department offices are closed on weekends and holidays.

A telephone is located inside the entry doors that can be used after hours to request assistance.

For general information, activities, ordinances, and services, visit www.chpolice.com, find us on Facebook, [com/chpolice](https://www.facebook.com/chpolice), and follow us at twitter.com/colhgtspolice.



SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS

Two of the best and simplest precautions people can take to protect themselves from severe weather is to remain vigilant and take warnings seriously. If you're planning outdoor activities, or know you might be away from a safe shelter for a period of time, check the forecast and be as aware as you can regarding potential severe weather threats, says Fire Chief

Gary Gorman. Don't plan to be outside if the forecast predicts severe weather. And when you are outside, identify the nearest shelter in case of a sudden weather shift. Finally, if you hear sirens, don't hesitate to get to shelter. A siren is warning you of an imminent threat. You may not have more than a few minutes to reach a safe place.

-SAVE THE DATE- **FIRE SAFETY OPEN HOUSE** **Sept 28, 11 am to 2 pm | Public Safety Building**



FIRE DEPARTMENT

825 41st Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421
fire@columbiaheightsmn.gov

Be up to date on activities and regular safety reminders of the Columbia Heights Fire Department by following us on Facebook @columbiaheightsfire.



Non-Emergency: (763) 706-8150
Emergency: Call 911
Housing Maintenance Inspections: (763) 706-8156
fireinspections@columbiaheightsmn.gov

Grants to Help City Improve Silver Lake Boat Landing Stormwater Pond

Funding from Grants to Cover More Than 80% of the Cost of the Water Quality Project

The City recently received a state grant for up to \$260,000 and a Rice Creek Watershed Urban Stormwater Remediation grant for \$33,000 to renovate the stormwater collection pond adjacent to the Silver Lake Boat Landing. Stormwater collection ponds are necessary to help keep sediment and other pollutants from getting into lakes and rivers.

Silver Lake was identified by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as an impaired water body for excess phosphorous. The City has made significant progress reducing pollutants in the lake since then, but the work isn't done yet, said Kevin Hansen, Director of Public Works.

With funding help from the grants, the City will resize the pond and build a natural vegetation buffer zone around it to improve its filtration capacity. The vegetation will include native and pollinator plants. The pond depth will also be increased. The increase in water volume will allow for longer water retention periods to remove total phosphorous and sediment amounts before emptying into the lake.

The project is adjacent to Stinson Blvd, 150 feet from the Silver Lake Boat Landing.

"This will really improve the quality of the water that flows into Silver Lake," Hansen said.

The \$350,000 project should be completed by late fall. The City is also applying for a DNR grant to renovate the boat landing itself.



Reminder: What Washes Off Your Property Ends Up In Local Waterways

Curbside storm drains channel groundwater runoff from lawns, sidewalks, driveways and parking lots, which then flows into the storm drainage system and empties into local ponds, lakes, streams, and rivers. Pollutants in this water harm wildlife and recreation areas, so please be mindful about what you put on your lawns and driveways. Special concerns include phosphorus fertilizers, petroleum products, salt, garbage, and erosion sediments.

Information about storm water will be available at the **Columbia Heights Community Picnic June 27 (see page 3)**. Columbia Heights has developed a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program in response to Federal and State regulations concerning the quality of water entering waterways from drainage systems. The public will have a chance to give input on the program at the June event.

The Columbia Heights drinking water quality Consumer Confidence Report is available at this URL: <https://bit.ly/2Ylpqed>
You can also request a paper copy by calling 763-706-3700

Emerald Ash Borer Beetle: Identification and Precautions

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture confirmed an emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation in Anoka County.

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

When Checking for EAB:

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



- Contact a professional. If you feel your ash tree may be infested with EAB, contact a tree-care professional, your City forester, or the MDA at arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us or 888-545-6684.

Tips to Keep EAB From Spreading:

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

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

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

Spring Cleaning Is a Great Recycling Opportunity

As you're cleaning out the house for summer, or if you have items left over after a garage sale, please consider your recycling options. The City of Columbia Heights and other local vendors provide many free recycling opportunities to properly dispose of most household items:



Consider donating used clothes and furniture instead of throwing away.

- Columbia Heights Recycling Center, 3801 Madison St NE, visit columbiaheightsmn.gov.
- Appliance recycling curbside pickup (one free pick up per year), call 1-888-960-0008; electronics recycling, \$20 flat fee per pick-up, call 1-888-960-0008.
- Fix-It clinics, visit www.anokacounty.us/3432/Fix-It-Clinics
- Household items, clothing, and furniture donations, visit columbiaheightsmn.gov for listings of donation vendors.
- Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 3230 101st Ave NE., Blaine MN 55449, call 763-324-3400

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

Waste Management Adds Robotic Arms to Collection Process

You may have noticed a new truck picking up your trash and single-sort recycling. Over the last few months, Waste Management has started using a robotic arm truck for all street-side pickups.



Please place your carts just behind the curb on pickup day and leave room around the cart so the auto-arm can grab it. Please call 1-888-960-0008 if there are any items outside of the cart so arrangements can be made to collect those, as well. Affected properties will be provided instructions on their carts within a couple of weeks. Alley, "walkup," and yard waste/organic services are not affected.

MAKE SURE TO SEPARATE OUT FILM PLASTIC

Please do not dispose of your recyclables in a plastic bag. Plastic bags and other film plastics clog the recycling system and break the machines. Plastic bags and film plastic can be recycled, but they must be brought into the Recycling Center separate from all other recycling. The same applies for Styrofoam.

Film plastic and Styrofoam should never go into your recycling cart.

Other items that should not be recycled include paper products that have gotten wet or soiled by food (like pizza boxes, which can be composted), most wrapping paper, and paper decorated with glitter.



Plastic Recycling Challenge

For the first time starting this year, the Columbia Heights Recycling Center, located at 3801 Madison St NE, will be accepting plastic bags and other film plastic for recycling. These products must be brought to the Recycling Center separate from other single-sort recycling (see info above). If the City can recycle 500 pounds of film plastic in a six-month period, Trex Inc. will donate a park bench to the City made entirely of recycled film plastic.

Refuse Holiday Schedule

- **Memorial Day, May 27**
Service delayed all week
- **Independence Day, Thu, July 4**
Service delayed Thursday and Friday
- **Labor Day, Mon, Sept 2**
Service delayed all week

If you sign up for a yard-waste/organics cart, you get a free bag of compost.

Email publicworks@columbiaheightsmn.gov to order your cart today!

Waste Management

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

City Refuse/Recycling website

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/departments/public_works/
Public Works Department Phone: (763) 706-3700

Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions

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

Refuse Service Levels and Rates

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/departments/public_works/refuse_and_recycling/



Liquor Sales Contribute to City

Top Valu Liquor has been municipally owned since 1934, and it continues to generate strong revenue for the City. These revenues keep property taxes down by helping to pay for City services such as community policing programs, street reconstruction, and administrative overhead.



Top Valu Wine Samples at the **Community Picnic**

June 27, 5 to 7:30 pm
in Murzyn Hall



TOP VALU LIQUOR

Top Valu #1: 4950 Central Ave

Top Valu #2: 2105 37th Ave NE

Heights Liquor: 5225 University Ave NE

2019 Outstanding Citizen Catherine Miske Named 2019 Winner

The kind of people who get nominated for Columbia Heights' Outstanding Citizen Award tend to have a healthy dose of humility. So when Catherine Miske received a call from Columbia Heights City Hall, she assumed she was in trouble.

"At first I thought, 'why is the City calling me, is my yard not up to standard? Are there too many toys out front?'" Miske said. The City was actually calling to inform her she had been selected as the 2019 Outstanding Citizen winner.

Miske was nominated by Katherine Hosch and Cheri Fischer, who highlighted Miske's work as a Cub Scout volunteer at Immaculate Conception Church and liturgy coordinator at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, where she works with Deaf and hard-of-hearing youth. She hosts Boy Scout programs out of her house, and regularly arranges to bring kids to area nursing homes to sing songs, play games, and do projects with the residents.

Miske moved to Columbia Heights in 1986 and raised three children here. She has been a volunteer for the Columbia Heights Public Schools reading and theater programs. She has also stepped in to help with youth programs at the Columbia Heights Public Library when the library was short-staffed.

"I think part of the responsibility of living in a community is to support it and try to give back as much as you can," Miske said.

Miske was selected from a group of nominees by Mayor Donna Schmitt and last year's Outstanding Citizen winner Tanya Moore. Nominations can be submitted by anyone. The only requirement is that those who are nominated live in Columbia Heights. The selection process gives extra consideration to people who have not otherwise been publicly recognized. For more information about Miske and the award, visit columbiaheightsmn.gov and click on the Outstanding Citizen tab under Community.

