



# Insights

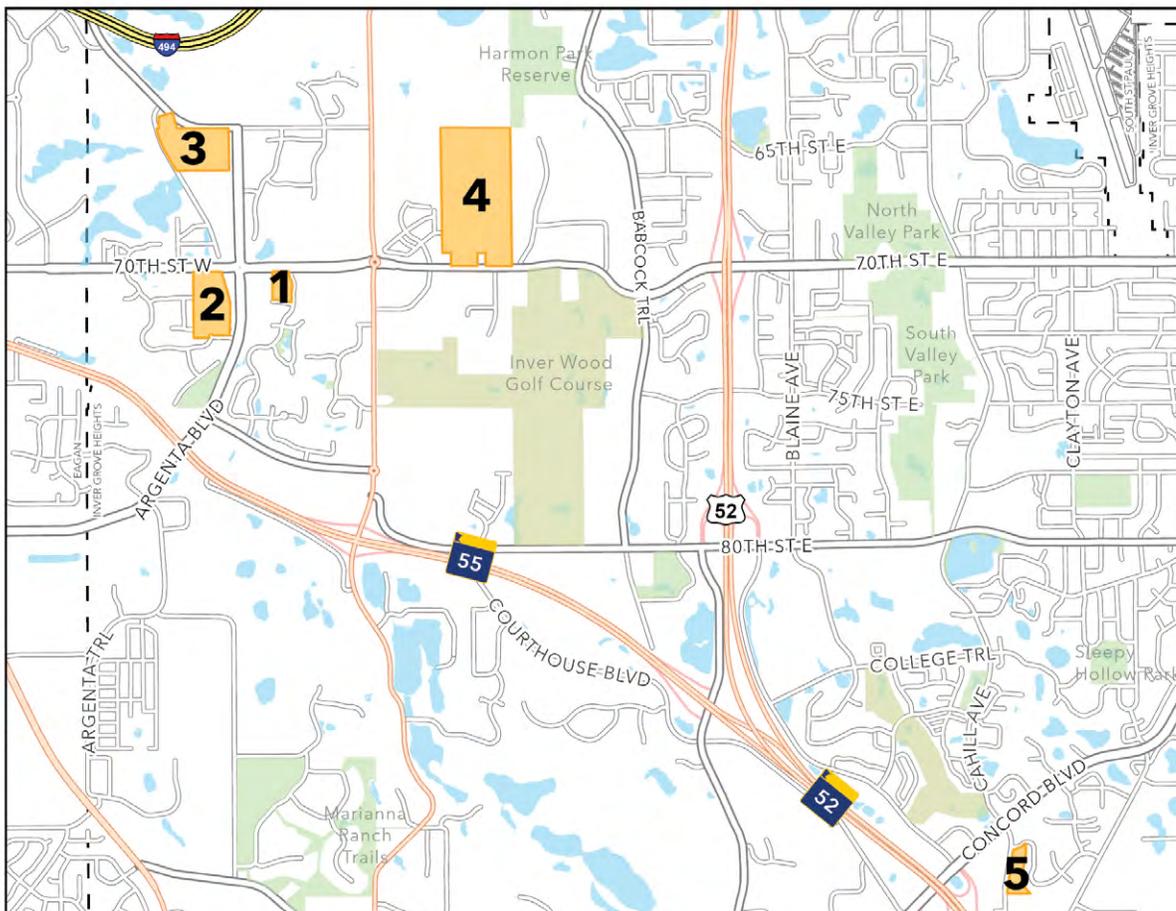
FALL 2025

## Mix of Housing Types Under Development in IGH

Demand for housing in the Twin Cities metro remains high, with the latest US Census Bureau data indicating that population growth will continue to fuel demand. This trend, coupled with low housing inventory, is driving new housing development in the area, including in Inver Grove Heights. Projects in various stages of development include single-family homes, townhomes, an apartment building and new senior housing.

Over the past decade, IGH has seen new housing development concentrated in the Northwest Area of the City, and this trend will continue, with two housing developments, Archer Trail Townhomes and Peltier Reserve Apartments, adding more than 300,000 square feet to the City's multifamily housing stock.

Wondering about what is being built and where? Below is a map that pinpoints the mix of housing development that is underway in IGH.



### Residential Projects Underway

1. Peltier Reserve Apartments
2. Archer Trail Townhomes

### Residential Projects Upcoming

3. Nord 61 - MV Ventures
4. Kingston Cove
5. Hillcrest Pointe Phase 2

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## Now Under Construction

### Yellow Tree Development – Peltier Reserve Apartments



This 217-unit, market-rate apartment project is located on the southwest corner of 70th Street and Agate Trail. Foundation work and construction of the underground parking area are well underway, along with general site grading.

### Archer Trail Townhomes



Stuart Development completed major infrastructure work for the streets and utilities on their development site on the southwest corner of 70th Street and Argenta Boulevard. This is a 159-unit rental townhome project. The developer is constructing all 159 units and the amenity center in one phase.

## Upcoming Projects

### Nord 61– MV Ventures

MV Ventures is planning to construct a 119-unit rental townhome development on the southwest corner of Argenta Boulevard and 65th Street. The project has received approval of the preliminary plat and preliminary planned unit development (PUD). The next step is to pursue final plat and final PUD approval.

# Proposed Residential Development

## Kingston Cove



Lennar hosted a neighborhood meeting on August 12 to review a proposed development of the 77-acre property located on 70th Street and north of Angus Avenue. The developer is proposing a combination of approximately 200 single-family homes and townhomes. The development is likely to move forward with its City application over this fall and winter, with a spring 2026 construction start planned.

## Hillcrest Pointe Phase 2



The Dakota County Community Development Agency (CDA) has submitted plans for approval of a second phase of its current senior housing development at 9170 Cahill Avenue. This phase proposes a 57-unit senior housing facility. The current building, built in 2014, has 66 senior apartment units and is located on the southern portion of the property. The CDA will own and operate both senior apartment buildings.

## Commercial Developments Coming Soon

### KinderCare • 7841 Amana Trail



A KinderCare daycare facility will open soon in the Argenta Hills neighborhood in the Northwest Area of the City, near Target.

### Dunkin' • 6800 Cahill Avenue East



A Dunkin' (formerly Dunkin' Donuts) will open soon on Cahill Avenue at the former site of Bremer Bank. A drive-thru is expected.



## Recently Opened Businesses 2025

- Angry Donkey Bakery
- Cuppa More Pages
- Limitless Chiropractic
- Rhythm and Shoes Dance Studio
- Rock Island Family Dentistry
- Ross Dress for Less
- Tono's Pizzeria + Cheesesteaks

### Congratulations to Northern Dakota Training Academy Graduates!



This year's NDTA graduating class: the Fire Chiefs of participating cities are in uniform on the far left and right, the recruits appear in their orange recruit uniforms, and IGH FD Fire Operations Supervisor/NTA Lead Instructor Dan Bernardy is at center. **Congratulations class of 2025!**

Each year, the Inver Grove Heights Fire Department and fire departments around the region bring on new employees and provide academic and skills training toward state-mandated certifications and license requirements for firefighters. The training curriculum, which takes 11 months to complete, includes emergency medical response, hazardous material response, and a vast array of firefighting and rescue training.

The Northern Dakota Training Academy (NTA) is a cooperative effort that began several years ago as an opportunity to combine educational resources with neighboring fire departments to complete this ongoing training requirement. Over the last decade, the NDTA has grown considerably and has trained firefighter recruits from Eagan, Red Wing, Hastings, Rosemount, Mendota Heights, St. Paul Park, Newport, Woodbury, Lower St. Croix Valley and Maple Grove.



**Mayor Brenda Dietrich led the swearing in of three new firefighters on July 28;** left to right: Firefighters Christopher Anderson, Garrett Backus, and Andrew Dealy.

### Water Notices & Improvements

The City continues to make progress on both interim and long-term improvements to the City's Water Treatment Plant, which will help address elevated radium levels found in the City's drinking water in late 2022.

A City webpage devoted to this topic is updated regularly as new information becomes available: [ighmn.gov/WaterNotice](https://ighmn.gov/WaterNotice). The most recent public notice regarding radium is available at the following link: [ighmn.gov/WaterPublicNotice](https://ighmn.gov/WaterPublicNotice).

If you have questions about the City's drinking water, or to request a paper copy of public notices, email [water@ighmn.gov](mailto:water@ighmn.gov) or call **651-450-4309**.



## Welcome New School Resource Officer Nathan Taarud!

Officer Taarud is joining School Resource Officer Ericka Eid this fall, and both will serve at schools in ISD 199 in Inver Grove Heights. If you see Officer Taarud in the hallways or out in the community, please say hello!

## IGH Winter Parking Restrictions

The IGH PD reminds residents to do their part in promoting safety on local streets by closely following a longstanding City ordinance **prohibiting parking on any street between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. from Nov. 1-Apr. 1.**

**Oct. 15-Nov. 1:** *Warning Notices* will be issued to any vehicle found parked on the street between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. **Nov. 2-Apr. 1:** *Citations* will be issued to any vehicle found in violation. If the vehicle 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 request a waiver, 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 if it snows?**

**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 effectively.

**Q: Is IGH the only City with date-specific winter parking restrictions?**

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

**QUESTIONS?** Call IGH PD 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday at 651-450-2525.



Thanks to everyone who stopped by to see us during IGH Days this year. See you next year!

## NOW OPEN!

### ROCK ISLAND FAMILY DENTISTRY

5972 Cahill Ave #109, Inver Grove Heights ·  
651-450-1602 · [info@rockislanddentistry.com](mailto:info@rockislanddentistry.com)

Rock Island Family Dentistry is built on a 43-year foundation established by Benke Dental Care, a long-time dental practice in Inver Grove Heights. The dental office's new owner, Dr. Joe Horst, attended dental school



**Drs. Benke & Horst**

at the University of Minnesota, where his family very quickly fell in love with the Twin Cities. After practicing dentistry for five years, most recently in Colorado, Dr. Horst and his wife made the decision to raise a family in Minnesota and found the opportunity to purchase Benke Dental Care. "We always felt particularly drawn to the suburbs south of the cities and along the Mississippi," said Dr. Horst. "So, when this opportunity arose, we jumped at the chance to move our family. There's a strong sense of community here."

"We relocated to IGH in June 2025 with our three daughters," added Dr. Horst. "I feel grateful to be able to raise our girls in the same community where I will be treating patients. We hope that Rock Island Family Dentistry will be a place where people will feel comfortable coming to receive care for the entire family, honoring Dr. Benke's legacy by delivering patient-focused dental care in a safe, welcoming environment for all. Inver Grove Heights is our home, and I am looking forward to caring for members of the community."



## Fall Food Drive – Help Local Families

November 1-30 | VMCC, Door A

The City of IGH is kicking off another Community Food Drive to help families in need this November. **Last year, over 1,857 pounds of food were collected.**

Continue to help Neighbors, Inc. stock their local food shelf by donating this fall! Donated items will be collected in a bin inside Door A at the Veterans Memorial Community Center. Accepted items include any nonperishable foods and other 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
- Toilet paper and hygiene products

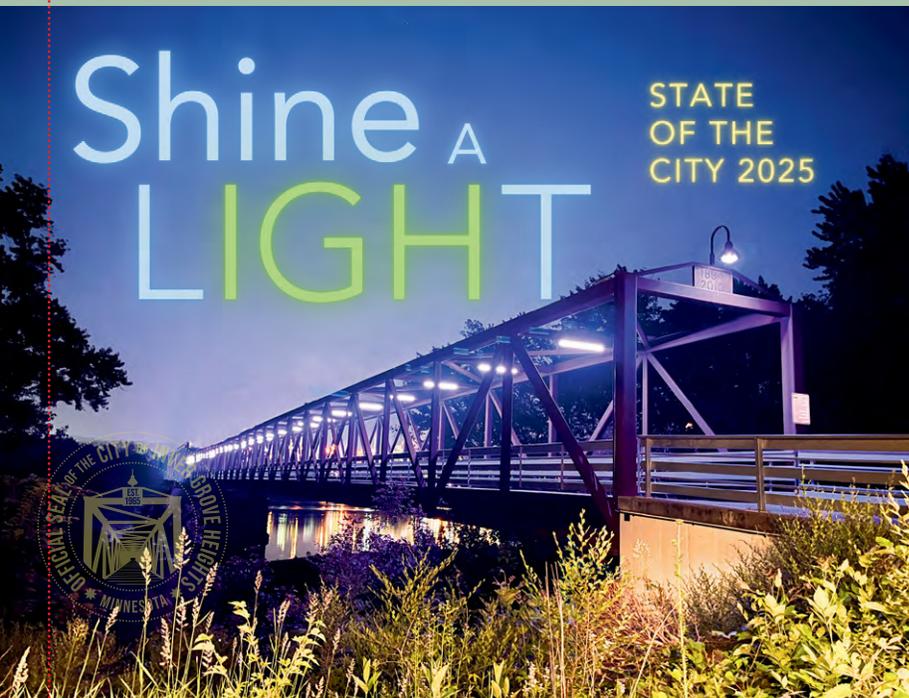
Neighbors, Inc. provides many valuable services to northern Dakota County residents, including a food shelf, food delivery, a second-hand clothing store, vouchers to their thrift store, financial empowerment services, emergency financial assistance and more. If you are interested in utilizing any of these services or providing additional donations, please visit [neighborsmn.org](http://neighborsmn.org) or call **651-455-5000**.

Calendar is removable!  
**OCTOBER 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCT. 5-12</b> <b>IGH FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE</b> <b>Sun. Oct. 12 · Noon-3 p.m. · Fire Station 2</b> 			1	2	3	4 <b>Let's Pawty Halloween Dog Event</b> 2-5 p.m. Rich Valley Athl. Complex
5 <b>St. Paul Farmers' Market</b> 8 a.m.-1 p.m. VMCC Park. Lot	6 <b>City Council Work Session</b> 6 p.m. VMCC	7 <b>Planning Commission</b> 7 p.m. City Hall	8 <b>LMRWMO*</b> 3 p.m.   Mendota Heights City Hall <b>Parks &amp; Rec. Advisory Comm.</b> 7 p.m.   City Hall	9 <b>VMCC Fitness Center Closed Oct. 9-10</b> <b>Active Aging Week Oct. 6-10   VMCC</b>		11
12 <b>Farmers' Market</b> 8 a.m.-1 p.m. VMCC Park. Lot <b>Fire Dept. Open House</b>	13 <b>Econ. Dev. Authority</b> 5 p.m.   City Hall <b>City Council Meeting</b> 6 p.m.   City Hall	14	15	16	17 <b>Moana 2 Dive in Movie</b> 5 p.m.   VMCC <i>ighmn.gov/ Register</i>	18
19 <b>St. Paul Farmers' Market</b> 8 a.m.-1 p.m. VMCC Park. Lot	20	21 <b>E-IGHWMO^</b> 5:30 p.m. IGH City Hall <b>Planning Commission</b> 7 p.m.   City Hall	22	23 <b>Environmental Advisory Commission</b> 7 p.m. City Hall	24 <b>Ghostly Gathering</b> 5:30-7:30 p.m. VMCC	25
26 <b>Farmers' Market Last Day!</b> 8 a.m.-1 p.m. VMCC Park. Lot	27 <b>City Council Meeting</b> 6 p.m. City Hall	28	29	30 <b>Halloween Zumba Party</b> 4:30 p.m.   VMCC <i>ighmn.gov/ Register</i>	31 <b>Halloween</b>	

\*LMRWMO (Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization) · [lmrwmo.org](http://lmrwmo.org)

^E-IGHWMO (Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization) · [eaganinvergroveheightswmo.org](http://eaganinvergroveheightswmo.org)



Residents are invited to join Councilmembers and staff as we shine a light on the work of the City in 2025.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17**  
 Doors open at 5 p.m.  
 Program begins at 6:30 p.m.

**NOWHERE ENTERTAINMENT**  
 5300 South Robert Trail #200  
 Inver Grove Heights

RSVP by October 27 with the number of people in your party to 651-450-2500 or [rsvp@ighmn.gov](mailto:rsvp@ighmn.gov).



# NOVEMBER 2025

**FOOD DRIVE MONTH** – Help Neighbors, Inc. stock their shelves. If you're able to donate, drop off items at VMCC.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The City of Inver Grove Heights honors and thanks veterans for their service to this country!</b></p>						<b>1</b> <b>Pumpkin Composting</b> 8 a.m.–6 p.m. VMCC
<b>2</b> <b>Pumpkin Composting</b> 8 a.m.–6 p.m. VMCC	<b>3</b> <b>City Council Work Session</b> 6 p.m. VMCC	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Planning Commission</b> 7 p.m. City Hall	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>City Council Meeting</b> 6 p.m. City Hall	<b>11</b> <b>Veterans Day</b> City Offices Closed VMCC Open	<b>12</b> LMRWMO* 3 p.m.   Mendota Heights City Hall  <b>Parks &amp; Rec. Advisory Comm.</b> 7 p.m.   City Hall	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Winter Outdoor Clothing Swap</b> 10 a.m.–noon. VMCC, Comm. Room 3
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>State of the City Event</b> 5 p.m.   Nowhere Entertainment <i>See previous page for details.</i>	<b>18</b> <b>Planning Commission</b> 7 p.m. City Hall	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Environmental Advisory Commission</b> 7 p.m. City Hall	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>City Council Meeting</b> 6 p.m. City Hall	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Thanksgiving</b> City Offices and VMCC Closed	<b>28</b> <b>City Offices Closed</b> VMCC Open	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>						

\*LMRWMO (Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization) · [lmrwmo.org](http://lmrwmo.org)

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## IGH PARKS & RECREATION *Holidays In the Heights!*



### Tree Lighting Ceremony

Friday, Dec. 5 · 6–7 p.m.

Kick off the holiday season at our annual tree lighting at the VMCC!



### Holiday Cookies and Canvas

Saturday, Dec. 6

\$20

### Skate with Santa

Friday, Dec. 5  
7–8:30 p.m.

Free for VMCC member;  
Non-member: \$6; \$8 at door



# DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Drop your <b>LETTER TO SANTA</b> in the special mailbox at VMCC by Dec. 11!	1	2 <b>E-IGHWMO</b> <sup>^</sup> 5:30 p.m.   Eagan Maint. Facility <b>Planning Commission</b> 7 p.m.   City Hall	3	4	5 <b>Tree Lighting</b> 6-7 p.m.   VMCC <b>Skate with Santa</b> 7-8:30 p.m. VMCC W. Rink <a href="http://ighmn.gov/Register">ighmn.gov/Register</a>	6 <b>Holiday Cookies and Canvas</b> VMCC 9 a.m.-3:15 p.m. <a href="http://ighmn.gov/Register">ighmn.gov/Register</a>
7	8 <b>Econ. Dev. Authority</b> 5 p.m.   City Hall <b>City Council Meeting*</b> 6 p.m.   City Hall	9	10 <b>LMRWMO</b> <sup>*</sup> 3 p.m.   IGH VMCC	11	12 <b>Holiday Open Swim</b> 5-8 p.m.   VMCC <a href="http://ighmn.gov/Register">ighmn.gov/Register</a>	13 <b>Breakfast with Santa</b> 10 a.m.   VMCC <a href="http://ighmn.gov/Register">ighmn.gov/Register</a>
14	15 <b>City Council Meeting</b> 6 p.m. City Hall	16 <b>Planning Commission</b> 7 p.m. City Hall	17	18 <b>Environmental Advisory Commission</b> 7 p.m. City Hall	19	20
21	22	23	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> City Offices Closed VMCC Open 7 a.m.-noon	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> City Offices & VMCC Closed	26	27
28	29	30	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b> VMCC Open 5 a.m.-5 p.m. <b>Noon Year's Eve Party</b> 10 a.m.   VMCC <a href="http://ighmn.gov/Register">ighmn.gov/Register</a>	<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; background-color: #e0f0e0;"> <p><b>*Proposed 2026 Budget &amp; Tax Levy discussion on Monday, Dec. 8 during City Council meeting.</b></p> </div> <p><b>January 1, 2026 – New Year's Day</b> City Offices Closed · VMCC Open 9 a.m.-1 p.m.</p>		

<sup>^</sup>E-IGHWMO (Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization) · [eaganinvergroveheightswmo.org](http://eaganinvergroveheightswmo.org)

<sup>\*</sup>LMRWMO (Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization) · [lmrwmo.org](http://lmrwmo.org)

## ★ Holiday Open Swim

Friday, Dec. 12 · 5-8 p.m.

Free for VMCC member; Non-member:  
\$8 ages 11 & younger; \$10 ages 1 & up



## ★ Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 13  
10 a.m.-noon

\$8 per meal ticket; \$6 ages 1 to 5

## ★ Letters to Santa!

November 23-December 11

Write a letter to Santa and place it in our special mailbox at the VMCC and we'll deliver the letters to Santa!



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

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



# Come Play at the VMCC!

- Open to the public
- Affordable memberships
- Swim · Skate · Fitness · More!

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



## DIVE-IN MOVIE MOANA 2 AT THE VMCC!

FRI., OCT. 17 · \$10 · 5 P.M.

Join us for a splash-tastic evening watching Moana 2 while floating in the pool or relaxing on the deck!



## Ghostly Gathering! Friday, October 24



Trick-or-Treating · Games · DJ · Bounce House!



5:30–7:30 p.m. · FA-F200 · \$8 per child

## VMCC Halloween Zumba® Party

Ages 5 and up!



Thursday, Oct. 30  
4:30–5:30 p.m.

Free for members  
\$10 non-member

Check out the IGH  
**SENIOR CENTER**  
[ighmn.gov/ActiveAdults55](http://ighmn.gov/ActiveAdults55)

- Book Clubs
- Cards · Lunches
- Fitness Classes
- Trips & more!

# Parks & Recreation



Sign up today for our fabulously fun activities for all ages!

Swim Lessons

T-ball, Soccer,  
Amazing Athletes

Ninja Warrior  
Fitness

Volleyball

Basketball

Lacrosse

Zumba® Kids

and 40+ fitness classes including:  
Winter Solstice Yoga · Dec. 21 · 5 p.m.  
Holiday Challenge 400 · Nov. 28–Jan. 2

### ADAPTIVE RECREATION

DANCE NIGHT · TUESDAY, NOV. 4  
6–7:30 p.m. · \$10 · VMCC · All ages!

### NON-SCHOOL DAY PROGRAMS



**LIFEGUARD  
TRAINING**

DEC. 28–30  
Code: LG-DEC25

## WINTER FIELD TRIPS

Big Air & Swimming at the VMCC  
MONDAY, DEC. 29

Ages 6–12 · 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Code: YP-W200 · Fee: \$62



## The Fun Lab & Doug Woog Arena



TUESDAY, DEC. 30

Laser tag · Bumper cars  
Mini bowling · skating!  
Ages 8–13 · 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Code: YP-W201 · Fee: \$62

Noon Year's Eve **Pool Party**  
at the VMCC!  
**2026** Wednesday, Dec. 31  
10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.



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

# Update on Possible New Central Maintenance Facility

As noted in the summer issue of *Insights*, the City has been considering the construction of a new IGH Central Maintenance Facility to house the operations of the streets, parks, utilities and fleet maintenance divisions. A recently completed needs analysis found that the current IGH Central Maintenance Facility is only 45% of the total size needed for current operations to function properly. The mechanic bays and vehicle maintenance areas within the building are even more undersized at only 25% of the size needed to safely and efficiently maintain the City's fleet of squad cars, fire trucks, snowplows and other vehicles.

After adopting a Bond Capital Improvement Plan in late July to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund the project, the City received a valid petition in late August for a reverse referendum on the issue. The City Clerk's office verified the signatures on the petition until the threshold of 1,054 signatures (5% of eligible IGH voters in the last general election) was reached. This is the percentage required by Minnesota statute for a question to be put to the voters in an election.

No decisions have been made in response to the petition, but the earliest the question could be put to voters is 2026. The City Council is scheduled to discuss options and possible next steps at their regularly scheduled work session on October 6.



For more information about the proposed project and what makes it a critical operational need for the City, visit the project webpage at: [ighmn.gov/CMFProject](https://ighmn.gov/CMFProject), or scan the QR code to be taken to the webpage.

## Utility Billing – Payment Options That Work for You

**Invoice Delivery:** Email or Postal Mail



**Online via Invoice Cloud:** One-Time Payment, Auto-Pay, E-Billing, Pay-by-Text Enrollment  
[invoicecloud.com/cityofinvergroveheightsmn](https://invoicecloud.com/cityofinvergroveheightsmn)

**Payment Methods:** ACH Transfer, Credit/Debit Card (*credit/debit payments include a 3.1%, or \$3 minimum convenience fee*), Apple Pay and Google Pay

**Pay by Phone 1-866-688-0145:** Utility account number required. (Spanish available)

**In Person:** City Hall, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.



**Secure Drop Box:** Outside, across from City Hall's main doors, available 24/7

**By Mail:** City of Inver Grove Heights  
Lockbox 44609, PO Box 64039  
St. Paul, MN 55164

**Questions?** [UtilityBilling@ighmn.gov](mailto:UtilityBilling@ighmn.gov)

## Hwy 3 Study Begins

**We want to hear from you!**

In coordination with Dakota County and the cities of Inver Grove Heights, Eagan and Rosemount, MnDOT is studying 12.5 miles of Hwy 3 from Hwy 62 in Inver Grove Heights to 160th St. (Co. Rd. 46) in Rosemount. The goal of the study is to address safety concerns throughout the corridor.

Visit the project website for more information and to sign up for updates: [mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy3rosemount-invergroveheights](https://mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy3rosemount-invergroveheights). Future online engagement opportunities will be added as the project moves forward, including a survey and a comment map.





## Food Scraps Drop Off

The No. 1 item in our trash is food. Keeping food scraps out of landfills is good for the environment. That's why over 11,500 households like yours are giving food scraps a new life by participating in Dakota County's food scraps drop-off program (formerly organics drop-off program).

In 2024, participants delivered 2.2 million pounds of food scraps across all locations. The food scraps go to an industrial compost facility and are turned into compost for gardening and landscaping.

There are 11 food scraps drop-off sites located throughout the county – in Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Farmington, Hastings, Inver Grove Heights, Lakeville, Mendota Heights, Rosemount (two) and West St. Paul.

To sign up for the free program, visit [dakotacounty.us](https://dakotacounty.us) and search *food scraps*, email [foodscraps@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:foodscraps@co.dakota.mn.us) or call 952-891-7557. When you sign up, you will receive more information and free compostable bags in the mail.

**The Inver Grove Heights food scraps drop-off site is located at Inver Glen Library, 8098 Blaine Avenue East.**

**Sites are open 5 a.m.–10 p.m. daily, unless noted. All sites are open to Dakota County residents and households only. No business or institutional food allowed.**

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

## 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 1–Sunday, November 2 | 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](https://ighmn.gov/CollectionEvents).



# Outdoor Winter Clothing Swap!

Saturday, Nov. 15 | 10 a.m.–Noon  
VMCC, Community Room 3 (Door E)

Clear out winter wardrobes and refresh them for no cost at the Outdoor Winter Clothing Swap! Bring in gently used outdoor winter clothing and swap for something new-to-you. Swapping items at the event saves money and helps keep usable items out of the trash. The event is open to all ages and all items are **free to swap**. You do not need to donate in order to take items. Bring what you can, and take what you'd like!

## ACCEPTED ITEMS

New or gently used outdoor winter clothing for adults and children, 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 email [ekramer@ighmn.gov](mailto:ekramer@ighmn.gov) or call **651-604-8511** to determine availability.



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



## Meet New Environmental Specialist Liz Kramer

Liz comes to IGH after more than six years with the City of St. Cloud, where she was the Sustainability Coordinator, developing programs such as Partners in Energy and GreenStep Cities, as well as initiatives for energy and water conservation, water loss control, and residential food waste prevention. Liz has a bachelor's degree in history and experience working at the Rice County Historical Society. She has also served as chair of several professional committees focused on water and environmental issues.

“ My priorities in the coming year are to get to know the City, get involved and help connect the community to education and resources that will help them be a part of preserving the environment and natural resources in IGH. ”

– LIZ KRAMER

In IGH, she will also be responsible for planning and coordinating sustainability-focused community events and organizing volunteers. Please look for Liz at City events, such as the upcoming Outdoor Winter Clothing Swap.

**Welcome, Liz!**



## Volunteer for the Storm Drain Stenciling Program

Sign up today!

Help educate your neighbors about stormwater pollution when you sign up for the City of Inver Grove Heights and Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization's (LMRWMO) storm drain stenciling program.

Get outside to help protect local lakes, rivers and ponds. Storm drain stenciling is quick and fun, and it's easy for any-sized group to participate. Our storm drain stenciling kit is free to use and contains everything you need.

By keeping our drains and streets clean, we keep our local water clean. Stenciling reminds us to keep our streets and storm drains clean and to never dump anything down the drain.

Contact Craig Reller, environmental resources technician, at the City of Inver Grove Heights at [creller@ignmn.gov](mailto:creller@ignmn.gov) or 651-788-6857 for more information and to sign up for the stenciling program.

### IGH Intern Channing Miller demonstrates storm drain stenciling.

Storm drains flow directly to local lakes, rivers and wetlands, acting as a conduit for trash and pollutants. The Adopt a Drain program asks residents to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood and keep it clear of leaves and trash to reduce water pollution.

Learn how you can adopt a drain (and choose a fun name for it!) at [mn.adopt-a-drain.org](http://mn.adopt-a-drain.org).

Find more ideas on how you can protect and improve water resources at [eaganinvergroveheightswmo.org](http://eaganinvergroveheightswmo.org) and [lmrwmo.org](http://lmrwmo.org).

## Clean Storm Drains Are Important!



Illustration: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

## Leave Leaves Out of City Streets



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).



## GIS CORNER



### Night to Unite: Powered by GIS

Every first Tuesday of August, Night to Unite brings neighborhoods together across Inver Grove Heights and the nation to strengthen community connections and give residents a chance to meet City staff and public safety officials.

Since 2010, GIS (Geographic Information Systems) has played an important role in organizing the event. What began as a simple paper sign up and PDF map has evolved into a fully digital system. Today, residents can register online through a GIS-designed survey, which instantly maps the block where a party will be located.

City departments can view updates in real time, and GIS staff publish a public-facing map so residents can see where events are happening nearby. Police, Fire, Parks and Recreation departments and City officials use this data to plan their evening routes and to make appearances at as many parties as possible.

This year, Night to Unite took place on Tuesday, Aug. 5. With 61 parties registered, it marked the second-highest total party count in IGH history—just behind 67 parties registered in 2018.

With the use of GIS, the sign-up process is smoother and more efficient than ever, helping make Night to Unite a successful celebration of community across the City. Find Night to Unite information at [ighmn.gov/NightToUnite](http://ighmn.gov/NightToUnite).

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Tony Scales	651-450-2504
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Kris Wilson	651-450-2511
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**ON THE WEB**  
[ighmn.gov](http://ighmn.gov)

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

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## City’s Proposed 2026 Tax Levy and Budget

The City Council has adopted a preliminary 2026 budget and tax levy that includes a 5.74% increase in the City’s property tax levy compared to 2025. In mid-November, property owners will receive an estimated tax statement from Dakota County that shows how this preliminary levy, combined with the preliminary levies of other taxing jurisdictions, such as the county and school district, would impact their tax bill for 2026. **Before finalizing the 2026 budget and tax levy, the Council will hold a public meeting on Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall to provide more information, answer questions and accept feedback.**

The City devotes property tax revenues to three primary functions:

- General Fund operations, such as police, fire, parks and community development
- Pavement Management Program, which includes street maintenance and repair
- Payments on the City’s debt

Other City functions, such as the water and sanitary sewer utility, golf course and Veterans Memorial Community Center, are paid for with user fees and other non-tax revenues.

The proposed budget for 2026 continues to phase in the costs of three additional police officers and three additional full-time firefighters. These positions were added to the City workforce in 2025, with a combination of property tax dollars, grant funds and one-time state aid money. Like other employers, the City is also facing rising health insurance costs and a new state payroll tax to fund the Paid Family Medical Leave program. One thing that is not impacting the proposed 2026 budget and tax levy is the proposed replacement of the City’s Central Maintenance Facility, which is still under discussion by the Council. (See article on page 11 for more on this topic.)

**How your tax dollar is spent:** Parks & Recreation Community Development

