



# Insights

WINTER 2022



## Our Resolutions for Inver Grove Heights in 2022

2021 flew by, brought changes to the City of IGH, and presented opportunities for adapting and integrating new approaches to the way we serve our community. New staff members have joined city leadership, new grant funding was awarded to IGH, and a set of priorities for 2022 began to emerge. Recognizing that our job of serving residents and business owners is continuously evolving, we at the city would like to share our New Year's resolutions for 2022. These resolutions summarize shared areas of focus across multiple departments for the next year, all with one common goal: to continually maintain and improve the quality of life for the residents of IGH.

### RESOLUTION #1: Increased Investment in Public Safety to Serve our Growing Community

Three additional officers will be added to the **IGH Police Department** in 2022, allowing for the creation of a new street crimes unit focusing on proactive policing techniques to enhance neighborhood safety. With staff devoted to identifying and investigating issues and trends within the department's calls for service, this unit will enhance the already great service provided by IGH PD. The department also recently launched a more outreach-oriented website

([www.ighmn.gov/police](http://www.ighmn.gov/police)) and will continue to emphasize community policing and engagement with its Citizens Academy, Explorer and Resource Officer programs.

The **IGH Fire Department** was recently awarded a SAFER Grant to enhance staffing levels and will use those funds to add a second duty crew in early 2022. This means two fire stations will now be staffed 24/7 with a duty crew ready to respond at a moment's notice, thereby reducing response times and enhancing service to all corners of the community. When not responding to calls for service, members of the duty crews assist with fire education, prevention and outreach programs.

### RESOLUTION #2: Enhanced Infrastructure Management

Pavement management, which is the strategic and planned maintenance, repair and reconstruction of city streets to maximize their lifespan, will be another major focus in 2022. The City Council recently assembled a Pavement Management Citizen Taskforce (CTF) consisting of councilmembers and residents, and supported by city staff

— Continued on page 2



### IGH ACHIEVES AAA CREDIT RATING

In December 2021, Standard & Poor's upgraded the city's credit rating to AAA, the highest rating possible. We wish to recognize Finance Director Amy Hove, the Finance Department and the City Council for their contributions to this first-time achievement, which was due in part to strong financial management practices put in place by the City Council, and healthy economic growth in our community. To learn more about city finance, visit: [www.ighmn.gov/finance](http://www.ighmn.gov/finance).

## Our Resolutions, continued from page 1

and expert consultants. The CTF will perform a deep dive into the city's pavement management practices and funding levels and make recommendations to the City Council on the best way to meet the expectations of residents with the resources available. At the same time, city staff are working to deliver a significantly increased slate of street improvement projects during the 2022 construction season. Learn more at [www.ighmn.gov/pavement](http://www.ighmn.gov/pavement).

The **Public Works** and **Finance** departments will also be prioritizing long-range planning for our utility systems, with an emphasis on how to fairly and sustainably fund our water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure over the coming years and decades. In 2022, the city will conduct a rate study to determine the most effective course of action to not only fund upkeep, but also the eventual, necessary replacement of aging water, sewer and stormwater systems. More information about utility rates can be found on the back page of this newsletter and online at [www.ighmn.gov/waterrates2022](http://www.ighmn.gov/waterrates2022).

### RESOLUTION #3: Parks, Parks and More Parks

Along with streets and utility systems, parks are another major asset that the city provides and maintains for the benefit of those who live and work in IGH. As the northwest area of the city continues to grow and develop, the city will focus on the development of multiple new parks, while continuing to invest in and maintain existing parks throughout the community. Vista Pines, an eight-acre park currently under construction near the intersection of Amana Trail and Argenta Trail, is set to open this summer, and recently approved plans for new housing will soon bring at least two additional parks to the northwest area. Also on tap for 2022 is the proposed reconstruction of numerous amenities at South Valley Park. To learn more about IGH park projects, visit [www.ighmn.gov/parks](http://www.ighmn.gov/parks), and check-out the GIS Corner article on the next page.

Lastly, watch your mailbox for the return of a printed and mailed Parks and Recreation brochure. The City Council, in collaboration with city staff, listened to resident feedback and directed a return to this information-packed mailing to all IGH residents. This is just one way the Parks and Recreation Department, under the leadership of new Parks and Recreation Director Adam Lares, plans to emphasize outreach and engagement in 2022.

Every year, city staff re-ups on a commitment to better communication, increased transparency and the highest level of customer service. 2022 is no exception. Our resolutions are supported by the 2022 adopted budget (see page 4), as well as city staff members who make the resolutions a reality. (Meet two new staff members in the following section.) We look forward to a continued partnership with the residents and businesses we serve, as we continue to improve this great city.

# Welcome

## Meet New City Staff

### Kris Wilson City Administrator

Happy New Year! After joining the city staff back on September 1 and getting a few months under my belt, I am excited and optimistic as IGH heads into a new year. As this issue of *Insights* illustrates, we have a lot going on in our organization and in our community.

The job of City Administrator is to lead and manage the day-to-day operations of the city, in accordance with the policies, priorities and budget established by the Mayor and City Council. It is a job that involves listening to and collaborating with our elected officials, residents and businesses, other community partners and governmental agencies, and each of our city departments. Our shared goal is to make this community a great place to live and do business.

The services cities provide are some of the key ingredients in our daily lives, and I love working in city government for just that reason. When you turn on the faucet, pull out of your driveway onto a local street or visit a city park, you are using infrastructure built and maintained by the city. And should you need to dial 911, city staff will be there to serve you.

I bring to my new role more than 15 years of experience in local government, including five years with the City of Bloomington and ten years with the City of Shakopee. And while the knowledge I gained in those roles is helpful, I am also fully aware that IGH is its own unique and special place with so much to offer. I look forward to continuing to learn and better understand the people and places of IGH and to tackling the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

This month we have two new department heads joining our organization—a Parks and Recreation Director and a Public Works Director. They will join our existing team of experienced and dedicated staff who work hard every day to serve you—the residents of Inver Grove Heights. With



a full leadership team in place, we are looking forward to becoming a more proactive organization by identifying opportunities for improvement and expanding our community engagement efforts. In this work we will always prioritize clear communication, increased transparency and quality service to our residents.

## Adam Lares Parks and Recreation Director

I am a parks and recreation professional with a passion for public service, parks, recreation, equity, access, and sustainability. Over the past 18 years with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board in a variety of roles, ranging from youth programs to service area management, I have developed a team-based leadership approach, a commitment to positive customer service, and a belief in celebrating differences and improving access to nature as a means of cultivating strong community connections. I also bring extensive experience in budget administration, community engagement, facilities management, project management, and parks programming, and I enjoy collaborating with non-profits, community-based organizations, local businesses, and other public agencies to deliver activities and programs.



Early in my career, I worked in youth justice before transitioning into the parks and recreation industry, where I found a home in public service. I hold a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Metropolitan State University and graduated from the Executive Development Program in Parks and Recreation at Indiana University.

I live in Dakota County with my wife and two daughters. When I am not in a local park, you can find me spending time with family, celebrating my Latino heritage, going for jogs, or cheering on the Minnesota United FC. I am thrilled to start in my role as Director of Parks and Recreation in IGH.

## GIS CORNER

### NORTHWEST AREA DEVELOPMENT MAP

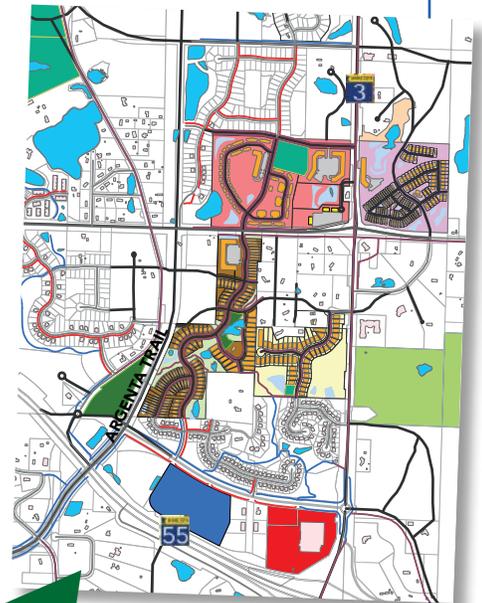
Are you wondering what is expected or proposed for the development of the northwest area of the city? You can check out our Northwest Area Development Map at [www.ighmn.gov/maps](http://www.ighmn.gov/maps)!

Since this area of town (see map inset) is rapidly developing, we get a lot of questions about what the area is going to look like. To address these questions, the GIS Team decided to draw out the points, lines, and polygons from the PDF drawings of each of the expected and current development plans so that we could have all the developments and proposed features on one map and in one place.

While these developments change throughout the planning process, this snapshot of current plans is intended to provide an idea of what may be built and developed. The Northwest Area Development Map shows the proposed developments, parks, green space, streets, trails, homes, apartment buildings, retail, and parking lots in the neighborhood. We hope this is helpful in answering questions about what's coming to the northwest area.

For more details on current projects, you can also check out the Current Development Map at [www.ighmn.gov/maps](http://www.ighmn.gov/maps). This map shows proposed, approved, and recently completed projects.

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





## 2022 City Taxes and Budget

At its final meeting of 2021, the City Council adopted an operating budget and tax levy for 2022 that funds a continuation of the city's strong public services, along with increased investment in public safety and the city's pavement management program. The 2022 budget includes funding for three additional police officers and an additional \$300,000 toward the pavement management program, which includes street maintenance and repair.

Residents should have received a preliminary estimate of 2022 property taxes from Dakota County in mid-November. That statement estimated each property's 2022 taxes based on the city's preliminary tax levy, which had been set back in September. Fortunately, over the course of the final three months of the year, the City Council was able to identify reductions to the preliminary tax levy, so the final property tax levy for 2022 is less than what was projected on those preliminary statements.

There are three primary components to the city's tax levy:

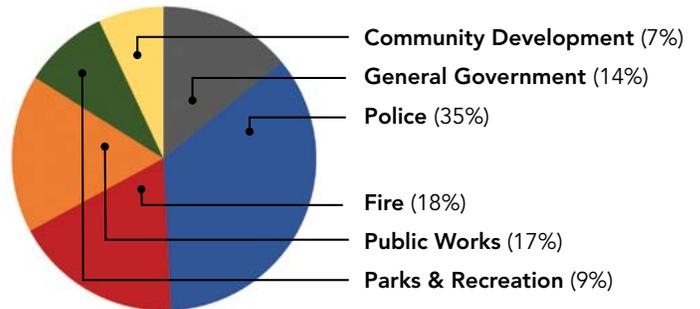
1. The **General Fund Levy**, which supports most city services, such as police and fire, street and park maintenance, community development and general administration.
2. The **Pavement Management Levy**, which is one source of funds for road improvement projects.
3. The **Debt Levy**, which covers principal and interest payments on debt previously issued by the city.

All combined, the city's total levy for 2022 is up by 7.1% from the previous year's tax levy. Individual property tax bills will vary due to factors such as growth in the city's tax base, changes to property values and tax levy decisions made by other local units of government.

### RECENT IGH TAX LEVIES

LEVY	2021 ADOPTED	2022 ADOPTED
<b>General Fund</b>	\$21,006,200	\$22,916,070
<b>Pavement Management</b>	2,250,000	2,550,000
<b>Debt Service</b>	2,867,158	2,519,316
<b>Total Citywide Levy</b>	\$26,123,358	\$27,985,386
<i>\$ Increase over prior year</i>		\$ 1,862,028
<i>% Increase over prior year</i>		7.1%

### 2022 GENERAL FUND SPENDING



## IGH Fire Department News

### SMOKING AND HOME FIRE SAFETY

Smoking carries risk. If you smoke, it's important that you take some safety measures to help protect your home and loved ones:

- Use only fire-safe cigarettes and smoke outside. Most deaths result from fires that started in living rooms or bedrooms.
- Keep smoking materials out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.
- Put it out! Use a deep, sturdy ashtray. Place it away from anything that can burn.
- Do not discard cigarettes in vegetation that could ignite easily.
- Before you throw away cigarette butts and ashes, douse them in water or sand to be sure they are out.

### SMOKING AND MEDICAL OXYGEN

- Never smoke and never allow anyone to smoke where medical oxygen is used. Medical oxygen can cause materials to ignite more easily.

### ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

- Fires and small explosions have occurred while e-cigarettes were being used, charged, or transported.
- Never leave e-cigarettes unattended while charging.



# January 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p><b>JOIN OUR POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS FOR A SUPER HERO SKATING PARTY</b> SATURDAY, JANUARY 29   6:30–8 P.M.   VMCC, WEST RINK Register by Saturday, January 22 at <a href="http://www.ighmn.gov/specialevents">www.ighmn.gov/specialevents</a></p>						1 <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>
2	3 CC Work Session 6 p.m. City Hall	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	11	12 Parks & Rec. Advisory Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	13	14	15
16	17 <b>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY</b> IGH City Offices Closed VMCC Open	18 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	19	20	21	22
23	24 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	25	26	27 Environmental Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	28	29 Super Hero Skating Party 6:30–8 p.m. VMCC, West Rink
30	31					

**UPCOMING EVENT**

*No School Day?*  
Come play at the VMCC!

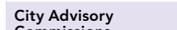
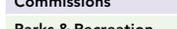
Check Online for Swim & Skate Open Hours!



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

**NO SCHOOL DAY!**  
*Winter Fun Day!*  
MON., JAN. 17  
9 A.M.-NOON

**KEY**

-  City Council (CC)
-  City Advisory Commissions
-  Parks & Recreation Events (P&R)
-  Other Events

**SIGN UP**  
[www.ighmn.gov/notifyme](http://www.ighmn.gov/notifyme)



## Receive Environmental E-News Year-Round!

Sign up for the new IGH Environmental E-News listserv to receive timely local news and tips on:

- Residential recycling and disposal event dates
- Household sustainability tips on recycling, organics, energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation and more.
- Dates of environmental related presentations and workshops
- How to get involved in community environmental initiatives
- Volunteer opportunities

*and more!*

Visit [www.ighmn.gov/notifyme](http://www.ighmn.gov/notifyme), and select "IGH Environmental E-News" to subscribe to email and/or text notifications. **SIGN UP BY JANUARY 31** to receive a **FREE Specialty LED light bulb kit** provided by Xcel Energy while supplies last!



Environmental Specialist Ally Sutherland (left) awarding an LED light bulb kit to one lucky IGH resident who won our website scavenger hunt last year.



# February 2022

## UPCOMING EVENT



**Princess Dance**

Saturday, February 5  
6–8 p.m.

Ages 4–12 with an adult

VMCC National Guard Gymnasium  
\$42 (adult & child)  
\$21 additional child  
FA-W320

REGISTER BY SAT., JAN. 29

## KEY

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	2	3	4	5 Parks & Rec. Princess Dance 6–8 p.m. VMCC, Gymnasium
6	7 Econ. Dev. Authority 5 p.m.   City Hall CC Work Session 6 p.m.   City Hall	8	9 Parks & Rec. Advisory Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	10	11	12
13	14 CC 6 p.m.   City Hall VALENTINE'S DAY	15 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	16	17	18	19 Parks & Rec. Craft Fair 9 a.m.–1 p.m. VMCC
20	21 PRESIDENT'S DAY IGH City Offices Closed VMCC Open	22	23	24 Environmental Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	25	26
27	28 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	<p><b>WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW OUR AREA WATERSHED IS PROTECTED AND MANAGED?</b></p> <p>Find the Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization meeting schedule at <a href="https://eaganinvergroveheightswmo.org">https://eaganinvergroveheightswmo.org</a>.</p>				

## STAY ORGANIZED WITH THE RECYCLING ZONE

The Recycling Zone in Eagan is a recycling destination for the stuff that doesn't belong in your curbside carts. With the new drive-thru setup, you stay in your car while staff unload materials from the trunk or backseat. Put smaller items in a box that you can leave behind.

### ACCEPTED ITEMS — FREE drop-off unless noted

- Auto products like motor oil, antifreeze and gas
- Bug killers and repellants, and weed killer
- Cardboard (no larger than 36" x 36")
- Cleaners
- Electronics (fee for TVs and computer monitors)
- Lightbulbs – all types
- Needles and sharps (in a closed rigid container, keep in front seat)
- Paints and stains
- Personal care products like nail polish and hair dye
- Propane tanks and aerosol sprays
- Scrap metal
- Tires (fee)
- Small household electronics like toasters and vacuums
- String lights and cords
- Vaping devices
- Most products that say caution, warning, danger or poison



### THE RECYCLING ZONE DOES NOT ACCEPT

- Appliances
- Carpet
- Humidifiers and dehumidifiers
- Lumber
- Furniture
- Mattresses
- Medical waste and medications
- Yard waste

The Recycling Zone, located at 3365 Dodd Road in Eagan, is open all year, four days a week. For a complete list of accepted items and drop-off hours, visit [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *recycling zone*.

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

# March 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
VMCC Winter Enrollment Special Good Through March 31 CALL 651-450-2480		1 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	2	3	4	5
6	7 CC Work Session 6 p.m. City Hall	8	9 Parks & Rec. Advisory Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	10	11	12
13	14 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	15 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	16	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Environmental Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	25	26
27	28 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	29	30	31 VMCC Winter Enrollment Special Ends!		

## REMINDER



**KIDS R.O.C.K.**  
SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM  
Ages 5-12  
June 13-Aug. 26  
[ighmn.gov/kidsrock](http://ighmn.gov/kidsrock)  
Priority Registration Opens March 1  
Open Enrollment March 14

## KEY

- City Council (CC)
- City Advisory Commissions
- Parks & Recreation Events (P&R)
- Other Events

## DONATING AND THRIFTING JUST GOT EASIER

Try out the Reduce & Reuse Map by Dakota County to quickly find the closest places to donate goods, shop used, rent equipment and repair your stuff. You can select custom filters based on what you need:

**RENT:** Search for tents, linens, tools and other equipment rental locations for your next party or home project.

**DONATE/BUY USED:** Find the closest location to donate and buy secondhand household goods, books and furniture.

**REPAIR:** Get items like shoes and jewelry fixed and mended using a local repair business.

**SELL USED ITEMS:** Discover consignment shops that will pay you for your gently used sporting goods and clothing.

**DROP BOXES:** Drop-off clothes and shoes using a donation box near you.

You do more than save money when you make your stuff go the extra mile or score unique items at a secondhand store. By reducing and reusing instead of buying new, you'll spend less money, keep your home organized and simplify your life while helping the planet.

Check out the new map at [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *reuse map*, or use this QR code.



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

# INVER GROVE HEIGHTS PARKS & RECREATION



Skate, swim, dance, jump, run, climb, paint, race, lift ... We've got FUN activities for everyone! View our current brochure online.

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

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

**VMCC WINTER SPECIAL!**  
**ENROLLMENT FEE: \$22**

(Offer good through March 31, 2022)



## Outdoor Winter Activities

### Moonlight Snowshoeing

Tuesday, January 18  
5:30-7:30 p.m. | \$39 | FA-W311

REGISTER BY JANUARY 11

### Introduction to Snowshoeing

Saturday, February 5  
2-4 p.m. | \$39 | FA-W312

REGISTER BY JANUARY 29

## SUPER HERO SKATING PARTY

SAT., JANUARY 29  
6:30-8 P.M.

Come dressed in your super hero costume and visit with the IGH Fire and IGH Police. Hot beverages and snacks provided.

VMCC, West Rink

Watch for details online and on our social media pages.

**NEW**

## YOUTH & TEEN PROGRAMS

NO SCHOOL DAY (AGES 6-12)

Winter Fun Day (with a dogsled ride!) Jan. 17

CHECK OUT

Rockin Recreation Nights!  
Starting Feb. 10 (AGES 6-11)

TEEN BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT

January 15  
(AGES 12-15)

## Princess Dance

Saturday, February 5  
6-8 p.m.  
Ages 4-12 with an adult

VMCC, National Guard Gymnasium  
\$42 (1 adult and 1 child); Each additional child: \$21  
FA-W320 | Register by: Saturday, January 29

An enchanted evening awaits all young royalty and their special guest!



## Craft Fair

SATURDAY, FEB. 19  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

NATIONAL GUARD GYMNASIUM  
ENTRANCE I

Creative vendor booths of all kinds!

CRAFT VENDORS WANTED!  
Email [cswiggum@ighmn.gov](mailto:cswiggum@ighmn.gov)  
if you are interested in being a vendor.

Table/booth space is \$40

## YOUTH BASKETBALL & SWIM LESSONS

START IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY



MUSICAL THEATER CLASSES  
March 28-31

## IGH SENIOR CENTER

### MEMBERS ONLY

MEMBERSHIP \$15  
LUNCHES \$20

### Senior Club Luncheons

Registration Required

THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH · 12-2 P.M.

January 17  
February 21  
March 21  
April 18

### OPEN TO ALL

No registration required!

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

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

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

BRIDGE · Wednesdays · 12:30 p.m.

EUCHRE · Thursdays · 1 p.m.

CRIBBAGE · Fridays · 1 p.m.



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

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





## False Alarm Program

The IGH Police Department has a false alarm program to help regulate and reduce repeat false alarm calls for service. This program operates from January 1 through December 31 of each year. City Ordinance Title 5, Chapter 3 (Alarm Systems) requires all property owners with an alarm system to complete a Subscriber Alarm Permit annually. There is no fee for this annual permit.

The Subscriber Alarm Permit process can be completed in the following ways:

1. Scan the QR code (above) with a smartphone or device. This allows you to complete and submit the permit application from your smartphone or device.
2. Access the permit application from our city webpage: [www.ighmn.gov/police](http://www.ighmn.gov/police).
3. Stop by the IGH PD front counter at City Hall and complete the permit application.

To enroll in the false alarm program, scan the QR code at right with your phone's camera, or go to [www.ighmn.gov/police](http://www.ighmn.gov/police)



**NEW IN 2022 FOR REGISTERED ALARM USERS:** If there was no change to your permit between 2021 and 2022, simply complete the name and address sections on your 2022 application and select "no changes" when you apply.

During a calendar year, the first two alarms are responded to at no charge to the alarm user. The third and subsequent false alarm fees are as follows:

- The **third false alarm** response fee is \$100.
- The **fourth false alarm** response fee is \$200.
- For the **fifth and all subsequent false alarm** responses, the fee is \$300 per call.

## TAKE OUR ANNUAL COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY AND HELP CREATE A SAFER IGH

The Police Department's Annual Community Safety Survey will be open from January 1 through February 1, 2022. We ask everyone who lives, works, or regularly visits Inver Grove Heights to complete our community safety survey.

- It usually takes 5-7 minutes to complete.
- The data from the survey will help us identify and address community problems.
- The survey helps us develop our 2022 Policing Plan.
- When the survey is finalized, we will share the results on our webpage.

Find a link to the survey at [www.ighmn.gov/police](http://www.ighmn.gov/police), or you can scan the QR code below with your smartphone or device to bring you right to the survey.

**EVERYONE'S INPUT MATTERS!**



## CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

Wednesdays, April 6 to May 11, 2022  
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The IGH PD is excited to announce openings for its 2022 Citizen Academy class. The program is taught by IGH PD Officers and is designed to offer citizens an inside look into department operations, including:

- A tour and history of the IGH PD
- The functions of the patrol, investigations, SWAT, negotiators, physical evidence, bike patrol, traffic and K-9 units
- A review of typical calls for service
- DWI demonstrations
- Routine and felony traffic stops
- Appropriate use of force
- The laws of arrest
- Searching and handcuffing a suspect

After the successful completion of this program, citizens will be given an opportunity to ride along with an IGH Officer during their shift.

We ask that you make a commitment to attend each of the six weekly sessions.

If you are interested in participating, please register early, as participants will be limited to 15.

Applications can be found on our website at [www.ighmn.gov/citizenacademy](http://www.ighmn.gov/citizenacademy).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:  
**Sergeant Ben Madsen, Citizen Academy Coordinator**  
EMAIL: [bmadsen@ighmn.gov](mailto:bmadsen@ighmn.gov)  
CONTACT NUMBER: 651-554-3455



## Strengthening Partnerships in our Business Community

Community Development staff regularly conduct business retention and expansion visits with larger private-sector employers in the city to ensure strong partnerships, direct communication and a shared understanding of specific business needs, concerns and potential for growth and expansion in IGH.

### We Our Major Employers

Do you know the largest private-sector employers in IGH? Get to know them here:\*

#### CHS, Inc.

Number of employees: 763 in IGH; 10,493 total

Overview: A Fortune 100 company, CHS began in 1929 and is the leading agricultural cooperative providing grain, food, and energy resources. It is owned by farmers, ranchers, and member cooperatives throughout the U.S. CHS also provides fuel, farm supplies, and crop nutrients used in the production of oilseeds, and operates petroleum refineries that sell Cenex products. The company does about 90% of its business in North America, with annual revenues of over \$30 billion.



[www.chsinc.com](http://www.chsinc.com)

#### Republic Services, Inc. (BFI)

Number of employees: 180 in IGH; 36,900 total

Overview: Republic Services is the second largest non-hazardous waste disposal provider in the U.S., with annual revenues of over \$10 billion. A Fortune 500 company that operates in 41 states including Minnesota, Republic Services is also a leader in recycling and renewable energy resources, such as methane. It operates Pine Bend Landfill and Recycling Center in IGH.



[www.republicservices.com](http://www.republicservices.com)

#### Flint Hills Resources, LLC

Number of employees: 400 in IGH; 2,083 total

Overview: Flint Hills Resources, LLC was founded in 2002, is headquartered in Wichita, Kansas and generates almost \$5 billion in sales annually. Petroleum refineries like the one in IGH are just one part of its interests: there are 1,521 companies in the Flint Hills Resources, LLC corporate family.



[www.fhr.com](http://www.fhr.com)

#### Travel Tags, Inc.

Number of employees: 315 in IGH; 379 total

Overview: Travel Tags, Inc. began in 1973 and is part of the Taylor Corporation. It produced its first stored-value gift card in 1999 and has become one of the largest gift card manufacturers in the U.S., with annual sales of over \$100 million.



[www.traveltags.com](http://www.traveltags.com)

#### Gertens Greenhouses & Garden Center, Inc.

Number of employees: 439 in IGH; 450 total

Overview: Gertens Greenhouses & Garden Center, Inc. was founded by Frank Gerten in the early 1900s and began as a small farm. Today it generates roughly \$50 million in sales annually selling an array of plants, trees, and lawn, garden, landscaping, greenhouse and home products to consumers and contractors.



[www.gertens.com](http://www.gertens.com)

#### Wipaire, Inc.

Number of employees: 132 in IGH; 150 total

Overview: Wipaire is an aerospace company that builds "floats" that allow planes to land on water.



Founder Ben Wiplinger started his company, Wipline, Inc. at South St. Paul airport after WWII by converting unused military planes to corporate planes. Later, he perfected and patented his innovative float design. Today, Wipaire, Inc. generates approximately \$30 million in sales annually.

[www.wipaire.com](http://www.wipaire.com)

\* Information above sourced from D&B Hoovers database and company websites.



# Pavement Management Citizen Taskforce Update

In September 2021, the City Council created a Citizen Taskforce (CTF) on Pavement Management, which is made up of 15 IGH residents, two councilmembers and city staff. So far, the team has been busy!

To begin, the CTF took a crash-course on the city’s current Pavement Management Program (PMP). It looked at all city infrastructure and when that infrastructure is expected to wear out. Second, the team got an overview of the city’s Pavement Condition Index (PCI), which rates the condition of IGH streets, then reviewed the causes of pavement deterioration, and learned about types and costs of pavement rehabilitation and replacement strategies.

In December, the taskforce examined and discussed the city’s financing strategies related to pavement management. Topics included the overall city budget, and the means by which pavement management can be funded by the city, including:

- Dedicated property tax revenues available for the PMP

- Dedicated franchise fees, which the city collects from gas and electric utilities
- “Host community” funds provided by the waste management companies that operate landfills in the city
- Assessments paid by resident homeowners and businesses

The CTF will analyze options and begin gathering recommendations, which will be presented to the City Council in late spring 2022. The goal is to provide feedback on whether current funding programs are adequate to address long-term pavement needs in IGH, and to ensure that any approach taken is fair to residents and businesses.

There’s more to come! Please visit [www.ighmn.gov/pavement](http://www.ighmn.gov/pavement) for updates on the city’s Pavement Management Initiative.

*Special thanks to IGH resident and Citizen Taskforce Chairperson Kelly Kayser for her contribution to this article!*



## REGIONAL ROADWAY SYSTEM VISIONING STUDY

The City Council recently approved contributing funds to a regional Roadway System Visioning Study, a multi-jurisdictional planning effort led by Dakota County.

A similar roadway visioning study was conducted in 2010, and with steady growth in our area, the plan is being revisited. Goals of the new study include identifying ways to improve commercial access to our region.

To learn more about potential impacts in IGH and our region, you can visit: [www.ighmn.gov/regionalroadwaystudy](http://www.ighmn.gov/regionalroadwaystudy). Check back for updates as the study proceeds.

## TRAFFIC CORNER: Take Our Pedestrian Safety Quiz

### TRUE OR FALSE

1. The law says that cars must yield to a pedestrian waiting at the curb to cross the street.

**False:** Drivers must yield to pedestrians that have ENTERED THE DRIVING LANE. This means that once a pedestrian leaves the curb they have the right of way. However, the pedestrian is also required to exercise reasonable care and not suddenly step in front of a moving vehicle that is close enough to be a hazard.

2. A pedestrian crosswalk does not need to be painted white to be a legal crosswalk.

**True:** A pedestrian crosswalk is present at every street intersection, regardless of paint or signs. Paint is used to further delineate and educate drivers.

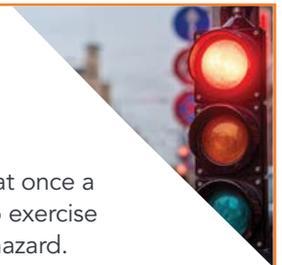
3. A green light or walk signal means “go.”

**False.** A green light or walk signal indicates it is your turn to cross, whether you are driving or on foot, but first make sure that the intersection is clear and watch for red-light runners!

4. Painting crosswalks at intersections will make them safer.

**False.** Studies have shown that painting crosswalk locations on high-volume roads can actually be less safe, unless other safety measures are added, like flashers or center islands. At painted crossings, peds may take more risks, assuming drivers will see them.

**As the snow melts and we get back to walking outside more often this spring, remember to help keep yourself and others safe!**



# 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, <i>Mayor</i>	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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## IGH UTILITIES

### Stay in-the-know!

Did you know that you can save paper and have your utility bill emailed to you?



**Did you know that this touch pad is actually your water meter?**

And did you know about all of our utility payment options, including auto-pay, credit or debit card? You can sign up for one of these options by filling out a short form and/or providing a voided check for auto-pay from a checking account. Go to: [www.ighmn.gov/billpay](http://www.ighmn.gov/billpay).

### Changes to Utilities Rates in 2022

The City Council recently approved changes to water, sewer and stormwater rates, which will mean modest increases to IGH utility bills in 2022. These adjustments were driven by a variety of factors, including:

- The costs of operating and planning for the renewal and replacement of our water treatment system
- Increases to the fees that the city is charged by the Metropolitan Council for the treatment of IGH waste water
- Flood prevention and stormwater mitigation needs

To avoid surprises on your bill, we've created a webpage that explains the details of these changes. To learn more, please visit [www.ighmn.gov/waterrates2022](http://www.ighmn.gov/waterrates2022), or call the city with questions about your bill at **651-450-2500**.



## HELP SHAPE OUR CITY APPLY TO BE ON A CITY ADVISORY COMMISSION

**APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 2, 2022**

Would you like to be part of the planning and development of Inver Grove Heights? Consider applying to serve on a city advisory committee. As a commissioner or committee member, you help shape the future of Inver Grove Heights by advising the City Council.

Learn more about city commissions and how to apply at [www.ighmn.gov/commissionerapp](http://www.ighmn.gov/commissionerapp) or email [jwonick@ighmn.gov](mailto:jwonick@ighmn.gov).

