



# Insights

FALL 2023

## For a Successful Project, Permit First.

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

To keep homes, businesses, and other buildings safe, the City, just like other municipalities, requires building permits for the construction and remodeling of most residential and commercial structures. This rule applies to both property owners and contractors, and projects big or small often require a building permit before construction starts.

To save time and additional costs down the road, make a building permit No. 1 on your project to-do list. Which projects require property owners to obtain a permit from the City? Here is a list of common residential projects that require one. A complete list can be found at [ighmn.gov/permit](http://ighmn.gov/permit), along with which projects require a site plan as well as a permit:

- Basement finish
- Bathroom remodel
- Deck
- Driveway installation
- Fence
- Garage over 200 square feet
- New single-family home
- Pool
- Porch (screened)
- Retaining wall
- Roof (new and repairs)
- Window (new, replacement, egress)

Below is a guide to make the building permit process easier.

### Q: What information does the City need to issue a building permit?

A: For all projects, property owners and/or contractors will need to provide the address and legal description of the property where the work will take place, and a description



### Unsure about what your project requires?

Checking with the City's Permits and Inspections Division is easy:



Stop by the Permits and Inspections counter at City Hall, Mon.- Fri., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Contact City Hall with questions at 651-450-2550



Send an email with your question to [permits@ighmn.gov](mailto:permits@ighmn.gov)

of the work that is planned. For some projects, a site plan is also required. A list of requirements, including site plan requirements by project type, can be found on the City's website at [ighmn.gov/permit](http://ighmn.gov/permit).

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**PERMIT FIRST**, continued from page 1

**Q: Does a building permit have to be applied for in-person at City Hall?**

**A:** No! Staff at the City are happy to assist residents and contractors who visit the Permits and Inspections counter at City Hall. However, all permit applications can be submitted online. IGH Assistant to the Chief Building Official Mary Lein explains, “residents and contractors can apply for building permits from the comfort of their own home or place of business using the City’s online permits portal, CityView.”

**Q: Where can I access the City’s online permits portal, CityView?**

**A:** A clickable link to the City’s online permits portal can be found at [ighmn.gov/permit](http://ighmn.gov/permit).

**Q: Are building permits free of charge?**

**A:** No. Permit fees are either based on project valuation or a flat fee, depending on the work being performed. Fees for specific projects can be found at [ighmn.gov/permit](http://ighmn.gov/permit).

**Q: Is permitting a lengthy process?**

**A:** Not usually, no. Simple permits that don’t require a site plan can be processed in an average of three business days. Residential developments that require a site plan may take 10 business days for review.

**Q: How does obtaining a permit first potentially save time and money?**

**A:** “In my experience,” says IGH Chief Building Official Steve Johnson, “failure to obtain appropriate building permits and inspections can increase project costs, such as double permit fees and investigative inspection fees to determine code compliance after the fact.”

“To illustrate,” adds Johnson, “it becomes extremely costly when a finished, non-permitted project requires removal of drywall to verify that structural building elements are installed correctly.”



“...it becomes extremely costly when a finished, non-permitted project requires removal of drywall to verify that structural building elements are installed correctly.”

— STEVE JOHNSON, IGH CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL

The safety and potential money-saving benefits of completing the permitting process outweigh the time it takes to apply. Before building projects begin, *permit first*. Visit [ighmn.gov/permit](http://ighmn.gov/permit), stop by City Hall, or call **651-450-2550**.

## Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation and Radium Update

The City has continued to make progress on both interim and long-term improvements for the City’s water treatment plant to address elevated radium levels found in the City’s drinking water in late 2022. Adjustments made to groundwater pumping and chemical treatment in early 2023 have resulted in radium levels being reduced to an average Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 5.4 picoCuries per liter (pCi/L) allowed by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in the two MDH-required quarterly samples taken in 2023.

In April 2023, the City contracted with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. to complete a preliminary design report and cost estimate for long-term upgrades to the water treatment plant. The report, completed in August 2023, identified several treatment-related improvements, including replacement of existing filter media, upgraded chemical treatment equipment, and valve and pump rehabilitation and replacement. The proposed cost of the first phase of improvements was estimated at \$5.2 million, with an additional \$1.8 million in future building and mechanical system improvement recommendations. The preliminary design report for the treatment plant also detailed that the time to order material for several key material components might exceed six months, and recommended that construction begin in the fall of 2024, as opposed to the spring of 2024, which was originally the desired start time.

### MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE

A City webpage devoted to this topic is updated regularly as new information becomes available: [ighmn.gov/WaterNotice](http://ighmn.gov/WaterNotice).

The most recent public notice regarding radium is available at the following link: [ighmn.gov/WaterPublicNotice](http://ighmn.gov/WaterPublicNotice).

Questions, or to request a paper copy of public notices? Email [water@ighmn.gov](mailto:water@ighmn.gov) or call **651-450-4309**.



## Sidewalk Snow Removal Proposed Ordinance Changes

The City is considering changes to an ordinance related to the removal of snow from sidewalks. Under existing City ordinance, the City has historically maintained approximately 50 miles of sidewalks and trails during the winter by performing snow removal along major roadways and around schools and bus stops. At the same time, the removal of ice, rubbish, and debris, particularly along residential streets, has remained the responsibility of the property owner. The proposed ordinance changes, in conjunction with an update to the City's Winter Maintenance Policy, would clarify what sidewalks and trails the City will maintain and what sidewalks will be the responsibility of private property owners. The City still intends to plow sidewalks and trails along primary roadways and around schools and bus stops, but there are several areas in single-family and townhome residential neighborhoods where the responsibility for sidewalk and trail snow removal would fall on the adjacent property owner.

Property owners likely to be impacted by this change have been sent notices. The City Council plans to finalize changes to the ordinance at its **October 9, 2023**, City Council meeting. Information regarding the ordinance and policy changes is available at [ighmn.gov/WinterMaintenance](http://ighmn.gov/WinterMaintenance).

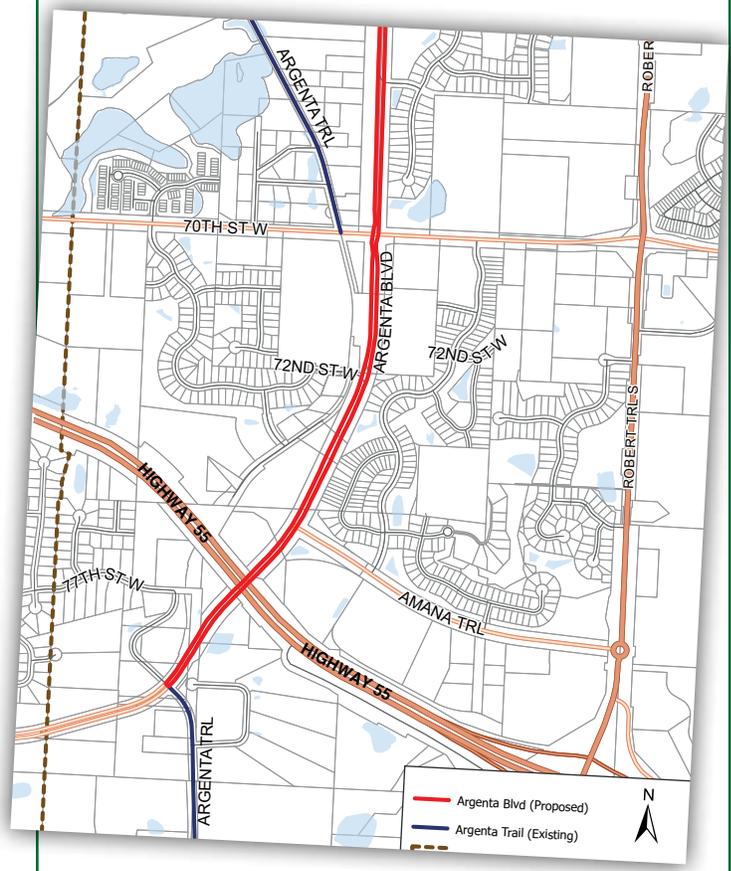
For more information and a link to a map illustrating the proposed ordinance changes, contact the City's Public Works department at **651-450-2570**, or email [snowremoval@ighmn.gov](mailto:snowremoval@ighmn.gov). You can also scan the QR Code to the right with your smartphone or device to connect directly to the website.



## ARGENTA TRAIL & BOULEVARD!

As Dakota County works to complete the reconstruction of the Argenta Trail realignment (65th Street to Amana Trail) and 70th Street (from TH 55 in Eagan to TH 3/South Robert Trail in Inver Grove Heights), the City Council will consider approving a renaming of the new Argenta Trail/ Dakota County Road 63 to **Argenta Boulevard**. As a large portion of the former Argenta Trail has been transferred to the City for future maintenance and upkeep, the name of the roadway needs to change to avoid confusion on residential address assignments, as well as for easier navigation by emergency responders, postal and parcel delivery services, and the public.

The City Council will consider this change at the **October 23, 2023, City Council meeting**. If approved, the new name will go into effect starting on **May 1, 2024**. The new Argenta Boulevard moniker will apply for the entire length of the new roadway from 65th Street at the north end to the intersection of Argenta Trail and Yankee Doodle Road, south of TH 55. The existing name, Argenta Trail, south of Yankee Doodle Road and north of 70th Street, will remain unchanged. See the map below for details.





# Inver Grove Heights Winter Parking Restrictions



The Inver Grove Heights Police Department would like to remind residents to do their part in promoting safety on local streets by closely following a longstanding City ordinance **prohibiting parking on any street between the hours of 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. from Nov. 1 through Apr. 1.**

The IGH PD will be taking the following steps:

**Beginning Oct. 15, 2023, through Nov. 1, 2023:**

Warning Notices will be issued to any vehicle found parked on the street between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m.

**Beginning Nov. 1, 2023, through Apr. 1, 2024:**

Citations will be issued to any vehicle found in violation. If a vehicle found in violation has not moved and has received numerous citations for this violation, it may be towed and impounded.

### Frequently asked winter parking questions:

**Q: What if I have visitors from out of town and have no available parking on my property?**

**A:** If you have visitors who need to temporarily park on the street, the Police Department can provide a waiver for up to 14 days. To make a waiver request, property owners should call the Police Department at **651-450-2525**. The waiver allows for overnight street parking only. All other parking requirements remain in effect. Those with waivers are also expected to move vehicles to alternate locations if a significant snow event occurs.

**Q: I see cars parked overnight on my street. Why haven't they been cited or towed?**

**A:** Officers focus on overnight parking enforcement based on availability. Since the department's priority is the response to calls for police service, winter parking regulation enforcement is completed only when officers have available time. Residents can call the department at **651-450-2525** to report a persistent or chronic violation, which will be given priority status when officers are not engaged in a call for service response.

**Q: What is the requirement in the event of a snowfall?**

**A:** The ordinance is intended to standardize parking regulations by prohibiting overnight parking from Nov. 1 to Apr. 1. During snow events of two inches or more, vehicles should be parked off-street at all times to allow City plowing crews to clear snow from curb to curb effectively.

**Q: Is Inver Grove Heights the only City with this type of date-specific winter parking restriction?**

**A:** Cities have a variety of different ordinances governing winter parking. Some cities have a year-round overnight parking restriction. Inver Grove Heights winter parking requirements are date- and time-specific to minimize questions and confusion about parking during snow events.

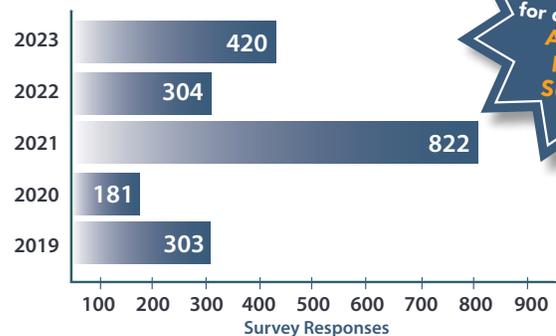
Questions can be directed to the Police Department from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at **651-450-2525**.

## GIS CORNER

### POLICE SAFETY SURVEY 2024

IGH GIS has been working with the IGH PD since 2019 to create and analyze the Annual Police Safety Survey. Using a GIS tool called Survey123 has made the survey more informative, user-friendly, and logical. Much thought has been put into trying to get valuable information from the survey results to make Inver Grove Heights an even safer and more livable city. We hope to get our highest response rate ever in 2024!

#### RESULTS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS



The 2024 Police Safety Survey will be open December 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024.

Here is a link to the survey: <https://arcg.is/WSuO41>.

Scan the QR code with a smartphone or device to go right to the survey, beginning December 1.



# October 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Saint Paul Farmers' Market 8 a.m.–1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	2 Econ. Dev. Authority (EDA) 5 p.m.   City Hall CC Work Session 6 p.m.   City Hall	3 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	4	5	6	7 Let's Pawty Halloween Dog Event 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Heritage Village Park
8 Saint Paul Farmers' Market 8 a.m.–1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	9 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	10	11 LMRWMO 3 p.m. City of Saint Paul	12	13	14 Outdoor Winter Clothing Swap 10 a.m.–12 p.m. VMCC, Comm. Rm. 2
15 Fire Department Open House Noon–3 p.m. Fire Station No. 2 Saint Paul Farmers' Market	16 Eagan-IGH WMO Application deadline. See below.	17 Eagan-IGH WMO 5:30 p.m.   IGH City Hall Planning Commission 7 p.m.   City Hall	18 Parks & Rec. Advisory Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	19	20	21
22 Saint Paul Farmers' Market 8 a.m.–1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	23 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	24	25	26 Environmental Adv. Comm.* 7 p.m.   City Hall <i>*as needed, cancelled if no agenda items</i>	27 Ghostly Gathering 5:30–7:30 p.m. VMCC Ages 4-12	28 Scary Skate 6:30–8 p.m. VMCC, West Rink
29 Saint Paul Farmers' Market 8 a.m.–1 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	30	31 HALLOWEEN	 <b>FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 8–14</b> <b>FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE</b> Sunday, Oct. 15   Noon–3 p.m.   Fire Station No. 2 			

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS



## KEY

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

The City is accepting applications from IGH residents to serve on the Board of Managers for the Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization (E-IGHWMO). To learn more, email Judy Wonick at [jwonick@ighmn.gov](mailto:jwonick@ighmn.gov). **APPLY BY OCTOBER 16.**

# Outdoor Winter Clothing Swap!

Saturday, October 14 | 10 a.m. — 12 p.m.  
VMCC, Community Room 2 (Door E)

**Ready for a change?** Clear out the winter wardrobe and refresh it for no cost at the Outdoor Winter Clothing Swap! Bring in gently used outdoor winter clothing, and swap it for something new-to-you. The event is open to all ages and all items are free to swap.

### ACCEPTED ITEMS

New or gently used adult's or children's outdoor winter clothing including coats, boots, snow pants, hats, mittens and scarves.

**Items must be clean and in good condition.**

### CAN'T ATTEND?

Limited space is available for pre-event drop-off of outdoor winter clothing. Please contact Ally Sutherland at [asutherland@ighmn.gov](mailto:asutherland@ighmn.gov) or **651-604-8511** to determine drop-off availability.



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

Remove this handy calendar page and post where convenient!

# November 2023

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS



### KEY

City Council (CC)

City Advisory Commissions

Parks & Recreation Events

Watershed Management Organization (WMO)

Other Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	 <b>COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE</b> NOVEMBER 1-30 VMCC, Door A To benefit Neighbors, Inc.		1	2	3	4 Compost Your Pumpkin 8 a.m.–6 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot
5 Compost Your Pumpkin 8 a.m.–6 p.m. VMCC Parking Lot	6 CC Work Session 6 p.m. City Hall	7 <b>ELECTION DAY</b> Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	8 LMRWMO 3 p.m.   City of Saint Paul Parks & Rec. Advisory Comm. 7 p.m.   City Hall	9	10 <b>VETERANS DAY OBSERVED</b> IGH City Offices Closed VMCC Open	11 <b>VETERANS DAY</b> VMCC Open State Veterans Ceremony VMCC   8 a.m.
12	13 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	14	15	16 Environmental Adv. Comm.* 7 p.m.   City Hall *as needed, cancelled if no agenda items	17	18
19	20	21 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall	22	23 <b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b> IGH City Offices Closed VMCC Closed	24 IGH City Offices Closed VMCC Open	25
26 Turkey Tri Event 8-11 a.m. VMCC	27 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	28	29	30	 <b>NEW!</b> <b>TURKEY PLOP! OPEN SWIM</b> 9 a.m.-Noon VMCC, Aquatic Center	

## Holidays in the Heights

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



### 1 Tree Lighting Ceremony

Friday, December 1 • 6–7 p.m.  
NE end of VMCC

Come kick off the holiday season with our official tree lighting ceremony!

## Holiday Cookies and Canvas

Saturday, December 2

Fun holiday art project with the family!

Ages 6 and up with an adult

9 a.m. (FA-F1007)  
10:45 a.m. (FA-F1008)  
12:30 p.m. (FA-F1009)  
2:15 p.m. (FA-F1010)

\$15 · VMCC,  
Community Room 1

Register by Nov. 28 at  
[ighmn.gov/register](http://ighmn.gov/register)



## Skate with Santa

Friday, December 1  
7–8:30 p.m.



Carve some ice with the man in red!

Come dressed in red or green and get a holiday prize! Hot beverages and snacks provided.

FA-W350 · VMCC, West Rink · FREE for members  
\$6 non-member, \$8 at door (if space is available)  
Skate rental available.

Register by Nov. 25 at [ighmn.gov/register](http://ighmn.gov/register)

# December 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>LIGHT UP THE HEIGHTS HOLIDAY LIGHT CONTEST</b> REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, DEC. 3 For details, visit <a href="http://ighmn.gov/holidaysintheheights">ighmn.gov/holidaysintheheights</a>					1 <b>Tree Lighting</b> 6-7 p.m.   VMCC  <b>Skate with Santa</b> 7-8:30 p.m. VMCC, West Rink	2 <b>Holiday Cookies &amp; Canvas</b> 9 a.m.–3:15 p.m. VMCC
3 <b>Light Up The Heights</b> <i>Registration Deadline</i>	4 <b>EDA</b> 5 p.m.   City Hall  <b>Budget Hearing</b> 6 p.m. followed by CC Work Session	5 <b>Eagan-IGH WMO</b> 5:30 p.m.   City of Eagan  <b>Plann. Comm.</b> 7 p.m.   City Hall	6	7	8	9 <b>Breakfast with Santa</b> 10 a.m.–12 p.m. VMCC
10	11 <b>CC</b> 6 p.m. City Hall	12	13 <b>LMRWMO</b> 3 p.m.   City of West St. Paul <b>Parks &amp; Rec. Advisory Comm.</b> <b>CANCELLED</b>	14	15 <b>Frosty's Open Swim</b> 5-8 p.m. VMCC, Aquatic Center	16
17	18	19 <b>Planning Commission</b> 7 p.m. City Hall	20	21 <b>Environmental Adv. Comm.*</b> 7 p.m.   City Hall <i>*as needed, cancelled if no agenda items</i>	22 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE OBSERVED</b> <b>IGH City Offices Close at Noon</b>	23
24 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> <b>VMCC Open</b> 7 a.m.–Noon  <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE   VMCC Open</b> 7 a.m.–1 p.m.	25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> <b>IGH City Offices Closed</b> <b>VMCC Closed</b>	26	27	28	29	30

Remove this handy calendar page and post where convenient!

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS



**Noon Year's Eve 2024 AT THE VMCC**

10  
9  
8  
6  
5  
4  
3  
2

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

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

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

## KEY

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



## 4 Breakfast with Santa

**Saturday, December 9**  
10 a.m.–Noon ALL AGES

Santa is bringing the North Pole to the VMCC! Visit with Santa and enjoy a light breakfast catered by Hy-Vee.

Ages 1 to 5: \$6 in advance, \$8 at the door  
 Ages 6 and up: \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door  
 VMCC, National Guard Gymnasium · Code: FA-W331

Register by Dec. 2 at [ighmn.gov/register](http://ighmn.gov/register)



## 5 Frosty's Open Swim

**Friday, December 15 · 5–8 p.m.**

Come enjoy open swim at the VMCC water park and send frosty off to melt in the pool!

FREE for members · Non-members: Ages 11 and younger \$8, Ages 12 and up \$10 · Code: FROSTY23

Register by Dec. 13 at [ighmn.gov/register](http://ighmn.gov/register)



**Light Up the Heights**  
Holiday Light Contest

Register your home between Oct. 1 and Dec. 3 to win prizes and be included on the 2023 tour map! Check out additional details online. Code: FA-F202

*Holidays in the Heights*

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



# COME PLAY AT THE VMCC!

ICE SKATING ·  
INDOOR WATER PARK ·  
FITNESS CENTER & CLASSES  
WALKING TRACK AND MORE!

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC · AFFORDABLE MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE!

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



DAILY  
ADMISSION  
RATES

Single: \$9

Youth, Veterans,  
and Seniors: \$6

MEA non-school day program  
Thursday, October 19



## The Works Museum & Grand Slam FIELD TRIP

We will spend the morning playing games at Harmon Park in West St. Paul, then head to the Works Museum for some engineering fun with hands-on activities, and finish the day at Grand Slam!

Ages 6-12 · 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. · Code: YP-F200 · \$58



## LIFEGUARD TRAINING

OCTOBER 18-20

Code: LG-OCT23  
\$195 member, \$220 non-member

## BASIC FIRST AID AND CPR CLASS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

8-10 a.m. · Code: CPRFA-NOV23  
\$95 member, \$125 non-member

## TURKEY TRI Tri it for fun!

Sunday  
November 26  
8-11 a.m.

For all ages and abilities!

\$25 member; \$35 non-member

Code: FP-F151

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!

## INVER GROVE HEIGHTS PARKS & RECREATION

# WE'RE HIRING!

Make new friends and earn extra money!

Enjoy a flexible schedule and a  
free membership to the VMCC!

Gain valuable experience  
AND work in a fun environment!

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

Learn about creatures that are active at night.

## EcoElsa Family

# Night HIKE

Friday, November 17  
6:30-8 p.m.

Code: YP-F204 · Single: \$18, Family (up to 6): \$48



## Turkey Plop!

Relax with family and  
friends the day after  
Thanksgiving at  
VMCC open swim!

Friday, Nov. 24  
9 a.m.-noon

All ages welcome!

VMCC MEMBERS FREE

NON-MEMBERS:

Ages 11 and under: \$8

Ages 12 and up: \$10

Code: TURKEY23

## YOUTH BASKETBALL

Variety of options starting November and January



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



## Fall Food Drive — Help Local Families November 1-30 | VMCC, Door A

The IGH Wellness Committee is kicking off another Community Food Drive to help families in need this November. Last year, we collected over 3,300 pounds of food!

Continue to help Neighbors, Inc. stock their local food shelf by donating this fall. Accepted items include any nonperishable food items such as:

- Cereal, rice, instant potatoes, pasta and pasta sauce
- Cans of soup, baked beans, potatoes, fruit, pie filling and meat
- Peanut butter, cooking oil, flour, pancake mix and syrup

Neighbors, Inc. provides many services to northern Dakota County residents, including a food shelf, food shelf delivery, second-hand clothing store, vouchers for their thrift store, financial empowerment services, emergency financial assistance and more. Interested in utilizing any of these services or providing additional donations?

Visit [neighborsmn.org](http://neighborsmn.org) or call 651-455-5000.



## YARD WASTE DISPOSAL

As fall approaches, please keep branches, leaves and grass clippings out of the trash and City streets. Instead, compost yard waste at home, schedule a yard waste pick-up with a trash hauler, or bring it to a yard waste site. Properly disposing of yard waste helps protect water quality, aquatic plants and animals and prevents flooding caused by clogged pipes. Find local disposal options by visiting the Yard and Organics tab at [ighmn.gov/recycle](http://ighmn.gov/recycle).

## COMPOST YOUR PUMPKIN



Keep Jack-o-Lanterns out of the trash! Bring them to the IGH pumpkin collection to have them composted instead.

**Saturday, November 4 –  
Sunday, November 5  
8 a.m.–6 p.m. | VMCC Parking Lot**

Place in organics dumpster outside of VMCC, Door G.

**ACCEPTED ITEMS:** Carved or uncarved pumpkins. NO painted pumpkins, candles or bags accepted.

After collection, pumpkins will be brought to a local commercial compost facility and turned into compost—a valuable landscaping product. Compost improves soil quality, reduces erosion, reduces greenhouse gases, and decreases the need for chemical fertilizers. Find additional event information at [ighmn.gov/collectionevents](http://ighmn.gov/collectionevents).



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



Join us for our  
**OPEN HOUSE!**

WIN PRIZES  
AND ENJOY  
HOT DOGS, CHIPS,  
LEMONADE  
AND COOKIES!

## Get to Know the IGH FD for Fire Prevention Week

**Sunday, October 15, 2023 | Noon — 3 p.m. | Fire Station No. 2**

9200 Courthouse Blvd., Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

Stop by and learn valuable life safety lessons in a fun way! Try on some gear, practice a safe escape from a fire, get your picture taken in a fire truck, learn CPR, win cool prizes, practice skills that firefighters use, and much more. Hot dogs, chips, lemonade and cookies, too!

## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

**October 8–14, 2023**

The IGH FD will celebrate at events that educate the community on cooking safety and other fire prevention practices.

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

**Monday, October 9 | Pine Bend Elementary School**

**Tuesday, October 10 | Hilltop Elementary School**

**Wednesday, October 11 | Salem Hills Elementary School**

The National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA) has announced that “Cooking Safety Starts with You. Pay Attention to Fire Prevention” is the theme for Fire Prevention Week. A focus on cooking safety aims to educate the public about simple but important steps to help reduce the risk of fire when cooking at home.

According to the NFPA, cooking is the leading cause of home fires, with nearly half (49 percent) of all home fires involving cooking equipment. Cooking is also the leading cause of home fire injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires and related deaths. In addition, NFPA data shows that cooking is the only major cause of fire that resulted in more fires and fire deaths in 2014-2018 than in 1980-1984.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**49%**

of all home fires  
involve cooking...  
and cooking is the  
leading cause  
of home fire  
injuries.

**BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**

# Cooking Safety

While cooking can bring family together, it is also the No. 1 cause of home fires and home injuries. Following a few safety tips can help prevent these fires and reduce the number of injuries.

**The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking...**

- Stay alert when cooking; if you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- Remain in your home while simmering, baking, roasting or boiling food, and check it regularly. Use an oven or kitchen timer as a reminder.
- Keep anything that can catch fire—oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains—away from the stovetop.
- Establish a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or beverages are being prepared or carried.

**If you have a small (grease) cooking fire and decide to fight the fire...**

- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- DO NOT USE WATER on a grease fire. This will cause a violent reaction that could injure you and spread the fire.
- DO NOT MOVE THE POT or attempt to carry it. This may splash burning oil onto you or your surroundings.

**For an oven fire...**

- Turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

**When in doubt about fighting a small fire...**

**JUST GET OUT!** When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.

**Call 9-1-1 from outside your home.**

**Stay safe.**



**Christian Brothers Automotive**

**9963 Diffley Court  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077  
651-461-4949  
EMAIL: [mn007@cbauto.net](mailto:mn007@cbauto.net)  
WEB: [cbac.com/inver-grove-heights](http://cbac.com/inver-grove-heights)**

Christian Brothers Automotive (CBA) – Inver Grove Heights is a locally owned and operated full-service vehicle maintenance and repair shop. Recently ranked No. 1 in Customer Satisfaction Among Aftermarket Full-Service Maintenance and Repair Providers by J.D. Power for the fourth consecutive time, Christian Brothers Automotive is dedicated to its brand mission to “love your neighbor as yourself.”

Christian Brothers Automotive has a people-first approach to car care that includes things like a comfortable, welcoming waiting room, complimentary shuttle services, and digital vehicle inspections that take guests under the hood of their vehicles.

“What attracted us to franchise with CBA was their value system, which aligns with ours,” said Mike and Sue Peterson, franchisees for CBA – Inver Grove Heights.

Christian Brothers Automotive – Inver Grove Heights is an active member of the community and often works with local organizations to put people in need of transportation in reliable vehicles.

“Every year in early October, we open our shop on a Saturday to give back to our community by providing local families in need with free oil changes and safety repairs on their vehicles,” added Mike and Sue. “This year, we are partnering with Amazing Grace Lutheran Church and local nonprofit organizations to identify individuals who could use a helping hand. Our amazing staff volunteer their time and talent to make sure our guests’ vehicles are safe for their families. Last year we served 10 families with over \$12,000 in repairs.”

# 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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## Finance Department News

## Want a Preview of What Your Tax Bill Might Look Like in 2024?

Here is a guide to finding out more about the proposed 2024 budget and tax levy for the City of IGH, Dakota County and your respective school district:

 **Visit the City's website at [ighmn.gov/finance](http://ighmn.gov/finance).** On this page are many useful resources, including a City budget timeline, links to view budget meetings at City Council meetings, and presentations that break down budget requests from each City department.

 **Watch the mail!** In November, check your mailbox for a notice of proposed taxes, which is sent by Dakota County to residents each year. This notice provides a preview of proposed tax levies for the City of IGH, and for Dakota County and each school district within the County, too.

 **Attend the City's Public Input Meeting** on the proposed 2024 budget and tax levy at the **City Council Meeting on December 4, 2023, at 6 p.m.** at City Hall.

 **Can't attend in person?** Watch the meeting live on Xfinity Ch. 14/799 HD, or stream it at [townsquare.tv/webstreaming](http://townsquare.tv/webstreaming).

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
[ighmn.gov/finance](http://ighmn.gov/finance)



## TAKE THE IGH PD ANNUAL ONLINE COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY



### Help Create a Safer IGH

The IGH Police Department's Annual Community Safety Survey will be open this year from **DECEMBER 1, 2023**, through **JANUARY 31, 2024**. Everyone who lives, works, or regularly visits Inver Grove Heights is invited to complete the survey and help identify and address problems within the community.

Find a link to the survey at [ighmn.gov/police](http://ighmn.gov/police), or scan the QR code below with a smartphone or device to go right to the survey, starting December 1, 2023.

**EVERYONE'S  
INPUT MATTERS!**

**OPENS DECEMBER 1**

