



COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
REDISCOVER THE HEIGHTS

CITY NEWSLETTER

Police department earns second international award

The Columbia Heights Police Department was selected by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) for the 2018 Leadership in Community Policing Award, marking the second time the department has won the honor. The first was in 2012.

“It’s not just our award. It’s the community’s award,” said Police Chief Lenny Austin. “Policing is challenging in and of itself, but quite frankly it would be impossible without the strong partnerships and strong ties we have with our citizens, with other city departments, and with our government and community leaders.”

Police, continued on page 2

Election reminders and polling places for November 6

The general election is Tuesday, Nov 6, with absentee voting beginning Sept 21 at Columbia Heights City Hall. Polls are open 7 am to 8 pm on Election Day.

The Columbia Heights mayoral candidates are Connie Buesgens and Donna Schmitt. The City Council candidates are Nelle Bing, Kay “Kt” Jacobs, John Murzyn Jr and Nick Novitsky. The District 4 Anoka County Commissioner candidates are Sean Broom and Mandy Meisner.

Get to know the candidates better at a general election Candidate Forum Sept 20, 7 pm, at Columbia Heights City Hall. For more information, visit columbia-heightsmn.gov and click on “Elections & Voting” under the “Government” tab.

There will be two City of Columbia Heights questions on the ballot for voters to consider:

Question 1: Shall the Columbia Heights City Charter be amended to change the mayoral term from a two-year term to a four-year term, with the change being effective January 1, 2021?

Question 2: Under the current city charter, the Police Department is under the control of the Mayor. Shall the Home Rule Charter of the City of Columbia Heights be amended to place control of the Police Department under the City Manager? If approved, this change shall take effect 30 days from the date of the election.

Find Your Precinct
To find out where you should vote, visit pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/

- Precinct 1 – John P. Murzyn Hall, 530 Mill St.
- Precinct 2 – Immaculate Conception Church, 4030 Jackson St. NE
- Precinct 3 – Columbia Heights Library, 3939 Central Ave. NE
- Precinct 4 – Highland Elementary School, 1500 49th Ave. NE
- Precinct 5 – First Lutheran Church, 1555 40th Ave. NE
- Precinct 6 – Highland Elementary School, 1500 49th Ave. NE
- Precinct 7 – Valley View Elementary School, 800 49th Ave. NE
- Precinct 8 – Valley View Elementary School, 800 49th Ave. NE



Harriet Blythe and her daughter Jeanette in 1928 prior to the Red Wagon Brigade, a project headed by Blythe and the Silver Lake School Mothers Club to collect books, magazines and furniture for the first public library in Columbia Heights, which opened Dec 3, 1928, at 3949 Central Ave NE, in the Heights Theater.

Columbia Heights Public Library celebrates its 90th year with fall events

Join the Columbia Heights Public Library as it celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2018.

After 90 years, the Columbia Heights Library on Central Ave finds itself a mere stone’s throw from its original location at the Heights Theater building, where it shared a small space with the theater and a handful of other businesses back in 1928. The library has been housed in a half dozen buildings since its inception and is steeped in Columbia Heights history.

This fall, the library will mark its 90th anniversary with a series of public events:

- “History of Columbia Heights and Hilltop,” Saturday, Oct 13, 1 pm, Library Community Room: The Anoka County Historical Society will present an audio-visual tour of historical photographs and stories from the beginnings of Columbia Heights and Hilltop when they were located in their own tiny county of Manomin.

Library, continued on page 8

SEE FLIP SIDE FOR RECREATION PROGRAMS

City of Columbia Heights
590 40th Ave., N.E.
Columbia Heights, MN 55421
763-706-3600
TDD 763-706-3692

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Tanya Moore is named 2018 Outstanding Citizen

Ever since she was a kid volunteering to help at her neighborhood park in South Minneapolis, Tanya Moore has stayed true to her philosophy: if you want to change your world for the better, you have to get involved.

It was this enthusiasm for community engagement that helped Moore earn the City of Columbia Heights' 2018 Outstanding Citizen Award. She was formally recognized for the award at the City Council meeting on June 11.

Moore moved to Columbia Heights 17 years ago and quickly got involved in a number of community organizations. She is currently on the board of directors for the Columbia Heights Athletic Boosters and has been a longtime member of the Lions Club where she volunteers for a range of activities and events, including the annual Jamboree.

She works as a paraprofessional with the Columbia Heights School District, where three of her five children are enrolled, and frequently volunteers to coach youth

sports and assist with extracurricular events. Moore is often joined in her volunteer work by her husband Nelson and the rest of her family.

She said she hopes the Outstanding Citizen Award inspires more people to get involved in their community.

"There are so many different organizations in our community looking for people to volunteer," Moore said. "I'd love to see new faces out there."

About the Outstanding Citizen Award

Every year the City seeks to find one adult and one youth within the community who puts the needs of others before their own. Nominees can be submitted by anyone. The only requirement is that those who are nominated live in Columbia Heights. The selection process gives extra consideration to people who have not otherwise been publicly recognized.

Moore was selected from a group of nominees by Mayor Donna Schmitt and



Tanya Moore, right, receives her Outstanding Citizen Award from Mayor Donna Schmitt at a Columbia Heights City Council meeting in June.

last year's Outstanding Citizen winner Amada Márquez Simula.

The 2019 deadline to submit an Outstanding Citizen nominee will be next spring, but it's not too early to start thinking about who's making the most impact in your community today. For more information, visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/community.

Police, continued from page 1

The IACP award goes to one agency each year, worldwide, in one of five population categories.

The CHPD won in the "under 20,000 population" category for its successful work in community policing strategies and crime reduction programs, particularly its involvement in the City of Peace Neighborhood Center.

The City of Peace Neighborhood Center opened this June in the heart of the Columbia Heights' Circle Terrace Neighborhood, an area that has seen high crime rates in the past but continues to make improvements through the combined efforts of residents, police and community groups. The building was conceived of as a gathering place for under-served communities, where residents, city officials and volunteer groups could meet and build relationships.

Planning for the Neighborhood Center began over three years ago. Near the beginning of the process, officers went door-to-door, survey in hand, to listen to the needs of Circle Terrace residents. The survey results showed that almost 90 percent of residents were looking for more interaction and a more engaging relationship with law enforcement.

The police and community development departments then reached out to state, county, and city stakeholders, the school district, the faith community, public works, recreation, and



political and community leaders to develop a plan that would provide the neighborhood with a better opportunity to grow and invest in itself. The City of Peace Neighborhood Center grew out of that collaborative effort.

"It's a whole team that made this happen," said Columbia Heights Mayor Donna Schmitt. "I'm so proud of everyone involved."

In 2012, the department won the IACP award for pioneering several community policing initiatives it still uses today. The department was also a finalist for the award in 2015.

"Law enforcement is often asked to respond to crime and disorder as a reactionary force, but to truly affect the outcome of public safety you must rely on the partnerships of an entire community," said Sgt. Justin Pletcher, who nominated the police department this year for the IACP award. "To truly affect public safety we need to seek out the approval and understanding of the communities we serve."

"We still have work to do," said Chief Austin. "But I think this award tells us we are on the right track."

The Leadership in Community Policing Award will be presented to the Columbia Heights Police Department on Oct 9 at the IACP's Annual Conference in Orlando.

New library wins design award, sees major increase in use since opening

The Minneapolis branch of the American Institute of Architects selected the Columbia Heights Public Library as a 2018 Merit Award winner for “excellence beyond design.”

The award recognizes buildings with exceptional design qualities that go above and beyond in addressing social, economic and environmental needs in the community, exhibit technical innovation, and were built within budget constraints, among other criteria.



The Columbia Heights Public Library, at 3939 Central Ave NE, is one of five buildings to earn this award in 2018. The award comes on the 90th anniversary year of the opening of the first

Columbia Heights Public Library (see story on cover).

“We are in our 90th anniversary year, and we are so excited to be in this great, new, light-filled building at the heart of the community,” said Renee Dougherty, library director. “This building is the true gift, and this award reminds us of what a great gift it is.”

Award-winning attributes and building success

Use of the Columbia Heights Public Library has increased by almost two-thirds since the new building has opened.

Completed in 2016 on budget and ahead of schedule, the 22,565 square-foot building provides print and digital collections, community meeting spaces, educational and recreational programming, and 20 computer stations. The study rooms, small meeting rooms, and the Community Room received more than 3,200 public reservations in 2017, representing a 93 percent increase in reservations compared to the old building.

Circulation of materials (books, magazines, DVDs, CDs) also increased in light of the new building, from 109,018 checkouts in 2015 to 123,812 in 2017. But the increase in computer use marked the biggest change, from 23,218 computer sessions in 2015 to 47,506 in 2017.

“A major way the Columbia Heights Library serves our community is by bridging the digital divide, providing access to computers and high speed internet for those who don’t have access to the internet at home or work,” Dougherty said.

Designed by architect Paul Neuhaus, the library also provides an urban community space on Central Avenue with ample day lighting, deep overhangs, high open structures with sound-absorbing decking, and a comfortable indoor atmosphere with design features that help minimize the building’s impact on the environment, such as sun-sensitive LED lighting and energy saving underfloor air distribution systems.

Submit your photos for library exhibit by Oct 1

Got an eye for photography and want to share your vision of Columbia Heights? Submit your images to be considered for the Columbia Heights Public Library’s 90th Anniversary Photography Exhibit, a collaborative effort between the library and the Northeast newspaper.

Both amateur and professional photographers are encouraged to submit their photos. There is no residency requirement, but all photos must be taken within Columbia Heights (other guidelines below), and submitted electronically by Oct 1. While this exhibit is in celebration of the library’s 90th anniversary, photos do not have to be related to the library to be eligible.

Selected images will be professionally printed and matted for a cohesive look. Contributors with images in the exhibit will be recognized in the Northeast and receive the print of their image as a



keepsake. There is no monetary prize.

The photography exhibit will be on display in the library’s Community Room for approximately six weeks starting Dec 1. Submitted

photos may also be published on the city’s website or in the newsletter and other city publications.

Images will go through an art jurying process. The jury will select as many or as few photos as they deem appropriate for the exhibit. Those who serve on the jury are prohibited from submitting their own photos.

To submit, please read the guidelines below, then email your image(s) to Art@MyNortheast.com by Oct 1.

Submission Instructions and Guidelines:

- Images must be of people, landmarks, or activities in the public or quasi-public realm in Columbia Heights, and taken within the last five years.

- Images may be in color or monochrome (black-and-white or sepia-tone)
- Image files should be a minimum of 2000 pixels on the longest side up to about 3 MB in file size per image. Higher resolution (200 or 300 dpi) images provide the most flexibility in reproduction.
- JPEG (.jpg) file format only
- THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS is Oct 1, 3:30 pm
- No hard copy submissions will be accepted—only emails submitted to Art@MyNortheast.com.
- Send only one image per email. Please include “CH Images” in the subject line, with your name as it will appear on the exhibit label. Label each image with the title of the piece (for the exhibit label). In the body of the email include your contact information and the general location where the photo was taken.
- Ownership of images: Artists retain ownership, but the City of Columbia Heights receives permission to use the image in the exhibit and the exhibit’s promotion, in the city’s communications and publications with proper credit, and in future calls for art.

LIBRARY

3939 Central Ave NE
Information and Reference (763) 706-3690
At-home Service (763) 706-3681
Renewal: (763) 324-1590

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov
www.anokacountylibrary.org
Cable Channel 19
www.facebook.com/ColumbiaHeightsPublicLibrary

ADULT FALL LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Adult Library Programs

Birdwatching in the Heights

*Wednesdays: Sept 19 and Sept 26,
6 to 7:30 pm*

Join the library for a two-part "Birdwatching in the Heights" experience! On Sept 19, we will meet at the library and learn basic bird identification tips and how to use a field guide. On Sept 26, we will meet at the library and walk to LaBelle Park and practice using our ears to discover the birds around us. Registration for BOTH programs is required. Space is limited. Register online or call 763-706-3690.

Library Book Club

Drop in for a favorite book discussion or become a regular member. Book Club meets in the library at 10 am on the third Wednesday of each month and no registration is required. Upcoming discussions include:

"Good as Gone" by Amy Gentry
Wed, Sept 19, at 10 am



"Main Street" by Sinclair Lewis
Wed, Oct 17, at 10 am

"The Martian" by Andy Weir
Wed, Nov 21, at 10 am



Open to Business

*Tuesdays: Sept 11, Oct 9, Nov 13 from
1:30 to 4 pm*

Open to Business provides free one-on-one business counseling to current and prospective entrepreneurs in our community. A consultant can help with strategic planning, marketing, writing a business plan, seeking funds to start or expand a business, and general management and bookkeeping training for new business owners. Call (763) 438-7315 for information.

The Vivid Vase

Mon, Sept 24, 6 pm

If you have a shelf full of clear glass vases that you have collected over the years, we have the perfect solution to giving them pizzazz and new life. Work with an artist to add color and design using alcohol paints. Bring your own vase or we will provide one. Space is limited and registration is required. Register online or call 763-706-3690.

History of Columbia Heights

Sat, Oct 13, 1 pm

Join the Anoka County Historical Society for a special history program commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Columbia Heights Library. More info on page 1.

Tips for Using Ancestry.com

Mon, Oct 15, 6 pm

Learn tips and tricks to navigate Ancestry.com, whether you're using your library's subscription, a home subscription, or free guest account access. Bring your laptop if you have one. Space is limited and registration is required. Register online or call 763-706-3690.

Senior Surf for Adults 55+

*Wednesdays: Sept 5, Oct 3, or Nov 7
from 9:30 to 11:30 am*

Get hands-on computer experience with help from representatives of the Senior LinkAge Line. Learn computer basics, how to navigate and search the Internet, and how to access websites of interest to seniors. Register online for one session or call 763-706-3690.



Scrabble Club (Adults)

*First and third Tuesdays of each month,
6:30 pm*

Exercise your brain and challenge others to a friendly game of Scrabble. Everyone is welcome! Hosted by the Friends of Columbia Heights Library. Free and open to the public.

Conversation Circles for English Language Learners

Thursdays from 1 to 2 pm

Want to practice your English speaking skills? Conversation Circles is an informal gathering of English-language adult 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.

Healthy Life, Healthy You Boot Camp

Mon, Oct 29, 5 to 7 pm

Healthy Life, Healthy You Boot Camp is a nutrition education workshop for adults that emphasizes planning and preparing healthy meals on a budget. In this class, led by a University of Minnesota Extension educator, participants will learn basic cooking techniques by making a stir-fry recipe. Register online or call 763-706-3690.

NaNoWriMo Write-In

Sat, Nov 3, 12 to 4 pm

November is National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo). Come to the library and join fellow writers to practice your craft. If you want to connect with other writers or you just want a space to work, come to the library anytime between 12 and 4 on Sat, Nov 3 and join us in the Community Room for a relaxed afternoon of writing. No registration required.

The Benefits of Meditation

Tue, Nov 13, 6:30 pm

Meditation can bring about a sense of calm and balance that benefits both your emotional and physical well-being, and it's easy to learn. Join long-time meditator Arvind Naik for this engaging workshop. No registration required.

90th Anniversary Open House

Sat, Dec 1, 11 am to 4 pm

Join us in celebrating 90 years of library service to the Columbia Heights community! More info on page 1 and 8.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Wed, Dec 5, 12 to 6 pm

The American Red Cross will be at the Columbia Heights Public Library for a blood drive. Drop into the library, call 1-800-733-

2767, or register online at www.redcross-blood.org to give blood and save a life!



Library Foundation fundraiser is September 12

The Columbia Heights Public Library Foundation's Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser is Wed, Sept 12 from 4:30 to 7 pm at Murzyn Hall, 530 Mill St NE \$8 adults (13 & up), \$5 children (5 to 12). Tickets sold at the door.

Library Hours

Monday-Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Thursday-Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday: CLOSED

Library Holidays

Saturday through Monday, Sept. 1-3 – Labor Day Weekend (Closed)

Mon, Nov 12 – Veteran's Day (Closed)

Nov 22-23 – Thanksgiving Holiday (Closed)

Kids Programs

LEGO Challenge

Wednesday, Sept 12, 4 to 5 pm

Wednesday, Oct 10, 4 to 5 pm

Wednesday, Nov 14, 4 to 5 pm

Wednesday, Dec 12, 4 to 5 pm

We'll provide the LEGOs; you bring the imagination.

Grades k-6.

No registration required.



STEAM Saturdays

Sept 29, Oct 27, and Nov 11, 11:30 am

Explore, experiment, and discover the wonders of science, technology, engineering, art and math!

4-H STEAM

Tuesday, Oct 2, 4 to 5 pm

Join us as we explore a STEAM related topic with hands-on learning and projects. Visit columbiaheightsmn.gov for more info.

ComedySportz Improv Show

Thursday, Oct 18, 2 pm

Two actors create short games and scenes, based on audience suggestions, to earn laughs! The brown-bag foul keeps it clean, so the matches are perfect for all ages! No registration required.

Teen Programs

Teen Advisory Board (TAB)

Last Wednesday of each month,
6 to 7 pm

TAB is a group of teens who participate in the functioning of the library and is a forum to have your opinions heard. Membership is open to grades 6 through 12. The group meets on the last Wednesday of each month from 6 to 7 pm.

4-H Tech Wizards

Tuesdays, 4 to 6 pm

Tech Wizards is a free program that engages youth in small group mentoring around technology and STEM concepts in partnership with Anoka County 4-H. For grades 5-8.

Teen Read Month

All of October

Think the book is better than the movie? Know Harry Potter by heart? Stop by the library this month and put your YA book knowledge to the test! There will be new trivia each week. Enter all month long for a chance to win a book lover's grab bag!

Rock N Roll Felt

Friday, Nov 9, 2 to 4 pm

Accessorize your favorite outfit with a funky wet felted key chain, necklace, or bracelet. Use your favorite bright colors of roving, use water and soap to rock and roll the loose fibers into different shapes. Grades 1-5. Registration required.

Happy Birthday, Dear Library!

Tuesdays in November, 3 to 6 pm

The library is turning 90 this year! Celebrate by creating a birthday card for the library that will be displayed in the craft room and at our open house celebration!

Toddler Dance Party

Monday, Nov 19, 10:30 am

Celebrate the end of fall storytime session with a dance party! We'll move and shake to a kid-friendly playlist with storytime favorites like scarves and shaky eggs. For families. No registration required.

STEAM Storytime

Mondays, Dec 3 and 17, 10:30 am

Explore preschool science concepts at the library with stories, songs and activities! Geared toward ages 2 to 5 and their caregivers, but siblings are welcome. No registration required.

CraftLab

Wed, Oct 17, 2 to 3 pm

Thu, Nov 8, 2 to 3 pm

Join us each month for a different DIY! Oct: Slime and Skeleton Tees Nov: Stress Balls and Fidget Toys. For grades 4 and up. Registration required.

Volunteering

Learn more about the library, help your community, meet new people and earn community service hours for school. For teens ages 13 and older who are self-motivated, reliable, and want to have fun. Applications are available at the library.

Graphic Novel Book Club @ Columbia Academy

Third Tuesday of each month,
3:30-5 pm

Join us after school to discuss your favorite graphic novels and create your own comics with other graphic-novel fans!



Storytime @ the Library

Sept 10 to Nov 15

Family Storytime

Mondays, 10:30 to 11 am

Mondays, 5:30 to 6 pm

Share books, songs, and rhymes with your children at this storytime designed to promote school readiness in 2- to 5-year-olds. Librarians, caregivers, and children will sing, talk, read, write and play together to build early literacy skills. Siblings are also welcome!



Baby Read, Baby Grow

Thursdays, 10:30 to 11 am

(For infants ages birth to 24 months and their parents or caregivers)

Baby Read, Baby Grow is a program for infants ages birth to 24 months and their parents and caregivers. Join us at the library for read-aloud stories, sing-alongs, activities and lots of fun. Sessions include tips and hints on what to look for as your child develops and ways to ensure your infant's intellectual growth matches his/her physical growth.

The Columbia Heights Police Department office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The telephone number is (763) 706-8100. The office is located in the Public Safety building, 825 41st Avenue NE. The police department offices are closed on weekends and holidays.

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

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

New City of Peace Neighborhood Center provides outreach opportunities for police and recreation

The City of Peace Neighborhood Center celebrated its grand opening this June and it's already proving to be a neighborhood cornerstone.

The community building stands almost exactly in the center of the Circle Terrace Neighborhood at 1311 Circle Terrace Blvd NE. It was conceived of as a gathering place for under-served communities, where residents, city officials and volunteer groups can meet and build relationships.

“What this building offers will truly affect the future of not only Circle Terrace residents, but of all those lucky enough to live in Columbia Heights,” said Police Sgt. Justin Pletcher.

In its first weeks of operation, the building has already hosted a range of outreach programs. Just two days after the grand opening, Pletcher said, SACA hosted the first of many “Produce Pop-up Stands” providing free produce to the neighborhood. The following Monday, White Castle and Columbia Heights Recreation hosted the first of their summer-long free-lunch and youth outreach program events.



On Wednesdays this summer, the recreation department partnered with Loaves & Fishes, a nonprofit meal program organization, to host free lunches for neighborhood youth. On those days, recreation also hosted indoor and outdoor programming for kids. The Sheridan Story partnered with the police department for two Fridays of every summer month to hand out prepackaged non-perishable foods for families.

This is just the beginning, Pletcher said. Community Education, the Anoka County Attorney's Office, the Southern Anoka County Neighborhood Center, the Anoka County Community Action Program, and many more community stakeholders are currently working on classes, trainings, and outreach opportunities hosted at the City of Peace Neighborhood Center.

If you have an idea for programming at the City of Peace Neighborhood Center, please contact the police department at 763-706-8100.

All officers will receive additional de-escalation training

This winter all Columbia Heights Police officers will go through 12 hours of ICAT training to help them better navigate and defuse critical first-response situations. The department chose to provide this training to supplement the crisis intervention, use-of-force, and de-escalation training its officers already receive.

“This department recognized early on how important crisis intervention was for first responders,” said Police Cpt. Matt Markham. “The CHPD is one of the pioneering departments in getting all our officers through crisis intervention training.”

ICAT (which stands for Integrating Communications, Assessment and Tactics) is a program designed especially for situations involving people who aren't armed with a gun and who may be experiencing a mental health or other crisis. The training program is based off the Critical Decision-Making Model that helps officers assess situations, make safe and effective decisions, de-escalate, and document and learn from their actions.

All officers at the CHPD go through an initial 40 hours of crisis intervention training, with refresher classes every three years. The ICAT courses will add another 12 hours of de-escalation training for each officer.

“We use these skills all the time,” Markham said. “A lot of the people we encounter have mental health issues, and this training allows officers to more rapidly recognize those issues, respond appropriately, and get them the help they need.”



Coffee With a Cop offers one of the best ways for residents to learn more about the Columbia Heights Police Department and meet with their local officers in a casual, comfortable atmosphere.

The gatherings happen at rotating locations around town about once a month. The next Coffee With a Cop events will be at Heights Bakery, 4925 Central Ave, Sept 7, 6-8 am, and White Castle, 5055 Central Ave, Oct 11, 4:30-6 pm. Everyone is invited!

Check the CHPD Facebook page at @chpolice for updates on future gatherings.



Connie Buesgens, Bobby Williams, Donna Schmitt, John Murzyn, Jr. and Nick Novitsky.

The Mayor and City Council members are your elected representatives. City Council meetings take place at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the council chambers at city hall, 590 40th Ave NE. Meetings are broadcast live on Channel 16 and are rebroadcast on other days. For more information, including agendas and minutes, or to watch past meetings, go to www.columbiaheightsmn.gov.

Donna Schmitt, Mayor	(763) 706-3607	dschmitt@columbiaheightsmn.gov
Connie Buesgens, Council Member	(763) 788-5072	cbuesgens@columbiaheightsmn.gov
John Murzyn, Jr., Council Member	(763) 781-4983	jmurzynjr@columbiaheightsmn.gov
Nick Novitsky, Council Member	(612) 760-4463	nnovitsky@columbiaheightsmn.gov
Bobby Williams, Council Member	(763) 788-1113 (612) 414-3981 (c)	rwilliams@columbiaheightsmn.gov

2040 Comp Plan process enters final phase

After a year of planning, public feedback, data gathering and discussion, the 2040 Comprehensive Plan process is entering the home stretch. A final draft of the plan will be brought to the Columbia Heights City Council for adoption in November.

Once the plan is adopted by the City Council and approved by the Metropolitan Council, it will serve as the guiding document for long-range planning activities in Columbia Heights.

A blueprint for the future

A comprehensive plan ensures that every city department and elected official within a city are on the same page. The Columbia Heights 2040 Comprehensive Plan will articulate the City's future vision and be used to help guide decisions by the Planning Commission and City Council. It will also serve as the basis for any subsequent changes in codes and regulations that are needed.

The plan has seven specific focus areas: Land Use, Housing, Economic Competitiveness, Transportation, Parks, Water Resources and Plan Implementation, with additional information about environment and sustainability included throughout the document. The current draft of the plan is available online at columbiaheightsmn.gov, under Community Development. The final draft of the plan will be posted online by December.

Proposed city budget is available online

The Columbia Heights 2019 city manager's proposed budget is available for review online at columbiaheightsmn.gov. Click on "Finance" under "Departments" and then click on "Budget and Financial Reports."

The proposed budget and tax levy were provided to the Columbia Heights City Council this August, as required by the City's charter. After the proposed budget is approved by the Council this September, it will go through another few months of review and adjustment before a final budget is ratified. The Council will hold informal work sessions, typically on the first Monday of each month during the fall, to review details of the budget, and will vote to ratify the final budget in December.

The Anoka County Auditor will mail each property owner a Truth-in-Taxation notice of their proposed 2019 property taxes in November.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police/Fire/Medical Response 911
If you cannot complete your call
using 911.....(763) 427-1212

CITY OFFICES(763) 706-3600
TTY/TDD.....(763) 706-3692
City Clerk.....(763) 706-3611
City Manager.....(763) 706-3610
Communications
Coordinator.....(763) 706-3615
Personnel-General.....(763) 706-3606
Assessing.....(763) 706-3700
Garbage/Refuse Pick-up/
Recycling (Waste
Management).....(888) 960-0008
Utility Billing(763) 706-3640

Public Works Dept.....(763) 706-3700
Engineering/Maintenance Operations
Emergency After Hours..... 911

Fire Dept. Administration & Information/
Emergency
Management.....(763) 706-8150
Fire Chief(763) 706-8152
Assistant Fire Chief.....(763) 706-8154
Rental Housing/
Property Maintenance
Inspections(763) 706-8156

Police Administration & Information
Records & Info., Patrol,
Investigations(763) 706-8100
Crime Prevention.....(763) 706-8100
Police Chief(763) 706-8100

Community
Development(763) 706-3670
Comm. Dev. Director.....(763) 706-3675
City Planner(763) 706-3673
Bldg. Permits/
Licenses.....(763) 706-3678

Recreation Dept.(763) 706-3730
Recreation Director.....(763) 706-3732
Senior Programs(763) 706-3735
Athletics Coordinator(763) 706-3733
Youth Enrichment
Coordinator(763) 706-3733
24-Hour Info. Line-Murzyn Hall info.,
Weather Cancellations,
Directions.....(763) 706-3737
Murzyn Hall Rental.....(763) 706-3734

Columbia Heights
Public Library.....(763) 706-3690

U.S. Post Office,
940 44th Ave. N.E. 800-275-8777



MISSION STATEMENT Our mission is to provide the highest quality public services. Services will be provided in a fair, respectful and professional manner that effectively address changing citizen and community needs in a fiscally-responsible manner.

This newsletter is published four times a year by the City of Columbia Heights to keep residents informed about their city. More information is available on the city's website at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov.

From the Sister City group, a report on activities

The Sister City International (SCI) chapter in Columbia Heights was busy supporting and participating in the Heights Jamboree event this summer.

We donated to the popular Heights Idol show. Pat Sowada, Delores Strand and Gloria Bergstrom were busy at the Community Picnic at our display table talking to people about Poland. Jill Nadeau, driving her red mustang convertible, made it possible for us to be in the parade. Marion Bernard, Delores Strand and Gloria Bergstrom represented our organization.

In June, we had a successful turn out for the book event at the library. Dr. John Radzilowski gave an informative talk about the book "Frantic 7" and history of WWII. The book was translated from Polish to English. Our organization made this possible.

We greatly appreciate all the support that the high school art teachers have given to the national Sister City art

competition. To help the art department, we donated \$600 so that they could buy a paper cutter and other supplies. We look forward to the competition in 2019.

Check out the display case in Murzyn Hall to see pictures of Polish students and teachers making good use of all the books that we have sent to the public school in Lomianki, Poland (Columbia Heights' Sister City). They have opened up a new grade school there and now have an English book library.

Here are a few reminders for future events: The Polish Soup Festival will be in October at Holy Cross Church. On Nov 10 there will be a grand celebration of Poland's Independence at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, and on Dec 2, at 5:30 pm at Murzyn Hall, we will be enjoying the Christmas Eve Wigilia dinner. – submitted by Gloria Bergstrom, co-chair

Bruce Nawrocki Park named in memory of former mayor, council member



Bruce Nawrocki Park, named after the late Bruce Nawrocki, former Columbia Heights mayor and City Council member, had its official dedication ceremony in July. The newly remodeled park and playground, which replaced the old Circle Terrace Park, is located adjacent to the City of Peace Neighborhood Center at 1311 Circle Terrace Blvd NE. Family, friends, residents, and past and present City officials attended the dedication in honor of Nawrocki and his decades of service to the City.

Save the date: City Services Expo and Town Hall Meeting

Saturday, March 2, 11 am–2 pm – Columbia Heights Public Library Community Room

From building permits to pet licenses, utility bills to police calls, come visit with representatives from Columbia Heights City Hall, Public Works, Recreation, Library, Police and Fire and get your questions answered and hear about some of the great things we are doing at the City of Columbia Heights. The event will also include a town hall forum led by the Mayor and City Council members. We hope to see you there!

LIKE!

The City of Columbia Heights is on Facebook!

Follow or like us to get daily updates on City news and events! Find us at facebook.com/columbiaheightsmn



@columbiaheightsmn

Library, continued from page 1

- Collecting Memories, Oct 13-Dec 1: Have a story or memory to share related to the library? Come by the library and write your memory on a postcard to share for display.
- Columbia Heights Library Open House, Dec 1, 11 am-4 pm, featuring live 1920s-era music with the band "FlipSide," refreshments and cookies, and children's activities.
- Columbia Heights Photography Exhibit, starting in December at the Library, with photo submissions due by Oct 1 (see story on page 4).
- Ongoing memorabilia display in the library's glass display case throughout the year, featuring memorabilia, collectibles, and ephemera from each of the library's decades of service.
- "Happy Birthday, Dear Library!" Tuesdays after school in November, 3-6 pm: Birthday card makerspace for kids in the library craft room.

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 and Twitter.

Non-Emergency: (763) 706-8150

Emergency: Call 9-1-1

Fax: (763) 706-8151

Housing Maintenance Inspections: (763) 706-8156

fireinspections@columbiaheightsmn.gov

After 40 years, Fire Explorers Program continues to foster new firefighters, cultivate careers

In a tradition stretching back 40 years, the Columbia Heights Fire Explorers program saw one of its members graduate to full-fledged firefighter this July.

Katherine Larson, who had been a member of the Explorers program since she was 14, was one of 37 students to graduate from the Anoka County Fire Academy at its July ceremony. She is now a paid on-call firefighter with the CHFD.

“The Explorers program changed my life and shaped me into who I am today,” said Larson, now 19.

Larson’s older brother was also an Explorer. One day, six years ago, she joined him on a fire drill and never looked back. After becoming an Explorer, she earned her EMT certificate and, by the time she was 18, got a job as a first responder with Allina Health.

“It’s pretty cool to say you have your career set up by 18 years old,” Larson said.

This is a great example of how the Explorers program opens career doors for young people, said John Larkin, assistant fire chief.

A Program for Cultivating Skills

The Explorer Division, an offshoot of the Boy Scouts of America, is made up of young people between the ages of 14 and 20 who have an interest in fire and emergency medical services.

Members of the fire department serve as advisers and are responsible for the teaching and supervision of the Explorers during various activities and training.

Explorers take part in weekly drills and train side-by-side with the fire department staff. They also attend community and educational events. Explorers are allowed to provide backline support

during fire ground operations. Tasks such as traffic and crowd control, tool and equipment running, first-aid applications, and a host of other valuable resources during emergency calls are just some of the duties performed by Explorers.

“It’s a huge learning experience,” Larson said. “Even if you don’t plan on staying in the firefighting field, it gives you valuable life skills, and you’ll learn so much about how to respond to an emergency in any situation.”

40 Years and Going Strong

The Explorers program started in Columbia Heights in 1978.

Back then, on-call firefighter Harold Ostmo was instrumental in bringing the idea to the attention of the fire chief, according to current Fire Chief Gary Gorman, who himself was one of three original Explorers in Columbia Heights. All three original members (the other two being Dana Alexon and John Berg) moved on from the Explorers program to become fire chiefs. There are a half dozen youth Explorers in the Columbia Heights program today.

If you are interested in learning more, would like to become a Columbia Heights Fire Explorer, or know someone who might, please contact the fire department at 763-706-8150.



Columbia Heights Fire Explorers then and now.

Fire Department Open House is Sept. 22

The Columbia Heights Fire Department’s annual Fire Prevention Open House is Sept. 22 from 11 am to 2 pm, at the Columbia Heights Public Safety building, 825 41st Ave. NE.

The event will include educational, family-oriented activities, including station tours, fire truck displays, antique fire truck rides, fire equipment demos and more!

Carbon monoxide is a silent killer

Autumn is one of the most dangerous times of the year for carbon monoxide poisoning. The Columbia Heights Fire Department would like to remind residents to have their furnaces checked annually by a professional, turn on and try out your furnace early in the season to make sure it’s still functional, and install working CO detectors by all bedrooms and on all floors (it’s the law).

If your CO detector goes off, or you suspect CO may be leaking in your house, get outside immediately and call your local gas company. Do not go back in your house until the situation is resolved.

Keyes Park improvements completed in August

Construction to renovate Keyes Park at 1345 45½ St was completed in August. New grass is taking root.

The improvement project included construction of two athletic ballfields, two parking lots, trails, a sidewalk, and a play area, as well as site furnishing improvements, planting and restoration, and utility installation. The sledding hill has been retained.

The old park was in dire need of improvements, said Kevin Hansen, public works director. The existing athletic fields overlapped, meaning they could not be used at the same time, the park facilities were run-down, and the utilities were out-of-date and in need of repairs, among other concerns.

Keyes Park was the seventh park selected by the Park and Recreation Commission to be renovated under the City's master planning process. The City has already implemented park master plan renovations for six parks—LaBelle, Huset Park West (partial renovation), Prestemon, Ramsdell, Silver Lake and Sullivan Lake.



This summer, it was Keyes Park's turn to receive upgrades.

Upcoming construction projects:

Fall 2018

- Main St overlay (to be completed by end of year)
- 37th Ave, West of 5th St, overlay (to be completed by end of year)

2019

- 37th Ave, from 5th to Central, mill and overlay
- University Ave from 37th to 40th, partial trail construction
- McKinley to Stinson, trail construction
- Jefferson St from 38th to 39th, sidewalk construction
- Silver Lake Park Pond reconstruction at boat landing to improve water quality

2018/2019 water main replacements:

- 39th Ave, Hayes to Arthur St
- Arthur St, 39th to 40th
- Stinson Blvd at 43rd Ave
- Stinson Blvd, South of 45th Ave

Save with new low volume trash service

As part of its organics program, Columbia Heights is now offering every-other-week 30-gallon trash service for only \$10/month. Service is limited, i.e., nothing outside of the cart is taken for free. To qualify, residents must have the yard waste/organic cart service and take the Southern Anoka County Cities Recycling (see article on it). To change your refuse service or if you have questions, email publicworks@columbiaheightsmn.gov.

Adopt a storm drain

Adopt a storm drain near your home and help keep storm drains on your street clear of debris and make a meaningful impact on water quality.



Regular sweeping, raking, and clearing litter and organic debris around your storm drain helps keep our shared waterways clean. Leaves, grass, and dirt that wash down storm drains feed the algae that turns lakes and rivers green. Pet waste, road salt and litter are other common sources of water pollution.

Positive change can start with you. Make a difference in your neighborhood by adopting a drain today. No sign up or registration necessary.

Fall street sweeping begins soon

The city's street department will begin street sweeping in late September and continue for as long as weather permits. As a reminder to all property owners, it is against city ordinance to deposit litter, including yard waste and snow, into public streets.

Prevent FOG clogs: be careful what you put down the drain

Improper disposal of fats, oils and grease (FOG) from restaurants, homes, and industrial sources is the most common cause of reported blockages and sanitary sewer overflows, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Fats, oils and grease are problematic because they quickly build up on the sides of pipes, solidify, and block flow. Columbia Heights Public Works asks residents to please drain fats, oils and grease into containers and then put them in a garbage can rather than pouring down the drain.

Southern Anoka County Cities Recycling Class



You can learn how to reduce, reuse and recycle your trash by attending a class offered by the cities of Columbia Heights, Fridley, Hilltop and Spring Lake

Park. Graduates of the class will receive certificates from their respective city and become eligible for city organized tours of recycling facilities. For information on upcoming classes, visit the Columbia Heights School District's community education web page at <https://www.colheights.k12.mn.us/communityed>.

REFUSE, RECYCLING AND YARD WASTE

Waste Management

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

City Refuse/Recycling website

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

Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions

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

Refuse Service Levels and Rates

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

Holiday Schedule

- Labor Day, Sept 3; service delayed by one day all week
- Veteran's Day, Nov 12; no delay in service
- Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov 22, and Friday, Nov 23; service delayed by one day

Recycling

- Visit the Refuse & Recycling web page for curbside list.
- Single-sort recycling collection is every other week. Please check the Refuse & Recycling web page for your collection day.
- Please do not place recycling materials in plastic bags; dump the items loosely in the cart or use paper bags. Plastic bags cause problems with the sorting system at the processing plant.
- Rinse out cans, bottles and containers.
- Large recycling carts are available, call (763) 706-3700.

Yard Waste & Organics

- Order a dual purpose yard waste/organics cart by calling (763) 706-3700. A free organics starter kit will also be provided.
- Yard waste collection will end the week of Nov 19 and organics collection will change to every other week.
- Yard waste by itself can be placed on the street curb in compostable bags. No other containers allowed.
- Brush should be cut in 3-foot lengths and branches cannot be more than 4" in diameter. Place in the yard waste/organics cart or bundle on the street curb.
- Contact Anoka County tree waste site at (763) 324-3400.

Computers/Electronics Recycling

Electronics must be properly disposed of due to the hazardous nature of the material. Call 1-888-960-0008 to schedule a pickup. A flat \$20 collection fee will be charged. Items must come from the property.

Bulk Recycling (furniture, mattresses, carpet)

Call 1-888-960-0008 to arrange for pickup before placing outside. Items will be picked up within two and a half days of calling. Items must have come from the property where collected. Please try to sell or donate the items first through www.anokacounty.us/recycle

Appliance Recycling

Call 1-888-960-0008 to arrange for a pickup at your home. Empty freezers and refrigerators and remove doors. Each property is offered one free appliance pickup per calendar year.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Some household products are hazardous and should not be placed in the garbage. Take unneeded paint, cleaners, automotive fluids and garden products to: Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 3230 101st Ave. NE, Blaine. There is no charge to use the facility. Proof of residency is required.



Columbia Heights Recycling/Drop Off Center for area residents and businesses

Location and hours:

- Madison Street and 38th Place NE
- Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., closed holiday weekends

Items accepted:

- Metal containers
- Glass and plastic (#1-7) containers
- Paper and cardboard
- Household batteries
- Antifreeze
- Aluminum cans
- Any scrap metal items
- Used oil and oil filters
- Fluorescent bulbs
- String lights

Tires: Leave old tires at the store when purchasing new ones. Only residents may bring four car or light truck tires per year. MUST be off the rims.

Drain oil and gas from equipment before dropping off.

ONLY BRING ITEMS LISTED ABOVE. CALL (763) 706-3700 FOR QUESTIONS.

Recycling Tip:

Take household/garage metal items to the Columbia Heights Recycling Center. Bring anything that is mostly metal, such as chairs, tables, lamps, stands, pots, pans, grills, plant hangers, rods, buckets, tools, fencing and yard equipment to the scrap metal bin free of charge. Drain oil and gas from equipment prior to bringing to the Recycling Center.

Organics kit available for your events

An organics event kit is available for residents to use at local gatherings and events upon request. After the event return the kit to Public Works and the organics will be emptied into the drop-off containers at the Recycling Center.

Cleaning is a recycling opportunity

There are many spring/fall cleaning and garage sale recycling options provided by the City of Columbia Heights and local donation drop spots. For more information visit www.columbiaheightsmn.gov or call (763) 706-3700 to request a recycling packet.

Save the Date: Fix-It Clinic! Saturday, Oct 6, from 10 am to 1 pm at Community United Methodist Church, 950 Gould Ave NE. Bring broken items for possible repair to this free event. You can donate repaired items if you don't want them. If the item cannot be repaired, there will be a scrap metal spot to recycle it. Volunteer fixers needed.

TOP VALU LIQUOR

MUNICIPALLY OWNED

Top Valu #1: 4950 Central Ave – Top Valu #2: 2105 37th Ave NE – Heights Liquor: 5225 University Ave NE

Keep up-to-date on specials, events and new products on Facebook & Twitter @topvaluliquor



TOP VALU LIQUOR
Store #1: 4950 Central Ave. NE
Store #2: 2105 37th Ave. NE

Maker's Mark Bourbon
750 ml

\$19.97



Coupons valid until 10/31/18. While supplies last. Store not responsible for typographical errors.



TOP VALU LIQUOR
Store #1: 4950 Central Ave. NE
Store #2: 2105 37th Ave. NE

Phillips Vodka 80
1.75 liter

\$12.47



Coupons valid until 10/31/18. While supplies last. Store not responsible for typographical errors.



TOP VALU LIQUOR
Store #1: 4950 Central Ave. NE
Store #2: 2105 37th Ave. NE

Mark West Willamette
Pinot Noir - 750 ml

\$12.97



Coupons valid until 10/31/18. While supplies last. Store not responsible for typographical errors.



TOP VALU LIQUOR
Store #1: 4950 Central Ave. NE
Store #2: 2105 37th Ave. NE

Ava Grace, all available
750 ml

\$5.97



Coupons valid until 10/31/18. While supplies last. Store not responsible for typographical errors.



TOP VALU LIQUOR
Store #1: 4950 Central Ave. NE
Store #2: 2105 37th Ave. NE

Ravenswood Besieged
Red Blend - 750 ml

\$9.97



Coupons valid until 10/31/18. While supplies last. Store not responsible for typographical errors.



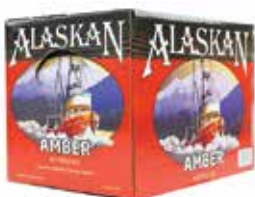
TOP VALU LIQUOR
Store #1: 4950 Central Ave. NE
Store #2: 2105 37th Ave. NE

Grain Belt Northeast
12 oz. 12 pack bottle

\$10.97



Coupons valid until 10/31/18. While supplies last. Store not responsible for typographical errors.



TOP VALU LIQUOR
Store #1: 4950 Central Ave. NE
Store #2: 2105 37th Ave. NE

Alaskan, all available
12 pack bottles

\$11.97



Coupons valid until 10/31/18. While supplies last. Store not responsible for typographical errors.



TOP VALU LIQUOR
Store #1: 4950 Central Ave. NE
Store #2: 2105 37th Ave. NE

Sociable Cider Werks,
all available 16 oz.
4 pack cans **\$8.97**



Coupons valid until 10/31/18. While supplies last. Store not responsible for typographical errors.