



Officer Greg Sinn demonstrates one of the City's two new public safety drones for use by Police and Fire in search and rescue and emergency response operations. More info inside on page 8.

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COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
REDISCOVER THE HEIGHTS

SEE FLIP SIDE FOR RECREATION PROGRAMS

City Now Accepting Nominations for 2021 Outstanding Citizen

Do you know of someone making a positive impact in our community? Someone who's gone unrecognized for the great things they've done to make the City a better place? Every year, Columbia Heights seeks nominations for an Outstanding Citizen. If you have someone in mind, please visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/outstanding to print out a nomination form, or stop by City Hall to pick one up. Completed nomination forms can be dropped off at City

Hall, mailed back to Ben Sandell at 590 40th Ave NE, or emailed to bsandell@columbiaheightsmn.gov.

Nominations for 2021 are being accepted until May 2. Please call 763-706-3615 if you have specific questions.

The past three winners of the Outstanding Citizen Award were Patricia Sowada, Catherine Miske, and Tanya Moore. For a full list of winners dating back to 1976, visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/outstanding.

2020 Employee of the Year Award Goes to Fire Chief Thompson

Thirty-six years ago, the City Council approved the Employee of the Year Award as a method of rewarding employees seen by their peers and supervisors as deserving of special recognition for their accomplishments and contributions to the City of Columbia Heights. In 2020, Fire Chief Charlie Thompson became the 41th employee to receive the honor.

The year was like no other, but it proved particularly challenging for emergency workers and first-responders. Thompson, in his role as Emergency Manager, assembled the City's COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness Plan to keep the City's employees and residents well informed of the ongoing developments and ever-changing CDC data and recommendations. He and his Public Safety colleagues worked with other City departments to address the local impacts of the unfolding pandemic in a comprehensive and efficient manner while keeping the public educated on proper health and safety protocols. This on top of managing the already demanding day-to-day duties of Fire Chief, a position he filled just months before the pandemic hit.

The coworker who nominated Thompson described him as having incredible foresight. In the early stages of the pandemic, for example, before it was clear how serious things might get, Thompson made sure that Columbia Heights had enough personal protective equipment (PPE) for first-responders and other staff by securing a reserve of PPE gear that helped get the City through the national PPE shortage. Additionally, after Gov. Tim Walz asked residents to make and donate face masks to their local fire departments, Thompson

helped coordinate a face mask collection effort in April that resulted in 368 mask donations. He then arranged delivery of the masks to local congregate care facilities short on PPE.

But 2020 wasn't all hardship. Thompson also contributed to the City by offering up his very own chili recipe, which helped the Columbia Heights' Team CH-ili win first place at the annual Chili Cook-off fund raiser for the Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health and Well-Being.

The Employee of the Year nomination review committee is composed of former Employee of the Year recipients who are still

employed by the City. When a person is selected as Employee of the Year, their name and year of award is engraved on a large plaque displayed in

the Council Chambers. They receive a congratulatory letter, a day off of their choosing (with pay), an article and picture in the City Newsletter, a month-long announcement on the electronic bulletin board outside City Hall, and a featured role in the annual Jamboree parade. On rare occasions, more than one employee is selected in a given year.

On an annual basis, all Columbia Heights employees have the opportunity to nominate themselves or another employee(s) for the award based on three criteria: Public Relations, Consistency of Performance, and Significant Accomplishments.

We congratulate Chief Charlie Thompson for meeting these criteria and being an asset, not just to the Fire Department, but to the community, to our entire workplace, and our lives.



Above: Team Columbia Heights wins the Golden Pot award at the Lee Carlson Center Chili Cook-off fundraiser. From left to right: City Manager Kelli Bourgeois, Chief Thompson, chili judge Shari Mukherjee, and Cpt. Erik Johnston. Below: Thompson gives an acceptance speech at the December City Council meeting after learning he was named Employee of the Year.



Sign Up Today to Receive City Emergency Alerts at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/alerts

The City of Columbia Heights has recently launched a new text/email/phone citizen alert system. Sign up today to receive emergency texts, emails, or calls about severe weather events or other area emergencies. Also, you can sign up for general alerts to receive localized updates about construction projects, public hearings, and other notable, but non-emergency, activities happening near you. It's free!



Uses The CodeRED® system will be used to send critical communications, from evacuation notices to missing child alerts.

Caller ID When you see the following displayed, you will know the call is from us. If you would like to hear the last message delivered to your phone, simply dial the number back.

- Emergency Notifications
1-866-419-5000 or Emergency Comm
- General Notifications
1-855-969-4636 or General Comm

Privacy Your contact information remains private and will only be used for community notifications.

Local Emergency Alerts

- Toxic Spills/Evacuations
- Severe Weather
- Child Abduction
- Water Contamination
- Armed Criminal in Area

General Alerts

- Street Closures
- Construction Updates
- Hydrant Flushing Notice
- Water Main Repair Notice
- Water Shut-off Notice
- Plowing/Salting Updates
- Street Sweeping Notices
- Public Hearings

Note: General Alerts and alerts specific to your neighborhood or block are only available to those who sign up for a CodeRED account.

You can also text "Heights" to 99411 to have the sign-up link sent to your phone. If you don't have internet access, try contacting a friend or family member to help add your contact info to the emergency database. Or you can call the City directly at 763-706-3615 for assistance.

Pat Sowada Receives Nightingale Community Service Award

The Columbia Heights Police Department annually recognizes a member of the department or public who has made a significant contribution, or several smaller contributions, in the area of community policing or service to the community. The award is named after retired Police Officer Terry Nightingale, who demonstrated the gold standard in service to the community throughout his career. For 2020, the Police Department is pleased to announce Patricia Sowada as the posthumous recipient of the T. Nightingale Community Service Award. Patricia, who also received the City's 2020 Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award, was well known in the department for her high level of activity with their

community programs as well as the Sister Cities organization. She was nominated by her children. They wrote, "Patricia Sowada made numerous and substantial contributions to the Columbia Heights community across her decades of service – dating back to 1965. She was an exemplary example of a devoted and enthusiastic community member who had a boundless commitment to serving the Columbia Heights community at large." We couldn't agree more with this assessment, and we are honored to be able to recognize Patricia Sowada for her amazing contributions to the community.





kanopy

THOUGHTFUL ENTERTAINMENT

Free Video Streaming Service Offered Through Our Library

The Columbia Heights Public Library has added Kanopy, a video streaming service, to the library's digital offerings.

Kanopy offers Columbia Heights Library cardholders free access to a carefully curated collection of more than 30,000 films. Selections include feature-length films, documentaries, international films, classics, and educational content for all ages. Collections include The Criterion Collection, The Great Courses, PBS films, and many more.

In addition to its collection for adults, the service also includes Kanopy Kids, which features thousands of entertaining and educational videos curated specifically for children, including Scholastic videos, Highlights, PBS kids and Little Pim language learning.

Library patrons can create a Kanopy account with a library card number. Patrons can stream up to 10 videos per month. Once a selection is made, patrons will have full and unlimited access to each title for 72 hours. Kanopy Kids video content is unlimited, and does not count toward streaming credits.

The Kanopy platform offers streaming anytime, anywhere, and on any device: from desktop computers and TVs to tablets and smartphones. To learn more, or to sign up for Kanopy, visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/kanopy

At-Home Wireless Printing Now Available Through the Library

You can send documents to print from your home computer or mobile device to the library. First, go to www.tinyurl.com/heightsprint and upload your document. Then visit the library to pay for and release your printing from the self-service kiosk. Pricing is 10 cents per page for black-and-white printing, and 50 cents per page for color printing.

You can also print from your smartphone by downloading the SmartALEC for iPhone or SmartALEC for Android app. Mobile printing allows library patrons to work from the comfort of home and visit the library when they are ready to pick up their prints. No need to have a home printer that you use once a year. No need to purchase expensive ink cartridges that may dry out before your next print. You can print invoices, account statements, tax returns, college course packets, tickets or coupons at the library. With a library card, or a temporary guest pass generated by the website, the patron can upload a file to print. That file remains secure in the cloud until they visit the library, pay, and release it. SmartALEC also allows patrons to collect prints from any library in Anoka County.

The Library has numerous other online resources available for you to use for free. All you need is a library card with a PIN. If you don't have a card, you can come by the library during office hours and order one. It's free!

Find all online resources on the library website at www.anokacountylibrary.org.

Update on Columbia Heights/Lomianki Sister Cities, Year in Review

Members of the Sisters Cities Committee would like people to know that, despite having to put the group on hold for the majority of 2020 and into 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they are eager to return to their normal activities and will be contributing to the City's 100 Year Anniversary celebration April 30 with a tree planting ceremony in Lomianki Park for Arbor Day, 2 pm, and will be celebrating their own 30-year anniversary as a group. They welcome new members to join. Call 651-633-0506 or email gbergs1325@hotmail.com if you are interested. Find out more about the Sister Cities at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/sistercities.

Arbor Day Tree Sale: Pre-Order By April 15 to Claim a Tree

In celebration of Arbor Day, the City will be selling trees at a discounted rate for its residents. Columbia Heights residents will be limited to two trees per household.

Orders must be pre-paid. Supplies are limited and are on a first-come, first-served basis. Checks are the preferred form of payment. In the memo,

please write "Arbor Day Tree Sale." Checks can be mailed to: City of Columbia Heights, 590 40th Ave, Columbia Heights, MN 55421.

The deadline to place an order is April 15.

For the full list of available trees for sale, visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/trees.



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

Find our daily newsfeed at columbiaheightsmn.gov
For questions about this newsletter, call Communications Coordinator Ben Sandell at 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. Call 763-706-3690 to register or if you have questions. Check in often for schedule changes. For online programs, you will need an internet-enabled device. All programs are online unless noted otherwise.

Adult Programs

Pet Beds for Animal Shelters

March 15-April 1

Join the library and HeightsNEXT to make a pet bed for local animal shelters. Register for your kit today. The kit will include fleece and a link to an instructional video. No sewing needed, just hand-tying. Registration required. Pick up kits the week of March 15, and return completed pet beds by April 1.

Library Book Club

10 am: March 17, April 21, May 19

Birdscaping Basics

Wed, March 23, 6 pm

Landscaping tips for layouts that attract birds. Registration required.

Meditation Vacation

Tue, March 23, 7 pm

Learn meditation techniques to help relax. Includes a short meditation sitting. Registration required.

Learn Bullet Journaling

Mon, March 29, 6 pm

Learn how to use a bullet journal to increase motivation, stay organized, set daily goals, and reflect. Pick up a Bullet Journaling Kit at the library one week prior to the class. Registration required.

Photography Course

Web, April 14, 6 pm

You'll leave this class with ideas and concepts that you can put into your photography practice right away. Registration required.

Beginning Bird Identification

Tue, April 20, 6 pm

Learn basic elements of identifying birds using shape, size and flight/feeding patterns. Resources to get you started will be provided. For beginners but all welcome. Registration required.

Resilience Book Club

April 28 and May 26, 6 pm

We're in this together! Attend one or both of these resilience-themed book clubs. Registration required.

Bike Fix-It Clinic

Sat, May 22, 10 am to noon, at Library

Drop in anytime between 10 am and noon for help with tune-ups, tire repair, changing tires, adjusting brakes and derailleurs, and any bike-related questions you might have.

Poems in the Park

The Library and Parks and Recreation will post poems in local parks this spring using signboards featuring spring-inspired poetry along the walking trails. Watch the library's events calendar for dates and locations.

Take and Make Crafts

Stop by the library for a take and make craft! We will offer a new craft each month. Supplies are limited.

Kids and Teen Programs

Stay-at-Home Storytime

Mondays, March 1-April 26, 10:30 am

Designed to promote school readiness in 2 to 5 year olds. Registration required. Online via Zoom.

Virtual LEGO Challenge

March 10, April 14, May 12

Check in online to get the monthly challenge. Share your creations with us @ColumbiaHeightsPublicLibrary on Facebook. Tag us with #LEGOCHPL and we'll see it!

Family Discovery

10:30 am: March 13, 27, April 10, 24

At Silverwood Park

Learn about nature and create art works. For families. Registration required for each attendee.

Story Strolls

March 16-17: Huset; April 13-14: Sullivan; May 11-12: LaBelle

Large story pages will be placed throughout featured parks.

Collage and Postcard Art

April 1, 1-3 pm

Join us as we learn about the wonderful, weird world of mail art. Grades K-3. Registration required.

Grab and Go Discovery Kits*

March and April

Pick up a monthly activity kit at the library. Available for ages birth-K, grades 1-5, and grades 6+. Registrants will need to pick up their kits at the Library before the program starts.

Tween Book Club*

Tue, March 30, 3:30 pm

Pick up your book and supplies at the library and then join us for our once-a-month virtual meeting where we'll discuss the book, play games, and create. For grades 4-6. Registration required.

Simple Sewn Binding*

April 8, 1-2 pm

Learn how to make your own unique, upcycled sketchbooks. Grades 4 and up. Registration required.

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

Library Hours

Mon-Wed, 11 am to 7 pm
Thu-Fri, 10 am to 4 pm
Sat, 11 am to 3 pm
Sun, closed

Library Closures

April 2 • May 13 • May 29-31

3939 Central Ave NE • (763) 706-3690

At-home Service • (763) 706-3681

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov

Cable Channel 19

Facebook: @ColumbiaHeightsPublicLibrary

Facade Improvement Grant Program Enters Fourth Year

Eligible business and commercial property owners will again have a chance to receive up to \$5,000 in matching grant aid for exterior storefront improvement in the fourth year of the Facade Improvement Grant Program, a collaborative effort between the Economic Development Authority, the Community Development Department, and the Columbia Heights Police Department.

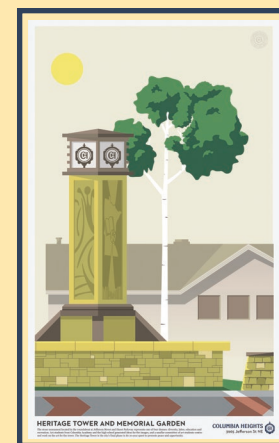
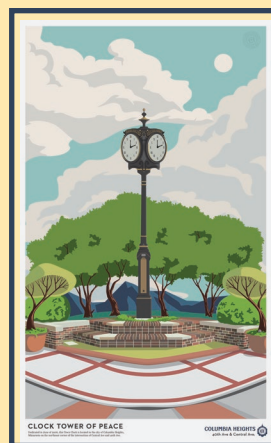
Any commercial properties located along Central Ave NE, between 37th and 47th Ave NE, and along 39th or 40th Ave

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

The City will start taking applications for the 2021 Facade Improvement Grant Program in the spring. Check columbiaheightsmn.gov for updates.

Columbia Heights Landmark Posters for Sale

The company Design Replace created a series of landmark posters for the City of Columbia Heights. The nine-part poster series highlights the iconic locations of the City. To purchase a poster, please call 763-706-3614. Poster sizes are 11" by 17". Posters are \$5 each or \$40 for the series. Available while supplies last.



SPRING PROJECTS PLANNED?

Get All the Info at Columbiaheightsmn.gov/permits

Decks, driveways, fences, sheds, windows, porches, pools, garages—whatever your project is, get the information you need on acquiring the proper permits and plans to get rolling at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/permits. Getting the proper permits and site plan approvals can take time, so consider starting the process ASAP if you'd like to start building this spring. You can also call Community Development with questions at 763-706-3670.



The January SnowBLAST in Huset Park was one of many events the Centennial Committee helped plan.

Centennial Committee

July 21, 2021 marks the 100th anniversary of Columbia Heights officially becoming an incorporated city. We'd like to take this opportunity to give a shout out to the Community Centennial Committee that has been working since early 2020 to help plan and coordinate activities and celebrations. From providing feedback to our Events Coordinator on centennial planning to volunteering at City events or contributing resources, the City's centennial celebration wouldn't be possible without this group. The Community Centennial Committee has met biweekly for almost a year via Zoom to discuss events, merchandise, projects, and everything in between.

Those who have been active members or frequent contributors include: Lotus Hubbard, Tammy Schmitz, Adam Davis, Dave Rudolph, Dolores Strand, Gloria Bergstrom, Jared Severson, Sue Sjoselius, Veronica Johnson, Kristen Stuenkel, Bill Hugo, Scott Skaja, Laura Newton, Tom Letness, Drew Zuehlke, Amáda Márquez Simula, Kay "Kt" Jacobs, Nick Novitsky (Council liaison), and Will Rottler (staff liaison and City events coordinator). If you would like to be a volunteer or contribute in some other way to the City's 100-year celebrations, please email wrottler@columbiaheightsmn.gov.

Tell Us About Your Volunteer Organization or Non-profit

The City of Columbia Heights would like to compile a list of all local nonprofits and community organizations that offer volunteer opportunities. We want to make the list available on our website so that people have a one-stop place to find where and how they can get involved. We want to make sure we don't overlook any groups, so let us know about your volunteer group or non-profit by emailing details to bsandell@columbiaheightsmn.gov. What we're looking for: Name of group, mission statement, and most up-to-date contact info. Further data, such as frequency of meetings, types of activities volunteers are likely to perform, time demands, etc. are also encouraged. Please email your info to bsandell@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

Library.....(763) 706-3690

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 Márquez Simula.....(763) 706-3607
Councilmember Buesgens.....(763) 788-5072
Councilmember Jacobs.....(612) 810-0512
Councilmember Novitsky.....(612) 760-4463
Councilmember Murzyn.....(763) 781-4983

City Newsletter editor(763) 706-3615

Emergency.....911

MORE INFO AT:

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov

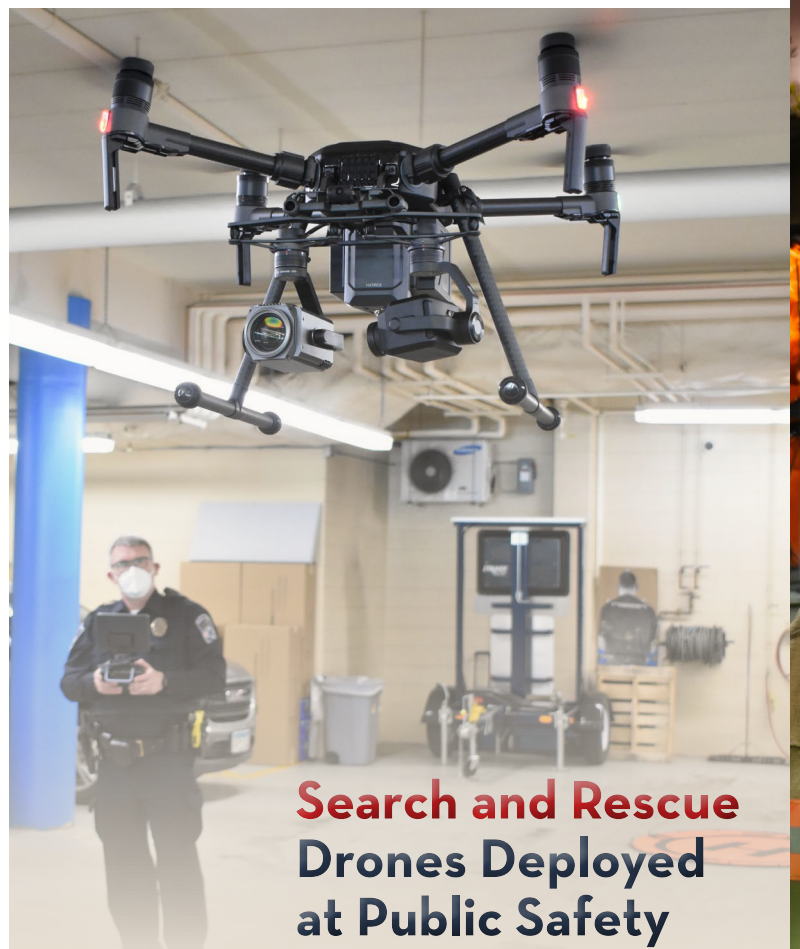
CHPD Implements New Non-Lethal Restraint Technology

The Columbia Heights Police Department added a new, non-lethal crime-fighting tool this year called the BolaWrap. A hand-held remote restraint device, the BolaWrap discharges a Kevlar tether eight feet long that entangles a subject at a range of 10-25 feet. This allows officers to temporarily restrain a subject at a safe distance and potentially reduce the person's ability to struggle, minimizing the need to use higher levels of force. Even though it sounds like a gun shot being fired, the device is less likely to injure somebody compared to electronic control devices like the Taser. It doesn't incapacitate subjects like other use-of-force options. The BolaWrap is cutting-edge technology, currently only in use at a handful of police agencies throughout Minnesota. The CHPD places minimal

reliance on use-of-force in its priority to protect the dignity and liberty of all persons and places. The application of deadly force is a measure to be employed in only the most extreme circumstances. Because of this, the CHPD continues to research and implement innovative technology to minimize risk and ensure officers are properly equipped to perform their job tasks at a high level. Video of the tool in action is available at www.chpd.com.

2020 CHPD Use-of-Force Incidents Remain Low, Report Is Online

The Police Department has compiled its annual use-of-force statistics for 2020 and the results are in line with 2019 numbers. The state requires police agencies to report any use of force that results in death or serious bodily injury, as well as the discharge of a firearm toward a subject. The CHPD did not have any incidents that met this criteria in 2020. The department responded to 23,253 calls for service and used force in only 75 incidents. Open hand techniques (escort holds or joint locks) were the most common type of force used. A copy of our summary report is available on the police department website at www.chpd.com.



Search and Rescue Drones Deployed at Public Safety

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

100th Anniversary Badge Design

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



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 info, ordinances, and services, visit www.chpd.com, find us on [Facebook.com/chpd](https://www.facebook.com/chpd), and follow us at twitter.com/colhgtspolice.





The Columbia Heights Fire Department is looking for on-call firefighters to join the team. On April 5, 6 pm, the department will hold a recruitment open house for those who wish to learn more about the job responsibilities. The following are some common questions the department receives about the duties of being a firefighter:

How Much Training Is Required?

On-call firefighters must complete the same amount of training as full-time firefighters. They do receive hourly pay for training, and will learn valuable skills that they can use in other areas of their lives. Recruit firefighters complete 125 hours of EMT training, 98 hours of Firefighter level 1 training, 50 hours for Firefighter level 2 training, and 48 hours of hazmat training. Completing all training takes about 18 months.

What If I’m Not Confident I’m the Right Fit?

“Through fellowship and training, you will obtain the skills necessary to build your confidence,” said Fire Chief Charlie Thompson. “If you are ready to serve but still have doubts, we are happy to discuss the role further and assist you in determining if this opportunity is right for you.”

Who’s Eligible?

If you’re 18 or older, live within or near the City borders, and have a valid driver’s license, you’re eligible to apply. It’s as simple as that.

What Are the Time Requirements?

On-call firefighters have day jobs and families to worry about, so they are not expected to answer every call. To ensure flexibility, the department requires on-call firefighters to answer roughly 30% of calls. The number of calls that occur on any given day can vary widely.

What Will I Get Out of It?

“You get to be there to help someone when they’re having the worst day of their life,” Thompson said. “You will walk away feeling like you’ve made a difference, all while being a part of a team and gaining valuable experience.” On-call firefighters also get paid. They receive pension benefits if they commit for five years.

How Do I Apply?

Applications can be submitted online by visiting www.heightsfire.com and clicking the Firefighter Employment Opportunities link in the navigation menu. Call 763-706-8150 for more information. The department is eager to recruit new firefighters, so please spread the word if you know of anyone who might be interested.

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

Adopt-a-Drain Challenge

Looking to get outside, help your community and environment, and win prizes? Join the 2021 Community Adopt-a-Drain Challenge!

For the Adopt-a-Drain Challenge, Columbia Heights residents will claim storm drains and report their storm drain cleanings through www.Adopt-a-Drain.org from March to October. Columbia Heights will compete against Blaine, Andover, and Fridley to see who has the most storm drain adoptions and reported cleanings. Cities with the most adoptions and cleanings not only win fame, they'll also have cleaner water as anything that gets into a street storm drain can flow into our local water bodies!

There are also individual prizes each month based on different aspects of Adopt-a-Drain. For example, the individual competition categories for March, April, and May are Best Storm Drain Name, Most Reported Inspections, and Best Storm Drain Picture! Join the challenge now by adopting and naming your drain through www.Adopt-a-Drain.org. After snow melt, clean your drain and report what you've cleaned. Send any fun cleaning photos to emily.johnson@anokaswd.org.



For more info, contact Emily Johnson at emily.johnson@anokaswd.org or Britta Dornfeld at bdornfeld@cooncreekwd.org or 763-258-7305.

Emerald Ash Borer Update

Now is the time to make a decision about the long term future of your ash tree. Emerald ash borer (EAB) was confirmed in Columbia Heights in 2019 and is currently killing trees in the City. It's only a matter of time before the beetle infects all ash trees in the area. Infested trees quickly become brittle and dangerous as the infection progresses, becoming more difficult and expensive to remove. EAB treatments are available, but are only effective as a preventative or early in the course of infection.

The City continues to actively manage EAB in the public forest (street and park trees) with the help of a \$100,000 grant from the MnDNR. As for trees on private property, residents will need to decide quickly about whether to treat and preserve their ash trees or have the trees removed. Property owners are responsible for the care and maintenance of all trees located on their property. "Not making a decision on treating or removing your ash trees is essentially deciding to have them removed," said Liam Genter, Urban Forestry Specialist. "The mortality rates in areas previously hit by EAB are greater than 95 percent."



Ash trees on your property? For more information and a list of helpful resources, please visit Columbiaheightsmn.gov/EAB. For specific questions or for free consultation, call the Urban Forestry Specialist at 763 706-3722.

PUBLIC WORKS SPRING REMINDERS

Fire Hydrant Flushing April & May

Fire hydrant flushing will take place in April and early May. Hydrants will be flushed from 7 am to 3:30 pm. It's necessary to flush all City hydrants to ensure they're in good working condition and to clear sediment. As a result of the flushing you may notice some temporary discoloration of the water. Flush your residential system by running the cold water for 10 to 20 minutes. Avoid washing clothes while hydrants are being flushed in your area, as discolored water may leave stains. Some localized flushing may be necessary throughout the year.

Spring Street Sweeping Begins Soon

The street department will begin street sweeping as soon as weather permits, usually in early April. Areas around lakes and ponds will be swept first to minimize the amount of sediment entering these bodies of water. Sweeping operations will continue until all streets have been swept twice.

Prevent Sewer Backups

Over time, homeowners may experience problems such as collapsed pipes or tree roots growing into service lines that can cause stoppages with their sewer service lines. If your sewer backs up it may be time to clean or repair the line. Before hiring a contractor, call Public Works Utilities at 763-706-3700. They will check the City's mainline condition in the street for a possible blockage. **This service is free.**

Water Service Leak? Sewer Clog?

Call Public Works before calling a contractor:

- Weekdays: 7 am-3:30 pm (763) 706-3700
- After-hours: (763) 427-1212 or 911

Remember, property owners are responsible for the water service and sewer service from the house or structure to the main in the street, including the connection to the City main.

Street Parking Restrictions In Effect Until March 31, 2–6 am daily



WHEN BUSINESSES RECYCLE, WE ALL WIN!

We help restaurants start or enhance their recycling program.

AnokaBizRecycle.com



Anoka County Offers Resources to Encourage Business Recycling

Grants

The county provides up to \$10,000 for equipment and supplies to help a business recycle more.

FREE Technical Assistance

An expert will visit a site to help find ways to reduce waste, design a new or improved recycling program, or get started with organics recycling.

FREE Labels

Labels are an essential part of an effective recycling program. After the evaluation, the county offers a variety of label types to fit a business's need.

Call 763-324-3481 or visit AnokaBizRecycle.com to get more details

Plastic Bags and Styrofoam Recycling

The Columbia Heights Recycling Center, open to all area residents and small businesses, accepts plastic bags, plastic films and Styrofoam. Bags must be brought directly to the Recycling Center at 3801 Madison St NE, Columbia Heights, on Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm. Large cardboard pieces and household scrap metal items and household batteries can also be brought to the recycling center.

Compostable Products Reminder

Delivery style pizza boxes, paper egg cartons, paper towels, and napkins can be composted along with other organic material. Order a compost cart from the City for \$2.53 per month by emailing publicworks@columbiaheightsmn.gov. Carts can also be used for yard waste. They are emptied year-round and come with an organics kitchen kit and new bag of compost.

Yard Waste Collection

Yard Waste collection begins in April after the snow cover melts. Woody tree waste can be brought to the Anoka County site for a fee. Personal containers will not be emptied by the hauler. Be sure to bundle the brush, or order a City compost cart. Carts can be ordered anytime by calling 763-706-3706.



Refuse Holiday Schedule

- Good Friday, April 2, no delay
- Memorial Day, May 31, service delayed one day all week

Arm Truck Collection Information

Haulers are using trucks with mechanical arms to collect trash and recycling. They use these trucks in the alleys, as well. Please place your cart out where the arm can reach it. Allow 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 specs and pricing.



Waste Management

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

City Refuse/Recycling website

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refuseandrecycling
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

— 100 Years —

2021 EVENTS!

You're invited to celebrate!

The City will be putting on a number of events to commemorate the 100th Anniversary.



MUSIC IN THE PARK

Columbia Heights will present its first Music in the Park series this summer as part of the City's 2021 Centennial Celebrations. Performers are yet to be determined. If you are interested in performing, please fill out the Music in the Park application online at columbiaheightsmn.gov/events. Email wrottler@columbiaheightsmn.gov for more information.

WHERE: Huset Park East

WHEN: June 2, July 7, Aug 4, 6:30–8 pm



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Join your fellow residents at Huset Park for the City's Centennial Celebration. There will be musical acts, games for kids, and cake!

WHERE: Huset Park

WHEN: July 17, 11 am–2 pm



MOVIES IN THE PARK

Movies in the Park will return this summer. Movies are yet to be determined, but we'll post a social media survey to help us decide.

WHERE: Huset Park West, McKenna Park

WHEN: Aug 20, Sept 17, sunset



ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING

Join the Sister Cities Committee in a centennial tree planting ceremony for Arbor Day.

WHERE: Lomianki Park

WHEN: April 30, 2 pm

And More...

Above is a sampling of City events celebrating the centennial. There's also the Community Picnic and Art & Craft Fair June 24, the Lion's Ballroom Dance Sept 18, the HeightsNEXT Heritage Fest event, Sept 25, and more. Visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/events for a full list and details. Please Note: **Due to COVID-19 uncertainty, dates and times may change.**