

CITY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2021

SnowBLAST returns Feb 5 for its second year! And our 2022 Pets of Columbia Heights Calendar is now on sale! Check inside this newsletter for more information about these and many other useful items about the City of Columbia Heights.

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COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
REDISCOVER THE HEIGHTS

SEE FLIP SIDE FOR RECREATION PROGRAMS

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

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 30308
TWIN CITIES MN

SnowBLAST Festival Returns!

The Free Winter Event In Huset Park Is Feb 5, 3-6:30 pm



This winter festival event began in 2021 as part of the City's 100th anniversary, but we had so much fun we decided to make it an annual gathering! Come on by Huset Park from 3-6:30 pm, Feb 5, for the festivities! We hope to see you there!

- ❄ Skating Rink Open
- ❄ Preregister for Free Skate Rentals (pick up at Dave's Sport Shop)*
- ❄ Free Popcorn*
- ❄ Free S'mores Station*
- ❄ Fire Pits
- ❄ Puppet Wagon
- ❄ Food Trucks
- ❄ Music
- ❄ Beer Sales
- ❄ Free Hot Beverages*
- ❄ Bring a Sled and Enjoy the Hill

**while supplies last*

The event is truly a community effort, with City staff from recreation, public works, police, fire and administration relying heavily on volunteer support and contributions from several community groups and organizations. For more info, please visit columbiaheightsmn.gov/events. To register for skate rentals, visit columbiaheightsmn.recdesk.com.

2022 Pets of Columbia Heights

City Calendar Now On Sale!



Submitted by Chickabee Photography



Submitted by Tracy Steinkopf



Submitted by Leah Morris



Submitted by Melanie and Matt DeGree



Submitted by Barbara Babekuhl



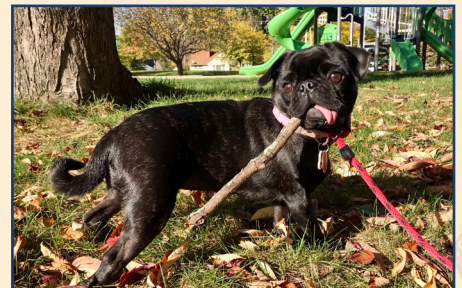
Submitted by Becky Groseth



Submitted by Chickabee Photography



Submitted by Erica Tollefson



Submitted by Gabby Millard



Submitted by Erik Nims and Betsy Pribyl



Submitted by Ben Harris



Submitted by Catherine Vesley

Order Your Columbia Heights 2022 Calendar Now!

Want to get an early jump on your holiday shopping? The City's Pets of Columbia Heights Calendar is on sale for \$10, and all proceeds go to help fund City events and community activities. **To order a calendar, please email Will Rottler at wrottler@columbiaheightsmn.gov, or call 763-706-3614.** Calendars can be picked up at City Hall starting in December, or delivered (upon request). Visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/photos for more details. The calendar includes 2022 dates and event info relevant to Columbia Heights and photos submitted of City pets selected with the help of communications staff from Golden Valley, Maplewood, and Ramsey County. Those whose photos were selected (see above) receive a free calendar. We received 85 photo submissions. Thank you to all who submitted!

E-RESOURCES

City Website Refresh, Check It Out!



WWW.COLUMBIAHEIGHTSMN.GOV

We have updated the look of our website, and encourage residents to explore the pages for useful information regarding City events, activities, services, departments, and more! Scroll down on the front page to find news articles and upcoming calendar notifications.

Get up-to-the-minute info on community events and other activities at columbiaheightsmn.gov/ events or follow us on:

Facebook

City: @columbiaheightsmn

Fire: @columbiaheightsfire

Library: @chplibrary

Police: @chpolice

Recreation: @chrecreation

Instagram

@columbiaheightsmn

Twitter

@heightsmn

Computers, Wireless Printing, Copier, Scanner, and WiFi All at the Library

Resources offered at the library go well beyond books. The library invites job seekers, students, and anyone who needs access to electronic equipment and the internet to stop by the library and ask about its computers, copier, wireless printing, and WiFi.

The library has 10 **computers** open for public use. Sign-up at any available computer for up to an hour and a half per day. Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel come installed.

The library's **copier/printer** costs 10 cents per page for black and white printing and 50 cents for color (cash only). Scanning to email or to a flash drive is free.

For **wireless printing**, visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/printing for the correct links to print wireless from a computer or smartphone.

For additional online resources and tools, visit www.anokacounty.us/2599/eLibrary

Download E-Books Free

You can use the Library's Libby program to download audio books, e-books, and magazines for 3-week check-outs. 15 item limit. Learn more

at www.libbyapp.com or download the Libby app on Google Play or Apple Store and enter your library card details. If you need assistance, call 763-706-3690.

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 Programs, Activities, and Important Information

Below is a sampling of upcoming activities at the library. For a full list or more details, visit www.anokacounty.us/events or call 763-706-3690. Most programs require registration (indicated by *). Register by calling 763-706-3690. For at-home service, call 763-706-3681. For renewal, call 763-324-1590. Online programs require internet enabled device.

Adult Programs

Feeding Birds in Winter*

Mon, Dec 6: 5:30 pm

Minnesotans, including the birds, are hardy enough to get through our tough winters. But you can give the birds a little help. We will talk about birds that might visit your yard during the winter, as well as seed, feeders, and plants that are great feeders.

Embroidery: Stitch Practice* **

Mon, Jan 10, 5:30 pm

Learn different embroidery stitches and experiment with ways to mix, match, and combine them for unique textures and looks.

Wine Tasting Book Club*

Fri, Jan 21, 3 pm

Join us for a wine tasting and a book discussion! A new program offered in partnership with the Columbia Heights Senior Center. All adults (21+) are welcome. Contact Delynn Mulligan at 763-706-3730 to register and request a copy of the book. Space is limited and registration is required.

Art from the Heart* **

Mon, Jan 31, 5:30 pm

Join Marie Olofsdotter for a session of card making! Make a pop-up card, a card with unique folds, a gift card; learn how to add collage and embellish your cards in a multitude of ways.

Pet Beds Service Event*

Sat, Feb 12, 11 am-1 pm

In partnership with HeightsNEXT, we'll make and deliver pet beds to Midwest Animal Rescue & Services (MARS). This year, registrants have the option of making a bed in person or as a "Take and Make" kit.

Organize Your Documents*

Mon, Feb 7, 5:30 pm

Make this the year you organize your important documents! Join Toastmaster Steve Smith to learn a system to get your important passwords and documents (tax, identification, property, etc) in order, once and for all!

Library Book Club

10 am: Dec 15, Jan 19, Feb 16

Book club is back in person!

Design Wrapping Paper* **

Wed, Feb 9, 6 pm (online)

Paint, stamp, and print your own unique sheets of decorative wrapping paper! In this class we will use a variety of tools in creative ways to stamp repetitive patterns on newsprint, craft paper, or rice paper. This program will be presented virtually via Zoom. Supplies to help you complete this project will be available for pickup at the Columbia Heights Public Library 1-2 weeks before the program date.

Invasive Species Class: EAB*

Mon, Feb 28, 5:30 pm

Liam Genter, Columbia Heights' Urban Forestry Specialist will give introductory and background information on the invasive Emerald Ash Borer beetle, updates on current EAB status in Columbia Heights, an overview of state regulations, treatment and removal options for residents, and Q&A.

Kids and Teens

Storytime @ the Library

Jan 24-April 15

Family Storytime*

Mondays, 10:30 am

Share books, songs, and rhymes with your children at this storytime designed to promote school readiness in 2-to-5 year olds. Siblings are also welcome!

Baby Read, Baby Grow

Thursdays, 10:30-11 am

For infants ages birth to 24 months and their caregivers.

Artist Trading Cards* **

Thu, Jan 27, 2-3:30 pm (online)

Develop your own limited edition trading cards and swap them with your friends! Learn how to use watercolor pencils to draw, paint, blend, and layer a set of collectible artist cards. For ages 7 and up. Online via Zoom. Supplies for this program will be available for pickup at the library 1-2 weeks before the program date.

*Registration required.

**This program is funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Winter Reading for Adults

The library's Winter Reading program begins soon! Read and rate books for the chance to win prizes. During our Winter Reads program, adults (18+) can submit mini book reviews between Jan 10-Feb 28 to be eligible for weekly prizes and the grand prize: a gift card to The Heights movie theater! Book review forms will be available at the library or on the library website. Book reviews may be shared in the library or on social media.



Library Hours

Mon-Thu, 10 to 7 pm
Friday, 10 am to 4 pm
Saturday, 10 am to 3 pm
Sunday, closed

Library Closures

Dec 23-25 • Dec 31-Jan 1 • Jan 17 • Feb 21

3939 Central Ave NE • (763) 706-3690

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov

Cable Channel 19

Facebook: @chplibrary



City Council Approves Creation of Youth Commission

Commission Will Be Official Meeting Body, Applications Available Soon!

On Oct 25, 2021, the Columbia Heights City Council approved amending the City Code to create a Columbia Heights Youth Commission.

Staff and elected officials have discussed the creation of a youth commission several times over the last few years. In 2021, staff reached out to other government agencies with similar programs, including Rosemount, Northfield, Rochester/Olmsted County, and Eden Prairie, for feedback. The programs came highly recommended.

The purpose of the Columbia Heights Youth Commission will be to serve as an advisory body to the Columbia Heights City Council, and other boards and commissions as appropriate, inspire and bring to light new ideas from a youth perspective, create an educational environment for youth looking to expand their knowledge of government and leadership functions, and provide experience-building opportunities for area youth seeking increased community and local government engagement.

City Code designates that the commission will be composed of no less than seven members and no more than 20 members, with a staff mentor and a councilmember liaison. Members must be between the ages of 14-18 years old. Because this will be an official government body, like any other board or commission, members must also be residents of the City of Columbia Heights. Youth Commission members serve two-year, staggered terms. Normal terms will run from Oct 1 to Sept 30. The current plan is for monthly meetings to be held the second Wednesday of the month, Oct through May, 6-7:30 pm, though youth commission members will have the chance to work with staff and council members to amend the schedule and revise by-laws once the first term gets started.

How to Apply

Visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/youth after Dec 1 to download an application and find more details. The Youth Commission will begin in 2022. Due to the timing of the ordinance approval, the first term of the youth commission will be truncated.

Sign Up Now for the City's New Monthly E-Newsletter!

We're looking for more ways to reach residents with important and timely updates about our City.

Columbia Heights has launched a monthly e-newsletter to keep its residents informed on upcoming events, deadlines, construction projects, and much more! The City of Columbia Heights monthly e-newsletter debuted on Sept 1, and is emailed once a month to anyone who subscribes to it.

Register Your Email Address Today!

Visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/enews or email wrottler@columbiaheightsmn.gov to sign up.



PAY BILLS ONLINE

Online Utility Bill Payments Now Available for Residents

The City of Columbia Heights has launched a new, improved utility billing website with easier pay online tools. The new utility billing website is part of an overall redesign of the City's website.

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

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

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

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/billing



IMPORTANT CITY CONTACTS

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

Public Works.....(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

DOJ Grant Funds CHPD Social Worker

This October, the US Department of Justice awarded the Columbia Heights Police Department with an incredibly rare grant to fund a full-time social worker stationed at the police department for the next two years.

The department plans to contract with Canvas Health on a Collaborative Crisis Intervention Response Program. The contract will provide for a full-time mental health professional to work at CHPD and respond with police officers to individuals deemed to be experiencing mental health or substance use crises. The mental health professional will work alongside officers to de-escalate situations as well as connect individuals in need to support resources.

A recent analysis of police calls showed that over one third of calls involve mental health concerns or substance abuse.

Columbia Heights is one of only 34 cities nationwide to receive this grant, and will be working to implement the program as soon as possible. The grant is part of the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) community policing initiative. It has distributed funds to support promising practices through the development and testing of innovative strategies, building knowledge about effective outcomes, and designing creative approaches to preventing crime and promoting safe communities.

Cpt. Erik Johnston Graduates from Intensive 10-Week Program

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



Letting Cars Run Unattended Encourages Auto Theft and Violates City Ordinance

Columbia Heights, along with the rest of the metro area, has seen a recent increase in vehicle thefts.

While it's tempting to warm up your vehicle during the colder months by leaving it running unattended with the keys in the ignition, residents should know that not only is this a violation of the City's open ignition ordinance, it's

also one of the most likely ways to have your car stolen.

Remote start features may be used, since the ignition remains locked and there is no key in the vehicle.

Getting into a cold car is no fun, but having your car stolen or receiving a citation is worse. Please don't leave your car running with the keys in the ignition.

Call 911

In Anoka County, 911 is used for all calls for police assistance, whether that call is for an emergency or a non-emergency. Dispatchers are trained to prioritize calls, so don't hesitate to use 911. In emergency situations where you are not able to speak with a dispatcher, Minnesota has "Text to 911." Texting should only be used when individuals are unable to make a voice call.



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.



Snow Removal Is a Community Effort

Keeping our sidewalks free of ice and snow is the neighborly thing to do.... and it's the law.

Together, we are all responsible for keeping Columbia Heights safe and comfortable for winter walking. For yourself, your neighbors, and people pushing strollers or using wheelchairs, please do your part.

Columbia Heights ordinance Section 8.203 requires that property owners remove all snow and ice from public sidewalks within 24 hours after the snow or other precipitation has ceased to fall. Failure to shovel your sidewalk may result in a City contractor expense to you, the property owner, for shoveling it.

Please shovel or blow snow onto private property. It's against City Ordinance to put snow in the street. If you have an elderly neighbor who's incapable of shoveling, please consider volunteering to shovel their sidewalks and steps for them. Finally, ensure your garbage and

recycling collection spot is cleared of snow and ice (as much as possible) before the truck operator arrives to empty the containers. Don't put containers in the street. Leave space for the snowplows!

Adopt a Fire Hydrant on Your Block

Fire hydrants can get buried during a snowstorm, which means firefighters responding to a call have to take extra time to shovel them out before they can actually fight a fire. You can save them vital moments by shoveling out the fire hydrants on your block after a storm. It will make you and your neighborhood safer.



COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION ENROLLMENT

Sign up to receive emergency text alerts at columbiaheightsmn.gov/alerts

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 9-1-1

Housing Maintenance Inspections: (763) 706-8156
fireinspections@columbiaheightsmn.gov

Best Practices for De-Icing Walkways

De-icing salts applied to your driveway and walkway may save you from neck or tailbone injuries this winter, but they can spell disaster for your landscape plants, vehicles, and nearby lakes and streams if you misuse them.

It's important to apply salts only when necessary and in limited amounts. People tend to use more salt than they need to get the job done. That extra salt causes severe declines in plant and tree health.

When salt runoff washes into the soil, it weakens root

- **Spread Thin.** When you apply salt to pavement, leave plenty of space between granules. A 12-ounce coffee cup of salt is enough to cover 10 sidewalk squares or a 20-foot driveway. Ice melting products are most effective when spread thinly and evenly over the pavement.
- **Use Before Freeze.** Spread salt **prior** to ice formation. It's easier to prevent ice than melt a thick layer of it.
- **Use Alternatives.** Clean cat litter or sawdust can help improve traction on ice (sand is NOT recommended for residential use).
- **Use Less.** When applicable, use even less salt than is recommended by the manufacturer.

systems and reduces the ability of foliage to fight disease. When applied near your home, salt will enter nearby streams directly from the road or from surrounding melting snow. A sudden or extreme change in salinity (or "saltiness") can kill aquatic life. Salt imbalances can affect an organism's ability to regulate fluids passing through its cell membranes. Salt also damages non-organic material, like the underside of your car.

But you can reduce the impact of salt pollution by selecting the proper materials and methods for removing ice.

- **Add Water.** Add a small amount of water with the deicer to help initiate melting.
- **Protect Plants.** Use burlap or durable plastic screens to shield vegetation from traffic splash.
- **Shovel.** Clear walkways before snow turns to ice, and before you apply salt. The more snow you clear manually, the less salt you'll need.
- **Watch the Temp.** Salt doesn't melt ice if the pavement is below 15 degrees. You may be salting for nothing.
- **Sweep.** Clean up leftover salt, sand, and de-icer to save and reuse as needed.

Winter Weather Reminders

Snowplows and Winter Parking

- Please make way for snowplow operators engaged in snow removal or ice control on City streets. These vehicles are equipped with a flashing, oscillating or rotating amber light. Operators have the discretion to disregard traffic laws if they judge it is safe to do so.
 - After a snowfall of 3 or more inches, no parking on the street is permitted until it has been plowed from curb-to-curb.
 - Columbia Heights winter parking rules went into effect Nov 1. Each year, from Nov 1 to March 31, no vehicle or trailer may be parked on any public road between 2-6 am without a parking permit issued by the Police Department. This is to ensure vehicles do not get in the way of snowplows and de-icers and that roads are always clear enough for fire trucks, ambulances, and other emergency vehicles.

- Permits to park overnight between Nov 1 and March 31 are issued under certain conditions. The permit form is available at the Police Department, 825 41st Ave NE, or you can find it online here: www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/winterparking. Residents in need of a temporary parking permit should come to the police department during normal business hours. Please call 763-706-8100 for more information. Note: Snowfall of three and a half inches or more supersedes parking permits.

Frozen Pipes

- To keep your water pipes from freezing and bursting on extremely cold days: leave cabinet doors open under sinks that face outside walls; schedule someone to check on your house when you go out of town; insulate walls where piping runs if possible; do not turn your heat down during windy cold days; run cold water and make sure its temperature is above 40 degrees; on the coldest days, allow a steady, pencil-width stream of water to continually run from faucets that have a supply pipe along an outside wall.

Got holiday clutter? Garage sales are a good alternative to throwing away decorations.



Go Green for the Holidays

The holidays are a wonderful time of year, but they can also generate a lot of preventable waste. Below are just a few suggestions for going greener this holiday season.

Cleaning Is a Recycling Opportunity

The holidays can be a mess to clean up after, but getting rid of all that clutter is a great opportunity to use the recycling options provided by the City of Columbia Heights and local donation drop spots. Call (763) 706-3727 for more info or to request a recycling packet.

Shed Some Light

Holiday string lights are a beautiful decoration during the dark days of winter. When your current string lights burn out, you can bring them to the Columbia Heights Recycling/Drop Off Center (see below).

Consider the Christmas Tree

Citywide Christmas tree pickup will begin Mon, Jan 3, and continue through Fri, Jan 14. Residents must call 1-888-960-0008 to schedule the pickup. Don't buy a flocked or painted tree as they can't be composted. Bring metal trees you want to get rid of to the recycling center (see below). Remove all lights and decorations before disposal.

Better Watch Out: Batteries and Electronics

Batteries and electronics can damage equipment and harm workers collecting and sorting recycled material. Batteries are especially dangerous as they can start fires at recycling sorting facilities, particularly lithium ion batteries found in cell phones. Recycle thoughtfully and do your part to properly recycle batteries and electronics. Drop off household batteries (no car batteries) at the City's free Recycle Center. Email wmservice@wm.com or call 888-960-0008 to schedule an electronics collection for a flat \$20 fee.

Columbia Heights Recycling/Drop Off

- Dumpster for cardboard and extra recycling carts available
- Open Sat, 9 am-1 pm. Closed Christmas weekend. Open New Year's
- Madison Street and 38th Place NE

Waste Management

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

City Refuse/Recycling Info

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refuseandrecycling or 763-706-3727
online request form: www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refusesupport

Anoka County Compost Sites

Anoka County has two compost sites that accept tree waste (for branches over 4"), yard waste, and Christmas trees. Please note that a fee may be charged. Visit this link for more info: <https://www.anokacounty.us/359/Compost-Sites>. Christmas tree pickup will begin Mon, Jan 3, and continue through Fri, Jan 14. Residents must call 1-888-960-0008 to schedule the pickup.

Simple Ways to Go Green at a Holiday Party or Gathering

- Only serve food and beverages in washable or recyclable containers.
- Use decorations that can be reused in future years, and limit or don't use balloons.
- Provide recycling bins for cans, bottles, and other recyclables that may be produced at your event. Simply roll out your cart from your home or borrow event recycling bins from Anoka County (763) 324-3400. Extra recyclables can be brought to the Recycling Center.
- Use tableware made with recycled content.
- If not using washable dishes, consider using compostable products with a BPI logo. Call 763-706-3727 to order a City compost cart.
- Find more resources and tips about preventing food waste at savethefood.com

Refuse Holiday Schedule

- **Thanksgiving Day, Nov 25**
Service delayed Thursday and Friday.
- **Christmas Day, Dec 25**
No delay
- **New Year's Day, Jan 1**
No delay
- **Martin Luther King Jr Day, Jan 17**
No delay
- **Presidents' Day, Feb 21**
No delay



Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions

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

Refuse Service Levels and Rates

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refuserates

Proposed 2022 Budget, Share of Property Taxes

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

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

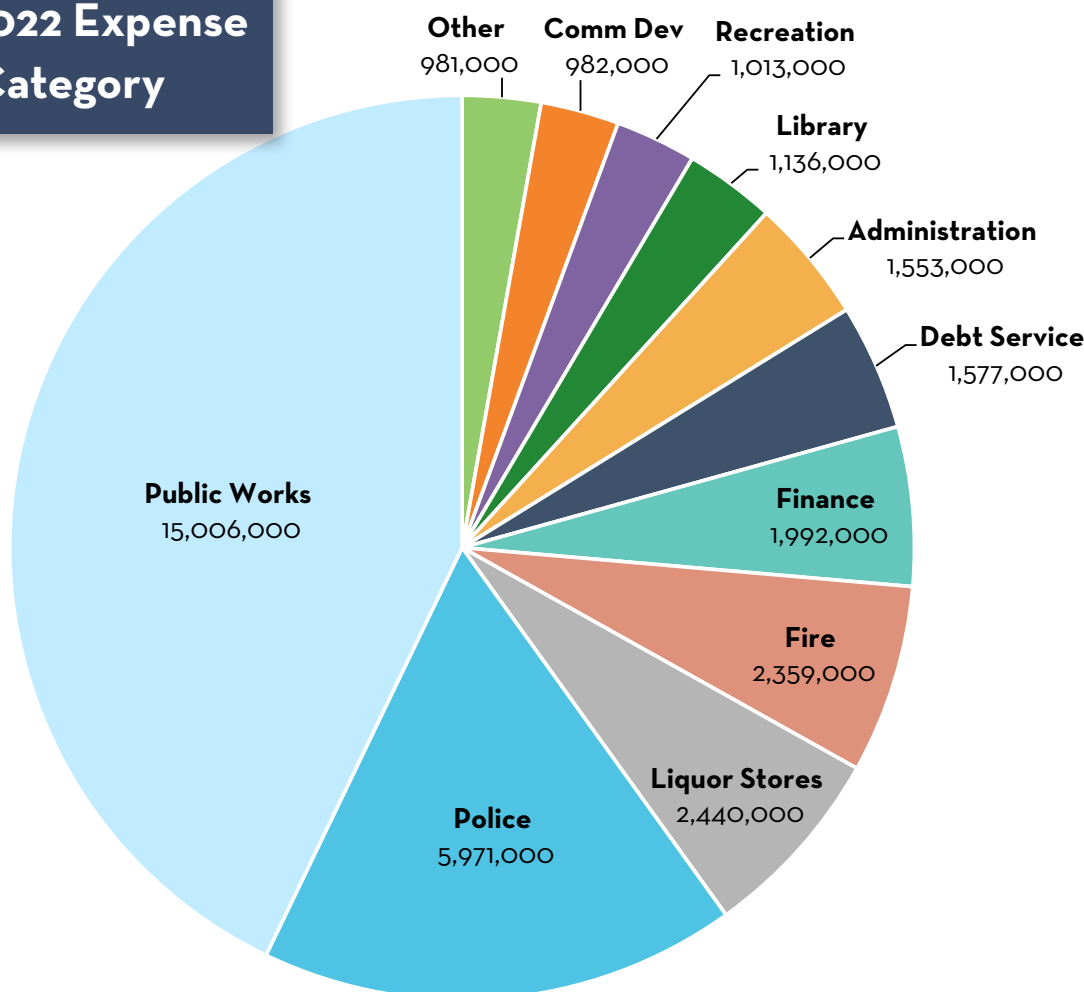
In 2022, the City will receive \$1,903,000 in state aid to local government (LGA). Under the City's five-year financial plan, only \$425,000 of this LGA is used within the 2022 operating budget, while \$450,000 of LGA is applied to annual debt service on the public safety building

and the library building. All remaining LGA is allocated to capital projects and major equipment purchases. Without this LGA, these capital items would otherwise be paid for with property taxes.

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

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

Proposed 2022 Expense Budget by Category



We Won! Adopt-a-Drain

Columbia Heights won the Adopt-a-Drain Challenge, beating Andover, Fridley, and Blaine with its total number of adopted

drains and reported cleanings from March to October. You can adopt a drain or report a cleaning through mn.adopt-a-drain.org!