



Insights

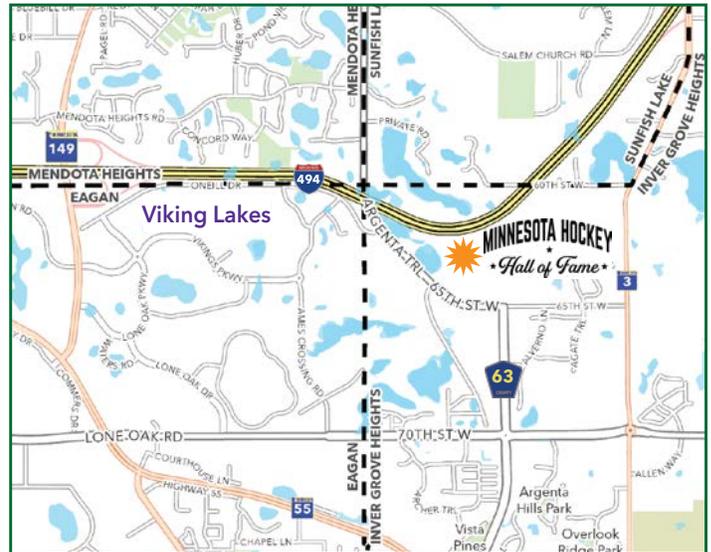
WINTER 2026

Minnesota Hockey Hall of Fame Chooses Inver Grove Heights

The Minnesota Hockey Hall of Fame (MNHOF) announced on December 17 that it has selected Inver Grove Heights as its home. The City is thrilled to welcome the MNHOF and the new amenities and attractions it will bring to the community!

The proposed project is planned for a 40-plus-acre development site at Argenta Boulevard and 65th Street in the City's "Northwest Area." The City Council recently approved a purchase agreement for the site, which is located just east of Viking Lakes and the Minnesota Vikings headquarters and training complex, and adjacent to a planned future Interstate 494 interchange.

The Minnesota Hockey Hall of Fame chose this site for its ideal location – quick access to MSP Airport, Downtown St. Paul and key Twin Cities destinations. The visibility along I-494, proximity to the Vikings complex, and the open setting with natural amenities – reflecting Minnesota's outdoor hockey tradition – made the property especially appealing. When completed, the 120,000-square-foot facility will feature a major museum with



interactive exhibits, community gathering and event spaces, ice rink, hockey-themed restaurant and bar.



Image provided by Minnesota Hockey Hall of Fame

The City looks forward to the continued evolution of this project and is excited about what is to come. Developments like this take time, and project details will continue to emerge. For more on this project, visit the City's website at ighmn.gov/mnhhof or visit the Minnesota Hockey Hall of Fame website at mnhhof.com.

City Honors Bridge Builder Award Winners



**State of the City Event
Nov. 17, 2025**

**Pictured left to right:
Concilmember Tony Scales,
Concilmember John Murphy,
Bridge Builder Award Winners
Brian Swoboda and
Barry Underdahl,
Mayor Brenda Dietrich,
Councilmember Sue Gliva.**

Photos by Steven Garcia

At the State of the City 2025 last November, the City Council recognized two long-time City employees for their tremendous work in the IGH community. The Council presented this year's Bridge Builder Awards to Park Maintenance Superintendent Brian Swoboda and Street Maintenance Superintendent Barry Underdahl.



Bridge Builder Award winners Brian Swoboda (left) and Barry Underdahl.

Meet our Winners

Brian Swoboda's career with the City began in 1997. Now, under his direction, the City's Parks Maintenance division oversees the upkeep of more than 30 parks and over 800 acres of green space. His team's efficient, innovative work on the City's new archery range at South Valley Park, as well as recent new playground installations, led to significant project cost savings. Brian has built a culture of pride and excellence that shines through when residents visit any of the City's park amenities. Those who work with Brian know he likes to lead and work quietly, behind the scenes, but always goes above and beyond to serve and gives the credit to his team.



Brian Swoboda accepting the Bridge Builder Award from IGH Mayor Brenda Dietrich.

"Brian exemplifies dedication, pride, collaboration and a positive, solutions-focused attitude. He doesn't simply show up – he leads. The City is fortunate to have him managing our park system with such commitment and care. His focus on delivering the highest-quality service to our residents is reflected throughout our parks. In creating spaces where the community can gather and connect, he strengthens the bonds that bring people together. It is a privilege to work alongside Brian, and we are thrilled to see a member of our team recognized for advancing opportunities that enrich the quality of life in our community."

– ADAM LARES, PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

Barry Underdahl has served the residents of IGH for 29 years. He uses his expertise to oversee Street Maintenance, the upkeep of the City's fleet of more than 200 vehicles and the City's Central Maintenance Facility. Barry has mitigated 10 Mississippi River floods, introduced the City's Broad Area Patching Program and has paved 2.9 million square feet of residential pavement. He once plowed snow for 22 hours straight! His team knows him as a leader who is always willing to answer questions and help other people's days go smoothly. As a Public Works professional, he is the one who "makes normal happen" every day for the residents of IGH.



Barry Underdahl accepting the Bridge Builder Award from Mayor Brenda Dietrich.

"Barry has established himself as a dedicated leader in the maintenance and oversight of the City's street and fleet operations. Whether responding to the community's needs and expectations to have roads cleared in the winter, potholes patched in the summer, and keeping the City's fleet vehicles functioning well for police, fire, parks, utilities and administrative divisions, Barry is a constant and level-headed presence in leading his staff day in and day out. The City of Inver Grove Heights is fortunate to have someone like Barry on our staff, and I am honored to call him a colleague and see him receive the recognition provided by this award."

– BRIAN CONNOLLY, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR



THE BRIDGE BUILDER AWARD

was designed to recognize an IGH resident or City staff member who has made a lasting difference through:

- Acts of bravery or selflessness in the aid of others.
- Long-term service to the community through a formal position or an "under-the-radar" contribution.
- A remarkable accomplishment or representation of IGH on the local, state, national or international stage.
- Leading by example or being a positive role model.

The future of the BRIDGE BUILDER AWARD

The City will continue to ask the IGH community to identify and nominate "Bridge Builders" to recognize as new winners next year and in the years to come.

If you know of an IGH resident or City staff person who has made an extraordinary contribution to the community, visit ighmn.gov/Award to nominate them for the Bridge Builder Award.

Winter Street Maintenance

Winter street maintenance involves more than just plowing streets. It also includes application of anti-icing treatments, snow removal and de-icing of select public sidewalks and trails, tree trimming, sign repair, stormwater system maintenance and even pothole patching. Snow and ice control on City streets are top priorities for Public Works during winter months.

Plowing Priorities

The City has a Winter Maintenance Policy defining snow and ice management objectives and procedures. The City prioritizes snow removal on primary roadways and collector streets, followed by residential streets, cul-de-sacs, alleys, and then sidewalks and trails. Other agencies, like the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and Dakota County, clear snow from roadways they are responsible for. For instance, streets like 70th St., 80th St., Concord Blvd., Babcock Tr., Argenta Blvd., Barnes Ave. and Rich Valley Blvd. are county roads, and Dakota County plows those streets.

The City may not clear snowfalls of two inches or less, depending on the weather forecast and the likelihood of these small snowfalls melting due to existing or applied de-icing chemicals.

Sidewalk & Trail Maintenance

In 2023, the City Council approved updates to the City's Winter Maintenance Policy and made clarifications to the City ordinance related to removal of snow, ice, dirt and rubbish on sidewalks and trails throughout the community. These updates were intended to clarify the responsibilities for clearing snow and ice from sidewalks throughout the community, and better assign City staff and equipment for primary sidewalks and trails. Here is an overview:

- The City has over 80 miles of public sidewalks and trails throughout the community.
- The City maintains approximately 45 miles of sidewalks and trails by performing snow removal along primary roadways and around schools and public transit facilities (i.e., bus stops).

- Property owners are responsible for maintaining sidewalks that are immediately adjacent to their property, including removal of snow and ice within 24 hours of it falling.
- Property owners that are part of a homeowner's association (HOA) should consult with their HOA bylaws as to who is responsible for snow removal.



Safety Around Plows

A loaded plow truck can weigh more than 50,000 pounds. It cannot maneuver as well as the average passenger vehicle, and it has much larger blind spots where the driver cannot see vehicles or pedestrians. In addition to driving the vehicle, drivers are simultaneously operating the primary plow blade, the side (wing) plow blade and the placement of de-icing chemicals on the roadway. We ask that everyone follow these safety guidelines during the winter months:

- Do not shovel, plow or blow snow into or across a street.
- Do not play on, or build snow forts in, snow piles on the boulevard or in the center of a cul-de-sac.
- Never follow a plow truck from closer than 100 feet.

- Never drive into a snow cloud or pass a plow.
- Slow down and drive carefully. Even if a street looks clear of snow, it may still be icy.

Boulevard Areas

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

If your mailbox or boulevard lawn is damaged by direct contact with a City plow, please call the IGH Public Works Maintenance Facility at 651-450-4309. Per the City's Winter Maintenance Policy, the City is not responsible for damage caused by snow or ice that is thrown or pushed by a plow into a mailbox or boulevard. Turf that is damaged will be replaced in the spring with topsoil and seed.

Here are three ways that property owners can protect their property and reduce the likelihood of plow damage:

- Shovel around your mailbox after a heavy snowfall. It will help your letter carrier access the mailbox and reduce the potential for snow buildup under the mailbox, making room for future plowing.
- Add reflective flags or tape to your mailbox to make it more visible at night.
- Place reflective markers along your curb and at the end of driveways to help plows identify the edge of the road.

Parking

Per City Ordinance Title 6, Chapter 3, Section 6-3-6, it is unlawful to park a vehicle on any City street between the hours of 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. from Nov. 1 through Apr. 1.

Fire Hydrants

The City does not remove snow around fire hydrants. Residents and businesses are encouraged to clear snow from hydrants that are located adjacent to their property to aid emergency services. To learn more, visit ighmn.gov/Hydrants.

Contact Information

Have a sidewalk or trail adjacent to your property and unsure who is responsible for snow removal? Curious about what other items the City has in its Winter Maintenance Policy? Visit the City's website at ighmn.gov/WinterMaintenance.

Salt Smart!

Combat ice and protect water resources this winter season! Excessive use of de-icer and salt on roadways, sidewalks and driveways can pollute both soil and water resources. Even small quantities can negatively impact drinking water, plants, fish and wildlife.

Make a pledge to *salt smart* this season by following these four steps:

SHOVEL. Clear walkways before snow turns to ice. Apply salt only if needed.

SCATTER. Use salt only where critical. Aim for three inches of space between salt granules.

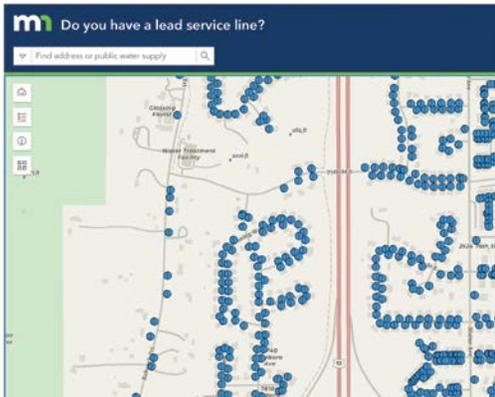
SWITCH. Salt doesn't melt ice in temperatures below 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Use sand or grit for traction when it is too cold for salt to be effective.

SWEEP. Clean up excess salt, sand and de-icer to save and reuse as needed.

Pick up a **FREE SALT CUP at the front desk at City Hall, which will help remind you of how much salt to use this winter, while supplies last.**



Lead Service Line Inventory Update



In October 2024, the City completed and submitted results of the water system service line material inventory to the Minnesota Department of Health. The City is required to update this inventory every year as new properties are built, as unknown service lines are verified, and as utility construction projects result in the replacement or upgrade of existing water service lines. As of Oct. 31, 2025, the inventory has identified 7,050 non-lead (copper or plastic) service lines, 1,526 service lines of unknown material and zero (0) lead or galvanized service lines within the City's water system.

You can check the materials in your water service line by using the Lead Inventory Tracking Tool (LITT) at maps.umn.edu/LSL/. Additional information regarding the City's lead service line inventory process are available at ighmn.gov/PipeInventory.

Where to Find City of IGH Drinking Water News

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.

The most recent public notice regarding radium is available at the following link: 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 or call 651-450-4309.

Make a Difference on the Watershed Management Organization Board

The City of IGH seeks to fill a Board of Managers Appointment for the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization (LMRWMO). The City is accepting applications for an alternate representative. The term of the board of managers appointment, which is made by the Inver Grove Heights City Council, is three years.

Candidates for this position:

- Should have an appreciation for water quality and watershed management.
- Would be involved with work on watershed-coordinated budgets, grant opportunities, education, technical oversight, stormwater and drainage issues within the watershed.

The LMRWMO Board of Managers meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 3 p.m.

To apply, please call or email Chris English at **651-248-0157** or cenglish@ighmn.gov. For more information: lmrwmo.org.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|---|--|---|---|--------|--|
| | | | | 1 NEW YEARS DAY City Offices Closed VMCC Open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 City Council Meeting 6 p.m. City Hall | 6 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 SOUTH VALLEY PARK FREE FUN DAY 2:30-4 p.m. |
| 11 | 12 City Council Work Session 6 p.m. VMCC | 13 | 14 LMRWMO* 3 p.m. VMCC Parks & Rec. Advis. Comm. 7 p.m. City Hall | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY City Offices Closed VMCC Open | 20 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall | 21 | 22 Environmental Advisory Commission 7 p.m. City Hall | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 City Council Meeting 6 p.m. City Hall | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

Park rentals open Jan. 2 for reservations: ighmn.gov/Rentals

*LMRWMO (Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization) · lmrwmo.org

Winter Salt Week 2026

Starting January 26, join in an international effort to keep freshwater fresh during Winter Salt Week.



Stop by any Dakota County Library to learn how you can reduce chloride pollution in your neighborhood. Don't forget to do a Salty Dawg scavenger hunt and grab an activity book while you're there!

Learn more about how to protect water quality in your neighborhood by visiting lmrwmo.org and eaganinvergroveheightswmo.org

Winter Reads

Join Winter Reads, a free adult reading program that inspires adults to read and connect with others in a welcoming environment. Sign up at Inver Glen Library between Jan. 12-Feb. 28 to be entered for a chance to win a prize. Winter Reads is presented in partnership with the Metropolitan Library Agency (MELSA).



Inver Glen Library Adult Trivia Night & Winter Reads kickoff event Tuesday, Jan. 13, 6-7:30 p.m.

Join us for enjoyably challenging questions about all kinds of topics. Presented by Minneapolis-based Trivia Mafia. Limited to the first 50 participants.



FEBRUARY 2026

Remove this handy calendar page and post where convenient!

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--|--|---|---|--|----------|
| 1 | 2 City Council Work Session 6 p.m. VMCC | 3 Eagan-IGH WMO 5:30 p.m. City of Eagan Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall | 4 | 5 | 6 Princess Dance 6-8 p.m. National Guard Gym at VMCC <i>(must register)</i> | 7 |
| 8 | 9 Econ. Dev. Authority 5 p.m. City Hall City Council Meeting 6 p.m. City Hall | 10 | 11 LMRWMO* 3 p.m. TBD Parks & Rec. Advis. Comm. 7 p.m. City Hall | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 PRESIDENTS DAY City Offices Closed VMCC Open | 17 Eagan-IGH WMO 5:30 p.m. City of Eagan Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 City Council Meeting 6 p.m. City Hall | 24 | 25 | 26 Environmental Advisory Commission 7 p.m. City Hall | 27 | 28 |

^E-IGHWMO (Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization) · eaganinvergroveheightswmo.org

*LMRWMO (Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization) · lmrwmo.org



ighmn.gov/CommunityCenter

And better yet, we have job openings, too!
ighmn.gov/Jobs

Say bye to the winter blues!
Warm up and feel better at the VMCC!

FITNESS AND FAMILY FUN!
Daily admission and memberships



MARCH 2026

Remove this handy calendar page and post where convenient!

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| 1 | 2 City Council Work Session 6 p.m. VMCC | 3 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall | 4 | 5 Kids ROCK Parent Info. Session 5:30-7 p.m., VMCC Comm. Rm. 1 | 6 | 7 Craft Fair 9 a.m.-1 p.m. National Guard Gym at VMCC |
| 8 Daylight Saving Time Begins Spring forward 1 hour | 9 City Council Meeting 6 p.m. City Hall | 10 | 11 LMRWMO* 3 p.m. TBD Parks & Rec. Advis. Comm. 7 p.m. City Hall | 12 Parks & Rec. Summer Program Registration Opens at Noon | 13 IGH SPARC Open Skate 5:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. VMCC <i>(Free, must register)</i> | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 Planning Commission 7 p.m. City Hall | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 City Council Meeting 6 p.m. City Hall | 24 | 25 | 26 Environmental Advisory Commission 7 p.m. City Hall | 27 Flashlight Egg Hunt 8:30 p.m. Oakwood Park <i>(Free, must register)</i> | 28 Egg Hunt 1 p.m. Oakwood Park <i>(Free, must register)</i> |
| 29 Aqua Egg Hunt 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. VMCC Pool <i>(must register)</i> | 30 | 31 |  <p>Nominate a resident for the BRIDGE BUILDER AWARD ighmn.gov/Award</p> | | | |

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

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



PARKS & RECREATION Winter & Spring Programs



REGISTER TODAY!

- YOUTH BASKETBALL
- SPRING BREAK CAMPS
- SWIM LESSONS
- PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS
- KIDRESTING MUSIC
- ADAPTIVE REC BOWLING
- LACROSSE · DANCE
- ADULT PICKLEBALL

ighmn.gov/CurrentBrochure

FREE

SOUTH VALLEY PARK FUN DAY

Saturday, Jan. 10
2:30–4 p.m.

Sledding! Skating! Bonfire! S'mores! Cuppa More Pages will be providing hot chocolate & the PD will be joining in the fun!



ighmn.gov/Events

SPRING EGG HUNTS



FLASHLIGHT Egg Hunt
Friday, March 27 · Free
Ages 10–13 · 8:30 p.m.
Oakwood Park

Spring Egg Hunt
Saturday, March 28 · Free
Ages 3–10 · 1–1:45 p.m.
Oakwood Park

(Divided into three age/time slots.)

AQUA Egg Hunt
Sunday, March 29
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
VMCC Pool · \$8/\$10



March Specialty Fitness classes at the VMCC

- Tai Chi · YIN Yoga · Muscle Train · Boot Camp · Food and Fitness
- Meditation & Sound Healing · Women & Weights (new!) and more!

PRINCESS DANCE

Make lasting memories with your young prince or princess with an evening of music, dinner, photo booth fun, dancing and special activities!

Fri., Feb. 6
6-8 p.m.

Ages 4–12 with an adult

One adult and one child: \$48
Each additional person: \$24
Register by Friday, Jan. 30

VMCC, National Guard Gymnasium



Contemporary Line Dancing
Tuesdays, Jan. 13–Feb. 17 · Beg. & Adv. · \$45

IGH Park & Rec Craft Fair

SAT., MAR 7
9 a.m.–1 p.m.
NATIONAL GUARD GYMNASIUM

Vendors selling creative work of all kinds!

ighmn.gov/Events

CHECK OUT THE IGH Senior Center

Cards · Day Trips
Educational Programs
Book Clubs & More!

ighmn.gov/ActiveAdults55



ighmn.gov/Register

Join the Citizen Police Academy

Tuesdays, Mar. 31-May 12, 2026 • 6-9 p.m.

The IGH Police Department is excited to announce openings for its 2026 Citizen Academy class! The program is taught by IGH officers and is designed to offer citizens an inside look into department operations, including:

- The functions of the patrol, investigations, negotiators, SWAT, physical evidence, bike patrol, traffic and K-9 units.
- A review of typical calls for service.
- Routine and felony traffic stops and DWI demonstrations.
- Appropriate use of force and the laws of arrest.
- Searching and handcuffing a suspect.

We ask participants to make a commitment to attend each of the six weekly sessions. After successful completion of this program, participants will be given an opportunity to ride along with an officer.

Interested in participating? Please register early, as the number of participants will be limited to 15. Applications can be found on the City website at ighmn.gov/CitizenAcademy.



REGISTER NOW!
Last year's academy filled quickly.

2025 Citizen Police Academy participants in class with IGH PD officers.

Please direct questions or comments to:

Lieutenant John Daniels
Citizen Academy
Coordinator
jdaniels@ighmn.gov
651-450-2466

False Alarm Program Enrollment is Open

The IGH Police Department has a False Alarm Program to help regulate and reduce repeat false alarm calls for service.

City Ordinance Title 5, Chapter 3 (Alarm Systems) requires all property owners with an alarm system to complete a **Subscriber Alarm Permit annually**. There is no fee for this annual permit.

The Subscriber Alarm Permit process can be completed in three ways:

- 1 Scan the QR code. This allows the permit application to be completed and submitted from any smartphone or device.
- 2 Access the permit application from the website: ighmn.gov/Police.
- 3 Stop by the Police Department front counter at City Hall.

During a calendar year, the first two alarms are responded to at no charge to the alarm user. The fees for a third and subsequent false alarm are as follows: the **third false alarm** response fee is \$100, the **fourth false alarm** response fee is \$200 and for the **fifth and all subsequent false alarm** responses, the fee is \$300 per call.

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

TO ENROLL in the False Alarm Program, scan the QR code or go to ighmn.gov/Police.



FOR REGISTERED ALARM USERS:

If there was no change to a permit between 2025 and 2026, please complete the name and address sections on the application and select "no changes" when applying.



Sign of the Times: New Rules for Temporary Signs

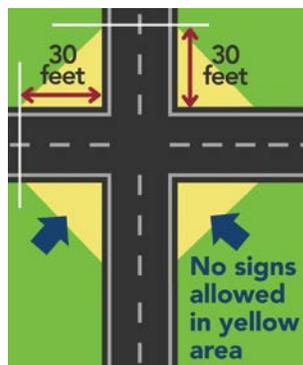
The City Council recently updated City Code regarding the use and placement of temporary signs like the one shown here. Here is a guide to the new rules:

What is a temporary sign? A sign that's constructed of paper, fabric, cardboard, coroplast or other similar material and is not permanently fixed to the ground or a structure.

I live on a City street. Where can I place a temporary sign on my property? Along City streets, temporary signs must be placed 10 feet back from the curb or, in cases where there is no curb, 10 feet back from the outer edge of the road surface. Signs may not be placed where they would obstruct the safe view of or from any driveway.

I live on a county road/state highway. Where can I place temporary signs? On county roads or state highways, placement of signs must comply with applicable county ordinances or state statutes.

I live on a corner. What rules apply to my property? Signs cannot be located on the outside corner of any corner lot. In cases where there is no curb, the "outside corner" shall be defined as the area bounded by the back side of the curb or outer edge of road surface and a line between two points, 30 feet back in each direction from the lot corner, along the curb line or outer edge of the road surface. Here is a diagram to help illustrate:



How many signs are allowed? Up to four temporary signs are permitted on a property at any time.

How large can the temporary signs be? Temporary signs can be no larger than six square feet.

What about election signs? As required by Minn. Statutes, Section 211B.045, noncommercial signs of any size may be posted in any number beginning 46 days before the state primary in a state general election year until 10 days following the state general election. Such signs are subject to the location restrictions above, but not the size or number limitations.

Recycling Works

Recycling is a team sport, and each player is important. Haulers collect recycling and bring it to a recycling facility. At the recycling facility, people pull contaminants out and keep the equipment running. Machines sort by materials to make sure items go to the right places. Businesses and manufacturers, many of which are local to Minnesota, turn those items into new products like boxes, bottles, cans and even lawn furniture.

How to recycle right

Make sure bottles, jars and containers are empty and dry before recycling. They don't have to be perfect—just free of most residue like food and liquids. Leave caps on containers and flatten boxes. Leave out plastic bags, batteries, black plastic, food and things that can tangle around moving machines. Wondering about a specific item? Use the online Recycling Guide at dakotacounty.us, search *recycling guide*.

This process starts at home. Recycling the right way maximizes the number of valuable materials that can be turned into new products.

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



RECYCLE THESE ITEMS:

Paper

- Newspaper and inserts
- Magazines and catalogs
- Mail and office papers

Cardboard

- Corrugated cardboard
- Paperboard (e.g., cracker boxes)

Cartons

- Milk and juice cartons
- Soup, broth and wine cartons
- Juice boxes

Glass bottles and jars

Metal cans

- Aluminum, tin and steel cans

Plastic bottles, containers and jugs

- Containers numbered 1, 2 or 5
- Soda, juice and water bottles
- Milk and juice jugs
- Margarine, cottage cheese and other tubs and lids
- Laundry detergent bottles and jugs
- Clear berry and produce containers

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Rhythm and Shoes Dance Studio

9041 Broderick Boulevard · Inver Grove Heights

651-340-4407

Rhythm and Shoes Dance Studio, which recently moved to IGH, is a welcoming, community-focused, non-competitive dance studio offering quality, age-appropriate training for dancers

ages 18 months through adults. Founded in 2005 and under the ownership of Elena Toninato since 2022, the studio combines warmth and professionalism to create an environment where dancers build confidence, friendships and a love of movement.

As a More Than Just Great Dancing® affiliated studio, Rhythm and Shoes upholds national standards for safety, teaching practices and classroom experience. The studio offers classes in tap, jazz, ballet, lyrical, hip hop, acro, poms, contemporary, musical theatre and preschool programming, along with opportunities to perform through the Rhythm and Shoes Performance Company (RSPC).

"We chose our new location in Inver Grove Heights because so many of our dancers and families already lived here, and it felt like a natural home for our studio. The visibility, safety and community feel of our new space—along with its proximity to Simley High School, our new ongoing recital venue—make IGH a perfect fit for us," says owner Elena Toninato. "We also have a strong base of dancers from West St. Paul, South St. Paul and Mendota Heights, so the studio brings together school friends and new friends in a uniquely connected and supportive dance environment. As both a studio owner and a parent in the district, I love seeing dancers from multiple cities come together. IGH neighbors have welcomed us so warmly, and we're grateful to be part of this community. Rhythm and Shoes is proud to serve Inver Grove Heights by providing a positive, inclusive and uplifting space where dancers can grow artistically and socially while celebrating the joy of dance," added Toninato. Enrollment is open year-round at rhythmandshoes.com or call/text 651-340-4407.



Home and Business Fire Safety Tips to Live By

Fire safety in homes and businesses is very important. According to the Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division's annual *Fire in Minnesota* publication in 2023, 73% (4,745) of all structure fires in Minnesota (6,455) were in residential settings, making the home the highest fire risk. Fire Inspectors typically inspect businesses and public buildings to make sure they meet fire code requirements but not single-family homes. This means that it's important for homeowners to become their own fire inspectors. Below are safety points to consider.

- ➔ **Cooking fires** are the No. 1 cause of fires. When cooking on a stove top, make sure there are no combustible materials within three feet of the stove and never leave the kitchen while cooking.
- ➔ When **cooking with oil** and it begins to smoke, this indicates the oil is too hot and is approaching its ignition temperature. Turn the burner down and allow the oil to cool. If you have a grease fire, do not pour water on it. Instead, smother the flames with a baking sheet or lid and turn the burner off. Let it cool for a half hour before removing the lid. **DO NOT** use baking soda to put out a grease fire. Doing so will require you to stick your hand over the flames, which can result in burn injuries.
- ➔ In case of an **oven fire**, turn it off and do not open the oven door. The fire will run out of oxygen and put itself out. Remember, ovens are designed to withstand high temperatures.
- ➔ **Chimney fires** are another cause of house fires. Chimneys should be professionally cleaned and inspected once a year to ensure there is no buildup of creosote within the chimney flue. Always be sure to have three feet of clear space around the fireplace. When using a fireplace, make sure the fireplace screen is closed when not stoking the fire. Never leave a fire unattended.



- ➔ **Dryer fires** can occur for numerous reasons, but one of the main reasons is lint build up within the dryer and its filter. According to the National Fire Protection Association, lint is the most common first material ignited in a dryer fire. An easy way to prevent this type of fire is to remove lint from the lint filter after every dryer cycle and clean the dryer exhaust vent as often as the manufacturer's instructions indicate.
- ➔ **Lithium-ion batteries** are becoming more and more common, but improper use of these batteries can start fires. Safety practices to prevent lithium-ion battery fires include taking these batteries off the charger once they're fully charged, storing them at room temperature and—if a battery appears damaged—recycle it at a recycling facility and replace it with a new one. Always follow manufacturer instructions when using lithium-ion batteries.

Fire and Police Dashboards Built with GIS

The IGH Geographic Information System (GIS) team is partnering with both the Fire and Police Departments to develop new interactive dashboards that bring key information, maps and GIS data together in one easy-to-view location.

The Fire Department is working with a contractor, Emergency Service Perspectives, which has created similar dashboards for several other Dakota County cities. Together, they have built three dashboards—Incident Response, Key Performance Indicators, and Oversight—using live data from the Fire Department’s Image Trend reporting software. This information is integrated into GIS and displayed in clear, interactive dashboards that include corresponding maps. The Fire Department is able to display these dashboards on monitors at the stations, helping firefighters easily understand performance metrics. This improved access to data and maps supports more informed strategic and tactical decision making to better serve the residents of Inver Grove Heights.

The Police Department is also beginning work on GIS-powered tools, including one that will be available to the public. The GIS team is coordinating data access with Local Government Information Systems (LOGIS) and working with PD staff to design the upcoming Transparency Dashboard and Crime Analysis solution.

GIS dashboards provide a powerful way to view data and maps side-by-side, offering valuable insights into City operations and the community. The GIS Team looks forward to continuing to support both departments as these projects move forward.

- ➔ **Space heaters** can cause fires when not properly used. If you have a space heater in your home, make sure it is facing away from combustible materials, has three feet of clear space around it and is plugged directly into a wall outlet. Never use extension cords to power space heaters.
- ➔ If you’re a smoker, always make sure to **smoke outside** and put your cigarette out in an ash tray. Never smoke inside your home.
- ➔ If you have children in the home, **have a safe escape plan**. Practice with your children how they would escape a fire. Teach them two ways out of the home, to stay low under smoke, and where to meet you outside of the home (away from the street and traffic).



- ➔ The majority of fire deaths occur in homes with no working smoke alarms. Make sure you have **working smoke alarms** on every level of the home and in all bedrooms. Test these alarms monthly and replace the batteries yearly.

In 2024, 42 out of 69 fire deaths in Minnesota occurred in the older adult population. Those over 65 are twice as likely to perish in a fire compared to the rest of the population. 65% of those who perished in these fires had alcohol or drugs in their system and 74% percent were smokers. Always drink and smoke responsibly.

Insights is published quarterly and is mailed to all City of Inver Grove Heights addresses.



8150 Barbara Avenue
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We would like to hear from you!
Give us a call at 651-450-2500.

CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

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Sue Gliva 651-450-2506
John Murphy 651-450-2507
Tony Scales 651-450-2504
Mary T'Kach 651-450-2505

ON THE WEB
ighmn.gov

EMAIL
cityhall@ighmn.gov

Police Department News

NOW AVAILABLE!

Emergency Response Information Clings and Tags

New IGH PD emergency response window clings and tags, which include a space for contact information, are available for pick up. Stop by the Police Department (west side of City Hall, 8150 Barbara Ave.) Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. to get yours. They are available at no charge.

These window clings and tags help officers and residents:

- First responders like to know as much information as possible when showing up to an emergency call for service. They can be more efficient and provide a higher level of care if they know more about who they are working with.
- Window clings let first responders know that someone inside a home or vehicle has special needs, autism, Alzheimer's or dementia, PTSD or a brain injury, or may have hearing loss or diabetes. Place them on the glass of a front door, storm door or front window, where they are visible to first responders. Also place them on a car window if you feel that would be beneficial when you are out and about.
- You can attach the tags to a door handle, keychain, backpack, purse, bike, jacket or other easily accessible and visible place. Having the alert information and the personal information on the back side of the tag can be incredibly helpful to first responders who arrive at an incident.
- Having information on calls when, for example, a child has wandered off and is nonverbal or officers encounter an adult with dementia, can help reunite these individuals with their families more quickly.



Questions? Contact the Police Department at 651-450-2525