



# Insights

FALL 2022

## Spotlight on Community Partnerships

This is the first in a series of stories in *Insights* highlighting nonprofit service providers in the community. The City of IGH is grateful for the care and support that non-governmental organizations provide to our residents.



## DARTS Lends a Helping Hand to IGH Seniors

DARTS offices may be in West St. Paul, but it all began in Inver Grove Heights. In 1974, a group of seniors wanted to take classes at the local community college but did not have a way to get there and back home. A man named Richard Graham decided that he could solve that problem. He arranged two airport limos to get the group to and from campus. He went on to found Dakota Area Resources and Transportation (DARTS). Since then, DARTS has grown to serve seven communities in Dakota County and southern Washington County.

DARTS is a nonprofit organization that provides personalized and professional services for older adults and their loved ones. DARTS recognizes the transition involved in aging and works to transform the aging journey from a challenge into a celebration.

DARTS services are designed to foster independent aging in place and support caregivers throughout Dakota County. Now much more than a transit bus, DARTS helps older adults with indoor and outdoor chores, home repairs, caregiver services, volunteer opportunities, and social services. These resources help create enriching connections for older adults, which improve health and provide a sense of community.

In Inver Grove Heights, DARTS serves residents in a variety of ways. Continuing the initial mission, the DARTS **LOOP bus** route connects Inver Grove Heights, South St. Paul, and West St. Paul on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. Through the LOOP, residents have access to a variety of



**Resident Joyce of The Winslow in West St. Paul poses with her DARTS homemaker.**

destinations across the community via a predetermined route with flexibility for on-demand stops. DARTS buses not only connect people from place to place, but person to person. Many riders report making friends on the LOOP; it is like a community on wheels. "I live in a senior community in Inver Grove Heights, and we have quite a few residents who get services from DARTS and... who volunteer, too. I know [many] people who have benefited from DARTS over the years. That makes me happy, and I want to contribute," longtime donor Joleen said.

— Continued on page 2

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**A 2022 Spring Cleanup volunteer group from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota.**

## How You Can Get Involved

This fall and winter, DARTS is offering a variety of programs in which to participate or volunteer. This winter, DARTS is looking for volunteers for their annual **Snow Angels** program to help shovel driveways and walkways for seniors in Dakota County.

Snow Angel volunteers shovel for a senior every snowfall of two inches or more, helping seniors stay safe for the winter and helping them stay in the home of their choice for longer. “[DARTS volunteer] Pat has been taking care of my driveway for, gosh, at least three years,” one Inver Grove Heights DARTS client shared. “We’ve actually become pretty good friends.”

The **Learning Buddies** program kicked off this fall in person after being mostly virtual the past two years. For over 25 years, the DARTS Learning Buddies Program has served Dakota County by connecting community members with elementary students to work together on classwork, share experiences, and learn from one another for a couple hours each week during the school year. DARTS school partnerships in Inver Grove Heights include Hilltop, Pine Bend, and Salem Hills, where these intergenerational connections flourish.

## A Wide Variety of Services are Available

DARTS also offers caregiving support and services, which include caregiver coaching and counseling, resource connection, family meeting facilitation, support group facilitation, and volunteer one-on-one, in-home respite. The new respite program, “The Breathing Space,” matches a trained volunteer with a caregiver. The program provides short-term relief for caregivers, including supervision, companionship, social engagement, and brain-stimulating activities for the client, which allows the caregiver to take a break.

DARTS mission is to create connections that enrich aging. “We are all aging. DARTS celebrates aging by providing services that meet diverse community needs to help anyone have a fulfilling aging journey. Investing your time and resources with DARTS is a way to create a community where all ages can thrive,” says DARTS President Ann Bailey. DARTS provides just-in-time information and service, often when someone is at a crisis point. With the support of donors, DARTS can support older adults in Inver Grove Heights, throughout Dakota County, and beyond.

For more information about DARTS, to become a volunteer, or to donate, visit [dartsconnects.org](https://dartsconnects.org) or call **651-455-1560**.

*Special thanks to Ann Bailey, Megan Kallestad and Sarah Lindner from DARTS for contributing to this article.*

## GIS CORNER

### GIS MAKES PUBLIC WORKS WORK BETTER

At the City of Inver Grove Heights, the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Division works closely with most departments, but interacts daily with the Engineering, Streets, and Utilities Divisions within the Public Works Department. This relationship is essential because Public Works staff know the ins and outs of sewer and water assets underneath City streets and GIS staff provide a way to manage the work and repair history for each facility and asset. Having the ability to consume and update this information in the field improves efficiency, accuracy, and productivity when it comes to repair and service work.

Having access to GIS tools, such as maps and other data, on their phones, tablets and PCs has changed the way Public Works staff serve residents. All staff use the IGH Utilities Map that contains structural information for the storm, water, and sanitary systems. Engineering’s most-used maps contain inspection records for storm structures, ADA ramps, and pavement. Utilities most-used maps are for sanitary jetting, daily utilities maintenance, and hydrant flushing and painting. Streets most-used maps are for daily street maintenance, street signs, and mowing. GIS continually updates the IGH Utilities Map so that these divisions can work as quickly and effectively as possible.

See more maps created by GIS staff at [www.ighmn.gov/maps](https://www.ighmn.gov/maps).



## Safety Tips for Fire Prevention Week and Every Week

**Plan Ahead!** If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.

- TIP** Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home or apartment.  
Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily. Practice using different ways out.
- TIP** Have an outside meeting place—like a neighbor's house, tree, light pole, or mailbox—that is a safe distance from the home, where everyone should meet.
- TIP** Practice your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- TIP** Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- TIP** Close doors behind you as you leave. A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Install smoke alarms inside every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they should all sound.
- TIP** Make arrangements in your safety plan for anyone in your home who has a disability. Don't forget to share your plan with babysitters or anyone sleeping over.
- TIP** Go outside to see if your street number is clearly visible from the road during the day and night. If not, make sure house numbers are installed to ensure that responding emergency personnel can find your home at all hours.

### IF A SMOKE ALARM SOUNDS...

**Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people or pets.**

**If you have to escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.**

**Call 911 from outside your home.**



### GET TO KNOW YOUR IGH FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Sunday, October 16, 2022  
Noon to 3 p.m.  
Fire Station No. 2**

9200 Courthouse Blvd.,  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

Stop by and learn great life safety lessons in a fun way! Try on some firefighter gear, practice a safe escape from a fire, get your picture taken in a fire truck, see the IGH FD boats, win some cool prizes, practice the skills that firefighters use, and much more! There will be hot dogs, chips, lemonade and cookies, too!

The National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA) has announced "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape™" as the theme for Fire Prevention Week, which takes place October 9-15. This theme reinforces the critical importance of developing a home escape plan with all members of a household and practicing it regularly. In addition, this October represents the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week, the nation's longest-running public health observance on record.

Tentatively planned school visits by IGH FD during Fire Prevention Week with age-appropriate lessons include:

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Monday, October 10    | Pine Bend Elementary   |
| Tuesday, October 11   | Hilltop Elementary     |
| Wednesday, October 12 | Salem Hills Elementary |



# 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 a.m. and 6 a.m. from Nov. 1 through Apr. 1.

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

**Beginning Oct. 15, 2022, through Nov. 1, 2022:** *Warning Notices* will be issued to any vehicle found parked on the street between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m.

**Beginning Nov. 1, 2022, through Apr. 1, 2023:** *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 a.m. to 6 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 is 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 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at **651-450-2525**.



## WATCH FOR THE SIXTH ANNUAL IGH PD COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY

The Police Department's Annual Community Safety Survey will be open this year from December 1, 2022, through January 31, 2023. We ask everyone who lives, works, or regularly visits Inver Grove Heights to complete our survey and help us to identify and address problems within the community. Find a link to the survey at [www.ighmn.gov/police](http://www.ighmn.gov/police) starting December 1, 2022, or follow us on social media. **EVERYONE'S INPUT MATTERS!**

# October 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <b>FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 9-15</b> <b>FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE</b> Sunday, Oct. 16   Noon-3 p.m.   Fire Station No. 2						1 <b>Let's Pawty Halloween Dog Event</b> 2-4 p.m. Heritage Village Park
2 <b>Saint Paul Farmers' Market</b> 8 a.m.-1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	3 <b>CC Work Session</b> 6 p.m. City Hall	4 <b>Planning Commission</b> 7 p.m. City Hall	5 <b>Parks &amp; Rec. Advisory Comm.</b> 7 p.m. City Hall	6	7	8
9 <b>Saint Paul Farmers' Market</b> 8 a.m.-1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	10 <b>CC</b> 6 p.m. City Hall	11 <b>ISD 199 SPARC Kickoff Event</b> 7 p.m. Simley HS IGHSPARC.org	12 <b>LMRWMO</b> 3 p.m. Villa Del Sol, St. Paul	13	14	15
16 <b>Fire Department Open House</b> Noon-3 p.m. Fire Station No. 2		18 <b>Planning Commission</b> 7 p.m. City Hall	19	20	21	22
23	24 <b>CC</b> 6 p.m. City Hall	25	26 <b>Winter Clothing Swap</b> 4:30-7:30 p.m. VMCC, Comm. Rm. 1	27 <b>Environmental Commission</b> 7 p.m. City Hall	28 <b>Ghostly Gathering</b> 5:30-7 p.m. VMCC Ages 4-12	29 <b>Scary Skate</b> 6:30-8 p.m. VMCC, West Rink
30	<b>HALLOWEEN</b>		31			

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS



**GHOSTLY GATHERING!** AGES 4-12  
 TRICK-OR-TREATING GAMES & MORE!  
**FRI., OCT. 28**  
 VMCC 5:30-7 PM  
[ighmn.gov/events](http://ighmn.gov/events)

**SCARY SKATE**  
**SAT., OCT. 29**  
 6:30-8 PM

## KEY

- City Council (CC)
- City Advisory Commissions
- Parks & Recreation Events
- Watershed Management Organization (WMO)
- Other Events

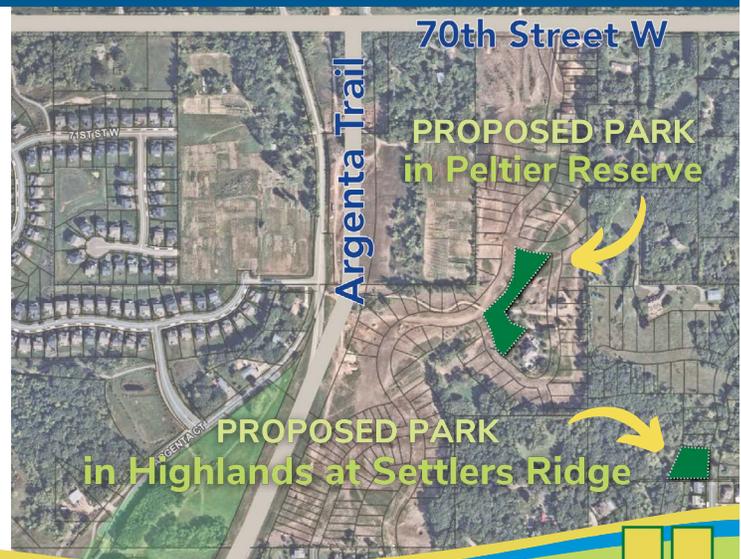
Remove this handy calendar page and post where convenient!

# INVER GROVE HEIGHTS PARKS & RECREATION

More Northwest Area parks are coming next year and we're looking for your ideas!

## Be part of a new place to play!

The City of Inver Grove Heights is seeking input to help us plan two additional parks in the Northwest Area. We would love to hear your ideas that can build upon the Vista Pines Park development. What types of recreation are needed and appropriate for these new parks? What experiences and amenities should be considered? How do we best complement the amenities at the newly opened Vista Pines Park?



Scan the code and visit our Interactive Project Map to provide your input and be sure to keep checking this page for upcoming events, engagement opportunities, and planning information. [www.ighmn.gov/nwaparks](http://www.ighmn.gov/nwaparks)



# November 2022

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

VOTE BY ABSENTEE THROUGH EARLY VOTING/DIRECT BALLOTING AT CITY HALL at the following times:

Tuesday, Nov. 1  
8 a.m.–6 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 2  
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 3  
8 a.m.–6 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 4  
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 5  
10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 7  
8 a.m.–5 p.m.

## KEY

City Council (CC)

City Advisory Commissions

Parks & Recreation Events

Watershed Management Organization (WMO)

Other Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	2	3	4 VMCC Open House 5–8 p.m.	5 Compost Your Pumpkin 8 a.m.–8 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot
6 Compost Your Pumpkin 8 a.m.–8 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	7 Econ. Dev. Authority 5 p.m.   City Hall  CC Work Session 6 p.m.   City Hall	8 <b>ELECTION DAY</b> See back cover for local election details.	9 LMRWMO 3 p.m.   Villa Del Sol, St. Paul  Parks & Rec. Advisory Comm. 7 p.m.   City Hall	10	11 <b>VETERANS DAY</b> IGH City Offices Closed	12
13	14 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	15 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	16	17 Environmental Advisory Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	18	19
20 Turkey Tri Event 8-10:30 a.m. VMCC Must register by Nov. 13—see pg. 8.	21	22	23	24 <b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b> IGH City Offices Closed VMCC Closed	25 IGH City Offices Closed	26
27	28 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	29	30			

# VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER VMCC OPEN HOUSE

Experience VMCC Friday, November 4 » 5–8 p.m.



**SPECIAL ADMISSION PRICE: \$3 PER PERSON • FREE FACILITY TOURS**

Come take a look at the VMCC, and check out our facilities and programs!

- Make a splash in our pools (water park, lap pool, dive well)
- Tour our fitness center and check out our fitness equipment
- Attend a fitness class (go to [www.ighmn.gov/fitness](http://www.ighmn.gov/fitness) to view current list of classes)
- Skate around our ice rink
- Shoot basketballs in our gymnasium
- Learn about upcoming programs: Fitness, Aquatics, Skating and Recreation
- Visit with our staff to learn about our programs for kids, adults and seniors!

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

Enjoy refreshments!

# December 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>LIGHT UP THE HEIGHTS HOLIDAY LIGHT CONTEST</b> REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MONDAY, DEC. 5 For details, visit <a href="http://www.ighmn.gov/holidaysintheheights">www.ighmn.gov/holidaysintheheights</a>				1 <b>Light Up The Heights begins</b>	2 <b>Tree Lighting</b> 6-7 p.m.   VMCC  <b>Skate with Santa</b> 7-8:30 p.m. VMCC, West Rink	3 <b>Holiday Cookies &amp; Canvas</b> 9 a.m.–3:15 p.m. VMCC
4	5 <b>CC Work Session</b> 6 p.m.   City Hall  <b>Light Up The Heights</b> <i>Registration Deadline</i>	6 <b>Planning Commission</b> 7 p.m. City Hall	7	8	9 <b>Holiday Open Swim</b> 6–8 p.m. VMCC	10 <b>North Pole Morning with Santa</b> 10 a.m.–12 p.m. VMCC
11	12 <b>CC</b> 6 p.m. City Hall	13	14 <b>LMRWMO</b> 3 p.m.   South St. Paul Airport <b>Parks &amp; Rec. Advisory Comm.</b> 7 p.m.   City Hall	15 <b>Environmental Advisory Commission</b> 7 p.m. City Hall	16	17
18	19	20 <b>Planning Commission</b> 7 p.m. City Hall	21	22 <b>Environmental Commission</b> 7 p.m. City Hall	23 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE OBSERVED</b> <b>IGH City Offices Close at Noon</b>	24 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> <b>VMCC Closes at Noon</b>
25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>  <b>VMCC Closed</b>	26 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY OBSERVED</b> <b>IGH City Offices Closed</b>	27	28	29	30	31 <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>  <b>Noon Year's Eve</b> 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. VMCC <b>VMCC closes at 1 p.m.</b>

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

**Noon Year's Eve 2023 AT THE VMCC**

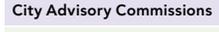
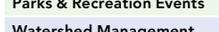
**Sat., Dec. 31**  
 10 am-12:30 pm

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



For details, visit [ighmn.gov/events](http://ighmn.gov/events)

## KEY

	City Council (CC)
	City Advisory Commissions
	Parks & Recreation Events
	Watershed Management Organization (WMO)
	Other Events

Remove this handy calendar page and post where convenient!

# Holidays in the Heights



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

**1 Tree Lighting Ceremony**  
 Friday, Dec. 2 · 6–7 p.m.  
 NE end of VMCC

**4 Holiday open Swim**  
 Friday, Dec. 9  
 6–8 p.m.  
 \$6 per person at the door  
 VMCC Water Park

**2 Skate with Santa**  
 Friday, Dec. 2 · 7–8:30 p.m.  
 FA-F103 · VMCC, West Rink  
 FREE for members; \$6 non-member;  
 \$8 at door (if space is available)  
 Skate rental available.  
 Register at [www.ighmn.gov/register](http://www.ighmn.gov/register) by Nov. 25

**5 A North Pole Morning with Santa**  
 Saturday, Dec. 10  
 10 a.m.–Noon ALL AGES  
 Santa is bringing the North Pole to the VMCC! Enjoy fun activities, a light breakfast and a bit of time with Santa.  
 \$6 per person, code: FA-W331;  
 \$8 at the door (if space is available)  
 VMCC, National Guard Gymnasium  
 Register at [www.ighmn.gov/register](http://www.ighmn.gov/register) by Dec. 2

**3 Holiday Cookies and Canvas**  
 Saturday, Dec. 3  
 9 a.m. (FA-F1007)  
 10:45 a.m. (FA-F1008)  
 12:30 p.m. (FA-F1009)  
 2:15 p.m. (FA-F1010)  
 AGES 6 AND UP  
 Fun holiday art project with the family!  
 \$15 · VMCC, Community Room 1  
 Register at [www.ighmn.gov/register](http://www.ighmn.gov/register) by Nov. 26



# VISIT THE VMCC!

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC · AFFORDABLE MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE!

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



VMCC  
DAILY  
ADMISSION  
RATES

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

## INVER GROVE HEIGHTS PARKS & RECREATION

# We are Hiring!

## JOIN OUR TEAM!

Fitness Attendants

Guest Services ★ Child Care

Water Safety Instructors

Lifeguards ★ Pool Attendants

Recreation Instructors

Fitness Instructors

Warming House Attendants

Learn to Skate Instructors

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

# Turkey Tri

Sunday, Nov. 20  
8–10:30 a.m.

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE  
TO GO THE DISTANCE!

SWIM · BIKE · RUN

\$20 member; \$35 non-member

Code: FP-F152 · Indoors at VMCC

Register by Sunday, November 13

## YOUTH BASKETBALL

Variety of options starting  
November and January



## ADULT VOLLEYBALL



We're looking for more teams to  
fill out our league! Gather up  
some friends and join us today!

Check out the IGH  
**SENIOR CENTER**

[ighmn.gov/activeadults55](http://ighmn.gov/activeadults55)

There is something  
for everyone!

Cards · Fitness Classes  
Book Clubs · Day Trips

AND MORE!

NON-SCHOOL DAY  
WINTER FIELD TRIPS

# THE FUN LAB

TUESDAY, DEC. 27

Laser tag, bumper cars, mini bowling!  
Stay tuned for details coming soon!

# SNOW TUBING & SWIMMING

WEDNESDAY  
DEC. 28

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

Code: YP-W201  
Register by December 19



NEW  
DATE!



## LET'S GO BOWLING!

Adaptive Recreation  
Bowling League

Starting in January

Fun and non-competitive.  
All ages and abilities welcome!

One-time \$20 registration fee, and  
\$10 bowling and shoes weekly fee  
Concord Lanes (includes two games)

Join in the FUN! Register by PHONE 651-450-2480 or ONLINE [www.ighmn.gov/register](http://www.ighmn.gov/register)





# Flushable & Disposable Wipes Cause More Harm Than Good

## Stick to TP!

Although your wipes at home may say “flushable” or “plumber approved,” this simply isn’t the case. Because these wipes don’t break down the way toilet paper does, they clog home and City sewer pipes and wastewater facilities.



## It’s an icky, manual job

When clogs occur in City wastewater system pumps, City staff must manually remove

them. And if there is damage to the pipes or pumps, City staff must repair or replace them. This can cause thousands in spending on equipment that could last longer and can lead to an increase in wastewater fees to manage the labor and repair to City sewer systems.

## Bottom line

If clogs from wipes occur in your drain at home, that can also lead to expensive plumbing bills for your household. So, what is the solution? Stick to TP in the toilet and disposable wipes in the trash!

## For more information

Visit [www.pca.state.mn.us/water](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water)

Your pipes and City staff thank you!

## BE IN THE KNOW!

The City has developed a webpage—[www.ighmn.gov/transparency](http://www.ighmn.gov/transparency)—that gives you a convenient overview of all that is happening in your local government, including:

- New City ordinances that are under consideration
- Opportunities to provide feedback to City Councilmembers at meetings and public hearings
- Jobs serving others as a City employee
- Much more!

Check out [www.ighmn.gov/transparency](http://www.ighmn.gov/transparency) often, as information is updated weekly.

## NEW BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

OPEN NOW

### F45 Training

7751 Amana Trail #100

Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

651-452-0936

F45 Training, which opened recently in IGH, is a fast-growing functional training community. Offering efficient 45-minute strength and cardio-focused workouts led by certified personal trainers, F45 is designed to provide a full-body workout while improving energy levels, metabolic rate, strength, and endurance—all in a fun, judgment-free environment.

“We opened our first F45 Training studio in west Eagan in 2020, at the height of the pandemic. We saw how truly life-changing fitness can be for both mental and physical health,” says co-owner Ashley Kropp. “F45 is unlike your typical gym. It is personal training in a small group environment and is scalable to many fitness levels. We have members ranging in age from 16 to 75. When we discovered F45, we recognized how special it was, and we’re so excited to bring it to the IGH community!”

[www.f45training.com/invergroveheights](http://www.f45training.com/invergroveheights)



OPEN NOW

### Perplebunny's Axe House

5858 Blaine Avenue E.

Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076

651-207-6843

Perplebunny's Axe House is an entertainment facility where residents can go to throw hatchets (short handle), axes (long handle), and shovels at targets. It is affiliated with the International Axe Throwing Federation and offers leagues, as well as recreational throwing, for people of all ages, genders and backgrounds.

Dustin Kerr, owner of Perplebunny, is available to answer questions on social media, phone or in person. He adds, “I have been throwing axes for fun and competitively for about three years. It is something that has become a passion of mine and my hope is to be able to introduce others to this fun activity. I chose Inver Grove Heights for Perplebunny because of the amazing community of people here, and easy transit from the cities made it the perfect location to set up shop. I look forward to meeting more of the community in the days to come!”

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





## Be a Confident Recycler

Say goodbye to recycling confusion by focusing on these basic items that are accepted by all recycling service providers in Dakota County. Commonly recycled items like milk jugs and metal cans are in big demand by companies that make new products like new cans, low-maintenance decking and more. 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.

Focus on recycling these items:

### 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

Leave out plastic bags, batteries, black plastic, food and things like rope and string lights that can tangle around moving machines. If you're wondering about a specific item, use the Recycling Guide at [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *recycling guide*.

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

## BEST PRACTICES FOR YOUR YARD

*From the Egan-IGH Water Management Organization and the Lower Mississippi River Water Management Organization*

**REMOVE INVASIVES**—Familiarize yourself with the invasive plants in your area and remove them from your property. (MN noxious weed list: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/roadsides/vegetation/pdf/noxiousweeds.pdf> )

**MULCH AND AMEND THE SOIL NATURALLY**—Compost, grass clippings, and fallen leaves improve the soil structure and add nutrients for your plants. Attach a leaf mulching blade to your lawnmower in the fall to mulch leaves into the lawn.

**AERATE THE LAWN**—Compacted soils both increase runoff because water can't infiltrate the soil and decrease the health of the vegetation because there is little space for water, oxygen, nutrients, and room for roots to grow. Aerate your lawn every few years.

Find more at [www.eganinvergroveheightswmo.org](http://www.eganinvergroveheightswmo.org) and [www.lmrwmo.org](http://www.lmrwmo.org).



## Winter Clothing Swap!

Wednesday, October 26

4:30–7:30 p.m.

VMCC, Community Room 1

Stop by our Winter Clothing Swap to exchange gently used winter clothing with other IGH residents for free! Bring in your gently used winter clothing you no longer need, then swap for something new-to-you. It's a great way to clear out your closet and refresh it for no cost. The event is open to all ages and all items are free to swap.

### ACCEPTED ITEMS

New or gently used adult's or children's coats, boots, snow pants, hats, mittens and scarves. Items must be clean and in good condition.

Find additional event information at:

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

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

## COMPOST YOUR PUMPKIN

**FREE!**

Keep your jack-o'-lanterns out of the trash this year by bringing them to the IGH Pumpkin Composting Event!

Saturday, November 5 –

Sunday, November 6

8 a.m.–8 p.m. | VMCC Parking Lot

Place in organics dumpster outside of VMCC, Door G.

### 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. Compost improves soil quality, reduces erosion, reduces greenhouse gases, and decreases the need for chemical fertilizers. Find additional event information at [www.ighmn.gov/collectionevents](http://www.ighmn.gov/collectionevents).



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



## CELEBRATE ENERGY MONTH THIS OCTOBER!

Each week in October, we're sharing a new energy-savings tip to help keep your energy bills low and home comfortable as cooler weather arrives. Visit our Facebook page at [facebook.com/cityofinvergroveheights](https://facebook.com/cityofinvergroveheights) every Friday at noon this October to discover our weekly energy-savings tip, and for a chance to win a collection of LED light bulbs!

# 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

### ON THE WEB

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

### EMAIL

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



8150 Barbara Avenue  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

## ELECTIONS 2022

# Democracy Needs Participation!

### THE 2022 ELECTION BALLOT IN IGH

**FEDERAL:** U.S. Representative, District 2

**STATE:** Governor/Lieutenant Governor; Secretary of State; State Auditor; State Attorney General; State Senator, District 53; State Representative, Districts 53A and 53B

**JUDICIAL:** Associate Justice, Supreme Court; Judge of the MN Court of Appeals; Judge, District Court of Dakota County

**COUNTY OFFICES:** County Commissioner, Districts 2 and 4; County Attorney; County Sheriff; Soil & Water Conservation District

**CITY SEATS:** Mayor; two Councilmembers

### Are you registered to vote?

The Minn. Secretary of State's Office is the repository for the statewide voter registration system. Check your voter registration status at: [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org)

**The deadline for advance voter registration is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 18.**

Minnesota Statue also allows individuals to register at their polling location on Election Day, with proof of residency.

### Upcoming election:

**State General Election** — Tuesday, Nov. 8

### There are several ways to vote in the upcoming election:

#### 1 | Vote absentee through the Envelope Process.

Absentee voting begins 46 days before an election. Absentee voting for this year's State General Election begins Friday, Sept. 23.

The hours to vote at City Hall, 8150 Barbara Avenue, are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

#### 2 | Vote by absentee through Early Voting/Direct

**Balloting.** Direct Balloting begins seven days before an election. You deposit your ballot directly into a tabulator.

Direct Balloting for the State General Election runs from Tuesday, Nov. 1 to Monday, Nov. 7.

City Hall will be open at the following times for direct ballot voting:

Tuesday, Nov. 1 8 a.m.–6 p.m.	Friday, Nov. 4 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 2 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.	Saturday, Nov. 5 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 3 8 a.m.–6 p.m.	Monday, Nov. 7 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

#### 3 | Vote on Election Day at your polling location.

The City of Inver Grove Heights is divided into twelve precincts/polling places. Voting hours on Election Day are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

To find your polling location, visit <https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>