



A view from the Silver Lake boat landing, which is undergoing a complete renovation this summer, with construction expected to be finished in September. More info on page 8.

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COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
REDISCOVER THE HEIGHTS

City Governance in a Time of Uncertainty

How COVID-19 Will Effect City Programs, Events, and Services Over the Next Few Months

As you all know, the COVID-19 outbreak has created a rapidly evolving situation. As of press time, the Governor's stay-at-home order is still in effect. The Fire and Police departments are still responding to calls, though with some limitations on what they respond to, in order to protect the health of the first-responders.

We are sad to report that many summer events are not moving forward. The annual Columbia Heights Community Picnic, the Citywide Garage Sale, the Lions Jamboree, including the fireworks and parade, are all canceled this year. Wading pools and the Huset Park splash pad will also be closed. National Night Out may still take place, but keep an eye on the City's website at columbiaheightsmn.gov for updates. There are also possibilities for various virtual alternatives to these community gatherings. Keep an eye out for those as well.

The Facade Improvement Program will move forward, though in a tentative capacity. Local businesses are also encouraged to apply for assistance at anokacountysuccess.org/covid-19-anoka-county-business-resources/

City Hall, the Library, and the Public Safety building remain closed for in-person visits as of press time. To pay utility bills, all methods are available except walk-in payments.

The City is not scheduling field staff at this time for inspections of water meters. They will estimate the customer's quarterly bill until it's safer to conduct this non-emergency work in-person. For an emergency, like a broken pipe, field staff will respond and coordinate any required City action with the customer's plumber.

A regularly updated list of City closures, reopenings, and other changes, and a list of area restaurants that still offer delivery or takeout, is available online at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/covid

Useful Links for More Information

www.anokacounty.us/coronavirus

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov

www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/covid

A Message from the Mayor and City Council

We are in challenging times, but we want to reassure you that our City staff is prepared and connected to Anoka County for a continuity of essential City services, and our Public Safety department is following a step-by-step Pandemic Preparedness Plan.

This is a scary time, but it is also a time for us to find ways to help our neighbors and families, a time for us to do our part to slow the spread of this disease by sticking to the social distancing recommendations, a time for us to show courage and kindness in the face of adversity. Watch out for your neighbors. Call those who may be housebound. Keep connected to family and friends, either with social media, phone, video chats, or a note in the mail. Please consider dropping off snacks or other

nonperishable foods for neighbors in need or bring them to the SACA Food Shelf, or volunteer at SACA. You can also donate homemade face masks to the Public Safety Building's donation bin.

Now that the weather is warmer, get out and walk around your block. If you have gloves or a garbage picker, help clean up your yard, street, or local park.



Columbia Heights firefighters, while practicing social distancing, have recently visited homes of kids and elders who have had their birthday parties canceled due to COVID to wish them "happy birthday" and deliver balloons and goodie bags.

If you are in need of help, please reach out to friends, neighbors, coworkers and your faith communities. If it is overwhelming, contact a counselor. Lee Carlson Center (763-780-3036) has worked with the City and the School District to offer help for teens and adults. Alexandra House (763-780-2330) offers help for victims of domestic violence. SACA (763-789-2444) and the Salvation Army serve Columbia Heights and are there to help with food and other items. If you have questions for City staff, please call 763-706-3600.

Even though social distancing requires us to stay apart, we will get through this together.



Heights UNDRED

- 1921 - 100 - 2021 -

Happy One Hundredth, Heights! 2021 Marks City's Centennial

The City of Columbia Heights is set to celebrate its centennial on July 21, 2021. Leading up to the big day, the City will kick-off the year-long celebration of events on July 21, 2020.

Throughout the year, residents are encouraged to share their stories in person and online, take part in volunteer opportunities, and attend community events.

Columbia Heights was officially incorporated as a city in the summer of 1921. We're currently looking for any historical materials that you might have and are willing to donate to the

Columbia Heights Public Library or the Anoka County Historical Society.

We're also encouraging residents to submit photos to the centennial photo contest. Submission deadline is Aug 5. Visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/photos for more information.

If you have ideas to share or are looking to get involved in other ways, please contact Will Rottler (wrottlr@columbiaheightsmn.gov) or at 763-706-3614 for more information. Or visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/hundred



PHOTO CONTEST: 100th Anniversary Calendar

Calling all photographers! The City will be making a commemorative 2021 calendar in honor of Columbia Heights' 100th anniversary. For the calendar, we are looking for photos taken within the City limits in a variety of seasons, and representing multiple aspects of the town and community. Photographers whose photos are chosen to be included in the calendar will receive recognition in the City Newsletter and a free copy of the calendar to keep. The photo submission deadline is Aug 5, 2020. Full submission guidelines at columbiaheightsmn.gov/photos. Historical photos also accepted.

Email images to photos@columbiaheightsmn.gov by Aug 5, 2020

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

Due to COVID-19 challenges, the nominee deadline for the Outstanding Citizen award has been postponed to Sept 8

It's Time to Turn In Your Census! *Let's Make Sure We All Count!*



Representatives from cities across the state, including Columbia Heights, attended a 2020 Census Kickoff rally at the State Capitol April 1, 2019, and spent the next year promoting the importance of the 2020 Census.

Are My Answers Safe and Secure?

The Census Bureau collects data for statistical purposes only. They combine your responses with information from other households or businesses, which never identify your household, any person in your household, or business. Your information is confidential. For more information, visit www.mn.gov.

To ensure Columbia Heights receives proper representation, we're calling on everyone to help increase awareness and encourage participation in the 2020 Census. Census forms are due by August 2020.

The census determines where district lines are drawn and where and how federal and state funding gets distributed. In fact, Minnesota stands to lose an estimated \$28,000 over the next 10 years for every one person who fails to be counted in the 2020 Census. Also, census data determines the number of seats the State has in the U.S. House.

You should have received a census form in the mail earlier this year. You can fill that out and mail it in, or you can fill out the form online. It takes about five minutes. Just go here: my2020census.gov

Keep in mind, if you do not fill out the census, census trackers will need to visit your home directly in order to get your information.

We Are Seeking Election Judges for August and November

Election judges are needed to help oversee both the primary and general elections coming up this August and November. This is a paid position and a great way to show pride in your community while learning about the election process.

Election dates are Tue, Aug 11, and Tue, Nov 3. Election Judges serve as the officials in the polling places on election day. Some duties include opening and closing the polls, registering and signing in voters, and distributing and collecting ballots.

Qualified candidates must be eligible to vote in the State of Minnesota and write and speak English. It is very beneficial if you can speak another language in addition to English. **Students 16 and older can serve as Student Election Judges.**

Serving is particularly beneficial for stu-

dents because they can learn about the power of their own vote through the vote of others. They will also gain skills they can apply elsewhere or put on a resume or college application.

Employers are required to give you time off from work to be an election judge without a reduction in pay. This means you get to earn at least the same amount you would have had you gone to work on election day.

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



IMPACT OF COVID-19

We understand there may be concerns about having close contact with large numbers of people while working at a polling place. We are working closely with our partners at the state and county levels to ensure a safe and healthy experience for all.

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

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

Library Programs Altered Due to COVID-19 Concerns

Below is a small sampling of upcoming activities. Visit www.anokacounty.us/events for a full list of events. Visit columbiaheightsmn.gov/covid for updates relating to COVID-19. Follow us on Facebook @columbiaheightspubliclibrary for daily updates on our programs and other news.

Curbside Pick-Up

The library is offering curbside pick-up service for items on hold. We are taking appointments from 12 pm to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. Staff are answering the

phone from 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. Please call us at 763-706-3690 with any questions or to schedule a pick-up appointment.

Adult Programs

Adult and Youth Summer Reading Program

Earn digital badges for minutes of reading, writing book reviews, and completing activities. Complete challenges and track your adventures using the Beanstack Tracker mobile app. Kids earn a free book with 20 badges; adults earn bragging rights and the joy of reading. June 1-Aug 15.

Virtual English Conversation Circle

Mondays, 6-7 pm, June-Aug

The library is partnering with the Adult Education Center-Columbia Heights/Fridley to offer a virtual (online) English Conversation Circle. Practice speaking English in a relaxed, comfortable environment, and meet new friends! The group is led by an adult ESL teacher. You'll need a Wi-Fi device and email address. Call 763-706-3690 to register.

Youth Programs

Found Object Wall Art, Thu, June 11, 2 pm

With all of us being stuck at home, we're more aware than ever of the odds and ends we have lying about. Ready to take a crack at cleaning out the junk drawer? Let's go for it and make some art! Turn trash into treasure in this fun and expressive sculpture workshop. Call 763-706-3690 for more information.

Papermaking at Home, Wed, Aug 12, 2 pm

Learn how to easily make paper pulp at home! All you'll need is some recycled paper, some water, and a couple of forks. An artist instructor will take us through the simple steps of breaking down recycled paper scraps and reconstituting them into new paper. Call 763-706-3690 for more information.

Wild and Wacky Mail Art, Tue, June 30, 2 pm

Just because we're physically separated doesn't mean we can't still connect through art! Join us as we learn about the wonderful, weird world of mail art. From the absurdism of the fluxus movement to the postcard art shows that happen annually across the globe, mail art is a popular, low-cost, high-impact way to share art with distant friends. Everyone is welcome to join in on this delightful movement! Call 763-706-3690 for more information.

Story Strolls

The library and parks departments are teaming up to bring you story strolls this summer. Gather your family, explore City parks, and read a story together! 10 am-4 pm: 6/9-Huset Park; 6/23-Sullivan Park; 7/7-Keyes Park; 7/21-Labelle Pond. More info on the Recreation side.

Family story times will continue virtually on Facebook, 10:30 am, Mondays, if stay-at-home orders continue. Visit columbiaheightsmn.gov for updates. Find info on the Summer Reading Program above.

Online Access

Wi-Fi, CloudLibrary, Library Cards

The Library has boosted its wi-fi signal to make it easier for people to connect to the Internet from the library's parking lot. Citizens can call or email to sign up for a

library card. This provides access to digital content and the ability to place holds on physical content. Sign up for cloudLibrary with a library card at www.yourcloudlibrary.com

Library Hours TBD
For updates, Email
chpl@columbiaheightsmn.gov
or call (763) 706-3690

Library Closures
Mon, May 25 • Fri-Sat, July 3-4

3939 Central Ave NE • (763) 706-3690

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov
Cable Channel 19
Facebook: @ColumbiaHeightsPublicLibrary



Election Spotlight

Voting Absentee FAQs

- Primary absentee voting period - June 26-Aug 10
- General Election absentee voting period - Sept 18-Nov 2
- In light of COVID-19, voting absentee is highly encouraged as it limits the amount of contact you have with other people. Here's how to do it:
 - You can vote in-person at City Hall (590 40th Ave NE) during normal office hours M-F, 8 am-4:30 pm. City Hall will also be open from 10 am-3 pm, Sat, Aug 8, for primary voting, and Sat, Oct 31, for general election voting. Offices will be closed July 3 and Sept 7.
 - **You can vote completely by mail** (this is the recommended option). It's free and convenient: First submit a request for an absentee ballot by filling out and turning in the absentee ballot application. You can fill it out online on the Secretary of State's website, or you can fill out a paper application and send it to Anoka County Elections by mail, fax, or email. If you would like a paper application to be sent to you by mail, please call Anoka County Elections at 763-324-1300. Ballot and voting materials will come to your home in the mail. Follow included instructions to fill out your ballot and seal it. Drop in the mail, postage is included
 - Links to absentee voting resources as well as other elections resources including a polling location finder, sample ballots, and voter registration info are available at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/elections

IMPACT OF COVID-19

Please be aware that due to COVID-19 there may need to be changes in how the election is conducted and information on this page is tentative. Voting precinct locations are also subject to change. For regular updates, please visit columbiaheightsmn.gov/elections.

Please feel free to also contact City Clerk Nicole Tingley with any questions at 763-706-3611 or ntingley@columbiaheightsmn.gov.

State Primary Election: Aug 11, 7 am-8 pm

General Election: Nov 3, 7 am-8 pm

Important 2020 Election Dates

May 19: Candidate filing period opens for municipal elections

June 2: Candidate filing period closes

June 26: Absentee voting for state primary begins

July 21: Last day to preregister to vote for the state primary

Aug 11: State primary Election Day, polls open 7 am to 8 pm

Sept 18: General election absentee voting begins.

Oct 20: Last day to preregister to vote for the general election

Nov 3: General election, polls open 7 am to 8 pm

Voting Locations

Precinct 1, John P. Murzyn Hall

530 Mill St NE

Precinct 2, Immaculate Conception Church

4030 Jackson St NE

Precinct 3, Columbia Heights Library

3939 Central Ave NE

Precinct 4, Highland Elementary School

1500 49th Ave NE

Precinct 5, First Lutheran Church

1555 40th Ave NE

Precinct 6, Highlander Center

1400 49th Ave NE

Precinct 7, Valley View Elementary School

800 49th Ave NE

Precinct 8, Valley View Elementary School

800 49th Ave NE



Candidate Filing

As of press time, the situation with COVID-19 has cast uncertainty over the election process. The City is moving forward with election plans as normal, but keep an eye on columbiaheightsmn.gov/elections for updates.

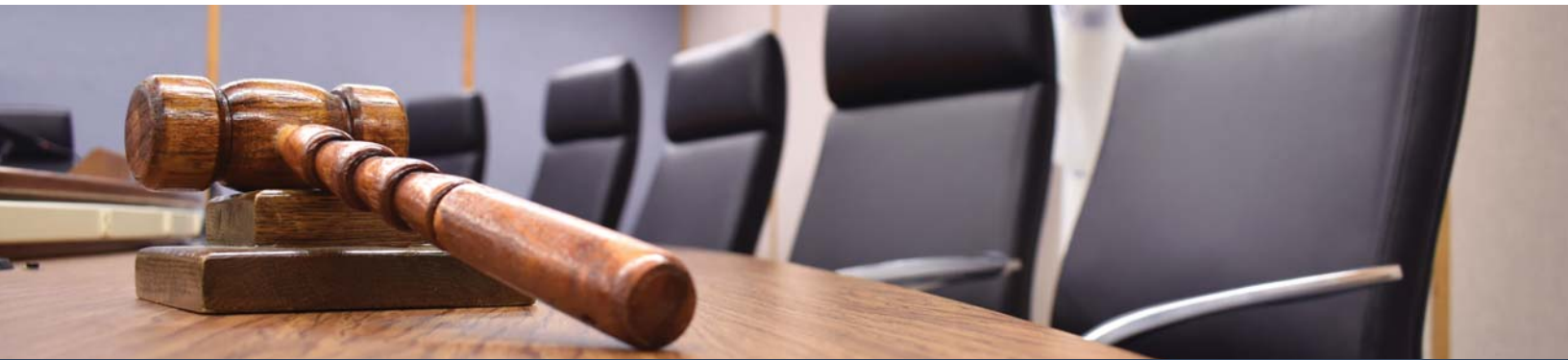
City Candidate Filing Window Open May 19 to June 2

Individuals interested in running for office must file an Affidavit of Candidacy and pay a \$15 filing fee at City Hall, 590 40th Ave. Filing dates are Tue, May 19, 2020, through Tue, June 2, 2020. For the Columbia Heights City Council, the following vacancies will be on the ballot: 2 at-large council seats and a mayor seat. Terms for the at-large council member positions are four years beginning Jan 4, 2021, and ending Jan 6, 2025. The term for the mayor position is two years beginning Jan 4, 2021, and ending Jan 2, 2023.

If the City receives five or more applications for councilmember, there will be a primary election for the

council. If the City receives three or more applications for mayor, there will be a primary election for mayor. The primary election will be held on Aug 11. Candidates must be qualified to vote in Minnesota, be at least 21 years old by the date of assuming office, and be City residents for at least 30 days before Election Day.

For questions, contact City Clerk Nicole Tingley at (763) 706-3611 or ntingley@columbiaheightsmn.gov. Additionally, please contact her by phone or email if you plan on filing for candidacy, because logistics and options on how to file for candidacy may change.



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

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

CHPD CONTINUES PEDESTRIAN SAFETY EFFORTS

In January of 2019, in light of a series of fatal crashes and other incidents, the Minnesota Department of Transportation completed a Road Safety Audit of the Highway 47 and Highway 65 corridors. The audit showed above average accidents involving pedestrians and bicyclists. A highlight of the project can be found at <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy-47andhwy65safetyaudit/index.html>.

MN Towards Zero Death held meetings at the Columbia Heights Library in 2019 to help start a coalition to proactively reduce the accidents from Columbia Heights to the Northtown area. CHPD developed a community oriented plan that focuses on both pedestrians and drivers in an attempt to educate the public on the laws. Eventually, this will lead to enforcement action for repeated offenders. Other parts of the plan involve researching bus stop locations, improving

lighting, and other physical road changes. As the CHPD plan progressed into 2020 the plan primarily focused on community outreach and education. Officers created safety videos for social media and conducted multiple “Crosswalk Events” where officers partnered with community members to stand at popular corners and hand-out educational postcards and reflective snap bracelets to those using the roads and sidewalks. The CHPD is also getting out pedestrian safety information through articles like this.

In early 2020, CHPD continued to reach out to area students, walkers, bikers, and drivers alike. These efforts will continue to focus on education and community outreach, as well as enhanced enforcement actions, to promote safer public transportation, safer sidewalks, safer bus stops, and increased driver safety. Note: These efforts will be curtailed during the COVID-19 situation.

The protection of not only our citizens but everyone who has the privilege to visit our fair City is of the top-most importance.



PEDESTRIANS

- Look both ways before crossing
- Make eye contact with drivers
- Watch for turning and passing vehicles
- Look across ALL lanes for moving vehicles
- Use a walking bridge to cross if one is present
- Don't stand in blind spots before crossing
- Cross in a well-lit area at night
- Wear bright colored clothing and reflective material
- Mount a safety flag on wheelchairs and strollers
- Cross streets at marked crosswalks—not mid-block
- Remove headphones, stay off of cell phones
- Obey ALL traffic signs & signals, but don't solely rely on traffic signals; look for vehicles before crossing
- If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic

DRIVERS

- Don't use your phone when you drive. Put it in the glove compartment or backseat, or turn on a do-not-disturb app, or buy a holder to clip your phone to the dash. You can use it in a voice-activated or single-touch mode
- Stop for crossing pedestrians at every intersection, even those without crosswalks or stop lights
- Before making a turn, look in all directions for pedestrians
- Obey speed limits and come to a complete stop at stop signs
- Do not put earphones in both ears at the same time. That is illegal in Minnesota
- Watch for people in wheelchairs and motorized carts, who may be below eye level

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, www.facebook.com/chpolice, and follow us at twitter.com/colhgtspolice.





ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS WANTED

The Columbia Heights Fire Department is seeking new firefighters to join its team. If you're 18 or older, live within six minutes of the fire station, and have a valid driver's license, you're eligible to apply. On-call firefighters get paid per call, and also receive \$15 an hour for training.

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

"We're offering training on weekends, during the week-day, and evenings," said Chief Charlie Thompson. "We want to accommodate as best we can."

"If you want to be a part of a professional and committed close-knit group and you want to do something that gives back to the community, this is a great path," Thompson said.

To learn more, please call 763-706-8150 or visit heightsfire.com.



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. 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.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Be up to date on activities and regular safety reminders of the Columbia Heights Fire Department by following us on Facebook [@columbiaheightsfire](https://www.facebook.com/columbiaheightsfire).



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

Silver Lake Boat Landing Will Undergo Complete Renovation this Summer

The City-owned and operated boat landing on Silver Lake is scheduled for a full replacement with a redesign this summer to improve access and maneuverability for trailers and boats. Because an existing sanitary sewer lift station interferes with the access and trailering near the water landing, the project will combine both the boat launch reconstruction and the relocation and reconstruction of the lift station. The proposed work also includes the con-

struction of a large retaining wall that facilitates a larger approach for trailering into the lake, an addition of parking down by the boat launch, a small upper parking lot, water quality improvements based on the new pavement, and a small dock to tie off a boat.

The boat landing is located off of Stinson Boulevard, just south of 41st Ave. The project will begin after the Fourth of July holiday and will be paid for with help from a DNR grant.

Last year, the City received a state grant and a Rice Creek Watershed Urban Stormwater Remediation grant for \$33,000 to renovate the stormwater collection pond adjacent to the boat landing. Stormwater collection ponds are necessary to help keep sediment and other pollutants from getting into lakes and rivers.

With funding help from the grants, the City resized the pond and built a natural vegetation buffer zone around it to improve its filtration capacity.



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 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.

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. To find out more about that, please visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/departments/public_works/stormwater.php

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

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.

In 2019, 28 participants from Columbia Heights joined the program, and 45 drains were adopted. Columbia Heights residents reported clearing 212 pounds of debris from drains in 2019. More volunteers are wanted. Collective action adds up.

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.

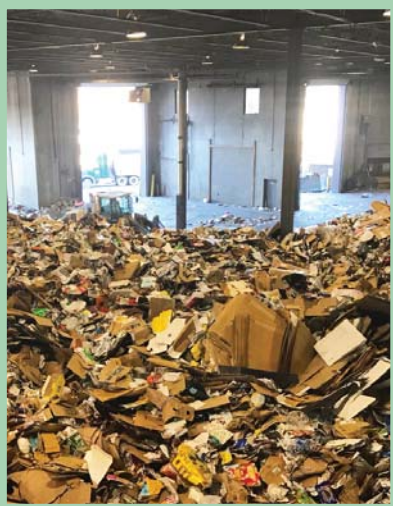


DUE TO COVID-19 AND THE CANCELLATION OF PUBLIC GATHERINGS, INFORMATION ABOUT STORM WATER WILL BE PROVIDED ONLINE IN 2020. The Public Works Department conducts a required public informational session on our SWPPP (Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program) annually. The public will have the opportunity to give input and comments on the SWPPP by e-mailing Lauren Letsche at lletsche@columbiaheightsmn.gov or calling 763-706-3709.

Water Quality CCR

The Consumer Confidence Report is online at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/ccr2019. Call 763-706-3700 to request a paper copy.

City Sees Major Increase in Recycling, Decrease in Trash Since 2017



Residents of Columbia Heights continue to do their part in helping decrease trash disposal and increase their recycling efforts. Since 2017, trash disposal has decreased by 12% and recycling has increased by 16%.

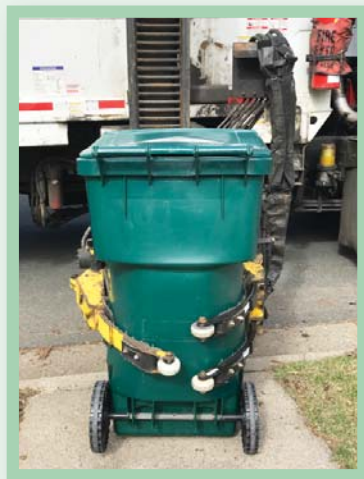
During 2019, the City disposed of 6,301 tons of trash, which was 4% less than the previous year, and recycled 1,955 tons of materials from residential curbside programs, the Recycling Center, and City facilities, an increase of 11% from 2018.

Additionally, residential households composted 1,602 tons of yard waste commingled with an estimated 184 tons of food organics.

The City's subsidized \$20 flat fee for electronics curbside recycling removed over 351 electronic items. The City offers one free appliance pickup per year to each property (call 1-888-960-0008 to request a pick-up). Through this service, 355 units were recycled in 2019. The City also recycled another 19 tons of problem/hazardous materials, mainly from the Recycling Center.

Bulk curbside recycling started last September. Over 100 mattresses were stripped down to their recyclable components. Another 30 had to be disposed of in the trash because they were too wet or had other issues.

For more information, visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refuseandrecycling



COVID IMPACTS

At press time, the uncertainty created by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis has made it difficult to plan for the future. We are looking at ways to reopen the recycling center. Because of this and other uncertainties, the best option is to regularly check columbiaheightsmn.gov for updates. There are several pages of information on the COVID-19 situation, including a page devoted to facility closures and reopenings. This page is updated regularly as new data comes in. Just visit the front page of the City's website and click the COVID-19 information button, and you will be directed to these resources. For more information about Anoka County Recycling, visit anokacounty.us/recycle.

Robotic Arms Used for Curbside Pickup

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

Refuse Holiday Schedule

- **Memorial Day, May 25**
Service delayed all week
- **Independence Day, Sat, July 4**
No delay in services
- **Labor Day, Mon, Sept 7**
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/refuserates

Treat or Remove Your Ash Trees Before It's Too Late!



The Minnesota Department of Agriculture confirmed an emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation in Columbia Heights in 2019. 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.

The DNR estimates that more than 5,000 ash trees are growing in the City, and the vast majority of those are on private properties.

Untreated ash trees in Columbia Heights will likely die within the next two to five years. Trees in the early stages of infection can still be saved with proper treatment, but homeowners must act soon.

As the infestation progresses, ash trees can decline and die quickly. Dead ash trees become brittle, more expensive to remove, and more likely to lose branches during a storm, which turns them into safety hazards and liabilities.

The City has contracted with Rainbow Treecare to treat public ash trees growing along streets and in parks. A city-wide bulk discount will be offered through 2020 to Columbia Heights homeowners for trees on private property that are at least 10" in diameter and in good physical condition. Visit rainbowtreecare.com/columbia-heights for more info.

For a free tree inspection from the City forester, call Public Works at 763-706-3700.

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 the.pest@state.mn.us or 888-545-6684.



Stop EAB Spread:

- Don't transport firewood. Buy firewood locally from approved vendors. 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

Two Top Valu Stores Are Open

Top Valu Liquor has been municipally owned since 1934, and it continues to generate strong revenue for the City. In light of the COVID-19 situation, Top Valu store #3 will be closed. Stores #1 and #2 are open, but with several precautions in place.



Stores #1 & #2

Mon–Sat, noon–8 pm

Limit of 10 customers in the store at a time.

Credit card purchases only.



— TOP VALU —

LIQUOR

Top Valu #1: 4950 Central Ave

Top Valu #2: 2105 37th Ave NE

Top Valu #3: 5225 University Ave NE