



# Insights

WINTER 2023

## Welcome to the City of Inver Grove Heights in 2023

The new year brings some new leaders to the City of Inver Grove Heights. Voters elected Brenda Dietrich to be the City's new mayor and Tony Scales and Mary T'Kach to two open seats on the City Council. They will join incumbent Councilmembers Sue Gliva and John Murphy, who are each in the middle of a four-year term on the Council.

IGH residents and business owners have a number of opportunities to engage with their elected officials. The City Council typically meets three times per month, holding a Work Session meeting on the first Monday of each month, followed by Regular Meetings on the second and fourth Mondays. All meetings begin at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at IGH City Hall (8150 Barbara Ave.) and are open to the public.

Meetings are aired by Town Square Television and can be watched live on Xfinity Ch. 14/799 HD. You can also stream the meetings at [townsquare.tv/webstreaming](http://townsquare.tv/webstreaming). Meetings are archived on the Town Square Television website, too, at [townsquare.tv](http://townsquare.tv).

To view proposed City ordinances, public notices, and to sign up to receive an email notification regarding City Council Meeting agendas, you can visit the City's website at [www.ighmn.gov/transparency](http://www.ighmn.gov/transparency).

During Work Sessions, elected officials and staff review and discuss ongoing or significant City issues. Presentations and reports often include updates on the status of major projects, the results of research or studies into a particular issue, and/or review of draft policies or ordinances. Work Sessions are open to the public, but typically do not include public comment periods or official Council votes or actions.

Regular Meetings of the Council are when the formal votes and policymaking happen. They typically include

the opportunity for public input on specific agenda items, as well as a general public comment period at the end of the meeting, where members of the public can address the Council for up to three minutes with questions, comments, concerns or suggestions regarding operation of the City.

Not able to attend or watch a meeting? Councilmembers also have individual email and voicemail accounts. Check out the following pages for the details.

**For this issue of Insights, City staff asked our elected officials to discuss their experience, priorities and vision for the City of IGH, and to share a little about themselves. Here is what they had to say:**

### A MESSAGE FROM NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR BRENDA DIETRICH

Let me first start by saying that I am incredibly honored that the residents of this amazing City elected me as the next Mayor of Inver Grove Heights!

I have been preparing for this opportunity by surrounding myself with great leaders to learn from. I am grateful for my mentors in the community, business owners I have worked alongside, and local and state representatives, who have paved the way with their public service.



**Mayor Brenda Dietrich**  
651-450-2503  
[bdietrich@ighmn.gov](mailto:bdietrich@ighmn.gov)

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I am a local business owner, along with my husband, Jon, of a second-generation concrete and masonry company in Inver Grove Heights. Our business is a member of the River Heights Chamber of Commerce, where I also served as the Chairman of the Board in 2018. Through our business advocacy efforts at the Chamber, I served as Vice President and Secretary of the Southeast Metro Business PAC. I have also worked with local schools by mentoring students in our tri-district.

To some of you, I might still be considered a new kid on the block, having just completed my first term on the IGH City Council. I assure you; I made it my goal to learn as much as I could during that time by participating in initiatives that would help shape the future of this City.

For example, a recent initiative was working with our interim Public Works Director to create a Pavement Management

Citizens Task Force. The task force was made up of IGH residents and other stakeholders, who met over the course of a year to identify and make 25 recommendations to the IGH City Council on ways in which we could change how we structure and plan for road improvements.

Additionally, I completed the Citizens Fire and Police Academies, which helped me understand some of the challenges that our public safety teams face in this fast-paced, rapidly changing era.

I have also met with small and large business owners, real estate developers and commerce advocates to plan what types of businesses could benefit our residents, and how we want Inver Grove Heights to grow. As a policymaker, it is my fiduciary responsibility to take care of funds for the fundamental aspects of our City.

## CITY COUNCILMEMBERS Q&A

City staff posed the following questions to our newly-elected and incumbent City Councilmembers:

- What are your priorities for the City in the coming year, and what would you like to see change or grow in IGH?
- What do you like best about living in the community of IGH?
- What else would you like IGH residents to know about you?

### Here's What Your New City Councilmembers Have to Say...



#### TONY SCALES

One of my priorities for the City is to work with the City staff and those who would like to bring business to the City to make the process smoother and quicker, allowing the City to be more agile when working with local businesses. I have lived in Inver Grove Heights all my life and have seen the City go through many changes. I would like to see us become a City that residents can both live and work in.

**Tony Scales**  
651-450-2504  
tscales@ighmn.gov

What I like best about living here is that so many people who grew up here choose to stay and raise their families here, like myself, which helps to make the City a close-knit community.

I have lived in Inver Grove Heights since I was one year old, attended Simley High School, and then spent four years obtaining an Engineering degree from North Dakota State University in Fargo. After coming home after college, I obtained my MBA from the University of St. Thomas and

have worked in engineering and facilities for my career. My wife and I have chosen to live in Inver Grove Heights and raise our two sons here. My oldest son has also chosen to make his home in Inver Grove Heights, making three generations of my family that have called Inver Grove Heights home. In my spare time, I enjoy classic cars and spending time up north at the family cabin.

#### MARY T'KACH

As a new councilmember, my priorities include building productive relationships with other councilmembers, City staff and the community. I will encourage the new council to follow the City's Vision Statement and Guiding Principles, created by the community in 2019 and included in the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan: [www.ighmn.gov/2040CompPlan](http://www.ighmn.gov/2040CompPlan)

A healthy community needs to be proactive in determining its future growth; I will help IGH bring its current vision to life, so that everyone feels valued and comfortable participating in and contributing to the City's future.



**Mary T'Kach**  
651-450-2505  
mtkach@ighmn.gov

PROVIDED BY WIZZY WIDGET, 2022

I think that the people chosen to run this City matter. To this end, I have had my hand in the recent hiring of key department heads, starting with our City Administrator, and also our Police Chief, Finance Director, Parks and Recreation Director and Public Works Director.

My vision for our City includes continued work on relationship-building with residents, City staff, and business partners in the community. Some of my priorities are to bring in commerce that fits our City, to increase the tax base, and to improve sustainable practices and funding of infrastructure and public safety.

I value transparency, collaboration, finding solutions and setting our goals high. Together, we can continue to build on our City's foundation. I am honored to be an ambassador for Inver Grove Heights, to listen to residents, and to work through opportunities that challenge us to see all sides of a circumstance. A good idea can come from anyone, and I look forward to continuing to work on bringing those ideas to fruition. I'm your champion for that.



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— MAYOR BRENDA DIETRICH



I appreciate our varied neighborhoods and our park system, and I am fascinated by the variety of people who call IGH home. Like so many residents, I love the natural beauty of Inver Grove and will prioritize protecting this valuable asset of our City going forward.

I enjoy time in my garden, growing vegetables and flowers, and being outdoors on foot, on a bike or riding a horse in the beauty of nature. I also enjoy listening to music, reading, volunteering, and learning about and experiencing other cultures.

### Here's What Your Incumbent City Councilmembers Have to Say...

#### SUE GLIVA

As I approach year three of serving as a City Councilmember, I have seen a lot of housing developments and parks that have been added to IGH. With this, I would like to focus on adding commerce to our City, so that our residents have more retail, dining, and other service options. Along with the benefit of more choices for residents, the addition of new businesses will also help to add to our tax base.



Sue Gliva  
651-450-2506  
sgliva@ighmn.gov

Our City is unique in many ways. It is home to many parks and trails with access to the Mississippi River, while it also has the amenities of suburban living and still maintains a more rural setting in the southern part of the City.

If you don't see me around town walking in one of our parks, or at a local grocery store or restaurant, you will for sure find me on a Sunday cheering (rather loudly) for the Vikings, and being the best armchair quarterback I can be.

#### JOHN MURPHY

As I look forward to 2023, I'm hopeful the City Council and staff continue their proactive activities around pavement management, public safety, park development for the youngest Inver Grove Heights residents and retail business development for all IGH residents who want to shop near where they live.



John Murphy  
651-450-2507  
jmurphy@ighmn.gov

Inver Grove has wonderful topography, a great location and passionate residents; I believe we should leverage these strengths moving forward. I envision our community as one where retail shops and green spaces are busy during the day with employees of local businesses, and busy in the evenings as IGH families return home for the evening.

I really enjoy learning about history, especially local and family history, and Inver Grove Heights has some of the most interesting history in all of Dakota County. Hopefully the City Council of 2023 can add to that history in a positive fashion.



## 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)



### FOR REGISTERED ALARM USERS:

If there was no change to your permit between 2022 and 2023, simply complete the name and address sections on your 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.

If the alarm is deemed not to be a false alarm, there is no charge.

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

The Police Department's Annual Community Safety Survey will be open until January 31, 2023. We ask everyone who lives, works, or regularly visits Inver Grove Heights to complete our community safety survey.

- It usually takes five to seven minutes to complete.
- The data from the survey will help us identify and address community problems.
- The survey helps us develop our 2023 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 5 to May 17, 2023  
6 to 9 p.m.

The IGH PD is excited to announce openings for its 2023 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 number of 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:

**Lieutenant Adam Wiederhoeft, Citizen Academy Coordinator**

EMAIL: [awiederhoeft@ighmn.gov](mailto:awiederhoeft@ighmn.gov)

CONTACT NUMBER: 651-554-3605

# January 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> VMCC Open 9 a.m.–1 p.m.	2 <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY OBSERVED</b> IGH City Offices Closed	3 <b>CC Special Meeting</b> (Swearing in of elected officials) 6 p.m.   City Hall	4	5	6	7
8	9 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	10	11 LMRWMO 3 p.m.   TBD Parks & Rec. Advisory Comm. 7 p.m.   City Hall	12	13	14
15	16 <b>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY</b> IGH City Offices Closed VMCC Open	17 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	18	19	20	21
22	23 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	24	25	26 Comm. Room Open House 4–6 p.m.   VMCC Environmental Advisory Comm. 7 p.m.   City Hall	27	28
29	30	31				

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

OPEN SWIM AND OPEN SKATE AT VMCC Throughout the winter. See schedules at [www.ighmn.gov/communitycenter](http://www.ighmn.gov/communitycenter).

LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB OR SUMMER INTERNSHIP? Check out the City's open positions at [www.ighmn.gov/jobs](http://www.ighmn.gov/jobs).

## KEY

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

Remove this handy calendar page and post where convenient!



**FREE**  
Home Energy Squad® visits for Inver Grove Heights residents!






## FREE HOME ENERGY AUDIT

Claim Yours Today! Through Jan. 31

Xcel Energy is partnering with the City to give away 50 FREE Home Energy Squad® visits to help you save energy at home and keep your energy bills low. A visit will provide energy-saving equipment, including LED bulbs and weather stripping, an assessment of your hot water heater, and help to determine next steps to save even more energy — a typical value of \$70-\$100! To qualify for this FREE limited-time opportunity, you must:

- Be one of the first 50 IGH residents to respond,
- Be an Xcel Energy electric customer,
- Live in a single-family home, manufactured home, or a building up to 4 units,
- AND own your home/unit, or get landlord permission.

Contact Ally Sutherland at [asutherland@ighmn.gov](mailto:asutherland@ighmn.gov) by January 31 to claim your free visit. Learn more about in-home Home Energy Squad visits at [www.xcelenergy.com/HomeEnergySquad](http://www.xcelenergy.com/HomeEnergySquad).

# February 2023

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 Princess Dance 6-8 p.m. VMCC Must register — see pg. 8.	4
5	6 Econ. Dev. Authority 5 p.m.   City Hall CC Work Session 6 p.m.   City Hall	7 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	8 LMRWMO 3 p.m.   TBD Parks & Rec. Advisory Comm. 7 p.m.   City Hall	9	10	11
12	13 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15	16	17	18
19	20 PRESIDENTS DAY IGH City Offices Closed VMCC Open	21 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	22	23 Environmental Advisory Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	24 EcoElsa Winter Night Hike 6:30-8 p.m. Salem Hills Park Must register — see pg. 8.	25
26	27 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	28				

## KEY

City Council (CC)

City Advisory Commissions

Parks & Recreation Events

Watershed Management  
Organization (WMO)

Inver Grove  
Heights Parks  
& Recreation

# IS HIRING!

Join our team! Positions are not only  
FUN, but they can also build lifelong  
skills and boost your career!

“ I love working at the VMCC because of the community of people I have the privilege of getting to know and work with. The members are so welcoming, understanding, kind and supportive. You really get to know each other. The staff works well together, everyone communicates effectively and has each other's backs. ”

— Teri York, Personal Trainer

Did you know that IGH Parks and Recreation  
has great positions available for all ages?

Whether you are a student in high school or college, a young professional (all looking to build your resume and career), or a retiree — and are looking for a part time or seasonal position that gives you an opportunity to have fun outside in the summer, make extra money, meet new friends, or get involved in your community — we have a position that could work for you! We invite you to join our team and apply now at:

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

“ I have made some of my best friends through this job, the environment of the VMCC has been so welcoming.... I strongly believe that having this job on my resume was a big factor that played into my acceptance into school.... I truly feel that it has well prepared me for my future, and that is a big reason in why I have stayed for so long. I would strongly recommend this as a job to anyone considering it. ”

— Gwen Ukestad,  
Aquatics Manager



Great Team • Flexible Hours • Free VMCC Membership • Competitive Wages • Flexible Schedules • Public Employment Retirement Account

LIFEGUARD • FITNESS ATTENDANT • CHILD CARE • WATER SAFETY • FITNESS • FIGURE SKATING AND SPORTS INSTRUCTORS •  
• CAMP COUNSELOR • AQUATICS MANAGER • KIDS ROCK COORDINATOR • OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE • GUEST SERVICES

# March 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Kids ROCK Open House 6-7:30 p.m. VMCC	3	4 VMCC Open House   8-11 a.m. Craft Fair 9 a.m.-1 p.m. VMCC
5	6 CC Work Session 6 p.m. City Hall	7 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	8 LMRWMO 3 p.m.   TBD Parks & Rec. Advisory Comm. 7 p.m.   City Hall	9	10	11
12 Daylight Saving Time Begins Reminder to replace batteries in smoke alarms.	13 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	14	15	16	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18
19	20 First Day of Spring	21 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	22	23 Environmental Advisory Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	24	25
26 Aqua Egg Hunt (all ages) 10:15-11:30 a.m. VMCC Aquatic Center Must register.	27 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	28	29	30	31 Flashlight Egg Hunt (ages 10-13) 8:30 p.m. Oakwood Park Must register.	

Remove this handy calendar page and post where convenient!

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

### GET READY FOR CONSTRUCTION SEASON!

Did you know the City has implemented a Pavement Management Initiative to address street rehabilitation needs? We successfully completed four project areas in 2022.



Learn more about this initiative and view a map of planned 2023 project areas. [www.ighmn.gov/pavement](http://www.ighmn.gov/pavement).

## KEY

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



## IGH Fire Department News

### SMOKE ALARMS SHOULD BE A KEY PART OF EVERY HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

Due to many factors, fires and smoke spread very quickly in modern house fires. Therefore, it is very important to have working smoke alarms to give you and your family an early warning so you can get outside quickly.

- Roughly three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or when the alarms are not working.
- For smoke alarms with replaceable batteries (i.e. not long-life batteries), replace the batteries at least once a year. Pick a date you will remember, such as daylight saving time change.
- Install smoke alarms inside every bedroom, outside of every sleeping area, and on every floor, including the basement.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions to install smoke alarms either on the ceiling or high on a wall.
- Interconnected smoke alarms are best; if one sounds, they all sound.
- All smoke alarms should be tested monthly by pressing the test button to ensure they are functioning properly.
- Replace smoke alarms every ten years or sooner if directed by the manufacturer.

Try to use both types of smoke alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker at warning about flaming fires, while photoelectric smoke alarms are quicker at warning about smoldering fires. Smoke alarm packaging will be labeled with the detector type.



# INVER GROVE HEIGHTS PARKS & RECREATION

## VMCC Community Room OPEN HOUSE!

Thursday, January 26  
4-6 p.m.

Stop by and check out the renovated community room with new carpet, paint and audio-visual equipment! With the fresh new look — the community room is perfect for business meetings or family gatherings!



## VMCC Open House

Saturday, March 4 · 8-11 a.m.

FREE: Aquatic Zumba Fitness Class  
Lap Swimming · Tai Chi Demonstration  
· Healthy Eating Ideas · Facility Tours

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

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



## VMCC INDOOR TRI · April 16 · Accept the Challenge — Go the Distance!

How many laps can you swim in 10 minutes, run in 20 minutes & bike in 30 minutes? Start your training now — prizes awarded in five age brackets.



## Outdoor Winter Activities

### Family Snowshoeing

Sun., January 22 & Sat. Feb. 25  
2-4 p.m. | \$15 per person  
\$40 per family (up to six)

### EcoElsa Winter Night Hike

Friday, February 24  
6:30-8 p.m. | \$18 per person  
\$48 per family (up to six)

## YOUTH BASKETBALL SWIM LESSONS DANCE SKATING LESSONS PRESCHOOL SPORTS

Start in January and February

## Princess Dance

Friday, February 3  
6-8 p.m.

VMCC, National Guard Gymnasium  
\$46 (1 adult and 1 child); each additional child: \$21 | Ages 4-12  
FA-W320 | Register by: Fri., Jan. 27

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

## Craft Fair

SATURDAY, MARCH 4  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

NATIONAL GUARD GYMNASIUM  
ENTRANCE I

Creative vendor booths of all kinds!

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

Table/booth space is \$45

## YOUTH & TEEN PROGRAMS

All Ages  
Bean Bag Tournament  
January 27  
6 p.m.

## FEB 10 · NO SCHOOL DAY

Winter Fun Day — EcoElsa Winter Survival Class  
with a dogsled ride! 1-4 p.m.  
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Ages 7-13  
Pre-K thru fifth grade

## Healthy Living Fair

WEDNESDAY  
APRIL 19

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!



LET IT SNOW — and Skate, Score, Slide, Swim, Soak, and Skip with us!

Stay active and Stay in Shape this winter!

View our current brochure online.

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





# Keeping Winter Roads Safe in IGH

## Winter Street Maintenance

Winter street maintenance involves more than just plowing. It also includes application of anti-icing treatments, snow removal and de-icing of streets, snow removal from public sidewalks and select trails, tree trimming, sign repair, storm water system maintenance, and pothole patching. The IGH Streets Division's top priority in the winter is snow and ice control on City streets.

## Plowing Priorities

The City has established a winter maintenance policy defining snow and ice management objectives and procedures. Within this policy, snow and ice control priorities have been outlined as follows:

- **First** — Arterial Streets, Police and Fire Department Parking Lots
- **Second** — Residential Streets
- **Third** — Cul-de-sacs and City Parking Lots
- **Fourth** — Alleys and Public Streets under a Service Agreement
- **Fifth** — Pedestrian Sidewalks and Trails

## Sidewalk and Trail Maintenance

The City plows over 27 miles of concrete sidewalks and more than seven miles of bituminous trails. The snow removal process is normally started on the second day after a snow event to allow the streets to be plowed first. Clearing the snow can take two to four days, depending on conditions, and is performed as resources allow. Priority is given to trails and sidewalks around schools and around Metro Transit bus stops, followed by trails along county roadways and arterial streets. Sidewalks in residential areas are generally the last to be cleared.

The City may not clear snowfalls of two inches or less, depending on the weather forecast. It is the responsibility of the abutting property owner to keep sidewalks clear of ice and debris in accordance with City Code, Title 7, Chapter 1, Section 7-1-2.

## Safety

A loaded plow truck can weigh more than 50,000 lbs. It cannot maneuver as well as the average passenger vehicle. We ask that everyone follow these simple safety guidelines during the winter months:

- Do not shovel, plow or blow snow into or across the street.
- Do not play on, or build snow forts in, snow piles on the boulevard or in the center of a cul-de-sac.



- Never follow closer than 100 feet from the rear of a plow truck.
- Never drive into a snow cloud to pass a plow.
- Slow down and drive carefully, even if the street looks clear.

## Protecting mailboxes from snowplows:

- Shovel around your mailbox after heavy snowfall.
- Add reflective flags, markers, or tape to your mailbox to increase visibility.
- Install a mailbox snow shield.

## Parking

Per City Ordinance Title 6, Chapter 3, Section 6-3-6; it shall be unlawful to park a vehicle on any City street between the hours of 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. from November 1 through April 1.

## Boulevard

The City requires a clear zone on the boulevard along City streets. Any object that could be damaged by maintenance operations should be removed from this area. This excludes mailboxes that comply with U.S. Postal Service Specifications. Any other item placed in this area is the responsibility of the property owner including, but not limited to, trees, shrubs, landscaping, fences, sprinkler systems, invisible fencing, basketball goals, etc.

If your mailbox or lawn was damaged by direct contact with a City plow, please call the IGH Public Works Maintenance Facility at **651-450-4309**. The City is not responsible for damage caused by snow or ice that comes in contact with the mailbox. However, turf will be repaired in the spring by replacing topsoil and seed.

## Contact Information

If you have any questions or comments related to winter street maintenance, please go to *Report a Problem* on the City's homepage: [www.ighmn.gov](http://www.ighmn.gov).



## Free Recycling Resources for Apartments, Condos and Townhomes

Most multifamily residential properties are required to provide recycling to their tenants. We can help! Through the Multifamily Recycling Program, city staff can provide apartments, townhomes, condos and independent senior living facilities with free recycling resources. This includes **free recycling containers and signs**, as well as **recycling education to residents and staff**.



Does your multifamily property need assistance starting or improving recycling collection? If so, here's how you can help:

- **Contact your property manager:** Tell your property manager they can request free recycling resources. Program information is available at [www.ighmn.gov/recycle](http://www.ighmn.gov/recycle), under the "Multifamily, Business & Schools" tab.
- **Nominate your property:** Contact Ally Sutherland at [asutherland@ighmn.gov](mailto:asutherland@ighmn.gov) and provide your property manager's contact information. The City will share which free recycling resources are available to the complex and its residents.



## Declutter Cleaners for a Fresh Start

Sprucing up your home should include properly cleaning out unwanted chemical cleaning supplies. Don't wait to declutter your surplus of sprays, bug killers, and unused drain cleaners. Gather all your cleaning products and potentially hazardous items from under-the-sink, storage closets, and garage. Decide what you would actually use in the next year. Put everything else in a box and bring to The Recycling Zone.

The Recycling Zone is your one-stop drop-off for most products labeled caution, warning, danger or poison. Residents can bring cleaners, personal care products like nail polish and sunscreen, paint, yard and garden chemicals, bug killers and more for free.

The site is open four days a week all year. Find open hours, directions and the full list of items accepted at [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *recycling zone*.

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

## GIS CORNER

### SNOW PLOWING AND GIS

To help prepare for the average of 45 winter weather maintenance events each year, GIS works with the Streets and Engineering Divisions to ensure that all City streets are mapped and routed for plow drivers. With 323 lane miles to be maintained each winter (as of 2022), it is imperative to keep these routes organized for efficient response when it snows. Some years this update is simply adding newly constructed streets, and sometimes the routes need to be reconfigured.

Along with the lane miles, it is also necessary to take the more than 250 cul-de-sacs in IGH into account. An effort is made to keep the number of lane miles and cul-de-sacs consistent within each of the nine street plowing routes. There are also five sidewalk/trail routes with 53 miles and 30 parking lots throughout the City, which require attention during a winter maintenance event. These events can vary depending on severity, but they often require anti-icing before the event, snow removal during the event, and de-icing following a storm. Public Works has 29 employees certified to operate the 33 pieces of City equipment to ensure City streets, sidewalks, trails, and parking lots are safe throughout the winter.

**45**  
AVERAGE  
WINTER  
WEATHER  
MAINTENANCE  
EVENTS  
EACH YEAR



## NEW BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

OPEN NOW

### Nowhere Haunted House

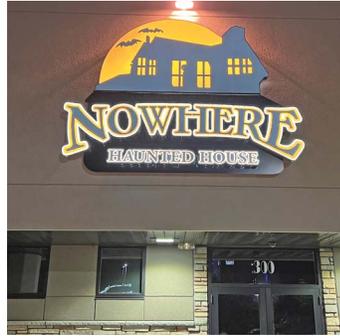
5300 S. Robert Trail, #300

Inver Grove Heights, MN, 55077

651-340-8651

info@nowherehauntedhouse.com

Nowherehauntedhouse.com



Nowhere Haunted House is an indoor, year-round haunted attraction and entertainment center that brings spooky thrills and fun scares to all Minnesota seasons!

“The haunted house productions provide interactive theater experiences, with skilled actors and movie-quality sets. Families can also enjoy low- and no-scare haunts and behind-the-scenes tours. For the daring, we offer 18+ immersive theater events. In Spring 2023, the family-friendly mini-golf and arcade at Nowhere Haunted House will feature artistic, spooky holes outfitted with surprises. The arcade, filled with monster-themed video games, machines, and prizes, will engage both children and adults. Nowhere Haunted House will also offer birthday parties, private and team-building events, and summer mask- and prop-making classes,” explains CEO Galen McKay.

The Nowhere team has produced Halloween events for decades, from home to professional haunts and staged theater productions. Team members holding degrees in theater, psychology, art, finance, construction, and technology have combined their skills to create a state-of-the-art indoor haunted attraction. “The making of Nowhere was born out of a passion to bring people a highly entertaining scare experience steeped in theater, art, technology, and love of the genre. We can’t wait to share the dream with our customers this year,” McKay says of the Nowhere team and co-owners: Ian Knutson, Galen McKay, Jaci Ott, Adam Peck, Mike Reimer, and Nicole Ross.

Keep an eye out for a special Valentine’s Day event and a May Day celebration this spring!

## Pine Bend RNG Project

Republic Services Pine Bend Landfill

2495 117th St. E.

Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

On Oct. 25 of last year, IGH staff and City Councilmembers, and other community leaders welcomed Minnesota’s first **landfill-to-renewable-natural-gas** (RNG) facility to Inver Grove Heights at a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by producer/distributor OPAL Fuels and NextEra Energy Marketing. The Pine Bend RNG is located next to the Republic Services, Inc. landfill on 117th Street in IGH, and is connected to a pipeline operated by Xcel Energy. The new facility works by capturing methane from the Pine Bend Landfill and converting it to RNG. When RNG, a low-carbon gas, is used to fuel heavy-duty trucks, it eliminates the equivalent of the greenhouse gas emissions produced by 484 trucks per year! To learn more about this innovative facility and check out other City news, go to the newsflash scroll on the City’s homepage: [www.ighmn.gov](http://www.ighmn.gov).



# 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

Brenda Dietrich, Mayor 651-450-2503  
Sue Gliva 651-450-2506  
John Murphy 651-450-2507  
Tony Scales 651-450-2504  
Mary T'Kach 651-450-2505

### 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

ECRWSSDDM  
POSTAL CUSTOMER



## Community News

### Salt Smart, IGH! Road Salt: Great on Ice. Not in Water.

Smart salt use on your driveways and sidewalks during the winter can make a big difference in protecting our water resources. Find out how you can take part, including taking the Salt Smart Pledge, at [www.ighmn.gov/saltsmart](http://www.ighmn.gov/saltsmart).

Residents can pick up a **FREE** salt cup at IGH City Hall during business hours while supplies last. Use it as a helpful guide to how much salt to use and when. You can also visit our website (link above) to find out which local businesses are also providing free salt cups.



### Utility Bill Updates 2023

Here's a quick guide to your utility bill:

- **View the 2023 utility rates** for water, sewer and stormwater at [www.ighmn.gov/utilities](http://www.ighmn.gov/utilities).
- **Pay your utility bill online**—It is now easier than ever. Just click the *Water Billing* button on the City's website homepage or visit [www.ighmn.gov/billpay](http://www.ighmn.gov/billpay).
- **Want to better understand what is on your utility bill?** We break it down for you at [www.ighmn.gov/utilitybill](http://www.ighmn.gov/utilitybill).
- **Need assistance with paying your utility bill?** There may be resources available to you. Learn more at [www.ighmn.gov/utilitybill/assistance](http://www.ighmn.gov/utilitybill/assistance).



### SCOOP THE POOP

- Despite popular belief, pet waste is **NOT** a good fertilizer, it is too acidic.
- Pet waste can find its way into our storm sewers, lakes, rivers and drinking water. It can introduce bacteria and parasites into the environment.
- Dog poop is high in nutrients and pathogens that can create excessive algae growth, smelly water, excessive weeds, cloudiness, and cause a decline in water quality. It is also harmful to plants and aquatic life.

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

**Scoop the poop, bag it, and throw it in the trash!**