



Take advantage of discounted trees and free delivery through the City's Arbor Day Tree Sale.

Tree pre-orders will open in March—more on page 10.

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**COLUMBIA HEIGHTS**  
REDISCOVER THE HEIGHTS

# Calling All Youth Artists!

## 2025 COLUMBIA HEIGHTS YOUTH ART CALENDAR

Calling all youth! What does community mean to you? Show us with your artwork for our 2025 wall calendar! The City will print a calendar featuring art by our very own resident youth artists. From now until Sep 1, use your crayons, colored pencils, markers, paints, or any other medium you choose to make art with the theme "Community" in mind.

We'll enlist the help of community members to select the final art pieces to be included in the

calendar. Artists whose work is chosen to be featured for any of the 12 months of the year will receive recognition in the City Newsletter and a free copy of the calendar.

The submission deadline is Sep 1, 2024. The contest is open to youth under 18 who live or go to school in Columbia Heights. Full submission guidelines can be found at [columbiaheightsmn.gov/calendarcontest](http://columbiaheightsmn.gov/calendarcontest).



## Submit Outstanding Citizen Nominations by April 29

Do you know someone who's dedicated to making a positive impact in the community? Every year Columbia Heights seeks nominations for Outstanding Citizen, and the City needs your help finding the best nominees for 2024! The title is awarded in two categories (adult and youth), so please consider nominations for ages 14-18 as well as 18+. In 2023, Mary Tholkes was recognized in the adult category for her work with the community gardens at 40th and Jackson. In the youth category, Roger Rogne received the award for his work with several community programs and volunteer projects. Both are pictured below along with other recent recipients.

For nomination forms, visit [columbiaheightsmn.gov/outstanding](http://columbiaheightsmn.gov/outstanding) or pick up a copy from City Hall. Nominations are due by April 29.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CITY SERVICES EXPO

April 11, 5-7 pm | City Hall

Community members will have a chance to talk with officials from each of the City departments and learn more about City services, upcoming projects, and programming.

### PETS IN THE PARK

May 18, 11 am-2 pm | Keyes Park

Bring your furry friends out for fun at Keyes Park! Pet organizations and vendors wishing to participate can apply by emailing [wrottlar@columbiaheightsmn.gov](mailto:wrottlar@columbiaheightsmn.gov) by May 4.

### CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE

June 7-9

If you would like your garage sale included on the Columbia Heights garage sale map, please register your address by May 31 at [columbiaheightsmn.gov/garagesale](http://columbiaheightsmn.gov/garagesale) (registration opens May 1). *Happening the same weekend as Fridley's Citywide Garage Sale this year!*

### ART & INFO FAIR

June 20, 4-7 pm | Huset Park Splash Pad

Community organizations looking to have a booth can register by contacting Will Rottler at **763-706-3614** or [wrottlar@columbiaheightsmn.gov](mailto:wrottlar@columbiaheightsmn.gov) by June 7.

Art and Craft vendors can register with Deanna Saefke at **763-706-3730** or [dsaefke@columbiaheightsmn.gov](mailto:dsaefke@columbiaheightsmn.gov). Art and craft vendors pay a \$15 booth fee.

# Deanna Saefke Named 2023 Employee of the Year

The City of Columbia Heights is proud to recognize its 2023 Employee of the Year, Deanna Saefke! Deanna is known for her positive attitude, which she brings to everything she does for the Recreation Department and the City. Whether interacting with the community, fellow employees, or vendors, Deanna is a steadfast ambassador for the City of Columbia Heights.

Deanna is a true leader when it comes to community building. She regularly plans staff gatherings to boost comradery across departments, plays a central role in bringing people together at community events, and has even learned new language skills to better communicate with residents. You might say she wrote the book on interpersonal communication, and this is seen and felt by everyone she interacts with.

In her 18 years here, Deanna has become integral to the Columbia Heights Recreation Department, and it's hard to imagine Murzyn Hall without her. It's evident that she genuinely cares about the Columbia Heights community, and we're incredibly fortunate to call her one of our own.



Above: Employee of the Year recipient Deanna Saefke pictured with Mayor Márquez Simula outside Murzyn Hall in December.

## 2024 Event Sponsorship Opportunities

A few opportunities are remaining to support City events this year. The City's event sponsorship program helps increase community outreach, improves local business visibility, and enhances the quality of our community events. Interested in sponsoring an event? Visit [columbiaheightsmn.gov/business](http://columbiaheightsmn.gov/business) for details.



## 2024 Presidential Nomination Primary

The state will hold a Presidential Nomination Primary on Tue, March 5. Absentee (early) voting began on Jan 19 and runs through March 4. You can vote absentee by mail or in-person. In-person absentee voting is at City Hall (3989 Central Ave NE) between 8 am and 4:30 pm (M-F) during the early voting period. To vote absentee by mail, request an absentee ballot: [mnvotes.sos.mn.gov/abrequest/index](http://mnvotes.sos.mn.gov/abrequest/index).

### Voting on March 5

Presidential Nomination Primary Day voting will occur from 7 am to 8 pm on Tue, March 5. There are several voting precincts in the City of Columbia Heights. Find your assigned polling place at [pollfinder.sos.mn.gov](http://pollfinder.sos.mn.gov).



Find your Polling Place for the Presidential Nomination Primary



# Library Program & Activity Highlights

Below is a sampling of upcoming activities at the library. For a full list or more details visit <https://bit.ly/3kyG6vJ> or call 763-706-3690. Register for programs online or by calling 763-706-3690. Registration opens four weeks in advance. For at-home service, call 763-706-3681. Visit [columbiaheightsmn.gov/library](http://columbiaheightsmn.gov/library) for additional info.

## Adult Programs

### Puzzle Contest

**Sat, March 9, 10 am-noon**

Register in teams of two to four people for a puzzle contest at the library! Complete a 300-piece or 500-piece puzzle in the time allotted to be eligible for the prize drawing and bragging rights. This contest is brought to you by the Friends of the Columbia Heights Library. This event is geared toward adults, but families are welcome. Space is limited and registration is required: call or email Adult Services Librarian Elizabeth at 763-706-3681 or [eripley@columbiaheightsmn.gov](mailto:eripley@columbiaheightsmn.gov) to register.

### Driver's Licenses for All with COPAL

**Thu, March 14, 5-7 pm**

An information session for members of the Columbia Heights Community to learn about the new Driver's Licenses for All law in Minnesota, hosted by COPAL-MN. COPAL-MN is a grassroots organization focused on leading "social impact initiatives to improve the quality of life for Latin American families." Registration preferred but not required.

### Start Writing Your Life at 55 Plus\*

**Wed, March 13, 5:30-7 pm**

Have you retired and now have time to devote to your novel-in-progress? Or are you interested in writing a memoir so favorite family stories aren't forgotten? With creative writing prompts and exercises, you'll learn simple tips for starting—and staying with—your writing project, no matter what it is! Registration required.

### MWMO Weaving Water: Why Knot?

**Sat, April 20, 10 am**

Make a cotton macramé plant hanger and learn how to tie square, overhand and other knots with Mississippi Watershed Management Organization Artist in Residence Sarah Nassif. Learn about the chemistry of organic indigo and dip your creation in an indigo vat to dye it shades of blue. All ages and abilities welcome! Registration required.

**Photography Basics: Bring your own smartphone\***

**Wed, April 24, 5:30-7 pm**

Join Rumriver Art Center photographer and artist, Glenn, in learning the basics of photography. Please bring your smartphone with you so this class can be the most beneficial to you. The second half of this class will discuss resources and the basics of how to dive into digital DSLR and/or film cameras. Registration required.

### Mystery Book Club

**Third Wednesday of the month, 5:30 pm**

Join library staff and fellow mystery lovers for a bi-monthly mystery book discussion. No registration is required.

**April 17:** *The Dry* by Jane Harper

### Library Book Club

**Third Wednesday of the month, 10 am**

The library's Adult Book Club meets monthly in the library's community room. Join us each month or drop in for a discussion! No registration is required.

**March 20:** *Signal Fires* by Dani Shapiro

**April 17:** *House in the Cerulean Sea* by T.J. Klune

**May 15:** *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid

### Conversation Circle

**Mondays, 5:30-6 pm & Thursdays, 2-3 pm**

A casual gathering of adult English-language learners who meet at the library to practice their speaking skills in a group setting with help from an English-speaking volunteer. No need to register; just come when you can.

## Financial Literacy Series

### How to Improve Credit and What to Do if You Have None

**Mon, April 1, 5-6 pm**

Whether you're looking to boost your credit score or starting from scratch, this session provides strategies to help you navigate the world of credit. Discover techniques to build a solid credit history, establish healthy financial habits, and open doors to better opportunities. Registration required.

### Looking at the Fine Print for Loans, Credit Cards, etc.

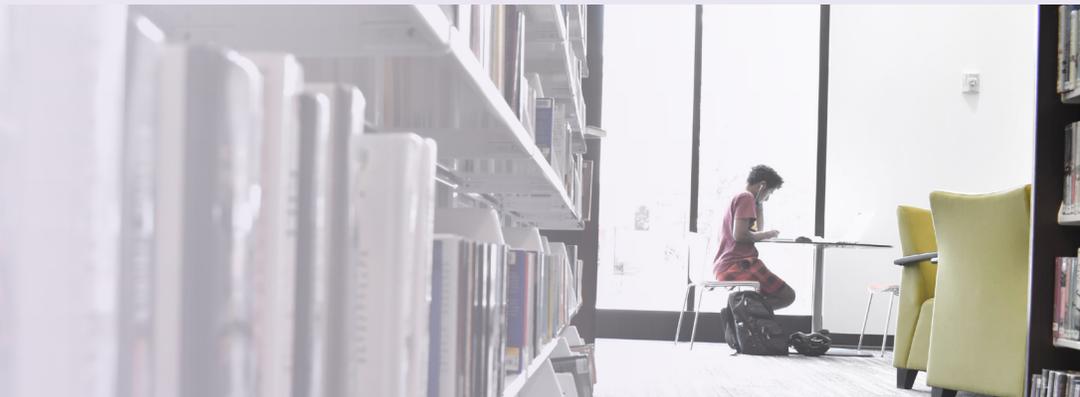
**Mon, April 8, 5-6 pm**

Join us for a conversation on understanding the fine print for loans and credit cards. Gain clarity and confidence in your financial decisions as we explain terms and conditions, fees, and potential risks associated with borrowing and credit. Registration required.

### Managing Credit Cards and Debt

**Mon, April 15, 5-6 pm**

Take control of your financial future with our comprehensive session on learning how to manage your debts. Learn the ins and outs of managing credit cards and debt, and gain the knowledge and skills needed to make informed financial decisions. From understanding interest rates to creating a budget, this session will empower you to navigate the world of personal finance with confidence. Registration required.



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

Visit [www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/enews](http://www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/enews) to subscribe to our monthly emailed newsletter. For questions or concerns about City publications, call 763-706-3615.

## Saturday Author Series

Join the Library for the Saturday Scribes Author Series, featuring local Minnesota authors. Learn about the author's inspirations, writing process, inspirations, and more. Registration required.



**Kao Kalia Yang**  
Sat, April 13  
10:30 am-noon



**Chad Corrie**  
Sat, May 11  
10:30 am-noon

## Youth Programs

### Tinker Time: Fingerprint Art Glass Magnets Tue, March 12, 4:30-6 pm

Transform your fingerprints into one-of-a-kind glass magnets! We'll have a rainbow of colorful ink pads waiting for you to explore to turn Using stamp pads and drawing supplies, create silly monsters, blooming flowers, or even your favorite animal - all using just the magic of your fingerprints. Ages 7+. Drop in anytime between 4:30-6, no registration required.

### Learn-to-Play Dungeons and Dragons: Family Edition Sat, March 16, 12:30-2:30 pm

Join us for a special Learn-to-Play session, designed for kids and their grown-ups to enjoy together! Participants will learn the ins and outs of this classic tabletop role-playing game with a hands-on instructor. They'll then create a character and enjoy a short segment of game play using what they've learned. Math, team-building, and critical thinking skills will be highlighted throughout the session. This class is most appropriate for kids aged 8+ and their grown-ups. Registration required.

### Let's Clay: Gnomes\* Tue, March 26, 3-4:30 pm

Create your own enchanted land where gnomes frolic on the green forest floor. Learn different sculpting techniques to form the sweetest little gnomes and mushrooms out of polymer clay. Once your gnomes are complete, add moss to a wooden base to create their forever home. This class is intended for ages 7+. Registration required.

### Static Electricity with the Bakken Museum Wed, March 27 4-5 pm

A Bakken instructor will lead you through several experiments to experience static electricity first hand. This engaging and energizing presentation has a hands-on focus allowing youth to learn about electricity by experiencing its effects, asking questions, and

creating their own experiments to try, leaving youth excited to learn more about science! Ages 8-12. No registration required.

### Tinker Time: Design Your Own Tote Bag Tue, April 9, 4:30-6 pm

Transform a plain tote bag into a one-of-a-kind masterpiece perfect for carrying your next library haul. We'll provide blank canvas totes and a treasure trove of colorful supplies. Ages 7+. Drop in anytime between 4:30-6, no registration required.

### Richard Scarry's Busy World: Celebrating 50 Years of Cars and Trucks and Things That Go Sat, Apr 20, 1-3 pm

In partnership with Eastside Food Co-op we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Richard Scarry's classic, Cars and Trucks and Things That Go. Join in on the nostalgia and fun with book readings, art activities, complimentary snacks and more. Registration recommended.

### Clay Flowers\* Sat, May 4, 1-2:30 pm

Have flowers in your life all year long when you make yourself a colorful, hand-built centerpiece out of clay. We will work with a ceramic teaching artist who will show us how to create pinch pots and then shape them to create the textural layers of petals that will compose our flowers. We will use colorful under-glazes to finish our work, then our teaching artist will take everything away to be fired and clear glazed. Finished work will be returned after 2-3 weeks. Ages 7+. Registration required.

### Tinker Time: LEGO Tue, May 14, 4:30-6 pm

Unleash your imagination and build whatever you can dream up, using a variety of LEGO bricks and elements. Ages 7+. Drop in anytime between 4:30-6, no registration required.

**Family Storytime**  
Mondays, March 4 - April 29, 10:30-11 am

## Teen Programs

### Teen DIY: Boba Tea Tue, March 19, 5-6:30 pm

Create your own custom boba tea! Explore the different types of boba pearls and flavors, and experiment with fun ingredients like popping boba and jellies. We'll have all the supplies you need. After you make your custom boba tea, design a matching Shrinky Dink boba tea keychain. Ages 12-18. Drop in anytime between 5-6:30, registration recommended.

### Teen DIY: Pop Tart Plush Tue, Apr 16, 5-6:30 pm

Sweeten up your space with a simple no-sew Pop Tart plush and taste test a variety of pop tart flavors. Ages 12-18. Drop in anytime between 5-6:30, registration recommended.

### Job Fair for Teens Tue, May 7, 3-6 pm

The Anoka County Job Training Center will host a Youth Job Fair at the Columbia Heights Public Library. Employers will have applications and information about summer jobs or internships available, and youth/parents can ask questions in person. Friends and family welcome - employers have jobs for all ages. Staff from the Anoka County Youth Program, Empowers, will also be there to share about employment services. To learn about the Empowers youth program, please contact Darcy Hokkanen at **763.324-2306** or **Darcy.Hokkanen@co.anoka.mn.us**

### Summer Volunteering for Teens

Pick up an application for volunteering at the library this summer! For teens ages 13 and older who are self-motivated and reliable. There are a limited number of teen volunteer spots available on a first come basis. The deadline to turn in applications is June 3, 2024.

*\* Funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund*

**Library Hours**  
Mon-Thu, 10 am to 7 pm  
Fri, 10 am to 4 pm  
Sat, 10 am to 3 pm  
Sun, closed

**Upcoming Library Closures**  
March 29 • May 16 • May 25 • May 27  
**3939 Central Ave NE • (763) 706-3690**  
**At-home Service • (763) 706-3681**

[www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/library](http://www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/library)  
[www.anokacountymn.gov/4180/Libraries](http://www.anokacountymn.gov/4180/Libraries)  
Facebook: @chplibrary

# Medtronic Site Redevelopment Planning

On Jan 9, the City hosted an open house for the community to learn more about potential redevelopment plans for the Medtronic site at 800 53rd Ave NE. Community Development Director Aaron Chirpich and HKGi Vice President Bryan Harjes led a presentation that gave attendees an overview of the project background and explained some of the economic factors influencing redevelopment options and the need for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to revise the site's land-use guidance. Two design concepts were reviewed, followed by a Q&A session and an opportunity for community members to speak directly with staff and officials. Following the open house, a public feedback tool was opened for the community to provide input over a two-week period.



*Attendees viewed project information at City Hall prior to the presentation on Jan 9.*

The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment that would change the site's land-use guidance went before the Planning Commission at their Feb 6 meeting. The Planning Commission will provide the City Council with a recommendation to authorize submission of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment to the Metropolitan Council at the Feb 26 meeting. There will be a 60-day review period by the Metropolitan Council, and no land use entitlements will be considered until the Metropolitan Council approves the amendment.

## Submit Business of the Year Nominations by March 25

The City's Business of the Year award recognizes local businesses for noteworthy accomplishments, long-standing contributions to the community, and significant community service efforts.

Award criteria considerations include:

- Long-standing business reaching a milestone year
- Major business expansion, remodel, exterior renovation, landscaping improvements, or relocation with the City
- Major contribution(s) to the community
- Other major accomplishment or achievement worthy of recognition
- Environmentally friendly or sustainability-related initiatives or improvements

**Does this bring any Columbia Heights businesses to mind? Please tell us about it!**

To nominate a business, visit [columbiaheightsmn.gov/business](https://columbiaheightsmn.gov/business) or pick up a nomination form at City Hall. Nominations are due by March 25.

## PLANNING SPRING PROJECTS?

### Get info on permits at [columbiaheightsmn.gov/permits](https://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 [columbiaheightsmn.gov/permits](https://columbiaheightsmn.gov/permits). Obtaining the appropriate 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.

# STAY INFORMED

Looking to stay up to date on City happenings? You have options!

## SIGN UP FOR OUR MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

Visit [columbiaheightsmn.gov/e-news](http://columbiaheightsmn.gov/e-news) and enter an email address to sign up or view past issues. No need to create an account!



## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@columbiaheightsmn  
@columbiaheightsfire  
@chpolice  
@chplibrary  
@chrecreation



@columbiaheightsmn  
@columbiaheightspd



@heightsmn  
@colhgtspolice

## CABLE CHANNEL 16

City Council meetings are aired live and replayed on local channel 16 daily at 9 am and 6 pm. They are also available to stream anytime at [columbiaheightsmn.gov/streaming](http://columbiaheightsmn.gov/streaming).

## SIGN UP FOR CODE RED ALERTS



Sign up to receive emergency texts, emails, or calls about severe weather events and other area emergencies. You can also sign up for general alerts to receive localized updates about construction projects, public hearings, and other notable activities happening near you.



[columbiaheightsmn.gov/alerts](http://columbiaheightsmn.gov/alerts)

## IMPORTANT CITY CONTACTS

CITY OFFICES.....(763) 706-3600  
Administration.....(763) 706-3610  
  
Public Works..... (763) 706-3700  
Garbage/Refuse Pick-up/  
Recycling.....(763) 780-8464  
Refuse Support.....(763) 706-3727  
  
Utility Billing.....(763) 706-3640  
  
Fire Dept. Admin & Info..... (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 James..... (763) 706-3618  
Councilmember Spriggs..... (763) 706-3617  
  
City Newsletter editor..... (763) 706-3615  
  
Emergency.....911

**MORE INFO AT:**  
[www.columbiaheightsmn.gov](http://www.columbiaheightsmn.gov)

# CHPD in the Community

The Columbia Heights Police Department is partnering with Columbia Heights High School to form a mentoring program with the boys' varsity basketball team. Each week, the group meets to talk and share a meal. At the start of the program, students were given the opportunity to share their goals with the group. To provide guidance and support, the Police Officers speak on various topics each week that are tailored toward the students' goals. Topics are relevant to the students' personal lives as well as their lives as student-athletes. To further support the relationship with the players,

the officers have committed to attending the boys' basketball games throughout the season.

The department is also excited to resume its partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters. CHPD has partnered with the Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Program for 12+ years and looks forward to having our officers and City staff partner with our local students. Our department members will serve as mentors to students from our local elementary schools and will begin building relationships through guidance, mentoring, and academic/personal support.

## Roll Call, a CHPD Podcast

Roll Call, the CHPD's podcast, features discussions with officers and special guests about law enforcement and public safety topics relevant to the community. The latest episode features an interview with Pat Sukhum, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities.

To listen, visit [columbiaheightsmn.gov/podcast](http://columbiaheightsmn.gov/podcast) or search Columbia Heights Podcast on Spotify.



*BBBS Twin Cities CEO Pat Sukhum recording with the team at Columbia Heights City Hall.*



## Protect Yourself from Auto Theft

The CHPD has received several reports of thefts from vehicles and reports of stolen vehicles. We ask the community not to store valuable property, including firearms, in cars.

Remember to lock your vehicles, do not leave vehicles idling with the keys in the ignition, and report all suspicious activity to 911.

CHPD has partnered with the Anoka County Auto Theft Task Force to address these issues, and extra enforcement has been occurring.

## ORDINANCE REMINDER: NUISANCE ANIMALS

While many residents are aware that animals like chickens are allowed in the City, the Police Department is getting more frequent calls regarding roosters. City ordinance **does** apply to animals that make too much noise. Ordinance 8.101 prohibits animals that "habitually or frequently bark or cry to the annoyance of neighbors or the general public." Roosters are notorious for excessive noise in the early morning, and the close proximity of residences in the City makes this even more of a nuisance. The Police Department asks the community to choose wisely when selecting animals and to be good neighbors by addressing noisy animals such as roosters and dogs that bark excessively.

## 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.

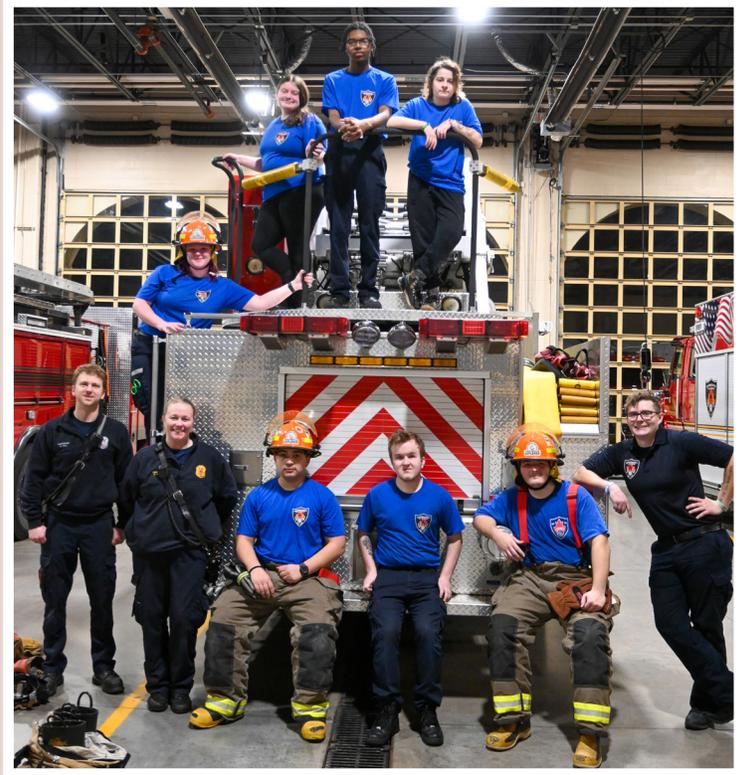
For general information, activities, ordinances, and services, visit [www.chpolice.com](http://www.chpolice.com), find us on [Facebook.com/chpolice](https://www.facebook.com/chpolice), and follow us at [Twitter.com/colhgtspolice](https://twitter.com/colhgtspolice).

## Columbia Heights Fire Explorers

The Columbia Heights Fire Explorer Program works with teens and young adults aged 14-21 who are interested in learning about Fire and EMS service. The group meets every Tuesday at the Public Safety Building and trains using the same types of fire and EMS curriculum as the Fire Department. In time, participants can work shifts with the firefighters and respond to calls (except situations that are dangerous to life and health). Many Explorers go on to become firefighters (seven of the current CHFDF firefighters started out in the Fire Explorers program).

Explorers receive their own turnout gear for their time in the program, get annual CPR certification, compete at the State Fair's Fire Explorer Competition, and represent the Fire Department at several City events throughout the year. Participants say they like being able to work alongside real firefighters and appreciate having real EMS training.

If you're interested in joining, please contact Kyle Hall at (763) 706-8158 or [khall@columbiaheightsmn.gov](mailto:khall@columbiaheightsmn.gov).



Above: some of this year's Fire Explorers and their leaders on a Tuesday night this January.



FOLLOW US!  
[@columbiaheightsfireexplorers](https://www.instagram.com/columbiaheightsfireexplorers)

## Recreational Fire Update

New this year, the City of Columbia Heights no longer requires residents to obtain Recreational Fire Permits.

Please keep in mind that **all safety requirements related to recreational fires still apply**, and residents may be subject to citation or revocation of privileges if rules are violated.

- Only clean, dry firewood can be burned. Never burn trash, leaves, yard waste, or construction debris.
- Recreational fires are not permitted on windy days
- Fires must be contained in a fire pit or ring
- Fires must be extinguished by 11 pm

[VIEW ALL RECREATIONAL FIRE REQUIREMENTS](#)



## FIRE DEPARTMENT

825 41st Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421  
[fire@columbiaheightsmn.gov](mailto:fire@columbiaheightsmn.gov)



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

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

## Trex Recycling Challenge

Thank you for continuing to recycle your plastic bags and film! Our Recycling Center typically collects about three tons of plastic per year, resulting in Trex park benches that have been placed throughout the community. Our Public Works Department recently installed two benches at Huset Park (see right), replacing very old benches that were overdue for an upgrade. Can't make it to the Recycling Center on Saturdays? Plastic bags and film can also be dropped off at City Hall (3989 Central Ave NE). There is a collection bin inside the entrance from the parking garage. Reminder: plastic must be clean and dry.



## SPRING HYDRANT FLUSHING

Fire hydrant flushing takes place in April and early May. Hydrants are flushed between 7 am and 3 pm. It's necessary to flush all City hydrants annually 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 cold water for 10 to 20 minutes. Avoid washing clothes while hydrants are being flushed in your area, as discolored water may stain. Some localized flushing may be necessary at other times throughout the year.

## Help Protect Our Watershed This Construction Season

Sediment-laden storm water runoff from active construction sites is one of the nation's leading water resource pollutants. Sediment and other pollutants from construction sites, such as cement, paint, fuel, and oil, can cause physical, chemical, and biological harm to our water resources. Polluted storm water runoff from construction sites can flow into the storm drain system and eventually discharge into our local rivers, lakes, wetlands, and streams.

If you know of a construction site that you think is contributing sediment to a road, street, or waterway (creek, river, pond, or lake), report it to the City.

### What to look for:

- Muddy water flowing into street from construction site
- Tracking of mud into road from construction site
- Silt fences falling down
- Trash, litter and construction debris not cleaned up daily
- Concrete waste and wash water

## Arbor Day

## TREE SALE

We are excited to offer discounted trees to residents again this year through the Arbor Day Tree Sale! This is a convenient opportunity to add trees to your property at a discounted rate with free delivery. For details on tree options, pricing, and ordering, visit [columbiaheightsmn.gov/trees](http://columbiaheightsmn.gov/trees).

The pre-order window will open in March and will remain open through April (or earlier if all trees are claimed). Supplies are limited and are on a first-come, first-served basis.

All orders must be pre-paid; credit card payment is preferred, but checks are also accepted. Please mail or drop off checks at City Hall, 3989 Central Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421. The check memo should say "Arbor Day Tree Sale."

Public Works will deliver trees to properties in May.



# Arm Truck Refuse Collection

Our waste hauler uses trucks with mechanical arms to empty your refuse and recycling carts (see left). To ensure the drivers can efficiently empty your carts, please follow these cart placement guidelines:

- Place your carts **behind** the curb line
- Allow space between your carts and other obstacles
- Never place carts in the street

Residents also have the option to have a refuse pad added to their property along with the City's annual concrete work. Refuse pads provide a dedicated area for refuse carts for approximately \$12/square foot. For more information, contact [publicworks@columbiaheightsmn.gov](mailto:publicworks@columbiaheightsmn.gov).

## Fix-it Clinic Comes to Columbia Heights May 4 Don't trash it - fix it!



Save money, reduce waste, and preserve your items at the Anoka County Fix-it Clinic on Sat, May 4! Meet in person with an expert fixer to repair your favorite items.

**Where:** First Lutheran Church, 1555 40th Ave NE

**When:** Sat, May 4, 10 am-1 pm

**What:** Get help repairing lamps, coffee makers, clothing, vacuums, and much more!

For more information, visit:  
[anokacountymn.gov/3432/Fix-It-Clinics](https://anokacountymn.gov/3432/Fix-It-Clinics)



## Recycle Packing Styrofoam and more at the Recycling Center

Rigid molded Styrofoam (like new electronics are often packed in) can be dropped off at the Recycling Center on Saturdays between 9 am and 1 pm. Other accepted items include household scrap metal, batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, plastic film, and large cardboard. For a full list of accepted items, visit: [columbiaheightsmn.gov/recyclingcenter](https://columbiaheightsmn.gov/recyclingcenter).

**Columbia Heights  
Recycling Center**

.....  
**Open Saturdays  
9 am-1 pm**  
.....

**📍 3801 Madison St NE**

## Refuse Holiday Schedule

**Memorial Day, May 27**

*Service delayed one day all week*



## Yard Waste Season

Weekly yard waste collection typically begins in April after snow cover has melted. Leaves, grass clippings, garden waste, and small sticks/twigs should go in a City yard waste cart or compostable yard waste bags. Brush such as large sticks and branches should be bundled. Bundles should be no more than 3-feet in length and no more than 18 inches in diameter. To order a City yard waste cart, visit [columbiaheightsmn.gov/refusesupport](https://columbiaheightsmn.gov/refusesupport). Note: yard waste is picked up by College Hunks, so the schedule may not be the same as your Walter's schedule for trash and recycling. Visit [columbiaheightsmn.gov/yardwastemap](https://columbiaheightsmn.gov/yardwastemap) to confirm your service day.

Please note that food organics can no longer be collected in yard waste carts after March. The City is working on a new organics collection program. Updates on the program will be shared with current compost cart customers, and on the Refuse News & Updates page at [columbiaheightsmn.gov/refuseupdates](https://columbiaheightsmn.gov/refuseupdates).

**Online Refuse Support Form**  
[www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refusesupport](https://www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refusesupport)

**City Refuse Support Line**  
763-706-3727

**Refuse Service Levels and Rates**  
[www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refuserates](https://www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refuserates)

**City Refuse/Recycling Website**  
[www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refuse](https://www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refuse)

**Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions**  
(763) 324-3400 [AnokaCountyMN.gov/recycle](https://AnokaCountyMN.gov/recycle)

**Recycling Center**  
[www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/recyclingcenter](https://www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/recyclingcenter)

# GET INVOLVED!

Looking to connect with the Heights community?  
There are a number of opportunities to get involved!

## Serve on a City Commission: Apply by Feb 29

Citizen involvement is vital to the progress of the City and the quality and responsiveness of public decision-making. Serving on a board or commission is a great way to become actively involved in city government and influence the policies, actions, and progress of our community. Members of boards and commissions are volunteer residents appointed by the City Council, except for Charter Commission members, who the chief judge of the Judicial District appoints. There are several open seats with terms beginning April 1.

### OPEN SEATS

Planning Commission: 3

Park & Recreation: 3

Library Board: 2

Charter Commission: 1

Learn more and find the application at [columbiaheightsmn.gov/commissions](https://columbiaheightsmn.gov/commissions) or pick up an application at City Hall or the Columbia Heights Public Library. Bring or mail completed applications to City Hall (3989 Central Ave NE), or email to [sion@columbiaheightsmn.gov](mailto:sion@columbiaheightsmn.gov).

Interviews will occur in March. All positions require an interview except those only applying for the Charter Commission (appointed by Chief Judge of Anoka County). Terms begin April 1.

Questions? Please contact the City Clerk at 763-706-3611, or email [sion@columbiaheightsmn.gov](mailto:sion@columbiaheightsmn.gov).

## Join a Community Organization

Columbia Heights has a fantastic lineup of active service and civic organizations that truly make a difference in the community. They are always looking for new members and would love to hear from you!

The City also has various volunteer opportunities for youth, teens, and adults. From coaching youth athletics to helping out at the library or City events, there's something for everyone.

To learn more about the City's community groups and volunteer opportunities, please visit [columbiaheightsmn.gov/volunteer](https://columbiaheightsmn.gov/volunteer), where you'll find additional details and contact info. If you have a community organization to add to our website, please get in touch with Kat Watson at [kwatson@columbiaheightsmn.gov](mailto:kwatson@columbiaheightsmn.gov).

## Serve as an Election Judge

The City is accepting applications for individuals interested in serving as election judges in our upcoming 2024 elections.

To maintain balanced party representation at our polling places, we're in particular need of additional judges who are affiliated with the Republican or Legalize Marijuana Now parties or who are not affiliated with a major political party. Minnesota statute requires that no more than half of the election judges in a precinct may be members of the same major political party.

Election judges serve as polling place officials on Election Day. Some duties include opening and closing the polls, registering and signing in voters, distributing and collecting ballots, operating voting equipment, recording and certifying vote totals, and ensuring voters' rights are protected.

Interested? Learn more and apply at: [columbiaheightsmn.gov/electionjudge](https://columbiaheightsmn.gov/electionjudge)