



# Insights

WINTER 2020



## Community Welcomes New Fire Station #2

Just before Thanksgiving, the community got their first look at their new Inver Grove Heights Fire Station #2! Identified as a public safety need in the City over 25 years ago and in the planning and construction stages since 2010, about 300 people attended this “soft opening” on November 17, exactly 13 months after first breaking ground. Although some of the construction outside and small details inside were not yet completed, the Fire Department wanted to give the public

a chance to get a closer look at the station before the weather got too bad. Built to serve the citizens for the next 50+ years, this station will house the Fire Administration offices, 24/7 Duty Crew, workout facility, training areas, and also has the most current firefighter cancer-prevention design and equipment included. For much less money than building an entirely separate training facility, various designs were incorporated throughout the building to allow our firefighters to

practice their skills locally instead of having to travel outside of the city. That allows more firefighters to stay in the city for better response to emergency calls.

There are many who deserve a huge thank you for making this station a reality, but special emphasis goes to Inver Grove Heights citizens and City Council for their support of this building; the Architect, Five Bugles Design; General Contractor, Jorgenson

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## New Fire Station #2, continued from page 1

Construction; Owner's Representative, Cost Planning and Management International (CPMI); Utility Construction under Highway 52, EJM Pipe; and many IGH Fire and City staff who helped with researching our design and equipment, as well as helping throughout the construction!

If you didn't get a chance to attend this opening, stay tuned! There will be "tour dates" scheduled in 2020 that will be open to the public. In addition, this spring, after all the work outside and inside is completed, and the weather warms up, there will be a Grand Opening to celebrate this historic milestone for IGH. See you there!





## Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide, or CO, is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, poisonous gas referred to by some as the “Invisible Killer.” More than 150 people in the United States die every year from accidental nonfire-related CO poisoning associated with consumer products, including generators. Other products include faulty, improperly used or incorrectly vented fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, stoves, water heaters and fireplaces.

(Source: Consumer Product Safety Commission)

Carbon monoxide (CO) is created from incomplete combustion of fuels such as natural gas, wood, coal, gasoline and propane. Any heating or cooking equipment that burns fuel can potentially be a source of CO.

At a minimum, CO alarms should be installed outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home. Be sure to follow manufacturer’s installation instructions.

If your CO alarm sounds, immediately move to fresh air, such as outdoors. Make sure everyone has been accounted for, then call for help from this fresh air location and wait for emergency personnel to arrive.

Smoke alarms are not a substitute for CO alarms and vice versa. Make sure your home is protected by both.

Just like smoke alarms, CO alarms should be tested at least once a month and replaced according to manufacturer’s instructions. Change the batteries

in your CO alarms at the same time you change the batteries in your smoke alarms.

If warming a vehicle in winter, promptly remove it from the garage after starting it. Never run a vehicle or other fueled engine indoors, even if the garage door is left open, as CO may still accumulate in the garage or house.

During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are all clear of snow build-up to allow for proper venting. Also, if your vehicle is parked outside during a snow storm or becomes stuck in a snow drift, be sure to keep the exhaust pipe free from snow if the vehicle is left running in place.

Be sure to use generators only outdoors, away from windows, doors and vent openings.

If using a fuel-burning appliance, such as a heater, in your ice fishing house or other enclosed area, be sure to also install a CO alarm.

It is important to only use gas or charcoal grills outside because they can produce CO.

The initial symptoms of low to moderate CO poisoning are similar to the flu (but without the fever). They include headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and dizziness.

High level CO poisoning results in progressively more severe symptoms, including mental confusion, vomiting, loss of muscular coordination, loss of consciousness and ultimately death. Please be safe.



## REMEMBER THE ABCs OF FIRE HYDRANT SAFETY THIS WINTER

**A**lways **B**e **C**learing. Three Feet and Clear to the Street!

The City of IGH is asking residents to help keep fire hydrants clear this winter. If there’s a hydrant near your home, please:

- Keep it clear of snow and ice
- Clear a path between the hydrant and the street
- Clear snow to make a three-foot perimeter around the hydrant

**Remember, in fighting fires....every second counts!**



## The Adopted 2020 Budget

During the 2020 IGH budget process, City Council members listened to constituents' concerns and developed budget priorities that include:

- Increase funding for our Pavement Management Program. An additional \$500,000 will go into this fund to help with street repair and replacement. This will mean more roads fixed faster!
- Supporting a new Police Cadet Program, which will bring on board employees in non-sworn positions, who can assist with issues such as animal control, parking and traffic control.
- Create a joint position, shared between Parks and Storm Water Management, for improved, more effective maintenance.

The City tax levy for 2020 is \$24,747,680. This is a 6% increase over 2019. However, the tax levy rate changed from .53537 to .50881 or a **4.96% DECREASE!** This is due in part to tax capacity of properties in the City increasing 6.1% overall. When tax capacity increases, it is because of growth in terms of market value added from new homes and businesses, and the value of previously existing homes and businesses going up.

“...our bond rating [is] at AAa+, which makes it easier for the City to access financing...Overall, IGH continues to grow, with new business and housing capacity added each year.”

Other good news is that the City is good at managing debt, with our debt-to-operating budget ratio capped at just 15%. This keeps our bond rating at AAa+, which makes it easier for the City to access financing it might need. Overall, IGH continues to grow, with new business and housing capacity added each year. Did you know that our community added more than 500 new homes in the last 5 years? Our City Council and staff share your priorities regarding pavement management, community safety and the environment. We are eager to move forward into a new decade full of opportunities for IGH.

**Should you have any questions about how our budget process works, call City Hall at 651-450-2500.**



### **File complaints directly with Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC)**

The Minneapolis/St. Paul (MSP) International Airport has seen an increase in air traffic in the past year with more flights added and millions of people travelling in and out of the two terminals.

The MAC understands this increases aircraft noise and as a result maintains a 24-hour noise complaint and information hotline.

Residents affected by aircraft noise may file an aircraft noise complaint directly with MAC online at [www.macnoise.com/our-neighbors/file-noise-complaint](http://www.macnoise.com/our-neighbors/file-noise-complaint) or they may call the hotline at **612-726-9411**.

There are benefits to filing a complaint directly with MAC. It allows their staff to track the complaints, and then the MAC Board may make recommendations to the FAA on how to adjust airport operations so that noise impacts are minimized going forward.

## COMMUNITY SURVEY UPDATE

The 2020 *Community Survey* will be conducted again, starting in April, with the results being shared in July.

It is anticipated that some changes will be made to how the survey is conducted in 2020, so please watch the City website for updates. More information will be available in the spring 2020 issue of *Insights*. We appreciate your participation!





Community Development Director Heather Rand and her team continue to roll out the welcome mat to new businesses and projects here in Inver Grove Heights. Join us in supporting their openings and continued success!

## OPEN NOW

### Casey's General Store

Corner of Diffley Road and South Robert Trail

Casey's General Store has become a popular stop with IGH residents since it opened here last summer! The store is open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m., and 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Guests may enjoy famous, made-from-scratch pizza, donuts and Casey's made-to-order sub sandwiches. Casey's General Stores is a Fortune 500 company operating over 2,000 convenience stores in 16 states. Founded more than 50 years ago, the company has grown to become the fourth-largest convenience store retailer and fifth-largest pizza chain in the United States. Pizza fans can find the Casey's app in their app store for ordering their next pizza.

[www.caseys.com](http://www.caseys.com)



## COMING IN 2020

### Suite Living Senior Care of Inver Grove Heights

7900 Austin Way, off of 80th Street

Suite Living Senior Care of Inver Grove Heights will feature a total of 32 private units with 18 of them providing assisted living services and the other 14 providing memory care services. The building will be single-story, wood frame construction with high-quality finishes that resembles a single-family residential design. The assisted living residents will be able to enjoy a home-like atmosphere in a setting that allows them the freedom to utilize many amenities that assist them in their daily care needs and provide a higher quality of life than that offered in an institutional setting. The memory care residents are provided with their own secure area of the building that also has amenities like a congregate dining room, activity/craft area and a secure memory garden/patio. Staff at Suite Living Senior Care of Inver Grove Heights will be trained in serving those with Alzheimer's/ Dementia, Parkinson's and other specialty needs often unmet by other senior care facilities. Suite Living will employ about 30 full-time and part-time positions. [www.suitelivingseniorcare.com](http://www.suitelivingseniorcare.com)



## THE CITY'S FIRST PARKING RAMP

**CHS CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS** has a new, multi-million-dollar parking structure with support from IGH Community Development! Steve Johnson, IGH Chief Building Official (shown second from right), partnered with CHS staff and McGough Construction throughout the project. IGH Community Development staff visited the site almost daily during the planning and building process, before the structure opened just in time for winter. The final building inspection of the facility happened right before Thanksgiving, with (from left) McGough Field Superintendent Lynn Hoffman, IGH Fire Marshal Jeff Schadegg, IGH Fire Inspector Neal St. Onge, Steve Johnson, and new IGH Combination Inspector Luke Steenberg completing a walk-through. CHS Inc. is a Fortune 100 business that employs around 1,200 people at its Inver Grove Heights headquarters. [www.chsinc.com](http://www.chsinc.com)





## Landscaping for Clean Water Workshops

Create an addition to your home landscaping that is not only attractive, but will benefit our lakes, streams and wetlands! Landscaping for Clean Water workshops will help you beautify your landscape and provide cleaner water.

Join us for a **FREE** Landscaping for Clean Water workshop to see dozens of affordable designs that transform conventional urban yards into beautiful and beneficial landscapes. Afterwards, you can sign up for an advanced workshop where you will receive help designing a plan specific to your property and become eligible to apply for a grant to help with your project!

**Register here:** [www.dakotaswcd.org/cleanwater\\_form.html](http://www.dakotaswcd.org/cleanwater_form.html)

**Choose one of ten workshops. Each one runs from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Farmington | Mon., March 9**  
Extension & Conservation Center  
4100 220th Street W.

**Burnsville | Tues., March 10**  
Burnsville City Hall  
100 Civic Center Parkway

**Apple Valley | Wed., March 11**  
Apple Valley Municipal Center  
7100 West 147th Street

**West Saint Paul | Wed., March 18**  
Thompson Park Dakota Lodge  
1200 Stassen Lane

**Lakeville | Mon., April 6**  
Lakeville Water Treatment Facility  
18400 Ipava Avenue

**Burnsville | Wed., April 8**  
Burnsville City Hall  
100 Civic Center Parkway

**Apple Valley | Tues., April 14**  
Apple Valley Municipal Center  
7100 West 147th Street

**Eagan | Mon., April 27**  
Eagan Civic Arena  
3870 Pilot Knob Road

**Minnesota Zoo (Apple Valley) | Tues., May 12**  
Minnesota Zoo, 13000 Zoo Blvd.  
Main (South) Entrance

**Rosemount | Tues., June 2**  
Steeple Center  
14375 S. Robert Trail

**After you attend one of these introductory workshops, you can sign up for advanced design workshops. Here are two in IGH:**

**March 30 — Design 1 | VMCC**

**April 1 — Design 2 | VMCC**

**To learn more about this program, go to:**

**[www.dakotaswcd.org/cleanwater](http://www.dakotaswcd.org/cleanwater)**

After attending you can sign up to receive design and installation assistance. You may also qualify for a **\$250 grant** to install your new garden. In 2019, 77 grants were awarded to Dakota County residents — that's 77 new raingardens and native gardens in your neighborhoods! They join the more than four hundred gardens and shoreline planting we've installed since Landscaping for Clean Water began.

## JOIN THE ORGANICS DROP-OFF SITES!

Residents can bring organics, including food scraps and other acceptable products like paper towels and napkins, to organics drop-off sites for free. The following drop-off sites are hosted by Dakota County and are open to all Inver Grove Heights residents:

- Dakota Lodge, Thompson County Park, 1200 Stassen Lane, West St. Paul
- Holland Lake Trailhead, Lebanon Hills Regional Park, 1100 Cliff Road, Eagan
- The Mulch Store, 16454 Blaine Ave. E., Rosemount
- Lakeville Water Treatment Facility, 18400 Ipava Ave., Lakeville

The organics collected are taken to a local commercial compost facility where they are turned into compost, a nutrient-rich soil additive.

Residents must sign up to participate. All participants will receive helpful tips and free compostable bags to use at home. Signing up is easy:

- Visit [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us) and search organics;
- Call 952-891-7557; or
- Email [organics@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:organics@co.dakota.mn.us)

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





## Do You Own a Business in IGH?

The Inver Grove Heights Police Department is updating contact information for local businesses and we are asking for your participation in order to better serve you if we are called to your business after hours for reasons such as:

- Alarm calls (intrusion and/or fire)
- Criminal damage
- Other emergency concerns

By having current information, dispatchers and officers will be able to contact the right people when they are needed.

You can find our Business Keyholder form on the City's website at [www.invergroveheights.org/17/police](http://www.invergroveheights.org/17/police). It contains all of the information we need to update our contact list for your business. Please complete all fields and email it back to us at [businesschecks@invergroveheights.org](mailto:businesschecks@invergroveheights.org).

Please keep in mind that, when it comes to key holders, they should be reliable individuals who may be called to respond to your business if our officers need their assistance.

We will be updating this information on an annual basis, but we know that positions may change, and if someone leaves or joins your business, it would help us if you would update your business's information, so that we can contact the right representatives.

If you have any questions, please contact the Inver Grove Heights Police Department at **651-450-2525** or you can email us at [businesschecks@invergroveheights.org](mailto:businesschecks@invergroveheights.org)

We appreciate your time in completing the contact information and thank you for your cooperation!



### SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events put on by the IGH Police Department.

#### SENIOR SAFETY SEMINAR

With Sgt. John Daniels  
January 30th | 2–4 p.m.  
Cahill Commons  
5840 Cahill Avenue

#### COFFEE WITH A COP

With Sgt. Kasey Schrandt  
February 5th | 9–10 a.m.  
Casey's  
998 Diffley Court

#### SKATE WITH A COP

With Sgt. Ben Madsen  
March 28th | 6:30–8 p.m.  
VMCC — during open skate

### UPCOMING ELECTION INFORMATION

Presidential Nomination Primary, Tuesday, March 3rd, 2020.

*(Voters must choose a political party to participate in this primary.)*

Absentee with envelope process starts  
Friday, January 17, 2020.

Early Voting (Direct balloting) starts  
Tuesday, February 25, 2020.

Learn more at [www.invergroveheights.org/424/Elections-FAQs](http://www.invergroveheights.org/424/Elections-FAQs)

# 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 COUNCIL MEMBERS

George Tourville, Mayor	651-450-2507
Tom Bartholomew	651-450-2505
Rosemary Piekarski Krech	651-450-2504
Kara Perry	651-450-2506
Brenda Dietrich	651-450-2503

## CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Joe Lynch	651-450-2511
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## ON THE WEB

[www.invergroveheights.org](http://www.invergroveheights.org)

## EMAIL

[cityhall@invergroveheights.org](mailto:cityhall@invergroveheights.org)



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## CALLING ALL IGH RESIDENTS WHO LOVE OUR COMMUNITY PARKS!



The City is updating the master plan for South Valley Park (here's a peek at an image!), and we are hosting an open house to get your input. Please join us and share your thoughts and wishes as we launch this exciting process!

### SOUTH VALLEY PARK MASTER PLAN OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, January 22, 2020 | 5:30–7:00 p.m.

Veterans Memorial Community Center, 8055 Barbara Ave.  
Community Room 1

Help Your Community Stand Up  
and Be Counted!

## JOIN THE IGH 2020 CENSUS COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE!

You'll play an integral role in ensuring that everyone in our community gets counted in the 2020 Census. Census information is vital to everything from federal funding of local programs to our number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Email us at [ighplanning@invergroveheights.org](mailto:ighplanning@invergroveheights.org)  
or visit [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

## COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE

Thank you to everyone who donated food to Neighbors, Inc. during our November Food Drive! The community donated **946 pounds of food** (about 550 meals) during this collection.

Your donations are greatly appreciated. They will **assist over 500 families** in our area who seek assistance from Neighbors, Inc. each month.

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



# HOLIDAY LIGHTS RECYCLING

ACCEPTED: Holiday Lights & Extension Cords  
NOT ACCEPTED: Rope Lights, Cord Adaptors & Battery Packs



**Through January 31**

VMCC, 8055 Barbara Ave.  
The Grove, Door A

