



# Insights

FALL 2021

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 101:

### Building Greater Understanding as IGH Grows

Residents often ask about the processes behind infrastructure improvements and developments in IGH. We like to see residents involved, invested and engaged—that’s what local government is all about! Here are answers to some frequently asked questions:

**Q: What are the usual steps in the planning process when a developer approaches the city with an idea?**

First, city Planning Division staff receive land use applications from potential developers and review them for any zoning or other compliance issues that need to be addressed. Planning applications can be found on the city website at [www.ighmn.gov/planning](http://www.ighmn.gov/planning). Once the application is complete and in order, Planning staff brings proposed developments to the Planning Commission for discussion and review at public **Planning Commission meetings**, which are held the **first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m.** in City Hall Council Chambers. During these meetings, staff and Commissioners convene on whether they will recommend a potential project to City Council, and residents can offer their input as part of a public hearing process. Public hearings on developments are announced on the city website ([www.ighmn.gov/publicnotices](http://www.ighmn.gov/publicnotices)) and in the *Pioneer Press*, the city’s paper of record.

After a public hearing at the Planning Commission meeting, Planning presents development proposals to Councilmembers during regular **City Council meetings**, which are held the **second and fourth Mondays of the month at 6 p.m.** in Council Chambers. At this stage, Planning shares its recommendations with Council, Council discusses and votes on projects, and the public has additional opportunities to engage and be heard during the meetings. To find out when a particular development will be discussed at a Council meeting, visit our Meeting Agenda Center at [www.ighmn.gov/agendacenter](http://www.ighmn.gov/agendacenter).

**Q: What guides the decisions about how areas are developed within IGH?**

The city’s Comprehensive Plan. In 2019, City Council approved the city’s 2040 Comprehensive Plan, which lays out the vision, priorities and land use plan for the city for the next two decades. City staff, our Planning Commission and City Council use this plan as a guide when development recommendations or decisions are made. A copy of the Comprehensive Plan can be found at [www.ighmn.gov/planning](http://www.ighmn.gov/planning).

— Continued on page 2



Bishop Heights commercial district in Inver Grove Heights.

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## Community Development 101, continued from page 1

Residents who are interested in learning more or participating in the planning process can attend Planning Commission meetings, apply to be a member of the Planning Commission ([www.ighmn.gov/commissionerapp](http://www.ighmn.gov/commissionerapp)) or watch Planning Commission and City Council meetings at [www.townsquare.tv/webstreaming](http://www.townsquare.tv/webstreaming), hosted by local community cable provider Town Square Television.

### Q: What is zoning?

The zoning of an area determines how the land within that area can be used or developed. For instance, if an area is zoned as “residential,” housing can be built there and a factory cannot be built there, unless a change to the zoning of a property is proposed and approved by City Council. The city uses the Future Land Use map, developed as part of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, as a guide when considering a change to city zoning. The city’s Future Land Use and Zoning maps can be found at [www.ighmn.gov/zoningmap](http://www.ighmn.gov/zoningmap).

### Q: Why are planning and zoning important?

City planning is important because, although no one can predict the future, communities need blueprints to follow as they grow. Planning helps ensure that cities maintain a healthy mix of housing, commercial areas and green space. Planning influences traffic patterns, pedestrian safety, neighborhoods, economic development, even environmental impacts within a community. Maybe you have traveled to a city that grew quickly without robust planning practices. Did you notice the differences?

### Q: Are there benefits to development? If so, what are some of the benefits to IGH residents?

Generally speaking, when a city borrows money or issues bonds to finance infrastructure improvements to an area, it is beneficial to the city’s taxpayer base if the city earns revenue back on the improved land. Revenue is earned in part through fees, taxes and assessments for residents and businesses. To use an example: if a city builds infrastructure such as new streets or drainage systems into an area, and then that area remains undeveloped, the city might struggle to recoup the infrastructure investment it made to improve the area.

Once public infrastructure is in place, private investment tends to create greater economic opportunity for residents. Smart business development can also add to the quality of life in neighborhoods where empty commercial real estate fills. Additionally, the taxes and fees businesses pay to cities supplement the property taxes that residents pay.



South Grove residential development in Inver Grove Heights.

### Q: Why doesn’t the city turn undeveloped areas into parks or preserves?

Often “vacant lots” near parks or other open areas are not city-owned properties. Instead, they might be privately owned land parcels that happen to be adjacent to park land. Private property rights dictate that landowners can sell or develop areas as they see fit, as long as city code and zoning rules are followed.

### Q: Why would the city want a mix of housing developments?

A mix of housing ensures that residents can age in place in the city. For example: a kid graduates from college, gets an apartment or condo in IGH and commutes to St. Paul for work. They later get married, buy a starter home in IGH, then perhaps a larger home, and eventually retire to one of our senior communities. An array of housing can encourage long-term residency, contribute to safety and stability, and promote long-term economic investment in an area.

### Q: What is the city’s vision for the Northwest area of the city, currently undergoing some development?

We envision a mix of park land, single-family, multi-family, and retail development in the Northwest area of the city, which is in alignment with the city’s Comprehensive Plan. We plan for a mix because residential and commercial development go hand-in-hand, with more rooftops leading to more interest from retail businesses. It should be noted that plans for development must take into account factors like zoning, storm water management, tree preservation, parking, traffic, park planning, and the existing character of an area.

**Q: How can I learn more about developments in IGH?**

Current development information and much more can be found in a new section of our website: [www.ighmn.gov/communitydevelopment](http://www.ighmn.gov/communitydevelopment).

**Thanks for reading!** We plan to follow up with more answers to frequently asked questions in upcoming issues of Insights. Our goal is to educate and build a better understanding of the processes involved in shaping IGH for future generations of residents.



City planning is important because, although no one can predict the future, communities need blueprints to follow as they grow. Planning helps ensure that cities maintain a healthy mix of housing, commercial areas and green space.

## GIS CORNER

### EXPLORE IGH IN A NEW WAY AT [ighmn.gov/zoningmap](http://ighmn.gov/zoningmap)

Would you like to see what guides the city's approach to development? Our Zoning and Future Land Use maps provide citizens and developers easy access to zoning and land use information for land parcels within our city. There are two tabs on this interactive map, Zoning and Future Land Use. The Zoning map shows what a parcel is currently zoned for today and the Future Land Use map, sourced from the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and approved by Council in 2019, is used by the city as a guide to re-zone a parcel for development.

**On the top left of the maps, the user is able to search parcels by address or Property ID (PID). On each map, you are able to click on your parcel of interest to view:**

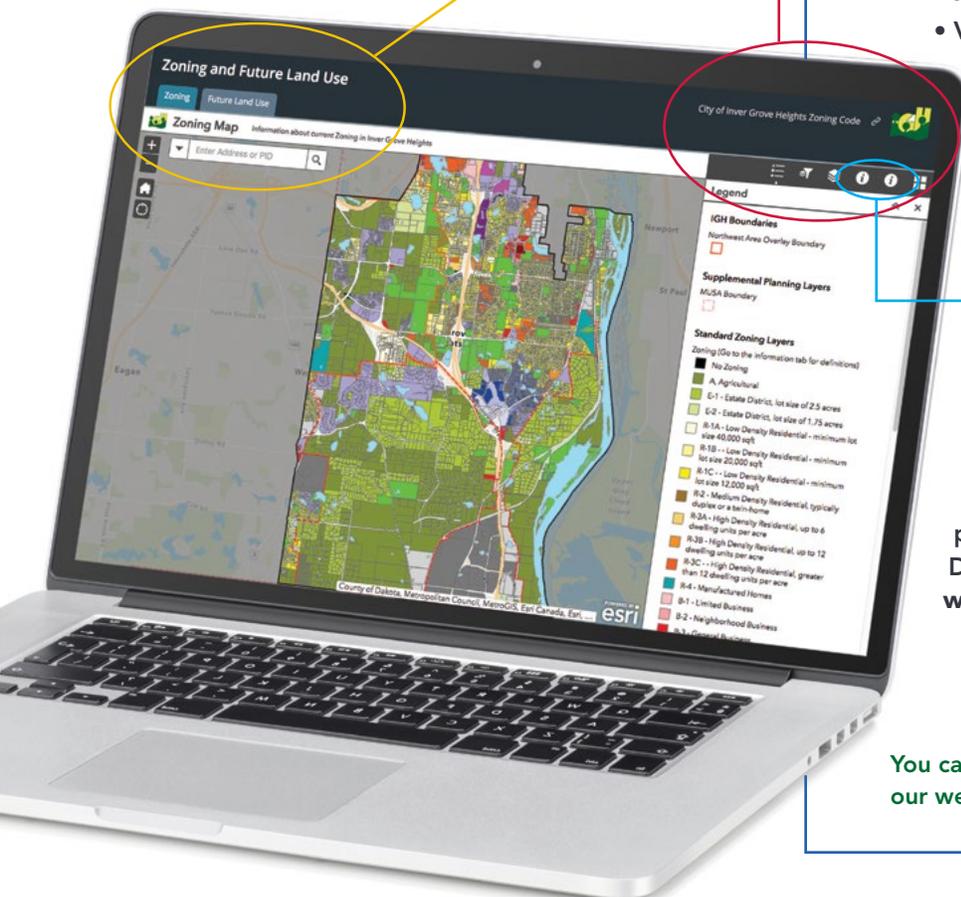
- Zoning type or future land use type
- PID, address, and area (acres and square footage)

**On the top right, the user is able to:**

- View a legend to see what different map symbols mean
- Filter the data to view certain zoning or land use types
- Turn on and off map layers and images
- Link to the city's Zoning Code

There are two "information" icons on the top right of the Zoning map, where zoning types are explained. Another "information" icon can be found on the Future Land Use map that provides descriptions of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan land use types. For a deeper dive into parcel information, there is also a link to Dakota County online parcel maps at [www.ighmn.gov/zoningmap](http://www.ighmn.gov/zoningmap).

You can view other useful city maps on our website at [www.ighmn.gov/maps](http://www.ighmn.gov/maps).





## Get to Know Your City Government!

Here's a guide to the 2022 budget process:

**MAY/JUNE 2021:** City departments submitted their budget requests, and finance staff prepared salary and benefit estimates.

**JULY 20, 2021:** Department head meeting to review the impact of requests on the city's general fund budget and levy.

**AUGUST 2, 2021:** City Council meeting to discuss preliminary budget and levy impact.

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2021:** Council Work Session preliminary budget and levy presentation.

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2021:** Council Meeting to propose preliminary levy approval.

**OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2021:** Council Work Sessions, where other fund budgets are reviewed and discussed.

**NOVEMBER 11–24, 2021:** Dakota County mails proposed property tax notices to residents, based on the city's preliminary levy.

**DECEMBER 13, 2021 — THE FIRST COUNCIL MEETING IN DECEMBER: A public meeting to discuss the city budget and tax levy.**

### GLOSSARY

**Levy:** the amount of property taxes needed to cover city services

**Net tax capacity:** a property's market value multiplied by its tax rate

**Tax rate:** the total levy amount divided by the city's total net tax capacity

**General fund:** includes expenses for Mayor and City Council, city administration, elections, communications, technology, finance, community development, planning, inspections, police, fire, public works, engineering, street maintenance, streetlights and parks

TO FIND OUT MORE, VISIT  
[www.ighmn.gov/finance](http://www.ighmn.gov/finance)

**BUDGET**

**2022**



## Heating Safety

Did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple precautions, you can prevent most heating fires from happening:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet away from heating equipment.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel-burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms to avoid the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

# October 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <b>JOIN US FOR FAB-BOO-LOUS HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES</b> Visit <a href="http://www.ighmn.gov/specialevents">www.ighmn.gov/specialevents</a> for details. 					1	2 P&R Healthy Living Fair 9 a.m.–12 p.m. VMCC FREE
3 St. Paul Farmers Market 8 a.m.–1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	4 CC Work Session 6 p.m. City Hall	5 CAC Planning 7 p.m. City Hall	6	7	8 P&R Family Fri-YAYs–Family Fun Night 5-8:30 p.m. VMCC	9 P&R Pickleball League Starts P&R Let’s Paw-ty! Halloween Dog Park Event
10 FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OPEN HOUSE Noon–3 p.m. Fire Station No. 2	11 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	12	13 CAC Park & Rec. 7 p.m. City Hall	14	15	16
17	18	19 CAC Planning 7 p.m. City Hall	20	21	22 P&R Ghostly Gathering 6-8 p.m. VMCC Ages 2-12	23 P&R Scary Skate 6:30–8 p.m. VMCC, West Rink
24	25 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	26	27	28 CAC Environmental 7 p.m. City Hall	29	30
31						

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS

IGH PARKS & REC

**HEALTHY LIVING FAIR** *FREE!*

**SATURDAY October 2**  
9 a.m.–Noon  
VMCC  
[ighmn.gov/SpecialEvents](http://ighmn.gov/SpecialEvents)  
SPONSORED BY  
**Humana**

Final of the season  
**ST. PAUL FARMERS MARKET**  
Sunday, October 10  
8 a.m.–1 p.m.  
VMCC Parking Lot

#### KEY

CC	City Council
CAC	City Advisory Commissions
P&R	Parks & Recreation Events
	Other Events

Remove this handy calendar page and post where convenient!

**VMCC MEMBERSHIP**  
JOIN NOW & START MOVING!

# SPEND TIME WITH FRIENDS

live love laugh and stay young

GUEST PASSES · PICKLEBALL · FITNESS CLASSES

**FREE TO MEMBERS**

VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER

[www.ighmn.gov/memberships](http://www.ighmn.gov/memberships)

**VMCC DISCOUNTED ENROLLMENT FEES**

October: \$10  
November: \$11  
December: \$12

# November 2021

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

BURN OFF THE BIRD!

**BLACK FRIDAY BOOT CAMP**  
at the VMCC  
NOV. 26  
9-10:30 A.M.

REG. BY 11.20  
CODE: FP-F152  
\$10 M; \$20 Non-mem.  
[ighmn.gov/register](http://ighmn.gov/register)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 CAC Economic Development 5 p.m.   City Hall CC Work Session 6 p.m.   City Hall	2 CAC Planning 7 p.m. City Hall	3	4	5	6 Compost Your Pumpkin 8 a.m.–8 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot
7 Compost Your Pumpkin 8 a.m.–8 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	8 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	9	10 CAC Park & Rec. 7 p.m. City Hall	11 VETERANS DAY IGH City Offices Closed	12 P&R Family Fri-YAys – Family Fun Night 5–8:30 p.m. VMCC	13
14	15	16 CAC Planning 7 p.m. City Hall	17	18 CAC Environmental 7 p.m. City Hall	19	20
21	22 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	23	24	25 THANKSGIVING DAY IGH City Offices Closed	26 IGH City Offices Closed	27
28	29	30				

### KEY

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	Other Events

## COMPOST YOUR PUMPKIN

FREE!

Help keep fall pumpkins out of the trash by disposing yours at the IGH Pumpkin Composting Event!

**Saturday, November 6 —  
Sunday, November 7 | 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
VMCC Parking Lot**

Place in organics dumpster near VMCC, Door G  
8055 Barbara Avenue

### ACCEPTED ITEMS

Carved or uncarved pumpkins. No painted pumpkins, candles or bags accepted.

All pumpkins are brought to the Mulch Store compost facility in Rosemount where they are turned into compost—a valuable soil additive.

### QUESTIONS?

Contact Ally Sutherland at [asutherland@ighmn.gov](mailto:asutherland@ighmn.gov)

This event is partially funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Dakota County.

## COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE HELP LOCAL FAMILIES

The IGH Wellness Committee is kicking off another Community Food Drive to help families in need. In 2020, we collected 481 pounds of food (about 225 meals!). Please continue to help Neighbors, Inc. stock their local food shelf by donating this fall.

**November 1-30 | VMCC, Door A**

**WISH LIST:** Any nonperishable food items such as soup, cans of green beans and baked beans, canned fruit, cans of pie filling and canned meat.

Neighbors, Inc. provides many services to northern Dakota County residents, including a food shelf, food shelf delivery, second-hand clothing store, vouchers to their thrift store, financial empowerment services, emergency financial assistance and more. If you are interested in utilizing any of these services or providing additional donations, please visit [www.neighborsmn.org](http://www.neighborsmn.org) or call 651-455-5000.

# December 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <b>PARKS &amp; RECREATION 2021-22 WINTER BROCHURE AVAILABLE ONLINE</b> <b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1</b> <a href="http://www.ighmn.gov/CurrentBrochure">www.ighmn.gov/CurrentBrochure</a>			1 	2	3	4 P&R Cookies & Canvas 9 a.m. VMCC
5	6 CC Work Session 6 p.m. City Hall	7 CAC Planning 7 p.m. City Hall	8 CAC Park & Rec. 7 p.m. City Hall	9	10	11 P&R Skate With Santa 6:30-8 p.m. VMCC, West Rink
12	13 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	14	15	16 CAC Environmental 7 p.m. City Hall	17	18
19	20	21 CAC Planning 7 p.m. City Hall	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE IGH City Offices Close at Noon	25 CHRISTMAS DAY IGH City Offices Closed
26	27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

*Come play at the VMCC for Winter Break!*



### KEY

CC	City Council
CAC	City Advisory Commissions
P&R	Parks & Recreation Events
	Other Events

Remove this handy calendar page and post where convenient!

## Holidays in the Heights

**Tree Lighting Ceremony**

**Thursday  
December 2**  
5:30-6 p.m.  
NE end of VMCC

**Swim with Santa**



**Thursday  
December 2**

6-8 p.m.  
\$5 per person; \$9 at the door  
Code: FA-F111  
VMCC Water Park  
REGISTER ONLINE BY NOV. 30

**Skate with Santa**



ALL AGES

**Saturday, December 11**

6:30-8 p.m. (FA-F103)  
VMCC, West Rink  
Skates available for rental.  
FREE for Members;  
\$6 Non-member  
\$8 at door (if space is available)  
REGISTER ONLINE BY DEC. 1

**Holiday Cookies and Canvas**

AGES 6 AND UP

**Saturday, December 4**

Fun holiday art project with the family!

9 a.m. (FA-F107)  
VMCC, Community Room 1  
\$15 · Pre-registration only  
REGISTER ONLINE BY NOV. 30  
10:45 a.m. (FA-F108)  
12:30 p.m. (FA-F109)  
2:15 p.m. (FA-F110)

## A North Pole Morning with Santa

**Saturday, December 11**

Visit with Santa and enjoy other activities with the family! A light breakfast will be provided.

8:30 a.m. (FA-W331)  
10:30 a.m. (FA-W332)  
\$6; \$8 at the door (if space is available)  
VMCC, National Guard Gymnasium  
REGISTER ONLINE BY DEC. 3



## Parents Shopping Night!

**Thursday, December 16** AGES 6-12

5:30-7:30 p.m. (FA-F201) VMCC \$8 per child  
REGISTER ONLINE BY DEC. 9

Drop your kids off at the VMCC and take some time to yourself! We will eat pizza, create a holiday craft, play games and have fun!

[www.ighmn.gov/parksandrecreation](http://www.ighmn.gov/parksandrecreation)

# VISIT THE VMCC!

**OPEN SKATE ·  
INDOOR WATER PARK ·  
FITNESS CENTER · CLASSES ·  
WALKING TRACK & MORE!**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER  
[www.ighmn.gov/communitycenter](http://www.ighmn.gov/communitycenter)



VMCC  
DAILY  
ADMISSION  
RATES

Single: \$9  
Youth, Veterans,  
and Seniors: \$6

## INVER GROVE HEIGHTS PARKS & RECREATION

IN-PERSON  
AQUATICS  
HIRING EVENTS  
at the VMCC!

Oct. 6: 6-8 p.m.  
and Oct. 9  
10 a.m.-Noon

*We are  
★ Hiring! ★*

**JOIN OUR TEAM!**

Fitness Attendants ★  
Guest Services ★ Child Care  
Water Safety Instructors  
Lifeguards ★ Pool Attendants

[www.ighmn.gov/jobs](http://www.ighmn.gov/jobs)

**NON-SCHOOL DAY  
WINTER  
FIELD TRIP**

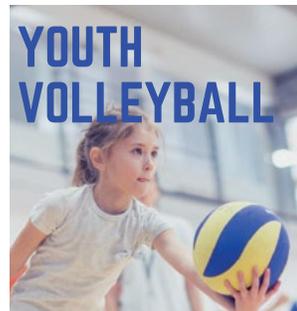
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28**  
9 A.M.-4:30 P.M. · AGES 8-14

We will spend the morning tubing at Green Acres, and the afternoon swimming and playing games at the VMCC.

Fee: \$37 · Code: YP-F201  
Register by December 19



VARIETY OF OPTIONS  
STARTING IN  
NOVEMBER & JANUARY



**10  
9  
8  
7  
6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1  
!**

**Noon Year's Eve**

**Friday, December 31**  
10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

We're having a pool party with dancing, games, and crafts!

Ages 11 and younger: \$8 · 12 and older: \$10  
Register by Monday, December 27 with Code: FA-F500

Join us for this special 'Count Down to Noon!'

## IGH SENIOR CENTER AT THE VMCC IS OPEN!



### Senior Club Luncheons

THIRD MONDAY OF  
THE MONTH · 12-2 P.M.

Registration Required

October 18  
November 15

Holiday Luncheon  
Friday, December 3  
(Members only)

2022 MEMBERSHIP \$15

### Senior Safety Series

Oct. 13, 20, 27 & Nov. 3 at 10 a.m.

Fire, Scams, Police, and  
Caption Call and Lifeway Mobility

Fee: \$10 Code: AS-F1013

### SPEAKERS:

Where There's a WILL, There's (not always) a WAY  
November 10 · 10:30 a.m. · Code: AS-F1110

### ACTIVITIES

500 · Mondays · 1 p.m. (except  
the third Monday of the month)

PENNY BINGO · 1 p.m.  
Third Tuesday of the Month

CRIBBAGE · Tuesdays · 6:30 p.m.

HAND & FOOT · Wednesdays · 9 a.m.  
(except the second Wed. of the month)

BRIDGE · Wednesdays · 12:30 p.m.

EUCHRE · Thursdays · 1 p.m.



No  
registration  
required!

Register by PHONE 651-450-2480 or ONLINE at [www.ighmn.gov/register](http://www.ighmn.gov/register)

Pickleball Leagues  
Start October 9!





# Inver Grove Heights Winter Parking Restrictions

The Inver Grove Heights Police Department would like to remind our community to do their part in promoting safety on our city streets by closely following a longstanding city ordinance:

**#6-3-6 LIMITED PARKING DURING WINTER MONTHS:**

It shall be unlawful to park a vehicle on any street between the hours of 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. from Nov. 1 through Apr. 1.

**Please be aware that IGH PD will be taking the following steps:**

**Beginning Oct. 15, 2021, through Nov. 1, 2021:** *Warning Notices* will be issued to any vehicle found in violation.

**Beginning Nov. 1, 2021, through Apr. 1, 2022:** *Citations* will be issued to any vehicle found in violation. If a vehicle found in violation has not moved and has received numerous citations for this violation, it may be towed and impounded.

### Frequently asked winter parking questions:

**Q: What if I have visitors from out of town and have no available parking on my property?**

**A:** If you have visitors who need to temporarily park on the street, the Police Department can provide a waiver for up to 14 days. To make a waiver request, property owners should call the police department at **651-450-2525**. The waiver allows for overnight street parking only. All other parking requirements remain in effect. Those with waivers are also expected to move vehicles to alternate locations if a significant snow event occurs.

**Q: I see cars parked overnight on my street. Why haven't they been cited or towed?**

**A:** The ordinance restricts overnight parking from 3:00 to 6:00 a.m. Officers focus on overnight parking enforcement based on availability. Since the department's priority is the response to calls for police service, winter parking regulation enforcement is completed only when officers have available time. Residents can call the department at **651-450-2525** to report a persistent or chronic violation, which will be given priority status when officers are not engaged in a call for service response.

**Q: What is the requirement in the event of a snowfall?**

**A:** The ordinance was intended to standardize parking regulations by prohibiting overnight parking from Nov. 1 to Apr. 1. During snow events of two inches or more, we ask that vehicles be parked off-street to allow city plowing crews to clear snow from curb to curb effectively.

**Q: Is Inver Grove Heights the only city with this type of date-specific winter parking restriction?**

**A:** Cities have a variety of different ordinances governing winter parking. Some cities have a year-round overnight parking restriction. Inver Grove Heights winter parking requirements are date- and time-specific to minimize questions and confusion about parking during snow events.

Thank you for doing your part. If you have questions, contact the Inver Grove Heights Police Department from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mon. through Fri. at **651-450-2525**.



## Be Part of the Solution to Water Pollution

The United States Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 200 million gallons of used motor oil are illegally dumped every year. A single quart of oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water! And that's just motor oil. Every time someone uses the storm drain or a ditch as a disposal system ("illicit discharges"), they're causing an impact downstream. That's because storm sewers and ditches don't go to wastewater treatment plants. Storm drains are separate from the sanitary sewer system, and polluted water from dumping gets released unfiltered and untreated into streams, lakes and wetlands.

We need your help to address illicit discharges into our environment! In Dakota County, hazardous waste, such as motor oil, should be taken to the Dakota County Recycling Zone at 3365 South Highway 149 in Eagan. If you see anyone dumping anything into a storm drain, or if you see any strange colors or suds in a pond or lake, call the IGH Engineering Division at **651-450-2570**. If a vehicle is involved, please write down the license plate number and a description or snap a picture with your phone. With your help, we can ensure that the water in our city stays clean.



## Can I Recycle This? Check Out Our Guide!

Be a confident recycler by focusing on the following items. Do not use plastic bags. Put recyclables loose in your recycling cart or use a paper bag. Make sure bottles, jars and containers are empty and dry before recycling. They don't have to be perfect—just free of most residue like food and liquids. Leave caps on containers and flatten boxes.

All recycling service providers in Dakota County must accept these items. If you're wondering about a specific item, use the online Recycling Guide at [www.ighmn.gov/recyclingguide](http://www.ighmn.gov/recyclingguide).

### Paper

- Newspaper and inserts
- Magazines and catalogs
- Mail and office papers

### Cardboard

- Corrugated cardboard
- Paperboard (e.g., cracker boxes)

### Cartons

- Milk and juice cartons
- Soup, broth, and wine cartons
- Juice boxes

### Metal cans

- Aluminum, tin, and steel cans

### Glass bottles and jars

### Plastic bottles, containers and jugs

- Containers numbered 1, 2 or 5
- Soda, juice and water bottles
- Milk and juice jugs
- Margarine, cottage cheese, cream cheese and other tubs and lids
- Laundry detergent bottles and jugs
- Clear berry and produce containers

### DO NOT put these items in your recycling

- Batteries
- Black plastic
- Clothing and textiles
- Electronics
- Food
- Diapers
- Plastic bags and film
- Shredded paper
- Tanglers (e.g., chains, extension cords, hoses, string lights)



## FREE YOUR BOTTLES, CANS AND PAPER

Leave the plastic bag behind. Your bottles, cans and paper should go in your recycling cart loose—do not use a plastic bag for your recyclables. If you need a bag, use a paper bag. Plastic bags ruin the recycling process and don't get recycled because they:

- Prevent workers from seeing if bad items are mixed in with good items.
- Wrap around machines at the sorting facility.
- Workers must crawl into sorting machine to cut out tangled bags.

Plastic bags, bread bags, plastic wrap around paper towels and bubble wrap can be dropped off at grocery stores for proper recycling. Find drop-off locations in the online Recycling Guide at [www.ighmn.gov/recyclingguide](http://www.ighmn.gov/recyclingguide).

*Partially funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Dakota County.*

## KEEP YOUR HOME COMFORTABLE THIS WINTER WITH A VISIT FROM THE HOME ENERGY SQUAD®!

The Home Energy Squad helps you learn about energy-saving opportunities in your home and installs materials on-the-spot during an in-home visit. Energy experts can update drafty doors, an old thermostat, inefficient light bulbs, and more.

Free in-home energy assessments are available for income-qualified households.

Sign up for your visit now at [xcelenergy.com/HomeEnergySquad](http://xcelenergy.com/HomeEnergySquad) or call 651-328-6220.

And don't forget to visit [www.ighmn.gov/energy](http://www.ighmn.gov/energy) to find more energy resources and ways to support Inver Grove Heights' Energy Action Plan!

### INCOME LIMITS FOR FREE ASSESSMENTS

Household Size	Annual Income Limit
1	\$33,918
2	\$44,355
3	\$54,791
4	\$65,228
5	\$75,664



# Council Green-Lights Major Initiative to Rehabilitate Ten Miles of IGH Streets

At a City Council Work Session on September 7, City Council gave direction to city staff to undertake major pavement rehabilitation projects across the city in 2022 and beyond. Specifically, staff will begin looking at more than ten miles of neighborhood streets for pavement replacement in 2022, which is roughly five times the number of miles in previous years. This ambitious effort will begin with more detailed studies of road conditions and needs. One of the first steps in the process will be to hold neighborhood meetings with the property owners that might be affected by the pavement rehab projects. If you are in one of these neighborhoods, you can expect to hear from the city this fall when you will be invited to share input on potential projects.

Once areas are studied, city staff will report back to Council and, if the project is feasible, Council will hold a public hearing to hear resident concerns and decide if a neighborhood project should proceed. Projects that go forward will involve pavement removal and replacement, repairs to utility systems in the area, and other related work. Assessments to property owners are part of the funding solution for this pavement initiative, and those details will also be worked out as part of the study process. Projects on this list that do end up going

forward would likely be substantially completed in summer and fall of 2022. If you don't see your neighborhood included for 2022, check back, as city leadership is making a long-term commitment to road improvements. An ambitious project pace will continue every year until we improve city roads to the condition we all want them in.

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City Council also gave the green light to the Pavement Management Citizens Taskforce (CTF), which starts its work this fall. CTF is tasked with examining the city's Pavement Management Program and providing recommendations to the City Council on how to improve it. The CTF will look at how we select project areas, how we pay for improvements, the methods we use to rehabilitate our streets, as well as the overall goal of our Pavement Management Program. The CTF will report back to Council next spring, and its recommendations will guide pavement management efforts over the next decade.

With a big rehabilitation effort next year and the CTF helping set a roadmap for how we go forward, city leadership aims to improve roadway conditions across the city, and then keep them there!



TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE TENTATIVE AREAS AND NEIGHBORHOODS SLATED FOR REHABILITATION, YOU CAN VISIT [www.ighmn.gov/pavementtaskforce](http://www.ighmn.gov/pavementtaskforce).

## WHAT'S MY SPEED? TAKE THE PLEDGE TO DRIVE SAFELY IN OUR CITY!

### TRAFFIC CORNER

Speeding across the city and the state continues to be an epidemic. We all want safe neighborhoods, yet we are all in a hurry to get where we want to go. What can be done? More signs won't solve this challenge. Enforcement can be used to target problem areas, but city enforcement actions often find the source of the speeding is predominantly the residents who live in the area themselves!

The most effective way for all of us to make our neighborhoods safer is to **just slow down**. Driving the posted speed will get you where you need to go safely and efficiently. Going faster only shaves off a few seconds, but impacts every house and pedestrian you drive by. So please slow down and be a good neighbor.

What is the "posted" speed limit on our roads where there's no sign? For every residential road in the city that isn't signed otherwise, **the speed limit is 30 mph**. That's the state law. But the law only works if we agree to live by it. So take the pledge: commit to yourself and your family and your neighbors to drive at the speed limit when you are in our city.



# Insights

This newsletter is published quarterly and is mailed, one copy per residence, to all residential and postal customers in the City of Inver Grove Heights.

## WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

If you have any comments, give us a call at 651-450-2500.

## CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

Tom Bartholomew, Mayor	651-450-2505
Brenda Dietrich	651-450-2503
Sue Gliva	651-450-2506
Rosemary Piekarski Krech	651-450-2504
John Murphy	651-450-2507

## CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Kris Wilson	651-450-2511
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## ON THE WEB

[www.ighmn.gov](http://www.ighmn.gov)

## EMAIL

[cityhall@ighmn.gov](mailto:cityhall@ighmn.gov)



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## CITY SERVICES UPDATE

# Utilities Billing Tips and Ways to Save

### YOUR METER

You can help ensure the your quarterly water bill is correct by providing easy access to your meter. That lets our technicians get accurate readings, and any needed maintenance can be taken care of more easily.

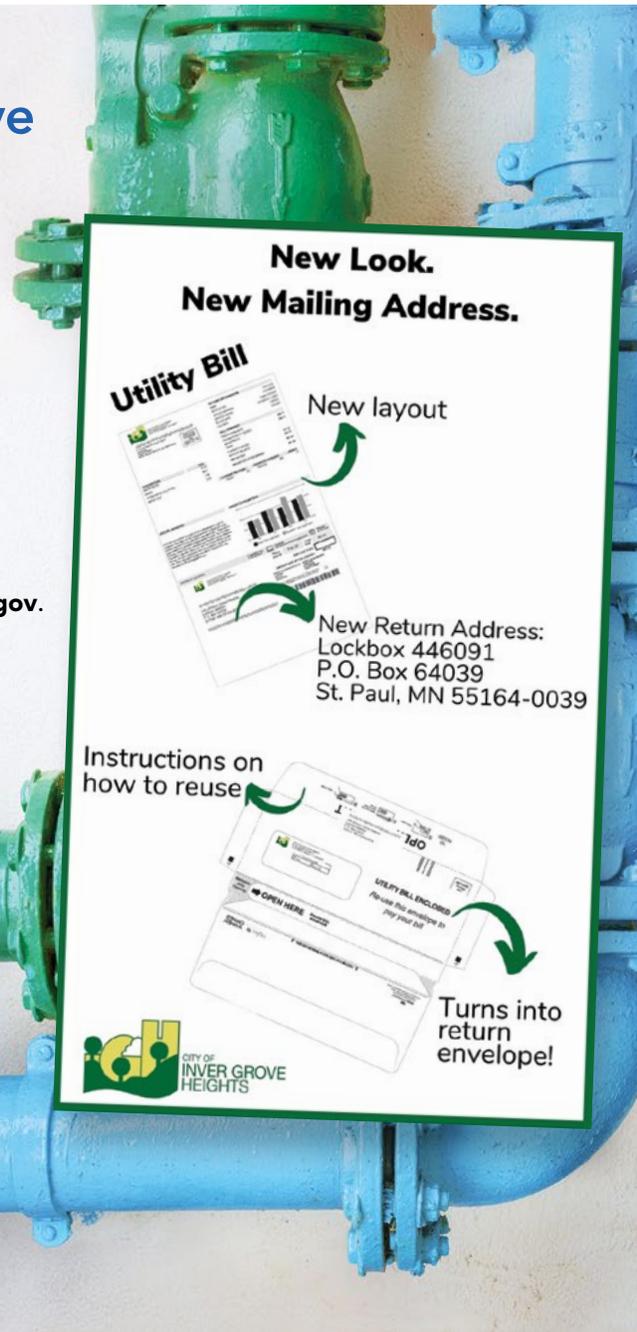
- Meters should have a six-foot clearance in the front and a two-foot clearance on either side.
- Meters should not be obscured by plants, shrubs or snow.
- Meters should never be in crawl spaces or behind locked fences.
- If you have a locked gate or a dog, help ensure our technician has access when your meter is scheduled to be read.

### RATES

Sewer charges for residential and multi-family customers are based on water consumption in the wintertime quarter of the year, and this determines your sewer charges throughout the year. This way, you will not be paying additional sewer charges for warm weather water use, such as watering lawns, washing cars, landscaping, gardening or filling pools.

### SENIOR DISCOUNT

Seniors 65 years of age or older may be eligible for a discount on the base fee of their water service charge! Contact utility billing for details: **651-450-2500** or [utilitybilling@ighmn.gov](mailto:utilitybilling@ighmn.gov).



**New Look.  
New Mailing Address.**

**Utility Bill** → New layout

→ New Return Address:  
Lockbox 446091  
P.O. Box 64039  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0039

Instructions on how to reuse →

→ Turns into return envelope!

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS