

FREE!

# Columbia Heights Jamboree



Presented by the  
Columbia Heights  
Lions



June 23-27, 2021

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# WELCOME to the 2021 Columbia Heights Jamboree!

Presented by the Columbia Heights Lions



We are thrilled to be able to celebrate with you after a year off due to the COVID-19 pandemic! All your favorite events will take place, including the carnival, fireworks, parade, car show, waffle breakfast, beer garden, softball tournament, medallion hunt, and community art and info fair. Find out about these events and more in our handy map and events tab in the center pages, and additional information located throughout this booklet. Please like us on Facebook at **Columbia Heights Lions** and **2021 Columbia Heights Jamboree**. Also check out [www.columbiaheightslions.com](http://www.columbiaheightslions.com) for the online booklet and even more photos and information.

The City of Columbia Heights is also celebrating 100 years as a city this year, with events scheduled throughout 2021. Highlights are located on the centennial page in the booklet. Go to [www.heights100.com](http://www.heights100.com) for a full list.

Over 85 businesses and organizations have contributed their time and treasure to make the 2021 Columbia Heights Jamboree a success. Please take the time to look at our sponsors and consider patronizing them.

*Sean Clerkin*

Columbia Heights Lions President



## Advance Carnival Ride Tickets

Save money and time waiting in line! Stop by any of the following locations to purchase your advance discount ride tickets. Tickets are sold in strips of ten (10). The price is \$20.00 and is good for any carnival ride. **Only ONE ticket is needed per ride!** Pre-sale tickets will be sold only before the carnival starts on Thursday, June 24, 2021. The carnival gate admission is a separate \$2.00 fee. The Columbia Heights Lions would like to thank the following businesses for selling ride tickets at their place of business:

Heights Bakery  
Sportsmen's Barbers  
Tasty Pizza  
Financial One Credit Union  
VFW Post 230  
El Tequila Mexican Grill  
Miller's Corner Bar  
Roman's Café  
Jeff's Bobby & Steve's Auto World  
Columbia Heights Recreation Dept.  
Bona Bros. Auto and Truck Service  
Moler Barber School in Fridley



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## 2021 Columbia Heights Jamboree Booklet

**Creator:** Lion Adam Davis

**Assistant:** Lion Ramona Anderson



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# Columbia Heights Jamboree Fireworks

## Saturday, June 26, 2021

Huset Park West

40th Avenue NE & Mill Street NE

Celebrating 100 Years of  
the City of Columbia Heights  
1921-2021

**Begins at Dusk**

Photo by Dave Rudolph



# EL TEQUILA

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## **Wishing Columbia Heights A Great 2021 Jamboree!**



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3939 University Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421



Welcome to the 2021 Columbia Heights Jamboree! It is truly an honor to serve as your Mayor during this important moment. Our annual city celebration was sorely missed last year during the onset of the terrible worldwide coronavirus pandemic. Like you, I am overjoyed to welcome the Jamboree back this summer! Thanks to the COVID-19 vaccine, thousands of medical workers, and your diligence, we are able to hold our parade and carnival for this very special Jamboree; we are celebrating our city's 100-year anniversary!

With an Art & Info Fair on Thursday, the Parade on Friday, a Car Show and Fireworks on Saturday, and a Waffle Breakfast on Sunday, there is something for everyone all weekend long. And don't forget the Medallion Hunt, and Carnival with food, games, and rides throughout the entire Jamboree. See all the details on **pages 22-23** or at **[www.columbiaheightslions.com](http://www.columbiaheightslions.com)**.

Our community history actually goes back much more than 100 years. The Dakota and Ho-Chunk tribes first raised their families here. By 1898, many immigrants settled here, and Columbia Heights became a village. In 1921, we became a charter city. Today, recent immigrants and multi-generational families call Columbia Heights their home. A past Mayor declared this place a City of Peace, and we will continue to welcome one another as neighbors. We have a lot to be proud of as we work together and look towards our next 100 years!

Thank you to the countless volunteers, city staff, and community members like you who make this celebration happen each year!

Happy Jamboree everyone!

Amáda Márquez Simula  
Mayor of Columbia Heights, MN

## It's Unanimous!



It's a 5-0 vote when the City Council voices its support for the Columbia Heights Jamboree Celebration!

Mayor Amáda Márquez Simula and Council members Connie Buesgens, Kt Jacobs, John Murzyn, Jr., and Nick Novitsky thank you for making our City a great place to live, work, and do business.

We are proud of our community and we look forward to another great year!

(This message was not paid for at City expense.)



423 40<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Columbia Heights, MN 55421  
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We are always accepting new patients and we are here when you need us.

## Lions Jamboree Beer Garden



**Budweiser  
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Goose Island IPA  
Bud Light Seltzers**

Featuring Joe Macko  
the Accordionist on  
FRIDAY night!

Learn more about  
Joe Macko  
on Page 19

**At the Jamboree Carnival!**

**THURSDAY: 5:00PM-11:00PM  
FRIDAY: 3:00PM-Midnight  
SATURDAY: 1:00PM-Midnight  
SUNDAY: Noon-6:00PM**

# Mandy MEISNER

**Anoka County Commissioner District 4**



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**Mandy.Meisner@co.anoka.mn.us | Office: 763-204-0550 | f**

**Anoka County Government Center 2100 3rd Ave Anoka, MN 55303**

Prepared and paid for by Mandy Meisner for Anoka County Commissioner. 7836 Alden Way NE | Fridley, MN 55432



# COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

## ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

**Our Mission** is to create an organization of community volunteers that will use their talents and skills to raise money to support youth activities and athletics in Columbia Heights.

Visit our locations:

**Sarna's** (3939 University Ave)

- E-Tabs/Pull Tabs
- Bingo
- Meat Raffle

**El Tequila** (4005 Central Ave)

- E-Tabs/Pull Tabs

**Miller's** (547 40th Ave)

- E-Tabs/Pull Tabs
- Bingo
- Meat Raffle

**The Unofficial** (3701 Stinson Blvd)

- E-Tabs/Pull Tabs
- Bingo
- Meat Raffle

**Top Valu Liquor** (4950 Central Ave & 2105 37th Ave)

- Pull Tabs

**Join us!**

**2021 Boosters Annual Golf Tournament**

**Tuesday, July 20 @ 12:00 PM**

**Majestic Oaks Golf Club**

**Register on our website!**

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**MONTHLY MEETING**

**3RD WEDNESDAY OF MONTH**

**7:00 PM**

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**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

Last year, we donated over  
**\$150,000!**

\*\*\*For more information, including dates and times of events, please visit our website:

**[www.chathleticboosters.com](http://www.chathleticboosters.com)**



## 2021 Columbia Heights Jamboree Parade Grand Marshal: Columbia Heights-Fridley Kiwanis

The Kiwanis Club of Columbia Heights-Fridley is honored to be the Grand Marshal of the 2021 Jamboree sponsored by our Columbia Heights Lions Club. Kiwanis is a global organization in over 50 countries with a mission of making a lasting difference in the lives of children and their communities. Our local Kiwanis Club sponsors Key Clubs in Columbia Heights and Fridley High Schools and a Builders Club in Fridley Middle School. These members learn leadership skills and volunteer in many projects to learn the importance of service in our community.



The Kiwanis Club has staffed the Columbia Heights Recycling Center for over 35 years and helps educate our community on the importance of recycling. Kiwanis members, along with Key Club members volunteer at the Recycling Center, bagging compost as part of the Plate to Garden program developed by the Minnesota Composting Council. The compost is then sold to support Key Club Scholarships and programs.

Another opportunity for Kiwanis to earn money to support our projects is with the Big Peach Sale in the summer. Key Club members volunteer the day of the sale delivering the peaches to cars, as well as having fun taking turns advertising the sale and enticing people to stop and buy peaches and to show customers where to pick up the peaches that they preordered.

Kiwanis participates in many service projects such as building dressers for Bridging, Feed My Starving Children, Christmas with Dignity, SACA, Adopt-A-Highway, and holiday toy drives. They have lots of fun participating in past Jamboree parades and volunteer at the Jamboree Carnival.

Kiwanis meets twice monthly on Tuesdays. If you are interested in joining Kiwanis, call 763-444-1061. They always welcome new members!



Join the Kiwanis in congratulating the Lions for another year of giving our community the Columbia Heights Jamboree!



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- ♦ Saturday: 5:00 pm
- ♦ Sunday: 8:00 and 10:00 am  
12:00 pm—Spanish

### Reconciliation

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Transit Authority Chicago Tribute  
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Foreigner & Styx

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

Rubber Soul Beatles Tribute  
The Crown Jewels Queen Tribute

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 8 **FREE ADMISSION**

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## Columbia Heights Jamboree Parade

Friday, June 25, 2021 at 6:00 PM

The Columbia Heights Jamboree Parade is excited to be back and bringing you all the sight and sounds, including the Osceola Marching Band, Maple Grove Marching Crimson, and the return of the Patriots Marching Band! The Miss Amery Royalty (pictured) are excited to represent their city, so make sure you give them a big wave when they go by! The Zuhrah Horsemen and Cycle Corps will also be coming to entertain you!

The Jamboree parade route starts at 45th Avenue NE and heads south on Central Avenue NE, then heads west on 40th Avenue NE until 5th Street NE. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair and make sure you come early to secure a spot! A parade map and more information can be found on pages 22-23.







## JIMMY'S PRO BILLIARDS

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# Enjoy The Jamboree!



**Anoka County Attorney  
Tony Palumbo**

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*Thank you  
Columbia Heights  
Lions Club for your  
dedication and  
service to our area.*

*Tony Palumbo*

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20 21



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1. No employees of Tasty Pizza or their family members can play.
2. No clues or information will be given out over the phone.
3. No digging or climbing.
4. Search public land only and adhere to posted rules and hours.
5. Bring Medallion to Tasty Pizza immediately when found for verification.
6. Clues will be posted Wednesday 11:00am and 5:00 pm starting Wednesday of jamboree week.

**Clues will be posted on Facebook one half hour after posting at Tasty Pizza**

875 45th Ave NE, Columbia Heights 55421



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## Columbia Heights Park & Recreation Men's Softball Tournament and Home Run Derby



Come cheer on the teams as they play their softball tournament at Huset Park East! They will be there all day Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, with a Home Run Derby on Saturday at 6:00 PM!



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**Phone: 763-571-4425**

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# Community Art & Info Fair, June 24

The Community Art & Info Fair, formerly known as the Community Picnic and Art & Craft Fair, will be held at Huset Park West on Thu, June 24, from 5 to 7:30 pm. The info fair will be held along the walking path in between the Huset Park Splash Pad and Zurek Pond. Community organizations looking to have an informational booth can register by contacting Will Rottler at 763-706-3614. The deadline to register for an info booth is Thu, June 17. The art & craft fair portion of the event will be held outside along Mill Street near John P. Murzyn Hall, where attendees will also find food trucks. Vendors can register for a booth by contacting Deanna Saefke at 763-706-3730. There is a \$15 fee to register. The deadline to register is

Thu, June 17. Space is limited. Please bring your own table and display.

The event will feature snacks, free ice cream, entertainment, food trucks, and more than 50 booths! It will be a stone's throw from the Jamboree Carnival taking place farther east into Huset Park. Notice: The event will be canceled in the case of severe weather. Attendees are asked to follow CDC social distancing guidelines. Visit [www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/events](http://www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/events) for more information.



## 100 Years

## 2021 EVENTS!



### MUSIC IN THE PARK

The Columbia Heights Centennial Committee is excited to announce the 2021 Music in the Park series, which features current and former residents of Columbia Heights. The concerts are free, but space is limited. Please bring a folding chair or blanket. Each night will have an opening act, food trucks, and beer for sale.

**WHERE:** Huset Park East (near the Jefferson building)

**TIME:** 6:30-8 pm

**SCHEDULE:**

**July 7:** Wander North

**Aug 4:** Mama No No and the Yes Men



### CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Join your fellow residents at Huset Park for the City's Centennial Celebration! There will be musical acts, games, food trucks, and free cake!

**WHERE:** Huset Park

**WHEN:** July 17, 11 am-2 pm



### MOVIES IN THE PARK

Movies in the Park will return this summer. Movies are yet to be determined, but we'll post a social media survey to help decide.

**WHERE:** Huset Park West, McKenna Park

**WHEN:** Aug 20, Sept 17, sunset

### And More...

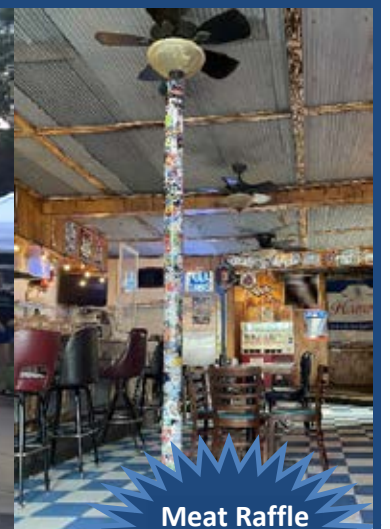
We have a lot more planned for 2021. To find out about all the upcoming events at the City of Columbia Heights, please visit [www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/events](http://www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/events)

**Please Note:** Due to COVID-19 uncertainty, dates and times may change. Visit [www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/covid](http://www.columbiaheightsmn.gov/covid) for updates.



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## 2021 Columbia Heights Jamboree Schedule of Events

### Wednesday, June 23

Tasty Pizza Medallion Hunt Begins!  
CLUES POSTED AT 11:00 AM AND 5:00 PM  
UNTIL FOUND

### Thursday, June 24

Community Art & Info Fair: 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM  
Carnival: 5:00 PM – 11:00 PM  
Lions Beer Garden: 5:00 PM – 11:00 PM

### Friday, June 25

Carnival: 3:00 PM – midnight  
Lions Beer Garden: 3:00 PM – midnight  
Jamboree Parade: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

### Saturday, June 26

Softball Tournament: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Carnival: 1:00 PM – midnight  
Lions Beer Garden: 1:00 PM – midnight  
Lions Car Show: 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
Home Run Derby: Begins at 6:00 PM  
Centennial Fireworks: Begins at Dusk

### Sunday, June 27

Softball Tournament: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Lions Waffle Breakfast: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Carnival: Noon – 6:00 PM  
Lions Beer Garden: Noon – 6:00 PM

Jamboree Hotline

**763-706-3789**

(Recorded Message of Events)





# **1 Community Art and Info Fair**

*HUSET PARK WEST: ZUREK POND – SEE PAGE 20*

# **2 Lions Car Show**

*MURZYN HALL BACK PARKING LOT – SEE BACK COVER*

# **3 Belgian Waffle Breakfast**

*MURZYN HALL – SEE PAGE 25*

# **4 Centennial Fireworks**

*HUSET PARK WEST: SLEDDING HILL – SEE PAGE 7*

# **5 Carnival** *PAGE 51*

*HUSET PARK MIDWAY – SEE PAGES 3, 25*

# **6 Lions Beer Garden**

*HUSET PARK MIDWAY – SEE PAGE 10*

# **7 Softball Tournament**

*HUSET PARK EAST – SEE PAGE 19*

# **8 Jamboree Parade**

*CENTRAL AND 40<sup>TH</sup> AVENUES – SEE PAGES 12, 14, 41*

# **9 Medallion Hunt**

*CLUES AT TASTY PIZZA – SEE PAGE 17*

Parade Route:

Free Public Parking Lots/Ramps Available:

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**John Rockwell**

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[John.Rockwell@REMAX.net](mailto:John.Rockwell@REMAX.net)

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## Jamboree Carnival



Thursday:

5:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Friday:

3:00 PM – Midnight

Saturday:

1:00 PM – Midnight

Sunday:

Noon – 6:00 PM

### Admission:

\$2 Adults and Teens

Kids 12 and under are free!

Kids require a parent or guardian in attendance



## Belgian Waffle Breakfast



**Sunday, June 27**  
**10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**  
**Murzyn Hall**

\$8: Adults and Teens

\$5: Kids 5–12

Kids under 5 are free!





# JAMBOREE RECYCLING & COMPOSTING

- All food vendors at the Jamboree Carnival use compostable products.
- There will be organics/composting, recycling, and trash options for event attendees to put their waste. Look for the labels!
- The City of Columbia Heights and Jamboree organizers are excited to have these options to reduce City and event waste.
- Thank you for disposing responsibly!



# Congratulations to all of this year's graduates.

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**Donna Schmitt**

Council Member 2011-2016

Mayor 2017-2020



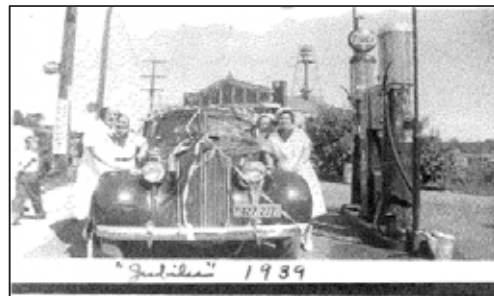


# Columbia Heights Jamboree History

*The first Columbia Heights celebration was called the "Heights Jubilee"*

On Saturday, September 29, 1934, the city prepared to hold the 1st Heights Jubilee Program to celebrate the completion of the pavement and the opening of Central Avenue. The festivities started at 10 am that morning. Governor Floyd B. Olson gave the principal address at 2:30 pm, and the city's businesses were closed to honor the Governor's visit. The Jubilee featured children's programs at the High School athletic field on 41st Avenue. There was a parade featuring school children, the fire department, and floats that moved down Central Avenue to 37th and returned. There were also races planned for the children which climaxed with a blueberry pie eating contest.

The committee for the Jubilee was composed of Chairman Matt Milner, Chris Anderson, Walter Sochacki, Peter Deanovic, Gust Lindberg, and J.B. McCann. At 2:15 pm, Mayor Ralph Crisp officially opened the celebration when he presented the keys to the city to the public. After the Governor's remarks, the High School Band had a concert. Following the concert, the highway department's Chief Construction Engineer, O.L. Kipp, and Executive James Kelly of the Bureau of Public Roads addressed those present. At 4 pm there was entertainment at the High School field. Being that this was an election year, all candidates seeking office were permitted to speak. In the evening, US Senator Henrik Shipstead and Congressman Ernest Lundeen addressed the crowd. The day's events culminated with vaudeville show and a street dance. All the businesses decorated their store fronts, helped sponsor concessions, and contributed to the fund to purchase prizes for all the events. Some of the prizes given were for those who had come the farthest distance, oldest couple present, largest family present, and the oldest (in years of residence) Columbia Heights citizen.



You can read more of this article by Marlane Szurek at [www.columbiaheightslions.com](http://www.columbiaheightslions.com).

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100th Anniversary

2021 Columbia Heights  
Jamboree



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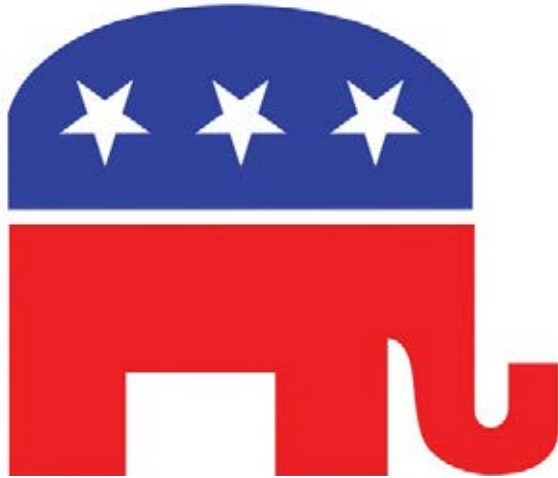
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*Looking forward to seeing you around town,*

*Kt Jacobs*

Council Member

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## Columbia Heights Lions Student Scholarship Program

The Columbia Heights Lions is pleased to announce three Columbia Heights High School graduates for this year's student scholarships.

Sakhia Howard Reynolds was involved in volleyball, basketball, lacrosse, and the black student union.

She volunteered with younger aspiring athletes, knowing how important it is to have a teacher with kindness and patience in a child's life. Sakhia will go to Anoka Ramsey and wants to become a special education teacher.



**Sakhia  
Howard Reynolds**



**Daniel  
Severson, Jr.**



**Ugyen  
Dorjee**

Daniel Severson, Jr. is an avid reader and loves psychology, philosophy, and social sciences, and took several AP courses in high school. He played basketball and volunteered at the Fridley Community Center. Daniel plans to attend Anoka Ramsey and then Concordia, majoring in psychology.

Ugyen Dorjee graduates CHHS with honors with a 3.96 GPA and 4.0 GPA as a Post Secondary Education Option student at Minneapolis College. She was involved in volleyball, key club, student council, and national honor society. Ugyen plans to attend St. Olaf and pursue the health care field.

Congratulations to Sakhia, Daniel, and Ugyen!

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Columbia Heights Sister Cities dedicated a linden tree in Łomianki Park on April 30, 2021 in honor of their 30-year relationship with our sister city Łomianki, Poland.



At the 2018 Jamboree, Sister Cities leaders Pat Sowada and Dolores Strand chat with a CHPD officer. Pat was posthumously named 2020 Outstanding Citizen. Read more about her on page 35.

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# Lions Adopt-A-Highway and Shred-It Days

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# And the 2021 Outstanding Citizen Award Winners Are...

## Linda Fowler, Adult Category



Volunteerism and community engagement run in the family for Linda Fowler. Six years after her father, James Fowler, was named Columbia Heights' Humanitarian of the



Year, Linda received the same honor, now known as the Outstanding Citizen Award, in 2021. James isn't alive today to see his daughter earn the same honor as he did, but he didn't miss the chance to tell her how proud of her he was before he passed away last October, Linda said.

Three years ago, Linda began volunteering regularly at SACA Food Shelf alongside her father, a veteran SACA volunteer.

"He influenced me a lot," Linda said. "I enjoyed that time we had there together."

Linda, 62, continues to donate about eight hours a week to SACA, sorting food in the warehouse. It's been a time of high demand.

Linda, a Columbia Heights native who recently retired from Medtronic as a pacemaker analyst and electrical technician, also volunteers her time at First Lutheran Church, gathering supplies for Sunday school teachers, tending to the community garden, and helping out at their farmers market. Last year, to contribute to the pollinator population, she learned how to raise monarch butterflies from eggs, and this summer, she'll be taking a role in the Mayors' Monarch Pledge effort. When she's not volunteering, she makes crafts and donates them. Despite all the ways she's involved in the community, she said she did not expect to win this award. She was nominated by a fellow SACA volunteer and selected by Mayor Amada Márquez Simula and 2019's Outstanding Citizen Award winner Cathy Miske. She received the news on a voicemail from the City.

"I had to listen to the voicemail three times before I believed it," Linda said. But perhaps her father wouldn't have been so surprised.

## Drake Pham, Youth



Drake Pham got involved in community volunteering with the Loaves and Fishes program, working with Columbia Heights Recreation to distribute food to people in need. Later, he joined the Key Club, a youth volunteer organization, and was president of the local chapter during his junior year at Columbia Heights High School. Now, at 16, Drake has become the City's very first winner of the Outstanding Citizen Award in the youth category designated for youth ages 14-18. Among all the events and programs Drake has helped organize over the years, and all the volunteer opportunities he's taken part in, a highlight has been his work with SACA Food Shelf. Drake partnered with SACA to create volunteer opportunities for Key Club members at the start of the COVID pandemic, and he later worked to rally students to pack groceries for homebound seniors at a time when SACA was short on volunteers due to health concerns.

"Without this effort, the food shelf would have been hard pressed to get food out to so many in need during this pandemic," wrote Drake's nominator. "He not only organized it, he also participated."

Drake, who plans to study sports management after graduation, said he got involved in these programs because he's admired the way people in this community look out for each other and protect one another.

"I wanted to be a part of that," he said.

## Pat Sowada Named 2020 Outstanding Citizen

### Sowada Received Four Nominations, Won Award Posthumously in 2020

"Pat represented community spirit at its finest," wrote Becky Loader, former library director, in her 2020 Outstanding Citizen nomination form for Patricia Sowada, who was selected for the award with approval from Mayor Donna Schmitt. Pat, who died Oct 2, 2020, at the age of 77, spent decades actively involved in the community. She was appointed to the Columbia Heights Library Board in June of 1989. She was a member at-large from 1989-94, vice chair from 1995-2008, and vice chair again from April 2019 on. She was chair of the board from 2009 to 2019. Pat was also the membership chairperson for the Columbia Heights Sister Cities Committee. Over the years, Pat made a point to attend as many City events as she could. She almost never missed a monthly Coffee With a Cop gathering. She helped out annually at the Library Foundation's Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. She once worked as a clerk at the City's Top Valu Liquor. Pat crocheted and knitted hats and robes for U of M children's cancer patients. She taught elementary school kids how to knit in after-school hours. She coordinated the exchange of greeting cards with Highland and Lomianki students for 20 years. She was an active member of Immaculate Conception parish and active with Holy Cross Church in North Prairie as music director and organist. She donated pumpkins every year to the Fire Safety Open House, helped with Heights garden beautification, decorated and rode on the Library's 90th anniversary parade float, and so much more. Pat also earned the Columbia Heights Police Department's annual T. Nightingale Community Service Award for 2020.







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## **Anoka County Sheriff James Stuart**

Wishes to thank the Columbia Heights Lions Club for their ongoing commitment to service & community, and commends their efforts which make our community a better place to live, work & visit.

*Enjoy the Jamboree!*



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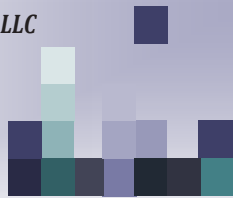
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## 2020 Employee of the Year Award Goes to Fire Chief Thompson

In 2020, Fire Chief Charlie Thompson became the 41th employee to be named the City of Columbia Heights Employee of the Year. The year was like no other, but it proved particularly challenging for emergency workers and first-responders. Thompson, in his role as Emergency Manager, assembled the City's COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness Plan to keep the City's employees and residents well informed of the ongoing developments and ever-changing CDC data and recommendations. He and his Public Safety colleagues worked with other City departments to address the local impacts of the unfolding pandemic in a comprehensive and efficient manner while keeping the public educated on proper health and safety protocols. This on top of managing the already demanding day-to-day duties of Fire Chief, a position he filled just months before the pandemic hit.

The coworker who nominated Thompson described him as having incredible foresight. In the early stages of the pandemic, for example, before it was clear how serious things might get, Thompson made sure that Columbia Heights had enough personal protective equipment (PPE) for first-responders and other staff by securing a reserve of PPE gear

that helped get the City through the national PPE shortage. Additionally, after Gov. Tim Walz asked residents to make and donate face

masks to their local fire departments, Thompson helped coordinate a face mask collection effort in April that resulted in 368 mask donations. He then arranged delivery of the masks to local congregate care facilities short on PPE.

But 2020 wasn't all hardship. Thompson also contributed to the City by offering up his very own chili recipe, which helped the Columbia Heights' Team CH-ili win first place at the annual Chili Cook-off fundraiser for the Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health and Well-Being.



*Columbia Heights wins the Golden Pot award at the Lee Carlson Center Chili Cook-off fundraiser. Left to right: City Manager Kelli Bourgeois, Chief Thompson, chili judge Shari Mukherjee, and Capt. Erik Johnston.*

## 2019 Employee of the Year Award Goes to Fire Department Captain

In 2019, Fire Capt. Tony Cuzzupe became the 40th employee to receive the Employee of the Year honor. As a fire captain, Tony is expected to make life-saving decisions at all hours of the night with little to no sleep

over 24-hour shifts. There is no room for error. During his 13 plus years of full-time experience, he has spent more than 38,000 hours on shift duty, averaging 56 hours a week. Yet, every day, on every call, inspection event, or school education event, he rises to the occasion and shows his true heart.



*Tony Cuzzupe accepts the Employee of the Year award plaque from Mayor Donna Schmitt*

Described by those who nominated him as being one of the most caring and dedicated people they have ever known, as someone who has had myriad chances to make positive impacts in people's lives and who has never passed up the opportunity to do so. For example, while on a rental inspection job, Tony noticed a boy walking a bicycle up the driveway. The boy looked upset. When asked, the boy explained that his day of biking had come to an abrupt end when his bike broke. Tony noticed this boy's distress, took the time to stop and listen to him, and assessed the damage of the bicycle. But he didn't stop there. He promptly grabbed a tool kit from the department's truck and fixed the bike on the spot.

Tony has become a key part of the growth and mentorship of the City's younger firefighters and has demonstrated a true knack for team building. He formed the Columbia Heights Fire Department Honor Guard to help honor the sacrifices made by former firefighters and their families.

Thirty-six years ago, the City Council approved the Employee of the Year Award as a method of rewarding employees seen by their peers and supervisors as deserving of special recognition for their accomplishments and contributions to the City of Columbia Heights. Annually, all Columbia Heights employees have the opportunity to nominate themselves or another employee(s) for the award based on three criteria: Public Relations, Consistency of Performance, and Significant Accomplishments. On rare occasions, more than one employee is selected in a given year. The Employee of the Year nomination review committee is composed of former Employee of the Year recipients who are still employed by the City. We congratulate Chief Thompson and Capt. Cuzzupe for winning this award and for being an asset, not just to the Fire Department, but to the community, to our entire workplace, and our lives.



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1977	Ron Kullas	1995	Al Martinson
1978	Ann Croaker	1996	Gene Heffner
1979	John P. Murzyn	1997	Abe Verbrugge
1980	Dr. Conrad Nauman	1998	Pat Proft
1981	Pete Tema	1999	Lyle Estrem
		2000	Pat Olynik
		2001	Denny Long
		2002	John Gordon
		2003	Lucjan Sokolowski
		2004	Wally Logacz
		2005	Joseph Sturdevant, Sr.
		2006	Kevin Doty
		2007	Marilyn Peters
		2008	Matthew Miller
1982	Ron Raveling	2009	Gerry Herringer
1983	Don Burton	2010	parade rained out
1984	Floyd Bixler	2011	Todd Estrem
1985	Don Carlson	2012	Howie Leathers
1986	Al Naegele	2013	Liz Bray
1987	Al Kordiak	2014	Wanda Bierch
1988	Wally Murray	2015	Roger Gillespie
1989	Don French	2016	Belva Rasmussen
1990	Don Hebzynski	2017	Bruce Nawrocki
1991	Russ Lyons	2018	Malcolm Watson
1992	Ben Schafer	2019	Gary and Kay Mayer
1993	Dick Bierch		



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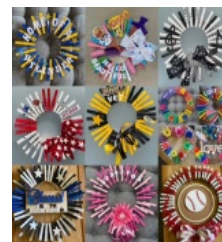
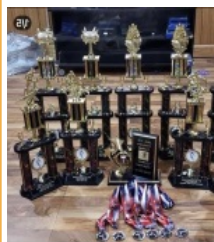
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## In Memoriam Columbia Heights Lions Members We Lost



James Fowler, 85, passed away on October 7, 2020. Jim was a long time member of the Columbia Heights Lions and resident of Columbia Heights. He spearheaded the Lions handicap ramp building project, helping those with limited mobility and lack of income to be able to access their homes. Jim was also the recipient of the Melvin Jones award. Jim passed one day shy of his 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with his wife Dolores.

Ann Novitsky, 62, of Columbia Heights, died on September 22, 2020 after a lengthy and courageous battle with cancer. She was a dedicated Lions member as well as an active volunteer throughout the community. Her husband Mike, son Nick, and daughter-in-law Angie are also active Lions members. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend that we will all miss dearly.



Tim Utz, 63, died unexpectedly of COVID-19 on April 18, 2021. Tim was on the Columbia Heights Police Reserves for 9 years and vice-president of the Columbia Heights Charter Commission. Tim was a carpenter who worked his way up to commercial construction superintendent. He was most proud of being the project manager for the Super Bowl in Minneapolis.

Tim's contributions to the Columbia Heights Lions included being the coordinator of this Jamboree booklet in 2018 and 2019, and implementing the gate admission system for our Jamboree carnival that maintains a safe and family-friendly experience for all.

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