



# Insights

SUMMER 2023

## For Issues Big or Small, Don't Hesitate to Call 911

We are all taught from a young age to call 911 when in danger or when we witness a possible crime taking place. But what about the less obvious situations, like a next-door neighbor having a loud party, the continuously idling semi-truck across the street, or the constantly barking dogs two doors down? These are all potential violations of Inver Grove Heights City Code and potentially worthy of a call to 911.

"The Inver Grove Heights Police Department cares about quality-of-life issues in our community," says Police Chief Melissa Chiodo. "Our officers will certainly prioritize calls involving life safety or serious crimes first, but residents are also encouraged to call 911 for things that negatively impact their ability to enjoy their neighborhood."

City Hall staff often get calls from residents who say they didn't want to bother the police or figure the police have bigger things to worry about. But waiting for regular business hours to report a situation that happens in the evening or over the weekend often hampers the City's ability to identify specific perpetrators or collect the necessary proof of an incident.

Some situations, like long grass and weeds at the house on the corner or a tree branch down in a City park, should be

reported through the City's online request tracker, which can be found by clicking the "Report a Problem" button on the City's website homepage at [www.ighmn.gov](http://www.ighmn.gov). These situations are likely to remain unchanged in the time it takes for a City staff person to receive the report and respond. But for other situations, like the sound of a nail gun being used to install a new roof at 6 a.m. or if a vehicle is parked illegally, residents are encouraged to call 911 to report these incidents as they are happening. This is particularly true if something is an ongoing nuisance, rather than a one-time occurrence.

"Our police officers enjoy being able to help residents with a wide range of situations," notes Chief Chiodo. "We do our best to get to every call for service—large or small."

For more on IGH police officers and the job they do every day in service to the residents of IGH, keep reading for a profile of Officer Jakobson.

### IT'S OK TO CALL 911 FOR NON-EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, SUCH AS:

- Loud, late-night parties
- Early morning construction noise
- Stray animals
- Illegally parked cars
- Loudly idling trucks

**Not sure if you should call the police about something suspicious or disruptive in your neighborhood?**

**Don't hesitate to dial 911.**



**A small detail you provide could make a big difference.**



## MEET OFFICER JAKOBSON

What's it really like to be a police officer? Many people interact with police officers if they need help or break a law, but few know what the job of being an officer requires. IGH PD Officer Tristan Jakobson recently sat down with City communications staff to talk about his experience on the force, what motivates him to work in law enforcement, and advice he has for the community he serves.



*Read story on page 2.*



## Behind the Badge: Meet Officer Jakobson

IGH PD Officer Tristan Jakobson, who grew up in Danbury, Connecticut, has lived in the Twin Cities since moving to St. Paul to attend the University of St. Thomas, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and sociology and met his now wife—a Minnesota native—during sophomore year.

Jakobson joined IGH PD when he was just 24 years old, and this marks his third year on the force. He has always wanted to be an officer. “I knew young, 10 or 12 years old,” he added. “At least that’s what my dad recalls. And, obviously, I stuck with it.”

Jakobson has been drawn to different aspects of being an officer at different times in his life. “Undeniably, the excitement of the job appealed to me, and the uniqueness of every single day,” he shared. “You encounter many different people at different phases in their lives, who need different things from you. I like being able to go out and be productive and find work, versus being behind a desk—no offense,” he smiled, then added, “everyone plays their part and contributes in different ways.”

### The Day-to-Day

Many people who work desk jobs would find an officer’s schedule demanding. Jakobson is dressed and ready to start a 12-hour shift at 5:30 a.m., prepared to take any call that might come in. Sometimes there is a chance for a pre-shift meeting, but many times there is not. Asked whether there is time to grab a coffee in the morning, Jakobson added, “sometimes it’s quiet, but when you say it’s quiet, then it stops being quiet.”

Even with an early morning shift start, afternoons tend to be the busiest time for calls. Officers attribute this to a variety of factors. First, everyone is awake, and kids arrive home from school. Additionally, the afternoon is typically when people start drinking alcohol for the evening, and this can be a catalyst for 911 calls, whether medical or driving-related.

On a shift, each officer is assigned a zone within IGH to cover and will respond to an array of calls ranging from mental health crises and domestic disturbances to reports of financial fraud. Officers assist each other when a situation might carry a heightened risk, which is assessed based on the nature of a call that comes into dispatch. Officers look at call notes and what they might already know about an address and adjust how many officers should respond to a call. Domestic calls, for instance, are known to be volatile, and might require multiple officers on scene. “No day is predictable,” said Jakobson.



“There is nothing lost by calling 911...Call us and let us determine what’s an emergency.”

— OFFICER JAKOBSON

### The Importance of Mental Health, Preparedness, and Education

So, how do officers mentally prepare for the unpredictability and volatility inherent in their line of work? “I think that it is important to find ways to relax and decompress when you’re not working—reading, working out, yoga, hiking, spending time with loved ones, or praying if it’s faith for you. I’m a big fan of mountain biking, hiking and camping, and I’m an avid reader,” answered Jakobson. “Also, saying, ‘ok, I’m at work now and whatever comes about comes about.’ And putting yourself in different scenarios and thinking through them. You can’t go where your mind hasn’t gone, right? And asking yourself, ‘what would I do differently next time?’ Allowing yourself to be prepared but not spiraling into ‘what if, what if, what if.’”

Police officers often review their responses to calls with their colleagues, but success on the job can hinge upon an officer’s own mental game and instincts. When asked what contributes most to long-term success in law enforcement, Jakobson paused before answering. “That’s a good question,” he said. “And it’s something I’m still working on. I think it’s understanding the law and knowing what you can and cannot do in a quick moment. Having a good, fluid understanding of those limitations is important. I went to law enforcement training at Alexandria Tech. They walk through traffic stops and case law, how to handle a weapon properly and taser training. You go through active calls, so it gives you that hands-on training without actually going through it. Anyone who starts as a police officer in Minnesota goes through similar training. And you also get training in your department and through experience,” Jakobson said.

## Learning From Experience

And what is the most important thing that Jakobson has learned from his experience in the field? He paused again. "You have to go into each situation with an open mind. Listening to what people are saying, but looking at what is reality. And perception, whether it be spoken language, body language, or situational awareness. And also—I don't know if you learn this—but physical and mental fitness are huge pillars to lean on." Jakobson added that the mental and emotional toll that it takes to encounter people at their extremes—whether intentional or not—can be the most challenging part of being an officer. "To be able to take care of yourself physically and mentally is very important," he remarked. "Taking care of yourself allows you to be there for the people who need you, whether it's residents, your partner or yourself."

Some of Jakobson's favorite experiences in law enforcement involve the positive impacts he can have on people's lives. He's reminded of this on a daily basis. "A gentleman stopped me the other day when I was walking into a store," Jakobson recalled. "He had been involved in a crisis call and was going through some stuff several months ago and he said, 'thank you. I am doing so much better now. You really helped me out. You took the time to walk me through this and that meant a lot to me, and I'm working towards getting better.' I want to be able to help people take these steps. I find enjoyment in knowing that he is better off."

## Community Outreach and Guidance

Jakobson was interested in joining IGH PD in part because the department offers a variety of special assignments, including investigations, a special response group, and community engagement positions. He enjoys working in a city this size. "Inver Grove is a fun place to work. There's excitement, uniqueness, and you're able to engage with the community in an in-depth and personal way. You can create relationships with people you see every day."

Jakobson pays particular attention to residents he sees who might need help, offering them his business card with his email and work cellphone number. "If I can be part of someone building a network of people they can rely on, I will do that," said Jakobson. Officers, along with social workers who are embedded with the IGH PD, often assist residents in need with navigating mental health services and other available resources.

Jakobson added, "people, especially kids, often just want someone to listen and understand what they are going through. I can also connect them with a network of services or put them in touch with a student resource officer at their school."

## Resident Involvement is Key

Officer Jakobson also stressed the importance of community involvement in effective policing. Neighborhoods where residents watch out for each other and report suspicious activity by calling 911 can be safer. And unless someone in crisis reaches out by calling 911, police may not know when help is needed.

"There is nothing lost by calling 911. There is no true negative to that," urged Jakobson. "If it's not something that needs immediate attention, we will prioritize and deal with it when we can. But as far as gathering information goes, we don't know something until we know it. A small detail that raises the hair on the back of your neck could be very important to a case. It might not be anything criminal in nature. It might just be a lost kid we are looking for. But if you call two or three days later, and it turns out to be criminal in nature, it's hard to do something about it because that person is definitely gone by then." Jakobson added, "you aren't pulling us away from our jobs by calling 911. Call us and let us determine what's an emergency."

To support IGH PD, and to find out about volunteer and educational opportunities with the department, visit [www.ighmn.gov/police](http://www.ighmn.gov/police) or follow @IGHPDMN on Facebook.

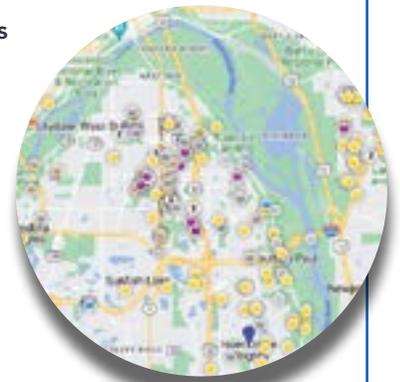
## GIS CORNER

### COMMUNITY CRIME MAP

Want to know about crime occurring in Inver Grove Heights? Community awareness is an important part of keeping the City safe. Up-to-date information is provided by Lexis Nexis's Crime Map found at [www.ighmn.gov/Maps](http://www.ighmn.gov/Maps). To date, IGH PD has submitted roughly 58,000 records, which are reflected on the map, to be as transparent as possible about crime in IGH.

#### CRIME MAP FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Filter by 35 crime types and date ranges
- Turn on IGH-specific layers
- Search for addresses
- Create a radius around a location
- View crime density
- Subscribe to alerts





## DID YOU KNOW?

# Speed Limits Are Set By State Statute

The statutory speed limits for different types of roadways are as follows:

- Rural Interstate Highways:** 70 mph
- Urban Interstate Highways:** 55 – 65 mph
- Expressways:** 55 mph
- Urban Streets:** 30 mph
- Alleys:** 10 mph
- Other Roads:** 55 mph

Source: Minnesota State Statute 169.14, Subd. 2

Urban areas are defined as residential neighborhoods, commercial areas, and industrial areas where the spacing between buildings is generally less than 100 feet. The City of Inver Grove Heights does not post statutory speed limits on City streets, as the vast majority of City streets are considered urban. In fact, the City has endeavored to remove rather than replace speed limit signs on local streets to provide consistency in the use of signs and speed enforcement initiatives.

Intermediate speed limits between 30 mph and 55 mph may be established by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) based on traffic engineering surveys. Several streets that are considered community collector streets have intermediate speed limits between 30 mph and 45 mph, which have been set following previous traffic surveys performed by MnDOT. These streets include major roadways such as Cahill Avenue, Upper 55th Street, Blaine Avenue, Inver Grove Trail, and 117th Street. Dakota County roads, such as 70th Street, 80th Street, Babcock Trail, Barnes Trail, and Concord Boulevard have speed limits set in the same way. Although many of these streets are in urban areas, the streets have been designed so that a majority of motorists feel comfortable driving at a greater speed, and it is deemed safe to do so.

Requests to reduce speeds are reviewed regularly by the City's Engineering Division to determine if a safety issue may exist, or if the speeding concerns are a matter of perception. If warranted, the IGH PD will consider deployment of radar speed signs to collect traffic speed data and determine if there may be a speeding or safety issue, and focus efforts on enforcement and education of local motorists. Traffic surveys and formal studies performed by MnDOT are often a last step in the analysis process and are generally limited to collector streets and areas where roadway design conditions have resulted in a higher rate of motor vehicle accidents.

For more information visit [www.ighmn.gov/traffic](http://www.ighmn.gov/traffic).



## Learn About Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination (IDDE)

When something other than storm water enters a storm drain, pond or waterway, it's called an *illicit discharge* that contributes to the pollution of the water supply. Illicit discharges are typically illegal, with certain exceptions for firefighting or for a facility that is permitted under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Examples of illicit discharge substances include toxic pollutants, pest control chemicals, lawn care chemicals and pet waste.

### Why are Illicit Discharges Bad for the Environment?

Illicit discharges are a problem because, unlike waste water that is processed at a wastewater treatment facility before it is sent back into the environment, storm water carries pollutants directly into the waterways (basins, ponds, wetlands and rivers). Illicit discharges can cause health risks in air or water, harmful algae blooms, increased bacteria from contamination, harm to aquatic life, and groundwater contamination.

### Examples of Illicit Discharges

- Residential car wash wastewater
- Carpet cleaning wastes
- Raw sewage/septic effluent
- Improper oil or household toxics disposal
- Paints, pesticides, herbicides
- Grass clippings or yard waste
- Pressure washing with chemicals
- Washing machine wastewater
- Sediment from construction site

### Report an Illicit Discharge

Call **651-450-2570** during regular business hours if you see something entering a storm drain, pond, wetland or river that looks like it shouldn't be there.

### Additional Resources

Please visit the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination section on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website to better understand and participate in the elimination of illegal discharges into our waterways. [www.epa.gov/npdes](http://www.epa.gov/npdes)

# July 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <b>IGH FOOD TRUCK DAYS</b> THURSDAY, JULY 20   4:30-7 P.M. Rich Valley Athletic Complex 						1
2 Saint Paul Farmers Market 8 a.m.-1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	3	4 <b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> IGH City Offices and VMCC Closed	5	6	7 Movie in the Park Dusk Oakwood Park	8
9 Saint Paul Farmers Market 8 a.m.-1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	10 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	11 Terrific Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. Oakwood Park	12 LMRWMO 3 p.m.   City of Mendota Heights Parks & Rec. Advisory Comm. PARK TOUR	13	14	15
16 Saint Paul Farmers Market 8 a.m.-1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	17 CC Work Session* 6 p.m.   City Hall <i>*moved due to Independence Day</i>	18 Terrific Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. Oakwood Park Planning Comm. 7 p.m.   City Hall	19	20 IGH Food Truck Days 4:30-7 p.m. Rich Valley	21	22
23 Saint Paul Farmers Market 8 a.m.-1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	24 CC 6 p.m.   City Hall CC Budget Workshop 6 p.m. City Hall	25 Terrific Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. Oakwood Park	26	27 Environmental Adv. Comm.* 7 p.m.   City Hall <i>*as needed, cancelled if no agenda items.</i>	28	29
30	31					

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

**INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN IGH?**  
 Find information on Planning hearings on the City website at [www.ighmn.gov/transparency](http://www.ighmn.gov/transparency) and sign up for Planning notifications via email at [www.ighmn.gov/list.aspx](mailto:www.ighmn.gov/list.aspx).

## KEY

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

Remove this handy calendar page and post where convenient!

## Food Scraps Drop-Off Site Coming to Inver Grove Heights

Say 'hello' to the newest organics collection location in Dakota County! The **Inver Glen Library drop-off site, located at 8098 Blaine Avenue E., opens August 1.** Residents can bring food scraps to the site for free—join our community challenge to have 100 new residents sign up by the end of August!

Roughly 30% of our trash is organic material. By separating it out, we can create compost—a valuable local landscaping product. Organics collection goes beyond backyard composting by also accepting meat, bones and dairy products. The collected food waste goes to a commercial compost facility near Rosemount where it's processed at higher temperatures to kill bacteria and break down larger pieces.

All participants receive helpful tips and free compostable bags to use at home. Sign up for the program online at [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *organics drop off*, call **952-891-7557** or email [organics@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:organics@co.dakota.mn.us).

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



# August 2023

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS



**TUESDAY, AUGUST 1**  
For more information, visit [www.ighmn.gov/NightToUnite](http://www.ighmn.gov/NightToUnite). To register your party with the City, scan the QR code below by July 26.



### KEY

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 <b>TERRIFIC TUESDAYS</b> TUESDAY, AUGUST 1 10:30 A.M. Oakwood Park	2 Planning Commission* 7 p.m.   City Hall <i>*moved due to conflicting event.</i>	3	4	5
6 Saint Paul Farmers Market 8 a.m.–1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	7	8	9 LMRWMO 3 p.m.   VMCC, Comm Rm. 1 Parks & Rec. Advisory Comm. 7 p.m.   City Hall	10	11	12
13 Saint Paul Farmers Market 8 a.m.–1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	14 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	15 Eagan-IGH WMO 5:30 p.m.   City of Eagan Planning Commission 7 p.m.   City Hall	16	17 IGH Food Truck Days 4:30-7 p.m. Rich Valley	18	19 Fix-It Clinic 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Inver Glen Library
20 Saint Paul Farmers Market 8 a.m.–1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	21 CC Budget Workshop 6 p.m. City Hall	22	23	24 Environmental Adv. Comm.* 7 p.m.   City Hall <i>*as needed, cancelled if no agenda items.</i>	25	26
27 Saint Paul Farmers Market 8 a.m.–1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	28 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	29	30	31		

## Night to Unite in IGH!

Tuesday, Aug. 1



**NIGHT to UNITE!**  
Neighbors Joining Together

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



SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA TO REGISTER YOUR PARTY WITH THE CITY BY JULY 26.

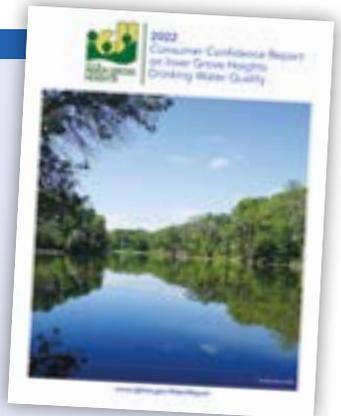
## 2022 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

The City of IGH Utilities Division has completed the 2022 Consumer Confidence Report on IGH Drinking Water Quality. View it at [www.ighmn.gov/WaterReport](http://www.ighmn.gov/WaterReport).

The purpose of this report is to provide you with information on your drinking water and how to protect our precious water resources.

### QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS REPORT?

Contact IGH Utilities Division at 651-450-4309 or email to [water@ighmn.gov](mailto:water@ighmn.gov).



# September 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <b>ANNUAL CLEAN-UP DAY</b> SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23   8 A.M.–12 P.M. IGH Public Works Facility (8168 Barbara Avenue) For details, visit <a href="http://www.ighmn.gov/collectionevents">www.ighmn.gov/collectionevents</a>					1	2
3 Saint Paul Farmers Market 8 a.m.–1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	4 <b>LABOR DAY</b> IGH City Offices and VMCC Closed	5 CC Work Session 6 p.m.   City Hall <i>*moved due to Labor Day.</i>	6 VMCC Open House & Food Fest See ad below Planning Comm. 7 p.m.   City Hall	7	8	9 Pickleball Tourn. 9 a.m. Disc Golf Tourn. 2 p.m. Bike the Bridges 3 p.m.
10 Farmers Market 8 a.m.–1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot Business Expo & Kids Court 11 a.m.–3 p.m.	11 <b>PATRIOT DAY</b> CC 6 p.m. City Hall	12	13 LMRWMO 3 p.m.   VMCC, Comm Rm. 1 Parks & Rec. Advisory Comm. 7 p.m.   City Hall	14	15	16
17 Saint Paul Farmers Market 8 a.m.–1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	18	19 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	20	21	22	23 <b>ANNUAL CLEAN-UP DAY</b> 8 a.m.–12 p.m. IGH Public Works Facility (see pg. 9)
24 Saint Paul Farmers Market 8 a.m.–1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	25 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	26	27	28 Environmental Adv. Comm.* 7 p.m.   City Hall <i>*as needed, cancelled if no agenda items.</i>	29	30

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS



### ADOPT-A-DRAIN

You can help reduce water pollution and Adopt-a-Drain in your neighborhood! You'll help clear drains of leaves, trash, and other debris and make a difference in the IGH community. It only takes 15 minutes, twice a month. Sign up at [adopt-a-drain.org](http://adopt-a-drain.org).

## 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!

SEPTEMBER 6-10, 2023

## Inver Grove Heights Days

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

**Wed, Sept. 6**

IGH Days Food Fest  
4:30-7 p.m.  
VMCC Parking Lot



**Sat, Sept. 9**

Pickleball Tournament  
9 a.m.  
North Valley Park



**Sun, Sept. 10**

Farmers Market  
8 a.m.–1 p.m.  
VMCC



Business Expo & Kids Court  
11 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Cahill Ave.

Disc Golf Tournament  
2 p.m.  
North Valley Disc Golf Course



Bike the Bridges  
3 p.m.  
Swing Bridge Park





### VMCC COMMUNITY NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 · 5-8 P.M.

## CONGRATULATIONS NEW COMMISSIONERS!



We at the City are grateful for your willingness to take an active role in your community's health, safety, and welfare.

And thank you to the returning commissioners that were re-appointed. Your continued dedication to the IGH community is appreciated.

**LEARN ABOUT EACH ADVISORY COMMISSION, INCLUDING MEETING DAYS & TIMES:**  
[www.ighmn.gov/citycommissions](http://www.ighmn.gov/citycommissions)

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
 George Fell  
 Marjorie Savage

**PARKS & RECREATION**  
 Abby Heidenreich  
 Tracy Mulcahy

**PLANNING**  
 Aida Schaefer  
 Jason Teiken  
 Lance Twedt

JOIN NOW &  
START MOVING!

# VMCC FALL MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL:



Pay \$23 enrollment fee Sept. 11–Oct. 12!  
[www.ighmn.gov/communitycenter](http://www.ighmn.gov/communitycenter)

## INVER GROVE HEIGHTS PARKS & RECREATION

### WE'RE HIRING!

Work with kids, make extra money, enjoy a flexible schedule, get a free membership to the VMCC, gain valuable work experience, AND work in a fun environment!

**APPLY TODAY!** [ighmn.gov/jobs](http://ighmn.gov/jobs)



### IGH FOOD TRUCK DAYS

Thursdays · July 20 & Aug. 17 · 4:30–7 p.m.  
RICH VALLEY ATHLETIC COMPLEX

& Wed., Sept. 6 · 4:30–7 p.m. · VMCC Parking Lot



VOLUNTEER  
COACHES NEEDED!

### YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE

AGES 5-9

STARTS  
AUG. 15 & 17



### ADULT VOLLEYBALL

Fall leagues start in September!

## INVER GROVE HEIGHTS DAYS SEPTEMBER 6-10



IGH DAYS  
FOOD FEST



PICKLEBALL  
TOURNAMENT



BIKE THE  
BRIDGES



FARMERS  
MARKET

BUSINESS  
EXPO & KIDS  
COURT



DISC GOLF  
TOURNAMENT



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



### VMCC COMMUNITY NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 · 5–8 P.M.

Twins FREE Baseball Clinic!  
AUGUST 9 · 4-6 P.M.

Boys and girls ages 6–12  
Rich Valley Athletic Complex  
Register at [playballmn.com](http://playballmn.com)



### PERSONAL FITNESS TRAINING SPECIAL

SEPTEMBER 20-30

Five percent off personal  
training packages of five  
or more sessions!

### OCTOBER SPECIALEVENTS!

- Oct. 2–6: Active Aging Week
- Oct. 7: Halloween Dog Party
- Oct. 27: Ghostly Gathering
- Oct. 28: Scary Skate



### IGH SENIOR CENTER

AT THE VMCC · OPEN TO AGES 55+

A place for camaraderie,  
socializing and entertainment!

- Senior Club Luncheons
- Daily Card Games · Day Trips
- Painting Classes · Fitness Classes
- Presentations and more!



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



## Annual Clean-Up Day & Year-Round Disposal Options

Need to dispose of an item? Take advantage of local disposal opportunities!



**DONATE, REPAIR OR SELL.** Give your stuff a longer life by donating, repairing or selling your item. Visit [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us) and search *Reduce & Reuse Map* to quickly find local repair and donation options near you. You can also use online platforms such as Facebook Marketplace, Craigslist, and Nextdoor to give away or sell items to your neighbors.



**ONLINE RECYCLING GUIDE.** Use the online Recycling Guide to find where to recycle and dispose of hundreds of items at year-round drop-offs and seasonal events. Search by item on the Recycling Guide at [www.ighmn.gov/recycle](http://www.ighmn.gov/recycle).



**THE RECYCLING ZONE.** Only a short drive from IGH, The Recycling Zone (3365 Dodd Road, Eagan) is a special collection facility open year-round that offers subsidized recycling opportunities. Bring chemicals, electronics, scrap metal, cardboard and more. All items are accepted for free except tires, TVs and computer monitors, which have a small fee. Visit [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us) and search *The Recycling Zone* for a full list of accepted items, prices and open hours.



**ANNUAL CLEAN-UP DAY.** Saturday, September 23, 8 a.m.–12 p.m. at the IGH Public Works Facility (8168 Barbara Avenue). Annual Clean-Up Day is a one-stop-shop disposal event for IGH residents. Cash and check payment only; please bring small bills. Proof of residency, such as a driver's license, is required.

**Accepted Items:** Residents must pay to dispose of mattresses, box springs, appliances, electronics, furniture, and rimmed tires. Select items are free to recycle at Clean-Up Day such as bikes, light duty rimless tires, and confidential paper for secure on-site shredding. Visit [www.ighmn.gov/collectionevents](http://www.ighmn.gov/collectionevents) to find the list of accepted items and prices, and to learn how our vendors will process your items.

**NOT Accepted:** Household hazardous waste including paint and chemicals and construction and demolition debris like concrete, insulation, asphalt, lumber, shingles. Search the Recycling Guide for disposal options at [www.ighmn.gov/recycle](http://www.ighmn.gov/recycle).

Visit [www.ighmn.gov/collectionevents](http://www.ighmn.gov/collectionevents) for a full list of accepted items and prices.

**ADDITIONAL DISPOSAL QUESTIONS?** Contact Ally Sutherland at [asutherland@ighmn.gov](mailto:asutherland@ighmn.gov) or 651-604-8511.

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

## FREE REPAIR HELP FOR RESIDENTS

Dakota County residents can get help repairing household items, clothes, electronics and more at a **FIX-IT CLINIC**. These monthly events help reduce unnecessary trash sent to landfills and empower individuals by teaching troubleshooting and repair skills.

**Stop by an upcoming Fix-It Clinic on AUGUST 19, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Inver Glen Library, 8098 Blaine Avenue E. The event is FREE, and residents do not need to register to participate.**

Repair-savvy volunteers will guide you through each step, from troubleshooting to a completed repair. Bring up to three items that need fixing or mending such as lamps, vacuum cleaners and clothes. You must be able to carry items into the clinic, so no oversized items. Bring any tools and supplies you think might help with the job; however, volunteers have plenty of tools.

For future dates and more information, visit [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us) and search *Fix-It Clinics*.

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





## Streamlining Utility Funds

IGH, along with most other Minnesota cities, maintains numerous financial funds, each serving a specific purpose. For example, the City has a General Fund, which pays for many City services such as police and fire, and general administrative support. The City also maintains special revenue funds, capital project funds, and debt funds. One specific type of fund that many in the public may not be familiar with is the Enterprise Fund. An Enterprise Fund is used specifically for City functions or services that operate somewhat like a business would operate, with revenue in from “customers” and expenses out for the cost of providing a service.

The City of IGH has four Enterprise Funds: one for each of its utility systems (water, sanitary sewer and stormwater) and one for Inver Wood Golf Course. By nature, these funds are self-supporting funds that sell goods and services to the public for a fee and allow for the clear tracking and separation of payments received from customers. To illustrate, the money collected from greens fees and golf cart rentals is used specifically for the costs of the golf course. It does not end up used for a firefighter’s salary or the electric bill at City Hall. Similarly, when residents connected to the City’s water or sanitary sewer system pay their quarterly utility bill, that money is deposited into the appropriate Enterprise Fund for that utility and is used only for costs associated with the operation of the City’s utility system.

The City Council recently accepted the results of a study of the City’s utility systems, which recommended changes to the number and use of utility funds. Previously, all money received from utility bill payments was deposited into one account used for both annual operating costs and to help support long-term reconstruction and rehabilitation projects. To compare this to your personal budget, this is like putting some of your retirement savings into your checking account, mixed with the money you intend to spend on gas, groceries and rent. In the past, this made it challenging to monitor and plan for future utility projects. Moving forward, the City has streamlined its utility funds and has developed improved policies that will keep these operating and capital dollars separate, allowing for better tracking of which funds are available for annual operating costs and which are being set aside for larger repair costs down the road.

The City Council will be reviewing funds further as 2024 budget planning starts. Watch meetings on Town Square Television, Channel 14/799 HD, or stream at [www.townsquare.tv](http://www.townsquare.tv), this summer and fall for more information on how the City collects, manages, spends and saves its money—and your tax dollars.

## Stay Informed for a Fun and Safe Summer

### CURRENT ROAD CONSTRUCTION

The season of orange is in full swing. View all projects happening in IGH, including pavement management projects, at [www.ighmn.gov/currentconstruction](http://www.ighmn.gov/currentconstruction).

### SUMMER PARKING REGULATIONS

Even during the hottest months of the year, the City has rules about parking. Here are a few:

- Within all single-family residential districts, parking on the grass or an unpaved area in the front yard is prohibited.
- Trailers, watercraft, and recreational trailers cannot be parked on City streets unless they are hitched to a motor vehicle.
- Vehicles, trailers, watercraft, recreational vehicles, and motor homes cannot be parked on City streets for more than 20 continuous hours.

View all parking regulations at [www.ighmn.gov/parking](http://www.ighmn.gov/parking). If you have questions or concerns, please contact the IGH PD at **651-450-2525**.

### *Consider a Rain Garden*

Add a rain garden, designed to collect and infiltrate the runoff water from roofs, driveways, and sidewalks before the water flows into the storm drain. Plants with deep roots soak up, filter and cleanse the water.

LEARN HOW AT: [eaganinvergroveheightswmo.org](http://eaganinvergroveheightswmo.org) and [lmrwmo.org](http://lmrwmo.org).

### EMPLOYEE SALARIES

Minnesota Statute 471.701 requires cities with a population greater than 15,000 to notify residents annually of the positions and base salaries of its three highest-paid employees. Here is that list for IGH:

- City Administrator, \$192,573
- Police Chief, \$164,944
- Fire Chief, \$164,944
- Community Development Director, \$164,944



## BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

### Paws Abilities Dog Training

6475 Cahill Avenue  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076  
507-624-0190  
<https://pawsabilitiesmn.com>



Paws Abilities Dog Training was founded in 1999 and recently opened a location in Inver Grove Heights. It was the first training company to bring clicker and other reward-based training techniques to the southeast Minnesota area. Paws Abilities offers a wide variety of training classes, private lessons, and day training options and specializes in puppy socialization/manners and addressing complicated behavioral issues.

"Inver Grove Heights has a reputation in the Twin Cities dog community for being one of our up-and-coming dog-friendly places to live and visit," says Sara Reusche (CBCC-KA, CPDT-KSA, CVT) of Paws Abilities. "Between the new dog parks, the phenomenal veterinary specialty clinics, and a plethora of pet-friendly businesses, we knew that the City was the perfect location for us."

Sara, who loves training for the "lightbulb moments" when people and their dogs connect and begin communicating together, adds, "our trainers keep up-to-date on the latest research and are members of professional organizations such as the Association for Professional Dog Trainers. Paws Abilities helps people enjoy their dogs!"



### Don Papi Chulo

7834 Cahill Avenue  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076  
651-815-7771  
<https://donpapichulo.com>



Don Papi Chulo, a popular local food truck run by IGH residents Ramona and Jose Nopala, is opening at a new restaurant location in Inver Grove Heights. Co-founder Ramona Nopala is excited to open here among friends and family, who she says help one another and look out for each other. "We have been welcomed and respected since we moved to IGH in 2001," says Ramona. "We have made IGH our home, raising our two sons, who graduated from Simley High. We have met many people in the community that we have known and love as if they were family. I love that we are a small community."



Don Papi Chulo is a name that started while the Nopalas' kids were playing around. The restaurant offers authentic Mexican food with Mexican-inspired snacks (botanas). Says Ramona, "I am passionate about cooking. I learned to cook from my own mom and want to keep that tradition alive. I celebrate our traditions and values by making home-made food that others will enjoy and love."

The City of Inver Grove Heights is currently partnering with Krueger Real Estate Advisors to attract more retail, restaurants and services to IGH.

Special thanks to residents who came out to Jersey's Bar and Grill on May 17 to talk with retail recruiter Lee Krueger and City staff. We received a lot of valuable feedback about what new retail establishments residents would like to see in IGH. If you missed this opportunity to give us your feedback, please follow the City on Facebook ([@cityofinvergroveheights](https://www.facebook.com/cityofinvergroveheights)) to find out about future events, or you can email your ideas to Lee: [Lee@KruegerRea.com](mailto:Lee@KruegerRea.com).



Retail recruitment event at Jersey's.

# 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
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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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Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

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## INVER GROVE HEIGHTS & SOUTH METRO FIRE DEPARTMENT CITIZEN ACADEMY

### Experience Real Fire Department Training!

- Get a behind-the-scenes look at firefighting, using real fire equipment
- Learn vehicle extrication—cut up a car to rescue someone inside
- Learn basic First Aid and hands-only CPR
- Wear your own fire gear in a live fire training
- Learn valuable life safety skills you can use at home

**Join us for an exciting, one-of-a-kind opportunity!**

SESSIONS ARE THREE HOURS PER WEEK FOR EIGHT WEEKS

**Wednesdays, Sept. 13–Nov. 1 · 6:30–9:30 p.m.**

APPLY BY SEPT. 12 at 5 p.m. by contacting: Dan Bernardy,  
Fire Operations Supervisor: 651-450-4303 · [dbernardy@ighmn.gov](mailto:dbernardy@ighmn.gov)

**“Everyone in town should experience this!  
You couldn’t buy an experience like that anywhere!”**

– CITIZEN ACADEMY PARTICIPANT

All ages 18+ and abilities are welcome.  
Anyone can participate to their comfort level.  
**MUST LIVE OR WORK IN IGH, SSP OR WSP**

