



# Insights

SUMMER 2020

## Finding New, Safer Ways to Serve Our Residents

So much has happened since March 13, when Governor Tim Walz first made a statewide emergency declaration in response to COVID-19. Our city's response quickly followed, and the subsequent weeks brought unprecedented challenges as we sought to follow guidelines, adapt, and make the soundest decisions possible to protect and assist our staff and residents.

The first actions we took as a city were to ensure that essential services kept functioning. City Hall had to close to the public but remained open for business. Staff accessed the city's network remotely, and served customers via phone, email, and the city website.

Of course, many city workers do not have the option of working from home. IGH Police and Fire Departments quickly adopted vehicle cleaning and social distancing measures to ensure that they could continue responding to calls safely. In addition to calls, Police and Fire served in many other ways. For instance, our Police Department remained open to process permit to carry applications, and officers volunteered to clean up City Hall grounds on Earth Day. Our Fire Department held a drive to collect homemade face coverings to meet local need.

Public Works was facing one of its busiest times as COVID-19 struck, when spring maintenance tasks and road work begin. The Public Works building was cleaned top-to-bottom. Staff observed social distancing and were provided with personal protective equipment (PPE) so that services could continue as safely and seamlessly as possible. Residents were given the means of providing feedback



remotely on upcoming road construction and on the city's Storm Water Management plans.

Parks and Recreation developed remote programming, giving residents activities and fitness videos to do at home that will remain a part of programming. Our Finance Department developed a campaign around "Quick Pay," an easy means for residents to pay their utility bills online, saving in-person trips to City Hall. Our Community Development Department expanded the CityView Portal on the city website, offering residents and contractors the convenience of applying and paying for building permits online. Our building inspectors continued visiting construction sites, providing services that enforce health and safety codes.

In working through the obstacles presented by COVID-19, we found valuable, efficient new ways to expand service to our residents. These innovations will be a part of how we do business long-term.

### INVER GROVE HEIGHTS WINS FINANCE AWARD!

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting was awarded to IGH in the first quarter of 2020 by the Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada (GFOA) for the city's comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). This is the city's 32nd year receiving this award. This is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Congratulations to our Finance and Administrative departments for your excellent work!

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## Public Works Facility Needs Updates

Some of us remember 1985. Maybe we recall watching Live Aid on television while sipping New Coke, or seeing a movie at the West Drive-In before it closed? 35 years have come and gone, and much has changed in Inver Grove Heights. However, one thing remains largely the same: our Public Works maintenance facility.

At the time of its construction in 1985, our Public Works maintenance facility housed 24 vehicles and equipment, and only 14 full-time Public Works maintenance employees. However, street miles in IGH have increased by more than 50% since 1985 and, currently, there are a total of 139 different vehicles and equipment items that should be stored inside. Despite this roughly 500% increase in the number of vehicles and equipment that need housing since the facility was built, there are still only 32 parking spaces available, 27 in the main building and 5 in the adjacent cold storage building. In addition to vehicle and equipment crowding, there are now 32 full-time and 23 seasonal employees using locker rooms and other facilities designed for 14.

The crowding at the facility is more than an inconvenience. It has created safety issues, decreasing productivity and increasing the impacts of depreciation due to wear and tear on expensive equipment that is stored and started outside. "Storing vehicles, equipment and materials outdoors has a measurable negative impact on our maintenance program," said Street Maintenance Superintendent Barry Underdahl. "With an average of 35 winter maintenance events each season, work such as plowing is delayed due to clearing snow and ice from vehicles and equipment before we can begin."

During a typical early morning start to perform winter roadway maintenance, it is necessary to move vehicles to gain access to major pieces of equipment. Since every available space is utilized to maximize indoor parking, each morning vehicles must be moved to access the onsite shop that maintains a total of 189 vehicles and equipment for all city departments, including Police and Fire.





Scott Thureen, Public Works Director, estimates that 570 hours of staff time are spent each year just moving vehicles around. "We strive to provide the best service to residents as quickly as we can, especially during snow events. Unfortunately, our staff's efforts are slowed by an outdated facility that IGH has outgrown," said Thureen.



The city's Capital Improvement Plan aims to make improvements to and expand the current Public Works maintenance facility. If funded, design development would start in 2022, with the goal of addressing facility needs in support of pavement management, plowing efforts, water and sewer maintenance and park maintenance. New

facility plans would also seek to improve the work environment and productivity of maintenance employees by adding additional indoor parking and storage, a dual wash bay for vehicles, and improved employee locker room and restroom space.

Thureen hopes to see construction begin in 2023. "We have an exceptionally hardworking staff that serves our residents and other city departments. I would like to see us prioritize a safe and efficient facility for Public Works."

## Fire Safety Corner Smoke Alarms

Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no working smoke alarms. Install smoke alarms on the ceiling or a wall, per manufacturer's instructions, inside every bedroom, outside of every sleeping area, and on every floor in your home, including the basement. All smoke alarms should be tested monthly by pressing the test button and replaced every ten years or sooner, if directed by the manufacturer. Try to use both types of smoke alarms: ionization and photoelectric, and replace batteries annually, such as at daylight saving time. Be safe. Be sure your home has working smoke alarms.



## NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

### October 4-10, 2020

This year's theme is  
*Serve up Fire Safety  
in the Kitchen*

Follow us on Facebook for updates on local events brought to you by the IGH Fire Department.



Making necessary changes: Proposed new maintenance facility plans recommend adding additional indoor parking and storage for maintenance vehicles, a dual wash bay and enough employee locker room and restroom space for current staff levels.



## FIREFIIGHTERS WANTED!

### Give Back to Your Community

- Volunteer Paid-On-Call
- Live within 7 minutes of an IGH Fire Station

**TO APPLY:**  
Visit [invergroveheights.org](http://invergroveheights.org) and click on "Employment"

More information at 651-455-5082

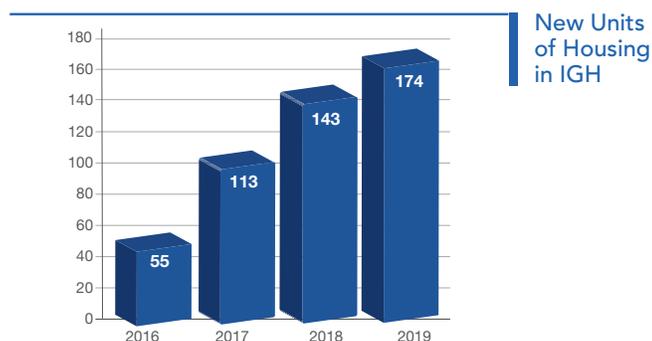


## Community Development 2019 Annual Report

Our Community Development Department, under the leadership of Director Heather Rand, recently issued its 2019 Annual Report. Last year was a busy and successful year for the city. New construction permit values totaled more than \$107 million, representing a 30% increase from the previous year's construction permit total of just over \$80 million. More than 3,200 building permits were issued in 2019, including 102 single-family homes and 72 units of multi-family housing, for a total of 174 new units of housing being added to IGH in 2019. With corresponding population growth estimated at approximately 2.6 people per unit, this translates to about 450 new IGH residents, meaning this city continues to add to our population in a measured way. With healthy population growth comes economic growth, and commercial development in IGH was also successful in 2019, with the value of new commercial projects exceeding \$20 million. Development highlights included:

- A major renovation at CHS headquarters, including the creation of more collaborative office space, incorporation of more natural light and features, and an updated employee break room. Also constructed at CHS was the city's first-ever parking ramp.
- New Holiday Station on S. Robert Trail
- Inver Grove Brewing Co.
- Inver Grove Heights Animal Hospital
- The City's New Fire Station #2

What's the outlook for IGH? Based on 2019 development trends, we expect to continue to see ongoing, steady growth in the coming years. Community Development is dedicated to supporting it!



## Inver Grove Heights Now Offering CityView: A Convenient Online Permit Portal

Are you a homeowner or a contractor with an upcoming residential building project, who also likes to save time? Now, you may be able to apply for permits through our online portal, CityView. To find out more, visit:

<https://cv.invergroveheights.org/cityviewportal>

This is a new service in IGH, and its capabilities will continue to grow as our city does. The online services now available include:

- Applying for permits
- Online payment
- Uploading photos and diagrams to accompany your application
- Searching any property record to see permit application history and status

CityView is designed to improve the ease and convenience of getting permits needed for most residential projects. Residential permits available through CityView now include:

- Re-roofing or re-siding
- Furnace, A/C, fireplace
- Residential plumbing

If you would like further guidance in deciding which permits you need, or for filing other residential and commercial permit applications, you can call us at **651-450-2500**. We are here to help!

**Your safety during COVID-19 is our priority. We encourage you to avoid a trip to City Hall by paying your utility bill online:**



1. Visit [invergroveheights.org](https://invergroveheights.org)

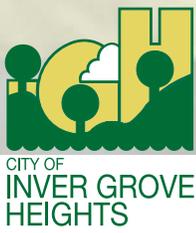
2. Click the 'Pay Online' icon

3. Click 'Utility Billing'

4. Click the 'Quick Pay' icon

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





SUMMER 2020

# Parks & Recreation

## Veterans Memorial Community Center is NOW OPEN!

Work out with us, join a fitness class, or find a great personal trainer. Visit our website for all the details: [invergroveheights.org/fitness](http://invergroveheights.org/fitness)



### Swim Lessons for All Ages

Available NOW!

Spaces fill quickly.

Learn more at [invergroveheights.org/CurrentBrochure](http://invergroveheights.org/CurrentBrochure)

The City of Inver Grove Heights swim lesson format follows COVID-19 guidelines.

### Rec-In-A-Box

Fun activities you pick up at VMCC for kids (of all ages) and families to do at home.

Learn more at [invergroveheights.org/86/recreation-programs](http://invergroveheights.org/86/recreation-programs)



### TERRIFIC TUESDAYS



South Valley Park  
2810 70th St. E.

10:30 a.m.

FREE events starting July 14 through August 18 featuring fun musical and educational programs in the park!

Learn more at [invergroveheights.org/specialevents](http://invergroveheights.org/specialevents)

Concert series sponsored by the City of Inver Grove Heights with support from River Heights Arts Alliance.

Call the weather line at 651-450-2595 to check status of event in case of inclement weather.

## REVISED Summer 2020 Parks & Recreation Brochure Now Available!

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

We are excited to bring our community some great summer programming in safe, new ways, and we look forward to spending time with you this summer! In the revised brochure, you will find many programs that have been altered to fit new Minnesota safety guidelines around COVID-19. Although some things have changed, we think you will find programs and activities to be excited about, including:

- Swim Lessons
- Indoor and Outdoor Fitness Classes
- Youth Sports
- Preschool Programs
- Summer Camps (including all-new Cheerleading and Creative Arts Camps)
- Mountain Biking

Spots are limited—register NOW! <https://invergroveheights.org/register>

Stay tuned! Fall Brochure will be coming in August!



Remove this page and post where convenient!

## 2020 VISION

# Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Facilities Plan



The City of Inver Grove Heights has 27 parks and 26 miles of off-road trails, a 144,000 square-foot community center, 27-hole golf course, and great recreation programs. What would you like to see happen with the park system over the next 20 years? The city is updating our parks and recreation master plan, and ideas from residents and park users are an important part of our planning. Our intention is that the completed plan will provide the community with a 20-year vision for the Inver Grove Heights Parks and Recreation system of parks, trails, facilities, and programs and how to fund these amenities.

### Engage with us!

Join a public meeting, complete our Parks Plan survey and find Social Pinpoint links on our website at [invergroveheights.org/parks](http://invergroveheights.org/parks).

City staff will be available for residents and users of the Veterans Memorial Community Center (VMCC), Inver Wood Golf Course, and our parks, trails, and recreation programs to listen to your thoughts, ideas, concerns, and dreams for the park and recreation system. Meetings will be held in an open-house style, observing social distancing guidelines. See the list of public meetings below. **Join the conversation on the future of your parks and trails!**

### For more information

Visit the City's website at [invergroveheights.org/parks](http://invergroveheights.org/parks) or contact Eric Carlson, Parks and Recreation Director at 651-450-2587, or by email at [ecarlson@invergroveheights.org](mailto:ecarlson@invergroveheights.org).

#### Meeting Regarding Northwest Area Parks

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	ZOOM CALL
Mon., July 20	7:00 p.m.	NW Area Parks (limited to first 100 participants)	<a href="https://zoom.us/MeetingID:85150492426">https://zoom.us/MeetingID:85150492426</a> Password: 637356

#### Meeting Regarding Winter Skating Sites

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	ROOM
Tue., July 21	6-7:30 p.m.	VMCC	Community Room 3

#### General Open House on Park and Recreation System

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	ROOM
Wed., July 22	6-7:30 p.m.	VMCC	Community Room 3
Thu., July 23	6-7:30 p.m.	VMCC	Community Room 3

#### Recreation Facility Open House

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	ROOM
Tue., July 28	10-11:30 a.m.	VMCC	Community Room 3
Tue., July 28	6-7:30 p.m.	VMCC	Community Room 3
Tue., Aug. 4	10-11:30 a.m.	VMCC	Community Room 3
Tue., Aug. 4	6-7:30 p.m.	VMCC	Community Room 3
Wed., Aug. 5	11 a.m.-12 p.m.	Inver Wood Golf Course	Clubhouse
Wed., Aug. 5	6-7 p.m.	Inver Wood Golf Course	Clubhouse

#### Meetings Regarding Park & Trail System

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	ROOM
Thu., Aug. 6	6-7 p.m.	Rich Valley	Playground
Thu., Aug. 6	7:15-8:15 p.m.	VMCC	Playground
Thu., Aug. 13	6-7 p.m.	Heritage Village	Parking lot along Doffing Ave.
Thu., Aug. 13	7:15-8:15 p.m.	Swing Bridge	Picnic Shelter
Thu., Aug. 13	8:30-9:00 p.m.	Old Town Hall	Next to the building
Mon., Aug. 17	6-7 p.m.	Woodland Preserve	Azure Trail Entrance
Mon., Aug. 17	7:15-8:15 p.m.	Marcott Woods	Along 96th St. E.
Tue., Aug. 18	6-7 p.m.	Groveland	Playground
Tue., Aug. 18	7:15-8:15 p.m.	Seidls Lake	Playground
Wed., Aug. 19	6-7 p.m.	McGroarty	Park Sign
Wed., Aug. 19	7:15-8:15 p.m.	Lions	Playground
Thu., Aug. 20	6-7 p.m.	Salem Hills	Playground
Thu., Aug. 20	7:15-8:15 p.m.	Harmon	63rd St. Cul-de-sac
Tue., Aug. 25	6-7 p.m.	North Valley	Pickleball Courts
Tue., Aug. 25	7:15-8:15 p.m.	South Valley	Playground
Wed., Aug. 26	6-7 p.m.	Ernster	Playground
Wed., Aug. 26	7:15-8:15 p.m.	River Front	Park Sign
Thu., Aug. 27	6-7 p.m.	Skyview	Playground
Thu., Aug. 27	7:15-8:15 p.m.	Oakwood	Park Building
Mon., Aug. 31	6-7 p.m.	Sleepy Hollow	Playground
Mon., Aug. 31	7:15-8:15 p.m.	Arbor Pointe	Playground
Tues., Sept. 1	6-7 p.m.	Simley Island	Picnic Shelter
Tues., Sept. 1	7:15-8:15 p.m.	Dehrer	Corner of Dehrer and Dawn
Wed., Sept. 2	6-7 p.m.	Broadmoor	Playground
Wed., Sept. 2	7:15-8:15 p.m.	Southern Lakes	Playground
Thu., Sept. 3	6-7 p.m.	Marianna Ranch	Corner of Alverez and Altman Ct.
Thu., Sept. 3	7:15-8:15 p.m.	River Heights	Park Sign

**In case of inclement weather, call (651) 450-2587 after 5:00 p.m. The message will be updated by 5:00 p.m. with information on where the meeting will be held indoors. You are welcome to come to any of the meetings listed and can come to as many of them as you would like.**



# Annual Clean-Up Day

Saturday, September 19 | 8 a.m.–12 p.m.

IGH Public Works Facility, 8168 Barbara Ave.



Residents of the City of Inver Grove Heights, West St. Paul and Sunfish Lake are invited to the IGH Annual Clean-Up Day! Stop by to dispose of your unwanted items. Accepted items and prices are listed below. Only cash and checks are accepted. Please bring small bills. Proof of residency, such as a driver's license, is required.

For more information, please visit [invergroveheights.org/cleanupday](http://invergroveheights.org/cleanupday) or contact Ally Sutherland at [asutherland@invergroveheights.org](mailto:asutherland@invergroveheights.org) or 651-604-8511.

Remove this handy reference guide.

ACCEPTED ITEMS	PRICES (Cash and Checks Only)
<b>Appliances</b>	\$5 per small appliance: Blender, toaster, coffee maker, etc. \$10 per large appliance: Microwave, dehumidifier, refrigerator, air conditioner, etc. \$15 per vacuum
<b>Batteries</b>	\$1 per pound of alkaline batteries (AA, AAA, etc.) \$2 per any other battery (car, laptop, etc.)
<b>Bicycles</b>	<b>FREE</b>
<b>Carpet and Carpet Padding</b>	\$5 per roll
<b>Clothing, Shoes, Accessories &amp; Textiles</b>	<b>FREE:</b> Gently used items only. Including clothing, shoes, accessories (hat, purses, belts, etc.), household textiles (towels, drapes, sheets, blankets, etc.)
<b>Confidential Document Shredding</b>	<b>FREE:</b> On-site confidential document shredding. Please remove all 3-ring binders, binder clips or metal tabs on file folders from the items you bring.
<b>Construction Debris</b>	Construction debris such as concrete, shingles, insulation, lumber, etc. <b>Limit of one pickup load per household.</b> \$10 per individual item: Sink, toilet, tub, etc. \$25 per ½ pickup truck load or SUV/car load \$50 per full pickup truck load
<b>Electronics</b>	\$10 per TV (less than 20 lbs) \$20 per TV (more than 20 lbs) \$10 per computer monitor (less than 20 lbs) \$20 per computer monitor (more than 20 lbs) <b>FREE:</b> Computer towers, laptops, tablets, keyboards & mice, desktop printers & ink cartridges, desktop copiers, fax machines, cables and cords, network equipment, audio equipment, phones, dvd player, ipods, etc.

\* Please note this is the final year of construction debris collection. For local year-round disposal opportunities, please visit [invergroveheights.org/cleanupday](http://invergroveheights.org/cleanupday)

ACCEPTED ITEMS	PRICES (Cash and Checks Only)
<b>Exercise Equipment</b>	\$10 per equipment with no electronics (bench press, leg press, etc.) \$25 per equipment with electronics (treadmill, elliptical, exercise bike, etc.)
<b>Furniture (landfill disposal only)</b>	\$5 per small items: Desk chair, kitchen chair, barstool, outdoor chair, and end tables. \$15 per large items: Couch, loveseat, recliner, dresser, dining table, vanity, desk, ottoman, etc.
<b>Gas Powered Items</b>	Please drain all liquids \$10 per snow blower \$10 per push lawn mower \$25 per riding lawn mower
<b>Light Bulbs</b>	\$1 per item (any size or type)
<b>LP Tanks</b>	\$5 per item (drained of liquids)
<b>Mattresses and Box Springs</b>	\$15 per mattress \$15 per box-spring
<b>Miscellaneous Items</b>	\$5 per item: Garden hose, kennel, mirror, large plastic item, etc.
<b>Scrap Metal</b>	\$1 per item
<b>Tires and Rims</b>	<b>FREE:</b> Any tire without rim <b>FREE:</b> Any rim without tire \$2 per bike tire (with rim) \$6 per car tire (with rim) \$8 per truck tire (with rim) \$12 per semi tire (with rim)

\* If your furniture is in reusable condition, please utilize year-round donation or online selling platforms listed on [invergroveheights.org/cleanupday](http://invergroveheights.org/cleanupday)

## Year-round Disposal Opportunities

Household hazard waste is **not accepted** at Annual Clean-Up Day. The Recycling Zone (3365 Dodd Road, Eagan) is a recycling facility open to all Dakota County residents that provides year-round disposal opportunities for electronics, household hazardous waste, tires and more. Please call **651-905-4520** or visit [dakotacounty.us](http://dakotacounty.us) and search Recycling Zone for an accepted items list, prices and hours of operation. To learn how to properly dispose of any unwanted item year-round, search the Green Guide at [invergroveheights.org/greenguide](http://invergroveheights.org/greenguide).

# City Meetings Schedule

## August 2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 CC Work Sessions 6 p.m. City Hall	4 CAC Planning 7 p.m. Remote Meeting	5	6	7	8
9	10 CAC Economic Development 5 p.m.   City Hall CC 6 p.m.   City Hall	11 STATE PRIMARY	12 CAC Parks & Rec. 7 p.m.   City Hall LMRWMO 3 p.m.*	13	14	15
16	17	18 CAC Planning 7 p.m.   Remote Meeting WMO Eagan-IGH 5:30 p.m.**	19	20	21	22
23	24 CC 6 p.m.   City Hall	25	26	27 CAC Environmental 7 p.m. Remote Meeting	28	29
30	31					

### IMPORTANT

Due to the ongoing impact on COVID-19, all meeting locations are subject to change, and we will offer remote meeting connections. Visit [invergroveheights.org](http://invergroveheights.org) for up-to-date meeting information. Remote meeting instructions can be found at the top of the meeting agendas posted on our website at [invergroveheights.org/agendacenter](http://invergroveheights.org/agendacenter)

## September 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 CAC Planning 7 p.m. Remote Meeting	2	3	4	5
6	7 LABOR DAY City Offices Closed	8 CC Work Sessions 6 p.m. City Hall	9 CAC Parks & Rec. 7 p.m.   City Hall LMRWMO 3 p.m.*	10	11	12
13	14 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	15 CAC Planning 7 p.m. Remote Meeting	16	17	18	19 ANNUAL CLEAN-UP DAY 8 a.m.–12 p.m. IGH Public Works Facility
20	21	22	23	24 CAC Environmental 7 p.m. Remote Meeting	25	26
27	28 CC 6 p.m. City Hall	29	30			

### KEY

CC	City Council
CAC	City Advisory Commissions
WMO	Watershed Management Org.

\* For more information on the Lower Mississippi River WMO meetings, visit <http://www.dakotaswcd.org/watersheds/lowermisswmo/meetings.html>

\*\* For more information on the Eagan-IGH WMO meetings, visit <http://www.dakotacountywcd.org/watersheds/eagan-igh-wmo/>



## Let us know what you think about IGH Residents Conducting Business From Their Homes

City Council is seeking your input on the future of our residents conducting business from their homes, often referred to as home occupations. Examples of permitted home occupations include daycares, one-chair beauty salons and professional home offices, such as those used by accountants and insurance brokers.

Currently, the city code allows a handful of small business types to operate out of a home (home occupations), but not out of garages or detached structures on a residential property. Additionally, the business may only be operated by persons living in the dwelling, with no additional employees. The storage of business equipment or materials in accessory buildings or garages is prohibited. However, residents may bring their business truck or van home overnight, as long as it does not exceed a one-ton capacity.

**We want to hear from you! Please help by taking a short survey about whether you think the city's home occupation ordinance should be amended to allow businesses to operate or store business inventory in residential accessory buildings, such as garages.**

Take our  
**short survey!**

Scan the code at right  
with your phone's  
camera, or go to  
<https://bit.ly/2BofESC>



Take our short survey now through August 31.

## Night to Unite in IGH!

Watch for more details coming in September!

Rescheduled to  
**Tuesday, Oct. 6**



## GIS CORNER

### BRINGING MAPS AND DATA TOGETHER FOR INFORMED DECISION MAKING

How do city workers know where all the physical infrastructure the city maintains is located? Fortunately, we have a lot of long-tenured city maintenance workers, who do a fantastic job knowing where things are without any outside help. However, when they *do* need help or a new worker that doesn't yet have that institutional knowledge starts, GIS is a tool they can turn to for help. GIS stands for Geographic Information System—a computer system that analyzes geographical information. This involves tracking and displaying where things are in the world, what we know about those things, and how we can visualize them. How does the city leverage GIS? In many valuable ways. For example, the city owns and maintains over 154 miles of water main, 3,987 water valves, and 1,824 fire hydrants—all tracked through GIS. GIS also helps:

- Public Works to track where water main breaks have occurred and proactively plan to replace pipes near the end of their lifespan.
- The Fire Department to quickly locate hydrants during a fire emergency.
- Newly hired Utilities workers to know exactly where to find underground pipes.

Water mains are just one example of how GIS helps the city run safer and more effectively. In future *Insights*, we will feature other interesting ways that our dedicated GIS staff members track and use information to better serve our residents and city employees. Stay tuned!



## Elections 2020—Democracy Needs Participation!

The 2020 election ballot includes President, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representatives, State Senator, State Representative, Judicial seats, County Commissioner District 4, and City Offices of Mayor and Councilmembers (2).

### Are you registered to vote?

The Secretary of State's Office is the repository for the statewide voter registration system. Check your voter registration status at: <http://www.mnvotes.org/>

### Voter registration cut off is:

State Primary — July 21 at 5 p.m.

State General Election — Oct. 13 at 5 p.m.

Minnesota Statute allows for individuals to register to vote at your polling location on Election Day if you bring proof of residency.

### Upcoming elections

State Primary — Tue., Aug. 11

State General Election — Tue., Nov. 3

### How you can vote

The hours to vote at City Hall, 8150 Barbara Avenue, are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### There are several ways to vote in the upcoming elections:

- 1 **Vote absentee through the Envelope Process.**  
Absentee voting begins 46 days before an election.  
Absentee voting begins:  
*State General Election* — Sep. 18
- 2 **Vote by absentee through Early Voting/ Direct Balloting.** Direct Balloting begins 7 days before an election. You deposit your ballot directly into a tabulator.  
*State Primary* — Aug. 4 to Aug. 10  
The hours to vote are the same as above except City Hall will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sat., Aug. 8. and until 5 p.m. on Mon., Aug. 10.  
*State General Election* — Oct. 27 to Nov. 2  
The hours to vote are the same as above except City Hall will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sat., Oct. 31, and until 5 p.m. on Mon., Nov. 2.
- 3 **Vote on Election Day at your polling location.**  
The City of Inver Grove Heights is divided into ten precincts/polling places. Voting hours on election day are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

[www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org) is your source to know if you are at the correct voting location.

### Precinct Polling locations are as follows:

- 1 | Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, 7160 South Robert Trail
- 2 | Inver Hills Church, 8265 Babcock Trail
- 3 | National Guard Armory, 8055 Barbara Avenue
- 4 | Inver Grove Heights City Hall, 8150 Barbara Avenue
- 5 | Emanuel Lutheran Church, 2075 70th Street E.
- 6 | Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 7600 Cahill Avenue E.
- 7 | St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 3535 72nd Street E.
- 8 | River Heights Vineyard Church, 6070 Cahill Avenue
- 9 | First Calvary Baptist Church, 5495 South Robert Trail  
**(NEW LOCATION)**
- 10 | Bethesda Lutheran Church, 2855 47th Street E.

## Welcome Meet Your City Staff



### Amy Hove, Finance Director

Originally from Red Wing, Minnesota, Amy currently resides in Hager City, Wisconsin with husband Troy and son Cody. Amy graduated from Luther College with a degree in accounting and started at Goodhue County in 1998. She spent eighteen years at the County, working in finance, tax and elections. In 2016, Amy switched government gears and left County government to become the Finance Director for Lake City, Minnesota. This January, she signed on as Finance Director for IGH.

### Q: What got you interested in finance?

A: My parents are teachers—my dad is a math teacher—and I excelled at accounting in high school. I got my first taste of government finance at Goodhue County. I loved the variety of work and the unique challenges that come with working in the government sector—you get to wear a lot of hats!

### Q: What do you enjoy in your spare time?

A: My hobbies include tennis, reading and watching any sport my son Cody plays (baseball and basketball).

### Q: Best thing you've discovered about IGH so far?

A: I've met some really great people in IGH from all walks of life. My sister and her family live in the community, and I'm looking forward to exploring all the great parks and trails the city has to offer.



Pictured left to right: Dakota County Commissioner Liz Workman, Minnesota State Senator Karla Bigham, Dakota County Commissioner Joe Atkins, U.S. Representative Angie Craig, IGH Mayor George Tourville, IGH Councilmember Rosemary Piekarski-Krech



Photos and rendering courtesy of Dakota County.

## SMART Center Construction to Commence

On Monday, June 9, IGH Mayor George Tourville and Councilmember Rosemary Piekarski-Krech, joined state and county officials and community leaders to break ground on the construction of the SMART (Safety and Mental Health Alternative Response Training) Center, which will be built close to Fire Station 2 on Concord Boulevard near Highway 52. The new 35,000-square-foot complex, funded by both Dakota County and the State of Minnesota, will provide training for law enforcement personnel and first responders from across the region in de-escalation and crisis response techniques, which assist in interactions with people experiencing a mental health crisis. More information on this project can be found at [www.co.dakota.mn.us](http://www.co.dakota.mn.us).



### Rebecca (Becky) Kiernan, City Clerk

Becky was born, raised and still resides in a small town—Hastings—not far from Inver Grove Heights. After earning her associate’s degree in accounting from Dakota County Technical College, she received the title of Minnesota Certified Municipal Clerk in 2013. Before coming to IGH, Becky amassed

20 years of experience in local government, including with the City of Lakeville, City of Fridley and Dakota County Elections.

**Q: What got you interested in clerking?**

**A:** When I started in local government, I really wasn’t looking to be a City Clerk, but as my duties progressed, I saw that I could make a positive difference in how things ran in local government.

**Q: What do you enjoy in your spare time?**

**A:** I like reading, stained glass projects, knitting, crocheting, snowshoeing, four-wheeling, hiking, star gazing and family time.

**Q: Best thing you’ve discovered about IGH so far?**

**A:** The coming together as a community. Everyone is so supportive!



IGH Assistant Fire Chief Eric Bergum and IGH Fire Chief Judy Thill, holding a sign welcoming new SMART Center neighbors to Concord Blvd.

# 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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## Food Truck Events



Stop by to purchase a snack, sweet treat or dinner from a variety of food vendors!

### Kickoff Event!

Thu, July 23 | 4:30-7 p.m.  
VMCC Parking Lot  
8055 Barbara Ave.



### End of Summer Celebration!

Thu, Aug. 20 | 5:30-8 p.m.  
Rich Valley Athletic Complex  
1841 105th St. E.

To view a list of confirmed vendors (available by the week of the event) and information on latest safety guidelines being used to ensure everyone can participate safely, visit: [invergroveheights.org/foodtruckdays](http://invergroveheights.org/foodtruckdays).

## FARMERS MARKET in IGH

Sundays thru Oct. 11 | 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Veterans Memorial Community Center  
8055 Barbara Ave.

Shop safely for fresh produce, flowers, honey and more from local vendors!

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



## 14th Annual Harmon Farms Trail Run

Sunday, Sept. 20

8 a.m.» 10 Mile Race

8:10 a.m.» 5 Mile Race

Pre-registration: \$30 | On-site: \$40  
Participants receive a shirt!

[www.invergroveheights.org/harmonfarms-annualtrailrun](http://www.invergroveheights.org/harmonfarms-annualtrailrun)

