



# Insights

SPRING 2023



## Renewed Commitments & Emerging Priorities for 2023

In early February, the Inver Grove Heights City Council, consisting of newly elected Mayor Brenda Dietrich and Councilmembers Mary T’Kach and Tony Scales, as well as returning Councilmembers John Murphy and Sue Gliva, met to establish priorities and determine key areas of focus for 2023. While stressing the importance of continuing what was started in 2022, in regards to improved street maintenance, infrastructure investment and park development, the City Council also identified several additional areas of focus for the upcoming year. Priorities for 2023 include:

### **Attract Restaurant, Retail & Other Business Development**

The City will engage in added efforts to expand, enhance and accelerate the attraction and development of retail, restaurant and consumer service offerings available locally. To support this effort, the City Council has hired a retail recruitment consultant to help attract new businesses to existing storefronts and developable land throughout the community.

### **Modernize City Ordinances**

City staff and the City Council will work to review, modernize and amend a wide variety of City ordinances in an effort to provide clarity for residents and businesses, supply the necessary tools for staff to address community challenges and concerns, and reduce duplication and contradictions within the City Code.

### **VMCC Cost Recovery**

In order to guide future budgeting and operating decisions, the City will develop up-to-date cost recovery expectations for the Veterans Memorial Community Center and the recreational programs offered there. This means determining how much of the VMCC operating costs should be funded by fees and registrations paid for by those who are members or otherwise use the programs, and how much should be funded by other City revenues. Currently no property tax dollars are spent on the operation or maintenance of the VMCC. The financial resources that do not come from VMCC user fees come from a host community fee paid to the City by local landfill operators.

### **City Maintenance Facilities**

The City will conduct a needs analysis and preliminary planning for the expansion, remodeling and/or repurposing of the City’s Maintenance Facility at 8168 Barbara Avenue. With a growing city comes more streets, parks, utilities and equipment to be maintained. The current facility does not have the space needed to support these operations into the future. In considering options for updating these facilities, attention will also be paid to the parking and security needs of the adjacent IGH Police Station.

—Continued on page 3

# Four Significant Park Projects Planned for Summer Construction

It is shaping up to be a busy summer construction season for the IGH Parks & Recreation Department, with four significant park projects expected to break ground.

Contracts have already been awarded for the Phase 1 redevelopment of **South Valley Park**, located between 70th and 80th Streets just west of Cahill Avenue, as well as for the Phase 4 development of **Heritage Village Park**, located east of Concord Boulevard and north of 65th Street.

Redevelopment of **South Valley Park** will include demolition of the existing building, shelter, and playground, construction of a new picnic shelter with restrooms and a kitchen, a nature-themed playground (see below), a multi-use performance space, additional parking, an ADA-compliant trail system, landscaping, grading, and park amenities. One thing that will remain, after all of these improvements, is the much-loved sledding hill at **South Valley Park**. As a result of this work, the park will be closed to the public beginning this spring through the end of 2023.

Meanwhile, at **Heritage Village Park**, a round-house style picnic shelter and covered-bench seating that harken back to the area's history as a railroad yard, plus new railroad-themed concrete walkways, will be constructed. A restroom building and attached drinking fountain are also included in the project.

Once development Phase 4 is complete, **Heritage Village Park** will be primed and ready for a planned inclusive playground and splashpad. With the help of local legislators, the City is currently seeking financial support for

these Phase 5 components through the Minnesota state bonding process.

In the **Northwest Area** of the City, two new play areas are under development north of Amana Trail, between Highway 3 and South Robert Trail on the east and the newly realigned Argenta Trail on the west. When this issue of the *Insights* newsletter went to print, park names and designs were being finalized, with the City Council expected to award construction contracts in late April or early May. For more information visit [www.ighmn.gov/futureparks](http://www.ighmn.gov/futureparks).

## Two new parks are planned for the Northwest Area of the City.



Rendering of playground design to be built in South Valley Park.

—Continued from page 1

## Review Possible Road Projects in Northwest Area

City staff will work with the City Council to determine the desired direction, and, if warranted, the next steps in key roadway projects included in the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Northwest Area. These projects include a possible future interchange at Argenta Trail and Interstate 494 and the potential expansion of 65th Street east of County Highway 3.

## Community Standards & Blight Prevention

The City Council seeks to have a discussion of community standards and identify effective blight prevention and remediation strategies to enhance both the visual appeal and overall public safety of Inver Grove Heights.

## Increase Proactive Communication

Throughout the City's work in all areas, the City Council has also directed staff to prioritize clear, consistent, and proactive communication with residents and businesses regarding City policies, procedures and processes, key timelines and opportunities to provide input. To partner with us in this effort, residents are encouraged to review and utilize the resources listed below for staying up to date on what's happening within City government.

### Bookmark These Links to Stay Connected to Your City Government

View City Council meeting agendas:  
[www.ighmn.gov/agenda](http://www.ighmn.gov/agenda)

View the City Council meeting schedule:  
[www.ighmn.gov/meetings](http://www.ighmn.gov/meetings)

Learn about City Advisory Commissions and when they meet:  
[www.ighmn.gov/commissions](http://www.ighmn.gov/commissions)

View public notices, planning and development public hearings, and proposed ordinances:  
[www.ighmn.gov/transparency](http://www.ighmn.gov/transparency)

Sign up to receive City email notifications:  
[www.ighmn.gov/notifyme](http://www.ighmn.gov/notifyme)

Pay a City utility bill online:  
[www.ighmn.gov/billpay](http://www.ighmn.gov/billpay)

Report a Concern (Request Tracker):  
[www.ighmn.gov/report-a-concern](http://www.ighmn.gov/report-a-concern)

Learn about the Pavement Management Initiative and upcoming projects:  
[www.ighmn.gov/pavement](http://www.ighmn.gov/pavement)

For specific questions and concerns, call City Hall at 651-450-2500.



## City of Inver Grove Heights Water Notice

The City of Inver Grove Heights mailed a public notice to all City water customers on February 15, 2023. In case you missed the content of the mailing, here is a recap of the important announcement:

### Elevated Radium Levels Detected in Inver Grove Heights Drinking Water

The City of Inver Grove Heights, in conjunction with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), monitors its public water system for the presence of drinking water contaminants on a quarterly basis. On January 30, 2023, the City was informed by the MDH that the most recent test samples, taken on October 10, 2022, show that the level of combined radium—types 226 and 228—at the Inver Grove Heights Water Treatment Plant was 6.0 picoCuries per liter (pCi/L). This result is above the allowable drinking water standard for radium, or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), of 5.4 pCi/L. Although radium occurs naturally in the environment, large doses of radium over many years may increase the risk of developing cancer for some people.

### Steps the City Has Taken

The City's water treatment plant was one of the first in the Twin Cities to be built to treat for radium removal. Sand filtration is the most effective type of filter for removing radium. However, as filters age, they require replacement. The City is planning for a filter replacement and rehabilitation project in 2024. In the interim, City Utilities staff have immediately modified pumping and chemical treatment techniques at the water treatment plant to reduce radium concentrations, and have begun increasing the testing frequency for radium at the treatment plant and at other points throughout the City's public water system.

### Impacts

**The City takes this matter seriously and is acting urgently to mitigate this issue. However, this is not an emergency. You do not need an alternative source of water (such as bottled water), nor do you need to boil water before use.** People with specific health concerns are encouraged to consult their doctor or health care provider.

### Didn't Receive a Notice?

Notices were sent to every property that receives water from the Inver Grove Heights Water Treatment Plant. If you are a renter, your landlord might have received the notice for your address, or if you have a private well and do not use City water, you would not have received a notice. Additionally, some residents who receive a water bill from the City of IGH actually get their water from either the Eagan Water Treatment Facility or the South St. Paul Water Treatment Facility. In these cases, you would not have received a notice about radium levels in your water because your home or business does not get City of IGH water. To view a copy of the notice, visit [www.ighmn.gov/waternotice](http://www.ighmn.gov/waternotice).

### More Information is Available

A City webpage devoted to this topic will be updated when new information is available: [www.ighmn.gov/waternotice](http://www.ighmn.gov/waternotice).  
**Questions?** Email [water@ighmn.gov](mailto:water@ighmn.gov) or call 651-450-4309.



# CURFEW

**It's finally spring!** The Inver Grove Heights Police Department would like to remind the community of Dakota County Curfew Ordinance #122.4, which restricts children and teens from being in public places unsupervised during certain hours. These rules aid in crime prevention, protect the health and welfare of juveniles and protect the public's safety.



## What is the definition of a public place?

A public place is anywhere to which the public or a substantial portion of the public has access. This includes streets, highways, roadways, parks, schools, public recreation facilities, entertainment or civic facilities, schools and common areas of apartment houses, office buildings, shops, and places of amusement or refreshment. (Examples of public places: movie theaters, restaurants, bowling alleys, playgrounds, and the VMCC.)

## Where and when should youth be supervised?

AGES	DAYS	HOURS
11 and younger	Sunday – Thursday Friday and Saturday	9 p.m. to 5 a.m. 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.
12 – 14	Sunday – Thursday Friday and Saturday	10 p.m. to 5 a.m. 11 p.m. to 5 a.m.
15 – 17	Sunday – Thursday Friday and Saturday	11 p.m. to 5 a.m. 12 a.m. to 5 a.m.

## There are some exceptions to this ordinance if a juvenile is:

- With a parent, guardian, or another responsible adult.
- At work or in the process of going to or coming from home or work.
- Involved in an emergency.
- Going to, attending, or coming home from a supervised school, church, or recreational activity.
- In front of their residence.

## What happens if the curfew ordinance is violated?

If a violation of the curfew ordinance occurs, it may lead to a fine and/or court appearance.

## Learn to Stay Safer This Spring

### Severe Weather Awareness Week April 17–21, 2023

The Homeland Security and Emergency Management division of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety collaborates with the National Weather Service each year to sponsor Severe Weather Awareness Week. This helps teach Minnesotans about weather hazards and provides resources to minimize the risks associated with severe weather. Each day of the week focuses on a different topic:

**MONDAY:** Alerts and Warnings

**TUESDAY:** Severe Weather, Lightning, and Hail

**WEDNESDAY:** Floods

**THURSDAY:** Tornadoes (Tornado Drill Day is April 20)

**FRIDAY:** Extreme Heat

Most important during Severe Weather Awareness Week are two scheduled statewide tornado drills on **Thursday, April 20** in the early afternoon and again in the early evening. In the event of an actual emergency, here is a guide to sirens in IGH:

- Sirens are intended for community members who are outside. They sound for three minutes. If you are indoors, we recommend the use of a weather app or radio.
- Sirens are activated by the Dakota Communication Center when the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning or severe thunderstorm warning when winds exceed 70 miles per hour.

## INVER GROVE HEIGHTS OUTDOOR SIRENS



● = 8 OUTDOOR SIREN LOCATIONS

LMAX (MAXIMUM SOUND LEVEL)  
 ● = 80 decibels  
 ● = 75 decibels  
 ● = 70 decibels

## MINNESOTA RECYCLING WORKS

Have you ever questioned if recycling is worth it? Short answer: Yes!

Beyond saving energy and protecting natural resources, recycling also supports vital industries.

Recycling is the process of collecting materials that would otherwise be thrown away and turning them into new products. Cans, bottles and paper are dropped off at a local facility where people and machines sort the recycling into material types, which are then sent to many different companies:

- **Paper and cardboard** are made into newspapers, toilet paper rolls and cereal boxes at five paper mills in Minnesota.
- **Cartons**, like juice boxes, are sent to a company in Wisconsin that makes a material for new paper products.
- **Aluminum cans** get turned into new cans, wire, siding and more at plants in the South.
- **Steel cans**, like those used for soup, are made into steel beams in Chicago.
- **Plastic bottles with a number 1**, like water and soda bottles, are shipped to other states to be made into new bottles and carpet.
- **Plastic containers with a number 2**, like milk jugs, are transformed into low-maintenance lumber by companies like Avon Plastics in Paynesville.
- **Cottage cheese and other plastic tubs with a number 5** are used to create food containers, car parts and more by companies in other states.
- **Glass bottles and jars** are sorted by color in St. Paul. Clear glass goes to Anchor Glass in Shakopee to make condiment bottles. Brown glass is sent to Illinois to make beer bottles.

Recycling is wanted by many companies in Minnesota and across the country. Help support local recycling businesses by:

- **Sticking to the basics:** Recycle the items listed above.
- **Keeping it loose:** Empty recycling into a bin. **No plastic bags.**
- **Checking the Recycling Guide** at [www.ighmn.gov/recycle](http://www.ighmn.gov/recycle) for everything else.

See back page for details on **GREEN LIVING WORKSHOPS** at the **Healthy Living Fair!**



**FREE!**

## SPRING CONFIDENTIAL PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

**Saturday, May 13 | 9 a.m. – noon**  
**City Hall Parking Lot**  
8150 Barbara Avenue

Residents can drop off confidential papers for **FREE** at the Spring Confidential Paper Shredding Event. Instead of shredding at home, bring confidential papers to the secure on-site shredding truck. This will ensure that personal information stays safe and papers get recycled.

**ACCEPTED:** Confidential papers with account numbers or other private information. Remove all three-ring binders, binder clips or metal tabs on file folders. Please bring paper in a small box or paper bag, and place it in your trunk. All boxes will be emptied and returned.

**NOT ACCEPTED:** Paper without secure information such as magazines, holiday cards and mailed advertisements are not accepted. Instead, place non-confidential papers in a home recycling cart. Business documents are not accepted at this event.

Find a list of what to shred and additional event details at [www.ighmn.gov/collectionevents](http://www.ighmn.gov/collectionevents).

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



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# April 2023

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

**WINTER PARKING REGULATIONS**  
End on April 1.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 1**  
Community Garden Plot Rental Registration Open  
[www.ighmn.gov/communitygardens](http://www.ighmn.gov/communitygardens)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19**  
Healthy Living Fair  
9 a.m.–12 p.m.  
VMCC

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19**  
Annual Stormwater Meeting  
12 p.m.  
VMCC, Comm. Rm. 3

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22**  
Learn to Skate Spring Ice Show  
2 p.m. & 5 p.m.  
VMCC

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>APPLY TO BE ON A CITY ADVISORY COMMISSION</b>   Applications due May 1, 2023 Learn more about City Commissions and how to apply at <a href="http://www.ighmn.gov/commissionerapp">www.ighmn.gov/commissionerapp</a> or email: <a href="mailto:cityclerk@ighmn.gov">cityclerk@ighmn.gov</a> .			1
	<b>SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK</b> April 17-21, 2023					
2	3 Econ. Dev. Authority 5 p.m.   City Hall CC Work Session 6 p.m.   City Hall	4 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	5	6	7 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> IGH City Offices Close at Noon; VMCC Open	8 Parks & Rec. Registration Kick-off Event Online at <a href="http://www.ighmn.gov/register">www.ighmn.gov/register</a>
9 <b>EASTER</b> VMCC Closed	10 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	11 <b>Kids ROCK Open House</b> 6-7:30 p.m. VMCC	12 LMRWMO 3 p.m.   City of Sunfish Lake Parks & Rec. Advisory Comm. 7 p.m.   City Hall	13	14	15
16 Indoor Tri-Event 8-10:30 a.m., VMCC Must register by April 9	17	18 Eagan-IGH WMO 5:30 p.m. IGH City Hall Planning Comm. 7 p.m.   City Hall	19 Healthy Living Fair 9 a.m.–12 p.m. VMCC	20 <b>TORNADO DRILL DAY</b>	21	22 <b>DEA Rx Take-Back Event</b> 10 a.m.–2 p.m. PD Parking Lot
23	24 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	25	26	27 Environmental Advisory Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	28	29 Kids Garage Sale 10 a.m.–12 p.m. VMCC
30						



## DAKOTA COUNTY CDA HOMEBUYER EDUCATION CLASS

APRIL 20 & 27  
MAY 11 & 18  
5–9 p.m.

JUNE 9  
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Dakota County CDA  
1228 Town Centre Drive  
Eagan, MN

**REGISTRATION:**  
[www.dakotacda.org/homebuyer-education](http://www.dakotacda.org/homebuyer-education)  
651-675-4470  
[mhorsch@dakotacda.org](mailto:mhorsch@dakotacda.org)

## KEY

City Council (CC)

City Advisory Commissions

Parks & Recreation Events (P&R)

Watershed Management Organization (WMO)

Police Department Events

Other Events

# May 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>NOTE:</b> Advisory Commission Applications Due May 1	1 CC Work Session 6 p.m. City Hall	2 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	3	4	5	6
7	8 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	9	10 LMRWMO 3 p.m.   City of Sunfish Lake Parks & Rec. Advisory Comm. 7 p.m.   City Hall	11	12	13 Spring Shred Event 9 a.m.–12 p.m. City Hall Parking Lot
14	15 Special CC Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall	16 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	17 POLICE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE 4-7 p.m. PD Parking Lot	18 Environmental Advisory Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	19	20 Touch-A-Truck 9:30–11:30 a.m. VMCC, North Parking Lot
21	22 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> IGH City Offices and VMCC Closed	30	31	 <b>TOUCH-A-TRUCK</b> 9:30–11:30 a.m. VMCC, North Parking Lot		

# June 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
 <p><b>TERRIFIC TUESDAYS BEGIN</b> JUNE 20, 27, JULY 11, 18, 25, AUGUST 1 10:30 a.m.   Oakwood Park <i>See page 8 for more details.</i></p>					1	2	3 Scavenger Hunt at Harmon Park Reserve www.ighmn.gov/register
4	5 Econ. Dev. Authority 5 p.m.   City Hall CC Work Session 6 p.m.   City Hall	6 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	7	8	9	10 Huck Finn Fishing Derby 9:30–11 a.m. Simley Island Park	
11 St. Paul Farmers Market Opens 8 a.m.–1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	12 Kids R.O.C.K. starts at VMCC CC 6 p.m.   City Hall	13	14 LMRWMO 3 p.m.   City of Mendota Heights Parks & Rec. Advisory Comm. 7 p.m.   City Hall	15	16	17	
18 St. Paul Farmers Market 8 a.m.–1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	19 JUNETEENTH IGH City Offices Open This Year for Juneteenth	20 Eagan-IGH WMO 5:30 p.m.   Eagan Maint. Bldg. Planning Comm 7 p.m.   City Hall	21	22 Environmental Advisory Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	23 Dive-in Movie Luca   5-7:30 p.m. VMCC Water Park Pool Deck Must register by June 16	24	
25 St. Paul Farmers Market 8 a.m.–1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	26 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	27	28	29	30		

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS



**ST. PAUL FARMERS MARKET**  
Every Sunday  
June 11 through October 8  
8 a.m.–1 p.m.  
VMCC Parking Lot

## KEY

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

Remove this handy calendar page and post where convenient!

## POLICE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE DURING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

**Wednesday, May 17**  
4–7 p.m. (weather permitting)  
IGH PD parking lot on the westside of City Hall



As May 17 gets closer, look for more information on the Inver Grove Heights Police Department Facebook page.

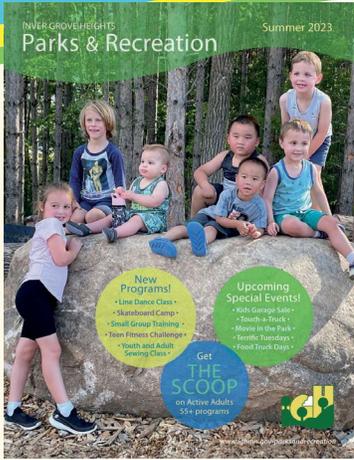
The public is invited to the 2023 Inver Grove Heights Police Department Open House during National Police Week. The open house is not only educational and informational; it's also a chance to have some fun!

The open house allows the public to interact with our staff and enjoy some FREE activities:

-  Up-close, hands-on looks at police vehicles and equipment
-  Participate in simulated activities while wearing impairment goggles
-  Enjoy some food
-  IGH PD giveaways
-  Raffle

There will also be an opportunity to donate food or personal care items to a local food shelf!

# INVER GROVE HEIGHTS PARKS & RECREATION



Check out our IGH Summer P&R brochure full of FUN FOR ALL programs!

Register soon — favorite programs fill fast and many start soon!

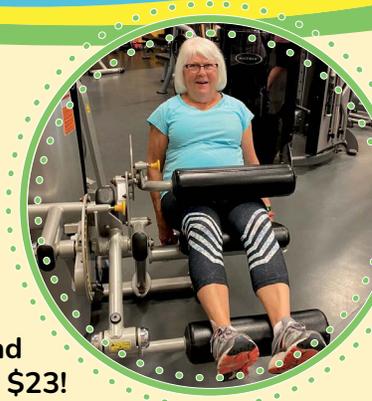
[www.ighmn.gov/register](http://www.ighmn.gov/register)

Veterans Memorial Community Center

## SUMMER MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL

Join between May 1–June 15 and pay a reduced enrollment fee of \$23!

Summer facilities include: aquatic center, fitness center, ice arena, indoor turf field and National Guard gymnasium.



**YOUTH:** Archery · Baseball · Basketball · Dance · Field Trips · Horse Camp · Instafit · Kids R.O.C.K. Summer Camp · Pickleball · Soccer · Softball · Sports Camps and Training · Tennis · Zumba & more!

**ADULT:** Belly Dancing · Boot Camp · Cycling · Golf Conditioning · Indoor Tri · Kickball · Men's Softball · Pickleball · Tennis · Tai Chi · and lots more!

## WE'RE HIRING!

Have FUN this summer and build your career!

Check online for available positions at

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

JOIN OUR TEAM TODAY!



## TOUCH-A-TRUCK

Saturday, May 20  
9:30–11:30 a.m.  
VMCC Parking Lot

FREE!



Show your support and purchase an IGH Parks & Rec T-shirt with proceeds going towards our scholarship fund to make more FUN for ALL! AVAILABLE IN APRIL.

## TERRIFIC TUESDAYS

Music in the Park

OAKWOOD PARK · 10:30 A.M.

June 20 • Todd'n'Tina

June 27 • Talewise

July 11 • John Kerns

July 18 • Tricia & the Toonies

July 25 • Kidpower with Rachael

August 1 • Will Hale and the Tadpole Parade

FREE!



Check out the IGH

## SENIOR CENTER

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

Cards · Fitness · Line Dancing · Art · Book Clubs · Day Trips · AND MORE!

## DIVE-IN MOVIE LUCA



Friday, June 23 · \$10

5–7:30 p.m. · VMCC Pool

MOVIE IN THE PARK

## SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2

FREE!

Friday, July 7  
Oakwood Park

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



Visit [www.ighmn.gov](http://www.ighmn.gov) to register and get the most up-to-date event details!



## EXPLORE NEW FD PAGES ON CITY WEBSITE

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

The City has updated the Fire Department webpages with more user-friendly features to help residents better navigate important topics like fire safety, community education and recreational fire permits.

There is also fun new content to explore on the site: the **IGH FD History Timeline** and a **Just For Kids**

**section.** The interactive historical timeline provides the story of IGH FD depicted through facts, milestones and historical photos. Just for Kids is an area dedicated to younger residents and visitors, featuring details on fire station tours, informational coloring sheets, and an interview with the IGH FD canine companion, Blaze!



Take a moment to explore at [www.ighmn.gov/fire](http://www.ighmn.gov/fire).

## Be Safe While Grilling Out!

Every year, along with warmer weather, comes increased outdoor grill use and—unfortunately—an increase in grill-related fires. According to a National Fire Protection Association report, nearly 9,000 home fires each year involve grills. Of the home fires involving grills, gas-fueled grills accounted for four out of five fires. If you live in a multi-family building with at least three units, you are not permitted to have a grill within 15 feet of the building or on a deck, unless it's gas and plumbed into the building.

These tips will help ensure a safe grilling experience:

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors. Never use a grill in a garage, vehicle, tent or other enclosed space, even if ventilated, due to a risk of harmful carbon monoxide buildup.
- Grills should be placed well away from homes or deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Never leave a lit grill unattended. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area. Children under five are especially vulnerable to burns from contact with a hot grill surface.
- Keep grills clean by removing grease buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Clothing can easily catch fire, so be sure that shirt tails, sleeves and apron strings don't dangle over the grill.
- Never turn on the gas when the lid is closed. The gas may build up inside the lid, and when ignited, the lid could blow off and cause injuries or burns.
- After cooking, make sure to completely close the valve on the gas grill.
- Always store gas grills and propane tanks outside and away from your house.

### TIPS FOR CHARCOAL GRILLS

- When using starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire. Keep charcoal fluid out of reach of children and away from heat sources.
- When finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing of them in a metal container.



## GIS CORNER

### GIS AT THE DISC GOLF COURSE

With renovations to South Valley Park coming soon, fall of 2022 was an ideal time to update and reshape the North Valley Park Disc Golf Course. In years past, four disc golf holes were actually located at South Valley Park, but, as part of the park update, it was decided to move those four holes to the North Valley side of 70th Street.

The IGH Parks & Recreation Department worked closely with Chuck Kennedy, a local disc golf pro/consultant, to plan where the added holes, tee pads and baskets would be situated. Ultimately, the entire back nine of the course was reworked to make it flow more seamlessly. GPS shots of the tee pads, baskets, and drop zones were used to calculate distances and elevation changes for the four tee-to-basket options on each hole. GIS and the Parks & Recreation Department then created a new score card and signs to navigate around the course. When the snow melts and the cold weather fades this spring, please check out the new and improved North Valley Park Disc Golf Course!

As a reminder, residents can continue to use the Park Finder on the IGH Maps webpage to find fun in any weather: [www.ighmn.gov/maps](http://www.ighmn.gov/maps).



## Help Keep IGH Beautiful!

Spring cleaning isn't just for indoors. Be sure to give the exterior some TLC, too. Here are a few items to add to the spring cleaning checklist. And—bonus—you'll make sure your property is in compliance with City Code!

**GRASS AND WEEDS.** Should be no higher than eight inches.



....**overgrown yards and brush piles can attract rodents.**

**CLEAR THE JUNK.** Not only is it unsightly, but it's also a code violation. Junk includes inoperable vehicles, broken appliances or other refuse placed in a yard or driveway.

**MAINTAIN FENCES.** Fences must be kept in good condition and remain under 42 inches in the front yard, and under seven feet on the side and in the back yard.



....**a permit is required before installing a fence.** [www.ighmn.gov/permit](http://www.ighmn.gov/permit)



Springtime means pothole time! Visit [www.ighmn.gov](http://www.ighmn.gov) and click on "Report a Concern" near the top of the page to report potholes and other issues.

**INVER GROVE HEIGHTS**  
**ANNUAL**  
**LOCAL STORMWATER IMPACTS MEETING**

Join us  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19 | NOON**

ATTEND IN-PERSON AT VMCC, COMMUNITY ROOM 3  
 OR  
 WATCH VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM - A LINK WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE WEB ADDRESS BELOW

Learn how the City protects natural water resources in IGH, including our lakes, ponds and rivers, and how you can make a difference.

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



## LOOKING FOR A BEAUTIFUL AND SUSTAINABLE LAWN? Landscape with native plants!

Native plants are best suited for local weather and soil and use far less water than other types of vegetation. Pollinators and birds rely on native plants to thrive and raise their young. Think of the diversity of life that lives in different layers—ground to canopy—and plant a variety of native trees, shrubs, and perennial plants to provide habitat for a variety of wildlife.

Find more at [www.eaganinvergroveheightswmo.org](http://www.eaganinvergroveheightswmo.org) or [www.lmrwmo.org](http://www.lmrwmo.org).





## BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

### SUMMIT Funeral & Cremation

6415 Carmen Ave. E.  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076  
651-361-9273  
www.summitfuneralandcremation.com

 Summit Funeral & Cremation



SUMMIT Funeral & Cremation recently expanded to better serve families in IGH. Originally opening in the fall of 2019, owners Derek and Emily Glenna knew that the community needed a funeral service provider that offered affordability and a modern facility. The trend-setting space that SUMMIT offers includes a universal chapel and reception area that are designed to host any sort of memorialization, whether it be a traditional funeral or a gathering of family and friends.

SUMMIT is a full-service funeral and cremation provider offering pre-planning services, eco-friendly options, and online arrangements to stream-line the process. The website was created so that obituaries, resources, merchandise, and pricing can be easily found. SUMMIT is also able to provide funeral and cremation services to those needing financial assistance through county-funded sources, and is licensed in both Minnesota and Wisconsin.

“SUMMIT Funeral & Cremation’s compassionate and affordable care provides a personalized funeral or memorial experience that honors the story of your loved one,” adds owner Derek Glenna. “It is our family serving yours—all faiths, families, and cultures—with compassionate, affordable care. We are honored to serve the Inver Grove Heights area and surrounding communities.”

Residents are invited to stop in and visit at a family-friendly open house on Sunday, April 23, 2023, from 1 to 4 p.m. Come and meet the SUMMIT family and staff, enjoy refreshments, and have a chance to win a prize!

### MidCountry Bank & Insurance

6505 Cahill Ave. E.  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076  
651-455-1553  
www.MidCountry.bank

 @MidCountry Bank



MidCountry Bank & Insurance is a full-service bank headquartered in Bloomington, MN. With 13 branch locations in Minnesota, including the one in Inver Grove Heights, MidCountry Bank actively engages with communities to provide high-quality, diversified financial services. It offers a comprehensive scope of banking, cash management, equipment leasing, mortgage, insurance, and investment products, tools and services, too.

Innovation and investment in technology help MidCountry Bank to provide customers with a high level of service for opening a business, or planning for the next stage in life. MidCountry Bank also recently joined the River Heights Chamber of Commerce.

“We at MidCountry Bank are pleased to support the community with an array of financial services. I look forward to continuing to assist residents and businesses here with their banking needs,” said Branch Manager Rick Vazquez.

# 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, <i>Mayor</i>	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
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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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## GREEN LIVING WORKSHOPS at the HEALTHY LIVING FAIR

On **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19**, join the Healthy Living Fair "Green Living" workshops to discover simple, sustainable steps to take at home!

**9:15–9:45 a.m. | Gardening: Replant, Repair and Reuse**  
Master Gardener Marsha McCain will share tips on repotting and transplanting common outdoor flowers and shrubs, emergency strategies to save broken or dying plants, and end-of-season best practices for pruning and mulching.

**10:30–11 a.m. | Declutter Your Home Sustainably**  
Learn how to create a clutter-free home that helps clear your mind. Valerie Cady from Winnow & Spruce Organizing will share low-cost ways to clear your space, restore order, and find joy in repurposing items. For more information, visit [www.winnowandspruceorganizing.com](http://www.winnowandspruceorganizing.com)

**11:30 a.m.–12 p.m. | Ways to Save on Home Energy**  
Home Energy Squad representatives will share how you can save energy to keep home energy bills low. All attendees will be entered into a raffle for a free Home Energy Squad visit and are eligible for a \$30 visit discount. For more information, visit [www.xcelenergy.com/homeenergysquad](http://www.xcelenergy.com/homeenergysquad)

The Healthy Living Fair and workshops are **FREE** to attend and open to the public. Find additional event details, including the complete list of workshops, at [www.ighmn.gov/events](http://www.ighmn.gov/events).

## APPLY TO BE ON A CITY ADVISORY COMMISSION

Help Shape the Future of IGH!

### APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 1, 2023

Would you like to be part of the planning and development of Inver Grove Heights? Consider applying to serve on a City Advisory Commission.

Advisory Commissioners help shape the future of IGH. The City is currently seeking applicants for:

- **Planning Commission**—reviews zoning code and land use issues, makes recommendations on development applications and develops long-range land use plans.
- **Environmental Advisory Commission**—reviews environmental items, including land alteration permits, wetland replacement applications, and landfill matters, and promotes public awareness of sustainability initiatives.
- **Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission**—guides the acquisition and development of new City parks, as well as reinvestment in existing parks, reviews recreational programs and activities, and develops long-range objectives for the City's park system.

Applicants must be IGH residents and available to regularly attend evening Commission meetings.

Interviews by the City Council are scheduled for the afternoon and evening of May 15, 2023. Learn more about the City's Advisory Commissions and how to apply at [www.ighmn.gov/commissionerapp](http://www.ighmn.gov/commissionerapp) or email: [cityclerk@ighmn.gov](mailto:cityclerk@ighmn.gov).