



CITY NEWSLETTER

Longtime City Manager Announces Retirement

Twenty-two years ago, Walter Fehst accepted a position as City manager for Columbia Heights. It wasn't his only option at the time, but it was his favorite option.

There was just something about the atmosphere, the proximity, the diversity, the spirit of the town that drew him in. More than two decades later, those feelings haven't changed. In fact, they've only grown, which has made it all the harder to walk away.

Fehst, 72, announced he'll be retiring at the end of the year, capping off over four and a half decades in city government.

"I didn't think I would be at Columbia Heights this long," Fehst said. "But I've enjoyed the work so much, and I've enjoyed the people here so much. It's been tough to leave."

Fehst moved to Columbia Heights in 1996 with his wife Linda and sons Nick and Zach, who went to school here.



Walter Fehst in his City manager's office, 2018

Continued on page 2



Sweet Relief by Dustin Scholl was one of the photos selected for the library exhibit.

Library Photo Exhibit Opens Dec 1

Columbia Heights proved to be highly photogenic—106 images were submitted for the Columbia Heights Public Library Photo Exhibit this fall. The exhibit will go on display Dec 1 at the library as part of its 90th anniversary celebrations.

Photos were selected by the library's Public Art Advisory Committee through a multi-round process. About 25 photos were selected for inclusion in the exhibit. A sample of the photo selection

is shared in this newsletter (see page 3 for more images).

The exhibit was made possible through a partnership between the City of Columbia Heights, the Art Advisory Committee, and the Northeast Newspaper.

The photos provide insight into how residents see their town, said Margo Ashmore, publisher of the Northeast Newspaper.

Continued on page 3

Residential Customer
55421

*****ECPWSS*****

PRSRPT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 32324
TWIN CITIES MN

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- City Manager Retires 2**
- Store Front Revitalizations 8**
- Library Photo Exhibit 3**
- Preventing Frozen Pipes 10**
- Police Build Partnerships 6**
- Holiday Recycling 11**
- Election Results 7**
- Hy-Vee Development 12**

SEE FLIP SIDE FOR RECREATION PROGRAMS

Columbia Heights Residents, Employees Are What Fehst Will Miss Most

Continued from page 1



Top: Fehst's high school picture. Bottom: Fehst making the case for Columbia Heights All-America City Award.

Fehst, who holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame and an MBA from Northwestern University, got into city government almost by accident. It wasn't his original career choice, but in 1972 when the position of administrative assistant to the city manager opened in his hometown of Joliet, Illinois, he figured the job might give him a chance to flex his skills as a negotiator and mediator.

"I didn't expect to get the job," Fehst said. "I had no government experience, but they wanted someone who knew the town."

He may not have had government experience, but Fehst was no stranger to leadership positions. He was a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Army Air Defense Artillery, and a line officer with command over about 100-200 troops. He retired as a captain from the inactive reserves.

After his time in Joliet, Fehst had stints as city manager at Robbinsdale, MN, and Mountlake Terrace, WA, before taking the job in Columbia Heights.

Over the years, he has seen the City through its share of ups and downs. The 2008 recession and subsequent budget cuts were tough times, but when redevelopment picked up again, the City bounced back stronger than ever. The

business district improved, a new library and public safety building opened, crime dropped, and, in 2016, Columbia Heights earned the All-America City Award as designated by the National Civic League.

These achievements wouldn't have been possible, Fehst said, without the help he's had from residents, elected officials, and a skilled team of employees.

"Everybody else is so competent at their jobs. I'm very fortunate that way," he said. "I've always had good staff."

One of the most important things to do as a city manager, Fehst said, is to hire the right people and then get out of their way.

"Support them when they need it, and remove hurdles where you can, but set your ego aside."

As for working with residents, Fehst said, it's all about listening.

"You have two ears and one mouth; listen twice as much as you talk. It's hard to know how to make the right choices for your city and a community if you're not hearing what people have to say."

Fehst's last official day on the job is Dec 31.

"It's been a fun ride," he said. "There's nothing guaranteed to you about this job. I appreciate the fact I was allowed to do it as long as I did. I'm really going to miss it."



Library Celebrates Its 90th Year

Join the Columbia Heights Public Library as it celebrates its 90th anniversary this December. The library will host an open house Dec 1, 11 am-4 pm, that will feature live 1920s-era music with the band "FlipSide," refreshments and cookies, and children's activities. The library's photo exhibit will also debut at this time, and there will be a memorabilia display in the library's glass display case with collectibles and ephemera from each of the library's decades of service.

Below Is a Small Sampling of Some of the Images Featured in the Exhibit

Continued from page 1

“Reviewing these photos will make us better at covering Columbia Heights,” she said. “They show us what’s important to residents, things we might have overlooked.”

The Public Art Advisory Committee selected the photos based on quality and on how well the photos represent the community and the spirit of the City, Ashmore said.

Selected images will be professionally printed and mounted for a cohesive look. Contributors with images in the exhibit will be recognized in the Northeaster and receive the print of their image(s) as keepsakes.



Gamma's Wisdom by Steven Nodgaard



Pedestrian Bridge by Stan Waldhauser



Bringin' It by Stan Waldhauser



Proud to Plunge by Mike Madison



Standing Ready with One Light Out by Steven Nodgaard

Library Adult Programs

Winter Reads 2019

January and February

Curl up with a good book this winter!

Join in the library's

winter reading program for adults and get reading suggestions, share your book reviews with other readers, and have the chance to win prizes for each book review you submit.



Scrabble Club

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

Mondays, 6 pm and Thursdays, 1 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.

Meditation for the New Year

Wed, Jan 16, 6 pm

Join Arvind Naik, longtime meditator, for this powerful meditation workshop. Bring joy, peace, positivity and relaxation into your daily life and begin the New Year with a fresh start. There will be a short meditation sitting at the end. No registration required.

Coil Jewelry

Wed, Feb 13, 6 pm

Add a statement piece to your accessory collection! Using a variety of yarns and threads, learn how to wrap and tie in a coiling method to make a colorful knotted necklace or bracelet. This program is funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Space is limited and registration is required. Register online or call 763-706-3690.

Finding Loren: The Life, Death, and Discovery of a P-47 Fighter Pilot

Wed, Feb 27, 6 pm

First Lieutenant Loren Hintz was an Iowa farm boy and American P-47 fighter pilot with the 79th FG, 86 FS, shot down in action over northern Italy during the decisive Po River Valley Battle of World War II. Loren's death remained clouded in mystery for more than 70 years until his family, along with a dedicated group of passionate Italian aviation enthusiasts and archaeologists, located and excavated the site where Loren was shot down. What they discovered will amaze you. Presenter Gretchen Hintz Wronka, Loren's daughter, will display selected artifacts from the crash site. No registration required.



Loren Hintz, courtesy of Gretchen Hintz Wronka

90th Anniversary Open House

Sat, Dec 1, 11 am-4 pm

See story on page 2.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Wed, Dec 5, 12-6 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!

Service Event: Pet Beds for Animal Shelters

Sat, Dec 8, 1-3 pm

Help us make pet beds for local animal shelters. Bring the whole family, come in by yourself, or bring friends. No sewing needed, just hand-tying. Stay for an hour or the whole time. If you have any clean fleece blankets, flannel sheets, thick blankets, old sweatshirts, etc., bring them along and we'll use them! In partnership with HeightsNEXT. No Registration required.

City Services Expo and Town Hall

March 2, 11 am-2 pm, at the library.

See story on page 8.

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

Kid Programs

LEGO Challenge

Dec 12, Jan 9, Feb 13, 4-5 pm

We'll provide the LEGOs, you bring the imagination. Grades K-6. No registration required.

STEAM Saturdays

Jan 19, 12:30 pm

Join a local bird expert to learn more about citizen science projects you can do from your own backyard! For families. No registration required.

Feb 23, 11:30-1:30 pm

We will learn about how food works in our bodies and cook and eat a meal together at this program! For families. Kids must be age 6 or older. Registration required.

4-H STEAM Adventures

Tue, Dec 4, 4-5 pm

In this STEM challenge, youth will engineer the cheapest and most effective facility for herding a group of Hex Bug Nanos into a barn. Teams who manage the challenge will win a small prize! Grades 3-8. Registration required.

Tue, Jan 29, 4-5 pm

Youth will use a toy car to explore Newton's Laws of Motion. Grades 3-8. Registration required.

STEAM Storytime

Mondays, Dec 3 and 17, 10:30 am

Explore preschool science concepts with stories, songs and activities! For ages 2-5. No registration required.

Art Club

Thu, Dec 27, 2 pm

Learn about an artist and then get creative with art projects. Grades K-6. Registration required.

Noon Year's Eve

Mon, Dec 31, 11-12:30 pm

Ring in the new year a bit early! We will count down to noon with stories, crafts, games, and an apple juice toast. For kids 5 and under. Registration not required.

READ Dogs

Wed, Feb 6, 6-7:45 pm

Participants may register for a 15-minute one-on-one session to read with a therapy animal. Call (763) 706-3690 to reserve.

Read Across America Storytime

Mon, Feb 25, 10:30 am

Celebrate this day with storytime and crafts. Ages 2-5. No registration required.



Storytime @ the Library

Jan 7 to Feb 21

Family Storytime

Mondays, 10:30-11 am, 5:30-6 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 welcome!



Teen Programs

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.

CraftLab

Fridays, 2-3 pm, Dec 28, Jan 25, Feb 8

Join us each month for a different DIY! Dec: snow globes; Jan: Furoshiki (tie-dye); Feb: knitting crash course. 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!

Baby Read, Baby Grow

Thursdays, 10:30-11 am

(For infants up to two years old)

Baby Read, Baby Grow is a program for infants and their parents and caregivers. Join us at the library for read-aloud stories, sing-a-longs, activities and lots of fun. This program is FREE and part of the early literacy collaboration between the library and the Columbia Heights School District's Early Childhood Family Education.

Library Hours

Mon-Wed, 9 am to 8 pm

Thu-Fri, 9 am to 5 pm

Sat, 11 am to 4 pm

Sun, CLOSED

Library Holiday Closures

Mon-Tue, Dec 24-25

Tue, Jan 1

Mon, Jan 21

Mon, Feb 18

Building Partnerships Is Key to Community Policing

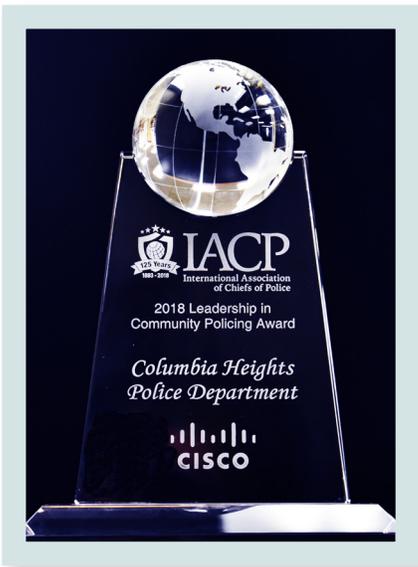
Representatives from the Columbia Heights Police Department accepted the 2018 Leadership in Community Policing Award at the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference in Orlando this fall.

The CHPD won in the “under 20,000” population category for its work in community policing strategies, and more specifically for its work involving the building of the City of Peace Neighborhood Center at Bruce Nawrocki Park.

Partnerships are the key to community policing, said Chief Lenny Austin. Without the help from the public works and community development departments, the school district, local civic organizations and neighborhood groups, the City of Peace Neighborhood Center wouldn't have happened.



Officer Greg Sinn speaks to CH students, 2012



“This award is much more than a police department award. This is a community award. It is a great example of what can occur when community partners work together to advance the common good,” Austin explained. “This award reminds us of the importance of the core meaning of community policing, which is using partnerships to address crime and disorder to create

long-term positive change.”

Receiving the international IACP award was a win for all of Columbia Heights, Austin said.

CHPD Makes Appearance in DC Museum

Columbia Heights' achievement in community policing has been recognized on the international stage in more ways than one this year.

The National Law Enforcement Museum in Washington DC, which opened Oct 13, features a photo from Columbia Heights inside the museum's History of Law Enforcement in America exhibit. The photo depicts Officer Greg Sinn talking to a group of students outside Highland Elementary School.

The production team that developed the exhibit became aware of the photo when they saw it in a 2015 Huffington Post article, “The Simple Strategies That Could Fundamentally Change How Communities View Their Police.”

Letting Cars Run Unattended Encourages Auto Theft and Violates City Ordinance

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.



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



Columbia Heights Election Results

More than 9,000 residents in Columbia Heights voted in the 2018 mid-term elections, about 78 percent of the City's total registered voters. As of press time, all three incumbents—Mayor Donna Schmitt and Council members John Murzyn Jr. and Nick Novitsky—held their seats. Connie Buesgens fell short in her bid for mayor, but will retain her seat on the Council.

Two Columbia Heights ballot questions—one aiming to shift oversight of the police department from the mayor to the City manager, and one aiming to extend the mayoral term from two years to four—both failed. All three of the Columbia Heights Public Schools bond referendums passed, and school board incumbents Hala Asamarai, Molly Lewis, and Laura J. Palmer held their seats. The District 4 Anoka County commissioner seat was won by Mandy Meisner.

City Budget Process Continues Through Dec 10

The Columbia Heights City manager's proposed 2019 budget is available for review online at columbiaheightsmn.gov. Click on "Finance" under "Departments" and then click on "Budget and Financial Reports." The information in this budget was used by the Anoka County Auditor to prepare the Notice of Proposed Property Taxes mailed to each property owner in November.

Based on review of this budget since it was first proposed in August, the City Council is considering certain adjustments before adopting the final version of the budget at its Dec 10 public meeting. These adjustments would change the online version of the budget as follows:

- Reduce the proposed increase in property taxes by \$20,000 and reduce administrative consultant services by a corresponding \$20,000 per year.
- Increase rental license fees to better match the costs of rental inspections.
- Use \$250,000 of existing City funds for major repairs to the municipal parking ramp west of Central Ave. An additional \$375,000 for this project will be provided by the adjacent Fairview Health Clinic.
- Refinance certain outstanding debt at a lower interest rate. The present value of the resulting interest savings is approximately \$100,000.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Police/Fire/Medical Response	911
If you cannot complete your call using 911.....	(763) 427-1212
CITY OFFICES.....	(763) 706-3600
City Manager.....	(763) 706-3610
City Clerk.....	(763) 706-3611
Communications	
Coordinator.....	(763) 706-3615
Personnel-HR.....	(763) 706-3606
Public Works Dept.....	(763) 706-3700
Engineering/Maintenance Operations	
Emergency After Hours.....	911
Assessing.....	(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
Assistant Fire Chief.....	(763) 706-8154
Rental Housing/	
Property Maintenance	
Inspections.....	(763) 706-8156
Police Administration & Information Records,	
Patrol,	
Investigations.....	(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/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 NE.....	800-275-8777

MORE INFO AT:
www.columbiaheightsmn.gov

Grant Program Helps Revitalize Exterior Store Fronts Along Central Ave

Program Will Also Improve Safety Through Installation of Security Cameras Near Businesses

Eight businesses along Central Ave received grant money this summer as part of Columbia Heights' new Façade Improvement Grant Program. A collaborative effort between the Columbia Heights Police Department and Economic Development Authority, the program is meant to encourage businesses and commercial property owners within the City's central business district to revitalize, rehabilitate, and restore exterior store fronts.

Out of the twelve businesses that applied for the grant this summer, the EDA picked eight to receive funding: Bad Hombre, Big Cutz Barbershop, Chet's Shoes, Hartley Law Offices, McAlpin Agency, Midas Auto Repair, Northeast Auto Body, and Rapid Graphics & Mailing.



Funded through the EDA, the grant program reimburses commercial property owners for eligible improvements up to 50 percent of the total project cost for a max reimbursement of \$5,000. Improvements include window and door replacements, lighting and awning installation and repair, renovated signage, exterior painting, profes-

sional cleaning, and re-siding.

Projects started this fall once the grant agreements were finalized between the EDA and the businesses. Grantees were given 60 days to complete the façade improvements so all projects can be completed by the end of the year.



This year's applications were reviewed and scored based upon completion, eligibility, quality of design, and the capacity of the applicant to finish the project within 2018.

As part of the program, businesses agreed to have security cameras installed on their property or nearby to improve safety along Central Ave. Ten cameras will be installed.

Possible Expansion Next Year

Since this is the inaugural year of the program, it was hard to predict how interested businesses might be, said Keith Dahl, community development manager.

"We were pleasantly surprised," Dahl said. "Not only did this project spark interest with local businesses, it also got the attention of businesses in the greater metropolitan region. Business owners from neighboring cities called to ask about the possibility of being eligible for the program if they were to relocate to Columbia Heights."

The EDA is also considering expanding grant eligibility to businesses in other commercial corridors throughout the City, Dahl said. The City will take applications for the 2019 Façade Improvement Grant Program March 1-May 31.

City Services Expo and Town Hall March 2 at CH Library

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.

There will be free refreshments, as well as pizza slices available for purchase from Tasty Pizza.

The event will be at the CH Public Library, 11 am-2 pm, Sat, March 2.



Holiday Train Is Coming Dec 11

The CP Holiday Train will be stopping near Columbia Heights Dec 11 at 7:55 pm.

The train, with performers The Trews and Willy Porter, will stop at Lions Park on 37th Ave, between 37th Ave & Stinson Blvd.

This is a festive, family-friendly event that helps raise money and food donations for area food shelves. Activities begin at 6:30 pm.

Fire Prevention Starts With Education for Both Kids and Adults

There's no better way to fight a fire than to prevent it from happening in the first place. That's why community education is a vital goal of the Columbia Heights Fire Department.

Each year, local firefighters try to reach every student in the school district between kindergarten and fifth-grade. They visit with about 1,700 students per year.

"The kids love it," said John Larkin, assistant fire chief. "They absorb more than you think. You never really know what they're taking away from it until you talk to their parents later and find out what they brought home."

Kids bringing safety tips home to their parents is part of the education, Larkin said. Adults need fire safety refreshers, too.



Assistant Fire Chief John Larkin shares fire-safety tips with a group of kindergarteners and Pre-K students at North Park Elementary school

If even just one kid goes home and convinces a parent to change the battery in a smoke alarm or develop a fire escape plan, then it's all worth it, Larkin said.

Students usually take a field trip to the Columbia Heights Fire Department to learn fire safety tips, but sometimes firefighters go directly to the schools if a teacher requests.

Classes are age appropriate, and while they're primarily for kids, the Columbia Heights Fire Department also offers fire safety education for adult groups upon request.

To request a fire safety talk, call 763-706-8150.

"The goal of the education is to prevent injury and save lives," Larkin said. "The more people we can educate, the more lives we save."

Keep Your Neighborhood Safe and Accessible This Winter, Please Shovel Out Fire Hydrants and Clear Sidewalks

Fire hydrants can get buried during a snow storm, which means firefighters responding to a call have to take the 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.

While you're being neighborly, if you have an elderly person living next door who's incapable of shoveling, please consider volunteering to shovel their sidewalks and steps for them.

All homeowners must clear snow from sidewalks in front of their property, but they should make sure not to shovel snow into the street.

Thank you for your help!



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 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

Help Keep Roadways Clear, Please Don't Park on City Streets Overnight

Winter Parking Rules Last Nov 1 to March 31

Let's be honest. When it comes to keeping streets clear of ice and snow and ensuring that roadways are wide enough and drivable enough for fire trucks, ambulances and other emergency vehicles, there are no perfect options in winter.

Columbia Heights approaches this problem by enforcing a winter parking ordinance. Each year, from Nov 1 to March 31, no vehicle or trailer may be parked on any public road any time between 2-6 am without a parking permit issued by the Columbia Heights Police Department. This is to ensure vehicles do not get in the way of snowplows and deicers and that roads are always clear enough for emergency vehicles.

Even during the daytime, residents must keep their cars off public streets following a 3-inch snowfall until streets are plowed. (Please make way for snowplow operators engaged in snow removal or ice control. These vehicles are equipped with a flashing, oscillating or rotating amber light. Operators have the discretion to disregard traffic laws.)

Too often, without a proactive rule like this, cars fail to get off the roadway quick enough after a snowstorm, leaving large swaths of road unmaintained, said Kevin Hansen, public works director. Alternatively, using a snow emergency option would put more strain on law enforcement during a snowstorm and result in far more cars getting towed.

"Under our current approach, we don't have to tow as much, and that saves residents the expense of getting their cars back from the impound lot," Hansen said.



How to Get a Winter Parking Permit

Permits to park overnight between Nov 1 and March 31 are issued only under certain conditions. The permit form is available at the police department, 825 41st Ave NE, or you can find it online at columbiaheightsmn.gov. Residents in need of a temporary parking permit must come to the police department during normal business hours. Please call 763-706-8100 for more information.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation!

Public Works Offers Tips for Preventing Frozen Water Pipes

When it's below freezing outside and the wind is howling, one of the last things you want is a pipe bursting in your basement or walls, and yet that's the most likely time for it to happen. Even if the pipes don't burst, a frozen water line will cut off water from your house, and thawing it out can be costly.

Columbia Heights Public Works provides the following tips for avoiding these unfortunate situations:

Do not turn your heat down during windy cold days: The cooling down period allows pipes to be exposed to the cold that penetrates the walls before it enters your home.

Leave cabinet doors under sinks that face outside walls open: These areas are not generally heated and receive cold air coming in through walls.

Have someone check on your house when you go out of town: Total house freeze ups result when the heat goes out and the temperature in the house drops below 32 degrees. All the plumbing in the home then freezes.

Don't assume spring time means you're in the clear: Frost

is pushed lower into the ground as the weather warms, so the risk of frozen service lines can continue until March or April.

If possible, insulate walls where piping runs: Insulated pipes take longer to freeze.

Check the water temperature: Allow cold water to run from the faucet until it is cold and then check the temperature with a small indoor/outdoor thermometer. The water temperature should be around 45 degrees. If the temperature drops below 40 degrees, frost may be getting close to your service line and you could have an impending freeze up.

If needed, let the water run: Let a faucet that has a supply pipe running along an outside wall drip or run at a pencil size stream throughout the day and night. Flowing water freezes slower than standing water in a pipe. The extra cost on your water bill can be considered as insurance to avoid the inconvenience and expense of correcting a frozen service line.

Property owners are responsible for the water service line from the meter in the house to the main line out in the street.

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.

Consider the Wrapping

Did you know the vast majority of wrapping paper is non-recyclable? More and more companies are selling recyclable wrapping paper, but if you can't find any, consider using fabrics, like scarves, or reusable containers, like flower pots, that double as their own gifts, or reusable gift bags. Keep in mind, conventional wrapping paper has to go into the trash, not the recycling bin.

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) 706-3700 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, but they'll burn 25-30 times longer, and use up to 90 percent less energy if you switch to using LED light bulbs. LED lights also don't burn as hot, making them safer, and they're more resistant to breaking. When your current string lights burn out, you can bring them to the Columbia Heights Recycling/Drop Off Center (see info at right).



Schedule Christmas Tree Pick Up

Christmas tree pickup will begin Mon, Jan 7, and continue through Fri, Jan 18. Residents must call 1-888-960-0008 to schedule the pickup. Bring artificial trees you want to get rid of to the recycling center (see below).

Keep Recyclables Clean

Please don't throw out plastic bags, Styrofoam, or film plastic with your recyclables. And please rinse out cans and bottles before recycling.

Columbia Heights Recycling/Drop Off

- Madison Street and 38th Place NE
- Open Sat, 9 am to 1 pm, closed holiday weekends

Recycling Tip:

Recycling in Columbia Heights is unlimited and the hauler will pick up extra materials outside the cart. Continue your recycling routine even when the cart is full by using paper bags or a recycling box. Take large items, e.g. large cardboard boxes, to the City's Recycling Center. You can also use the Recycling Center when you have excess amounts of recycling items from birthday and holiday parties. Holiday lights are also accepted.

Holiday Refuse Schedule

- Christmas, Dec 25, service delayed by one day
- New Year's Day, Jan 1, service delayed by one day
- Martin Luther King Jr Day, Jan 21, no delay
- Presidents Day, Feb 18, no delay
- Yard waste/organics will be emptied throughout winter

Please Keep Containers Off Street in Winter

To avoid expensive damage to the garbage and recycling containers, please set them behind the curb at the end of the driveway on pickup day, *not in the street*. 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.

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/

Liquor Sales Contribute to City

Top Valu Liquor has been municipally owned since 1934, and it continues to generate strong revenue for the City. In fact, Columbia Heights ranked sixth in sales among all municipally owned liquor stores in the state for 2017. These revenues keep property taxes down by helping to pay for City services such as police community programs, street reconstruction, and administrative overhead.

Sparkling Wine Tasting

Top Valu Liquor #1
Dec 5, 5:30-8 pm



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

Hy-Vee Development Timeline and Update



In 2016, Hy-Vee purchased the Central Valu Center, former home of Rainbow Foods at 4300 Central Ave NE. At the time, the City of Columbia Heights approved plans for a portion of the Central Valu Center to be redeveloped into a 90,000 square-foot Hy-Vee grocery store and restaurant. The City also approved plans for Hy-Vee's Fast and Fresh Convenience Store and Gas Station, to be located at the northeast corner of Central Ave and 47th Ave.

After initial development approval by the City, Hy-Vee announced that it was slowing down its expansion efforts in the Twin Cities. Recently, Hy-Vee has again begun constructing stores in the area, including a recently opened Hy-Vee

store in Robbinsdale. Hy-Vee submitted a revised site plan application in June to build a convenience store in Columbia Heights.

Hy-Vee officials tell the City of Columbia Heights that their intention is to begin construction of the City's local stores in early 2019.

The grocery store would take over the former Rainbow Foods and Slumberland Clearance Center spaces. When the City receives more information, it will be posted online at www.columbiaheightsmn.gov. For questions, please contact City Planner Elizabeth Hammond at 763-706-3673.

