

CITY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2023



SnowBLAST returns on Sat, Feb 3 from 4-7 pm at Huset Park. See inside for more details!

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COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
REDISCOVER THE HEIGHTS

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

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

SEE FLIP SIDE FOR RECREATION PROGRAMS

SnowBLAST

Sat, Feb 3 | 4-7 pm

Mark your calendar for the fourth annual SnowBLAST winter festival at Huset Park, featuring a variety of fun outdoor activities for the whole family. Bundle up and join us!



Free Pony Rides

Free S'Mores Station

Free Hot Beverages

Food Trucks

Snow Soccer

Beer Sales

Snowshoeing

Music

Fire Pits

Sledding

Free Popcorn

For more information, please visit columbiaheightsmn.gov/events

Bring your sleds and skates! Limited skates available on site. Free food and drinks are while supplies last.



Thank You, 2023 Event Sponsors!

The City of Columbia Heights would like to thank Barna, Guzy & Steffen, Ltd, Crest View Senior Communities, Fridley-Columbia Heights Rotary, Magnifi Financial, New Horizon Academy, Northeast Bank, the Sister Cities, and Substance Abuse Assessments, LLC for their support to provide family-friendly events in Columbia Heights in 2023!

2024 Sponsorship Opportunities

The City of Columbia Heights' event sponsorship program helps the City increase outreach to community members, improve local business visibility, and provide the best-quality community events possible. There are many opportunities available to support City events next year. Interested in sponsoring an event? Visit columbiaheightsmn.gov/business for details.

2024 Music in the Park

We're already busy planning a great lineup for next year's Music in the Park Series. Interested in performing or know a musical act that would like to play? Please fill out the form at columbiaheightsmn.gov/musicinthepark. Priority will be given to acts that have applied previously and acts that apply by Dec 15, 2023.

Performances are typically 90 minutes (6:30-8 pm) at Huset Park East (3965 Jefferson St NE).

The Utility Payment Drop Box has Moved!

The utility payment drop box was removed from old City Hall and is now installed in the parking lot of the Public Safety Building (825 41st Ave NE). If paying your City utility bill by check, please drop off at this new location moving forward. The box is located on the east side of the parking lot.

To make a one-time online payment, set up automatic payments, or switch to paperless billing, please visit columbiaheightsmn.gov/utilitybilling.

Online utility payments



New Addition to Columbia Heights Poster Series

The City's poster series highlighting Columbia Heights landmarks has a new addition!

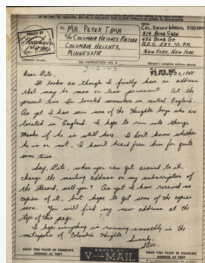
A tenth poster featuring the new City Hall was added to the collection this year.

To purchase posters, please call 763-706-3614. Dimensions are 11" by 17" and the cost is \$5 per poster.



Sampling of Local WWII Letter Collection Available Online

During World War II, service members from Columbia Heights received news about 'back home' from the weekly newspaper, The Columbia Heights Record. This was made possible by Peter Tema, the editor and publisher of The Record. Throughout World War II he mailed a copy of the newspaper to each soldier free of charge wherever they were stationed. The soldiers wrote back to him to give updates on how they were doing, to ask for The Record to be sent to them at their new addresses, to say thanks, and to tell him to "Say Hello to the folks at home for me". Peter saved every piece of correspondence from the soldiers, many of which contained news and information about the war.



Peter Tema passed away in 2000, resulting in an estate sale of his household. Longtime Columbia Heights resident Rita Norberg attended the estate sale, where she came across a table full of old letters and postcards written to Peter Tema during the war. An avid collector and antiques professional, she purchased the collection

and secured a place for them to be stored at the Columbia Heights Library.

At a Friends of the Columbia Heights Library meeting in the spring of 2019, Rita proposed that the letters be organized. Rita and six other members of the Friends of the Library then met to begin sorting, alphabetizing, and placing the 'Dear Pete' letters into binders. Cathy Devoy spent more than forty hours entering data from the letters into a spreadsheet capturing names, military branch, date, and geographic information from each letter.

Last year, thirty letters from the collection were submitted to the Minnesota Digital Library. Their website offers free access to digital collections from over 200 Minnesota-based organizations. The digitized items include pictures, maps, postcards, and other types of historical documents. The Tema letters were scanned at the Minnesota History Museum and the physical and digital copies were returned to the library. Information from the spreadsheet and a short description of each item is available on the website with the digital copies. To view the letters online, visit mndigital.org.

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

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



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. For at-home service, call 763-706-3681. Visit columbiaheightsmn.gov/library for additional info.

Adult Programs

Hand Spinning with Shetland Wool* Tue, Dec 5, 5-7 pm

Take your fiber arts to a whole new level by learning how to spin your very own yarn! In this class we will get to use fleece from a local, purebred Shetland sheep named Duke. We will learn about the art of fiber processing, then use a drop spindle to create simple two ply yarn. Registration required.

Contemporary Tapestry Weaving* Wed, Jan 31, 5:30-7 pm

Learn the basics of tapestry weaving to create a small wall hanging. Use a variety of colorful, textured materials like bulky yarn and wool roving. Get fancy with fringe, loops, and color blocking to create a weaving that is as unique as you are! Registration required.

Library Book Club Third Wednesday of the month, 10 am

The library's Adult Book Club meets in the library's community room. Join us each month or drop in for a discussion!

Dec 20: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

Jan 17: *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro

Feb 21: *Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman

Consult with the Law Librarian Dec 28, Jan 25, Feb 22, 5-7 pm

The Anoka County Law Library Director is at the Columbia Heights Public Library on the fourth Thursday each month to answer legal reference questions, help locate legal forms, and provide referral services where possible. Please note that law library staff are not attorneys and cannot provide legal opinions, interpretations, or advice.

Conversation Circle

Mondays, 5:30-6:30 pm and Thursdays, 2-3 pm, (No Thursdays in December)

Conversation Circle is a casual 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.

Youth Programs

Family Storytime

Mondays, Jan 29 - Feb 26, 10:30-11 am

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! No registration required.

Wood Collage and the Science of Trees Mon, Dec 4, 4-5:30 pm

Discover dendrochronology, the science of understanding history through reading the growth rings of trees. Take a closer look at tree artifacts to decipher clues about a tree's life. Then, cleverly arrange wood scraps to create an abstract, recycled wood collage, and give these wood pieces new life as artwork. Ages 6-12. Registration required.

Wooden Gingerbread Houses

Thu, Dec 28, 4:30-6:00 pm

Assemble and paint a gingerbread house while sipping hot chocolate. Ages 6+. Drop in anytime between 4:30-6 pm, registration recommended, but not required.

Polymer Clay

Tue, Jan 16, 4:30-6 pm

Create food, animals, objects, or whatever else you can dream up out of polymer clay. Just keep it tiny! Take home your creations with instructions for baking at home. Ages 6-12. Drop in anytime between 4:30-6.

Winter Lanterns

Tue, Feb 6, 4:30-6 pm

Make a cozy lantern to light up the long winter nights. Use tissue paper and mod podge to create a colorful design on your jar. Ages 6-12. Drop in anytime between 4:30-6, no registration required.

Clay Tiles for Family*

Sat, Feb 10, 1:30-3 pm

Make your very own commemorative family tile! Our teaching artist will talk with us about what's so cool about clay and show us how to properly roll out and cut a large tile. Then we will use our hands, carving tools, and colorful paints to celebrate family togetherness. Families should collaborate on tiles but large families can make multiple tiles to accommodate everyone if needed. Register your family and make sure to include all who will be attending in the registration.

Teen Programs

DIY Teen: Candle Making

Tue, Jan 23, 5:30-6:30 pm

Design a label, mix a custom scent, and choose a vessel to create a one-of-a-kind candle. Ages 12-18. Registration required.

DIY Teen: Cozy Knit Accessories*

Thu, Feb 20, 5:30-7 pm

Learn the basics of knitting and use your newfound skills to create a cozy scarf. Using colorful, chunky yarn and a set of knitting needles, you'll learn to cast on, purl, knit, and cast off in confidence! This class is intended for ages 13 and up. Registration required.

* This program is 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 Holiday Closures

Dec 25-26 • Jan 1 • Jan 15 • Feb 19

3939 Central Ave NE • (763) 706-3690
At-home Service • (763) 706-3681

www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/library
www.anokacountymn.gov/4180/Libraries
Facebook: @chplibrary

New Era Ahead at Medtronic Site

The City is laying the groundwork for redevelopment of Medtronic's Sullivan Lake Campus at 800 53rd Ave NE. Medtronic put the property on the market in late 2022, opening up a rare opportunity to re-envision the 12-acre site. The property, which is currently zoned for commercial use, includes an office building that was built in 1979 with surface parking. In order to optimize redevelopment of the site in alignment with City goals, other types of zoning are being explored. Because any zoning changes require an amendment to the City's Comprehensive Plan, staff have engaged consultant HKGi to work on a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to accommodate other types of zoning.

The City is working with HKGi to address infrastructure factors such as water and sewer upgrades, as well as set parameters around planning and design principles. The City has highlighted the desire to see a mixture of uses with a focus on Sullivan Lake as a community amenity. At the time of printing, a joint meeting with the City Council and Planning Commission is scheduled to take place on Nov 16 to guide the direction of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment.



City Accepting Applications for Façade Improvement Grant

Businesses along 37th Avenue NE, 37th Place NE, 40th Avenue NE, University Avenue NE, and Central Avenue NE are encouraged to apply for the City's façade improvement grant, which reimburses business owners for up to 50 percent of façade improvement costs. The maximum reimbursement amount through the grant is \$5,000. Learn more and find the application at columbiaheightsmn.gov/facade.



Commission Spotlight

The City of Columbia Heights has eight boards and commissions that advise the City Council on specific policies and make recommendations based on research and staff expertise: the Charter Commission, the Economic Development Authority (EDA), the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), the Library Board, the Park and Rec Commission, the Planning Commission, the Sustainability Commission, and the Youth Commission. Specific commissions are periodically highlighted in the City newsletter to help keep residents informed of their roles and responsibilities.

Park & Recreation Commission

The Park and Recreation Commission supervises and controls the use of public parkland, recreation, and senior citizen programs in the City, including parks, parkways, playgrounds, recreation fields and buildings, and all related public service facilities. The Commission also recommends improvements for parks and has the authority to make reasonable administrative rules and regulations, including setting fees and governing public use of park lands and buildings.

The Commission is composed of seven members who are residents of the City who serve for three years.



Interested in Serving?

We have several commission openings coming this spring. Applications will open in February for terms that begin on April 1 for the following commission seats. For more info, please visit columbiaheightsmn.gov/commissions.

Planning Commission: 3

Library Commission: 2

Park & Recreation: 2

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

Winter Parking Ordinance in Effect

With guidance from the Mayor and City Council, the Police Department is piloting a change to the winter parking ordinance dates for the current plowing season. The overnight parking ban is being enforced between Nov 15 and March 15, 2024. During these dates, it is unlawful to park any vehicle on any street within the City between 2-6 am.

The Police Department will be working to increase enforcement of the parking ban during the active dates in order to optimize parking opportunities while maintaining effective plowing operations.

The Police Department issues on-street parking permits in certain circumstances. Please visit our website to learn more.



CHPD Rolls out New Camera Trailer

The Columbia Heights Police Department recently purchased a camera trailer, which is a mobile video and security system designed to help with security and safety concerns. This unit can be used as a security component for special events, or for emergency management purposes in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency need. This tool will help the CHPD leverage technology to address crime and disorder issues in specific areas, as it can be moved easily as needed.



The Canadian Pacific HOLIDAY TRAIN is coming to town!

Mon, Dec 11 | 8 pm
Lions Park (37th & Stinson)



Protect Yourself from Auto Theft

It can be tempting to let your vehicle run unattended to warm it up on cold days, but this significantly increases your chances of becoming a victim of auto theft. In fact, the majority of stolen vehicles in the City were left with the keys in the ignition.

Leaving your vehicle running unattended is also an ordinance violation (remote start features exempt). Please help the CHPD combat auto theft. Take the keys out of your vehicle, lock your car, and remove any valuables from inside.

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](https://www.facebook.com/chpolice), and follow us at [Twitter.com/colhgtspolice](https://twitter.com/colhgtspolice).



Public Safety Staff Taking Part in Spanish Language Training

Members of the Police Department and Fire Department are adding Spanish language skills to their tool box in an effort to improve communication with Spanish-speaking community members. The classes are being offered to the departments through a partnership with Brenda Pliego-Geniz, a Columbia Heights Public School employee. For eight weeks, twenty members of the departments are setting aside an hour per week to attend classes focusing on language skills that are likely to come up in various emergency situations.



The City's Spanish-speaking community has grown rapidly, with around 60% of students at Valley View and Columbia Academy now being Spanish-speaking. Staff are increasingly facing language barriers that require them to rely on translations services, which led the departments to seek this additional training. "We hope that the classes will help staff successfully interact with the public on emergencies," said Police Captain Matt Markham. "This is our first run, so I expect we will build off of what we learn going into 2024."

Adopt a FIRE HYDRANT

BE A HYDRANT HERO!

Keeping fire hydrants clear of snow helps our firefighters in an emergency when minutes count! If you have a fire hydrant in your yard or close by, consider adding it to your snow removal routine.

Adopt your hydrant here



Winter Heating Safety

Most home fires occur in the winter and peak in January. Follow these simple tips to stay safe this heating season:

- Keep portable heaters three feet from anything flammable.
- Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have your home heating system and chimney cleaned and inspected annually.
- Make sure your wood stove is properly installed and ventilated.
- Carbon monoxide bonus tip: clear snow and debris from furnace, dryer, fireplace and oven vents around your home to prevent a CO buildup.

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 liking us on Facebook @columbiaheightsfire.



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

Road Project Updates

53rd Ave Project - Forest Lake Contracting is substantially complete with construction of the new turnabout on 53rd Ave in front of Target. The final remaining items including restoration of turf areas, signing, striping, and lighting installation are anticipated to be completed in November.

Park Construction has remained busy with wrapping up the 53rd Ave trail and walk improvements project from Main St to Central Ave. Retaining walls, bituminous paving, concrete work, signing, and striping are anticipated to be completed this month.

37th Ave Project - Eureka Construction is nearly complete with paving the bituminous trail and final lift of bituminous pavement on the north side of 37th Ave from Central Ave to Stinson Blvd. Work on the south side of 37th Ave as well as on 37th Pl is anticipated to be complete in November.

2024-2025 Alley Projects - For the 2024-2025 construction seasons, the City will be taking a break from the street rehabilitation program in order to focus on reconstructing alleys throughout the City. The reconstructed alleys will be built using concrete to replace the bituminous pavement. It is anticipated that up to five alleys will be reconstructed in 2024 with another up to five alleys anticipated to be reconstructed in 2025.

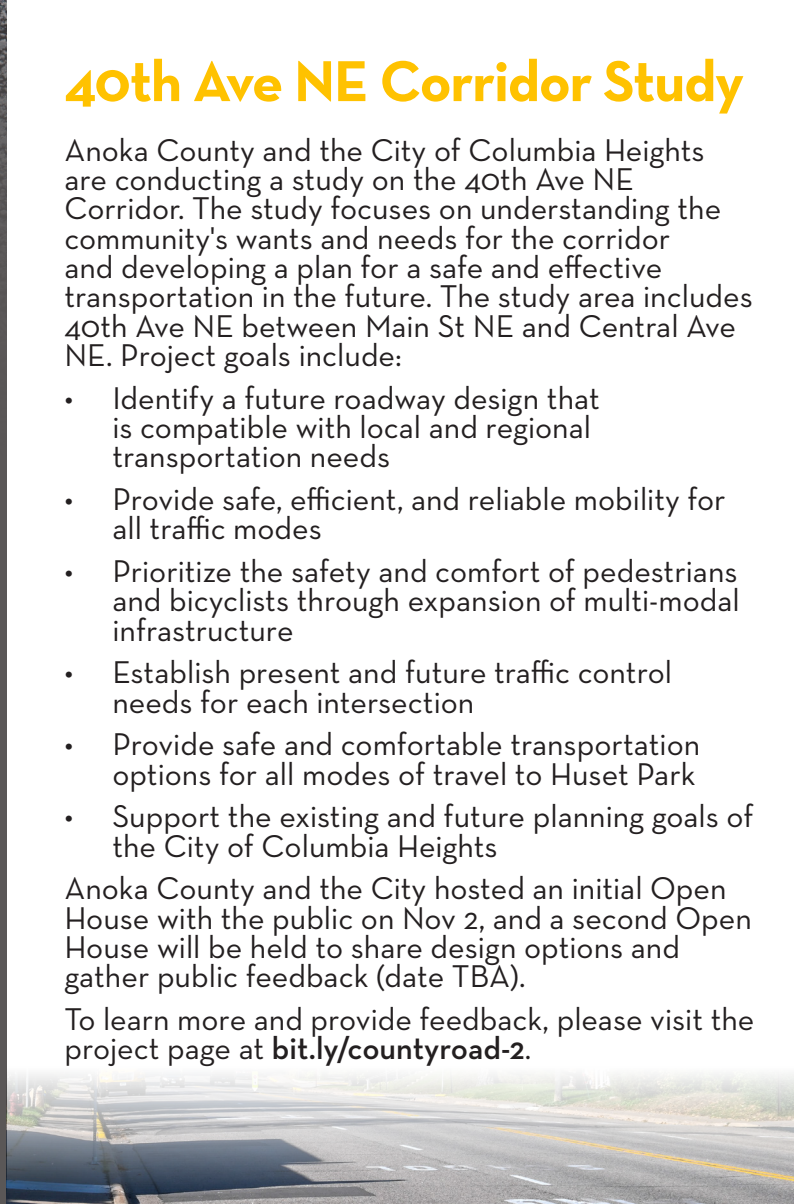
40th Ave NE Corridor Study

Anoka County and the City of Columbia Heights are conducting a study on the 40th Ave NE Corridor. The study focuses on understanding the community's wants and needs for the corridor and developing a plan for a safe and effective transportation in the future. The study area includes 40th Ave NE between Main St NE and Central Ave NE. Project goals include:

- Identify a future roadway design that is compatible with local and regional transportation needs
- Provide safe, efficient, and reliable mobility for all traffic modes
- Prioritize the safety and comfort of pedestrians and bicyclists through expansion of multi-modal infrastructure
- Establish present and future traffic control needs for each intersection
- Provide safe and comfortable transportation options for all modes of travel to Huset Park
- Support the existing and future planning goals of the City of Columbia Heights

Anoka County and the City hosted an initial Open House with the public on Nov 2, and a second Open House will be held to share design options and gather public feedback (date TBA).

To learn more and provide feedback, please visit the project page at bit.ly/countyroad-2.



Protect our Lakes and Streams: Use Salt Wisely

Salt can make sidewalks and roadways safer in the short term, but it also pollutes lakes and rivers and is harmful to pets and wildlife, buildings, cars, and bridges. Salt is often over-applied as well, worsening its negative effects. To reduce the environmental impact of de-icers, follow these simple tips:

- 1. Shovel** Clear walkways before snow turns to ice, and before you apply salt. The more snow you clear manually, the less salt you'll need.
- 2. Select** Salt doesn't melt ice if the pavement is below 15 degrees, so use sand for traction when it's too cold, or choose a different de-icer.
- 3. Scatter** Use salt only where it's critical. When you apply salt to pavement, leave plenty of space between granules. A 12-ounce coffee cup of salt is enough to cover 10 sidewalk squares or a 20-foot driveway.
- 4. Sweep** Clean up leftover salt, sand, and de-icer to save and reuse as needed.



An example of over-applied salt. 1-2 inches between particles is usually sufficient.



Tips to Reduce Waste this Holiday Season

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

Take Stock at the Beginning of the Season

Going through your holiday items at the start of the season allows you to identify what's no longer wanted or needed so that those items can be sold, given away, or donated while there is demand. Knowing what you already have also prevents unnecessary purchases. For reuse resources and donation options, visit columbiaheightsmn.gov/reuse.

Keep String Lights out of Refuse Carts

Did you untangle your strands of holiday lights only to discover that they no longer work? Don't throw them away! String lights cause issues in the waste stream, and can be dropped off at the Columbia Heights Recycling Center for free.

Recycle Excess Packing Materials

Did your gifts come with white packing Styrofoam, cardboard, and bubble wrap? Separate them for drop off at the Columbia Heights Recycling Center. Just make sure they're clean, dry and free of any labeling or tape.

Properly Dispose of Your Holiday Tree

To have your holiday tree picked up for free in January, fill out a request at columbiaheightsmn.gov/refusesupport by Jan 26. Avoid flocked or painted trees as they are not compostable and aren't eligible for curbside pickup. Anoka County also has two compost sites that accept trees. Visit anokacounty.us/359/Compost-Sites for more info. Don't forget to remove all lights and decorations!

Have a Plan for Old Electronics

If your holiday includes new electronics, please dispose of old electronics responsibly. Working items can be sold, donated, or reused. Visit columbiaheightsmn.gov/reuse for resources. Electronics and batteries can be dangerous in the waste stream, so keep these items out of your refuse carts. Household batteries can be dropped off at the Columbia Heights Recycling Center. Visit columbiaheightsmn.gov/refusesupport to schedule an electronics pick-up for a \$20 flat fee.

Columbia Heights Recycling Center

📍 3801 Madison St NE

Open Saturdays, 9 am-1 pm. Closed Christmas weekend, open New Year's weekend.

Refuse Holiday Schedule

Thanksgiving Day, Nov 23
Service delayed Thursday and Friday

Christmas Day, Dec 25
Service delayed all week

New Year's Day, Jan 1
Service delayed all week

Martin Luther King Jr Day, Jan 15
No delay

Presidents' Day, Feb 19
No delay



Reduce Waste at Holiday Gatherings

Dishes and Food Waste: Use washable dishes for food and beverages. If using disposable dishes, opt for recyclable or compostable products. Compostable products with a BPI logo can go in your compost cart along with food waste. For resources to reduce food waste, visit savethefood.com.

Recycling: Provide recycling bins for cans, bottles, and other recyclables that may be produced at your event. If you have more than your recycling cart can handle, you can borrow event recycling bins from Anoka County (763) 324-3400 or drop off excess at the Recycling Center.

Decorations: Use decorations that can be reused in future years, and limit or don't use balloons.

Online Refuse Support Form
www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refusesupport

City Refuse/Recycling Website
www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refuse

City Refuse Support Line
763-706-3727

Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions
(763) 324-3400 AnokaCountyMN.gov/recycle

Refuse Service Levels and Rates
www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/refuserates

Recycling Center
www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/recyclingcenter

2024 City Award Nominations

Send us your picks for Outstanding Citizen and Business of the Year

Outstanding Citizen

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. 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, and Roger Rogne received the award in the youth category for his work with several community programs and volunteer projects.

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

Business of the Year

This award recognizes businesses in the City for noteworthy accomplishments, long-standing contributions to the community, and significant community service efforts. The 2023 award went to Rapid Graphics, a business that has been at the same location in the City for 52 years and is known for their elaborate holiday displays that acknowledge various religions and cultural groups.

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

For nomination forms, visit columbiaheightsmn.gov/business or pick up a copy from City Hall. Nominations are due by March 25.

2024 Proposed City Tax Levy and City Budget Expenses

To fund the proposed 2024 tax-supported operating budget, the City's gross property tax levy for 2024 will require an 8.4% increase over 2023. The City's gross tax levy includes both the share of taxes paid by local taxpayers and the share subsidized by the metro area fiscal disparities program.

The metro area fiscal disparities subsidy will decrease by 11% for 2024. Unfortunately, this will cause local taxpayers to pay a greater share of the gross tax levy for 2024 than for 2023. Effectively, this results in an 14.2% average increase in City property taxes for local taxpayers.

Of course, the 2024 property taxes for any particular property in Columbia Heights are dependent on relative changes in

individual property values as well. In November, Anoka County will mail a property-specific notice of the proposed 2024 property taxes to each owner. The notice will include information on budgeted revenues and expenditures for the City, the county, and the school district.

The Columbia Heights City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2024 City budget and the final version of the 2024 City property tax levy at the Dec 11 City Council meeting, which begins at 6 pm in the City Council chambers. Members of the public may attend the public hearing in-person or online using a link that will be included in the meeting agenda packet.

