



# Insights

WINTER 2021

## A Message of Thanks from Outgoing Mayor George Tourville

I would like to take this opportunity to say farewell to colleagues, peers, friends and citizens of Inver Grove Heights. Your support and encouragement will always be remembered. Thank you to the three city administrators I worked with, Robert Schaefer, Jim Willis and Joe Lynch, for their guidance and support over the last 39 years. Thank you to all of the past mayors I have served with: Bill Saed, Rosemary Piekarski Krech and Joe Atkins, and the many city councilmembers, which totals over 20 individuals. To mention a few that I have served with through multiple years: Ken Henderson, Sheila Tatone, Chip Grannis, Brian Howard, Bernie Beermann, Jim Mueller, Bill Klein, Dennis Madden, Tom Bartholomew and Rosemary Piekarski Krech. To Tim Kuntz, who started as the city attorney the same time I arrived on the City Council at the Old City Hall. To all the many department heads that over the years guided the city through the many issues and opportunities of transportation, sewer and water, housing alternatives, public safety, Parks and Recreation and Finance. And an incredibly special thank you to the many front-line employees who do the day-to-day work in serving the citizens and businesses of our great city.

I have been asked by many to mention a few of the accomplishments of the city over the last 39 years that stood out for me. These are not in order of importance... but the work of many to make Inver Grove Heights a better place to live, work, play and learn.

- Cenex moving from SSP to IGH
- Completion of Interstate 494, and Highways 52 and 55 through IGH
- Established City Parks (27) & Trail System and strong recreation programs for all ages
- Minnesota National Guard Training Facility, Veterans Memorial Community Center and The Grove

- Expansion of Rich Valley Athletic Facility
- The building of Inver Wood Golf Course
- Rottlund Homes, Arbor Pointe expansion and Arbor Pointe Golf Course
- Interchange and business expansion at Highway 52 and Upper 55th Street
- Walmart and the expansion of Cahill and Concord interchange
- Target, Argenta Hills, and the first roundabout in IGH at 80th Street and Robert Street
- Volunteers and businesses to re-establish IGH Days and its activities including the Neighbors, Inc. food drive
- Rock Island Swing Bridge, Mississippi River Trail, Dog Park and the start of Heritage Park Plan
- Expansion of sewer and water to the Northwest portion of IGH
- The expansion of Inver Hills Community College
- Securing of the Dakota County Inver Glen Library
- Remodel of IGH City Hall and Police Department, and the building of Fire Station No. 2



George Tourville

As most know, I was an active member of the IGH Fire Department for 26 years and served on the IGH Fire Department Relief Association for 18 years. The IGH Fire Department was a huge part of our family's life in IGH, and I will be forever thankful to all the Fire Department families

— Continued on page 2



*Our city masthead is a somber black and white for this issue, as we mourn and remember those that our community has lost to COVID-19. Friends, family members, colleagues and loved ones, we hold you in our hearts.*

## A Message of Thanks from Outgoing Mayor George Tourville, *continued from page 1*

and members for your service and devotion, and most of all your respect and friendship.

I do not need to remind citizens and businesses that 2020 was an exceedingly difficult year for most and unlike any year most of us have ever experienced before. I ask that we all work together to help each other and our local businesses to make it through this pandemic. With kindness, hope, civility, and charity towards all our neighbors and businesses, we will make it through these difficult times.

Being mayor in IGH was an honor and privilege, and I will always treasure this opportunity and be forever grateful to

the citizens of Inver Grove Heights. I wish the best to the new City Council and Mayor Bartholomew in 2021 and know they will be ready and eager to do their work. My last thoughts go out to my family and close friends for their help, suggestions and sacrifices over the last 39 years, while I served on the IGH City Council. To my wife Barbara of 49 years, it was not always easy but thank you for your support, friendship and love. *Please note if I forgot someone or an important fact, I apologize in advance.*

— George Tourville

## A Message from Newly Elected Mayor Tom Bartholomew

### To the Inver Grove Heights Community,

I am honored and humbled to have been elected your new mayor, and I look forward to the work that we have ahead of us. As your mayor, I will be committed to the success of this community and ready to make effective decisions relating to community development, open space, public safety, and infrastructure.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to add challenges to our planning. Now more than ever, our goals must be measured by both the benefit and cost to our residents and business community. Inver Grove Heights has so much to offer, and we must continue to improve and support these assets. I will explore new technologies and efficiencies to improve on the services the city provides.

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*“It will be with the cooperation, courage and determination of staff, residents, and Council that we will address our challenges and pave the way for sustainable growth in this place that we are proud to call home.”*

— TOM BARTHOLOMEW

The individuals staffing our city are our most valuable asset: public safety, our firefighters and police officers, Public Works, Community Development, Finance, Administration, Parks and Recreation and their staff. I would like to acknowledge their worth and work. It will be with the cooperation, courage and determination of staff, residents, and Council that we will address our challenges and pave the way for sustainable growth in this place that we are proud to call home.

Let us all seize this opportunity to work in cooperation—residents, business community, City Council, and city staff. Together we can reach the common goals of beneficial growth, improvement of services, and the creation of a stronger community.

I would like to thank City Councilmember Kara Perry for her years of service and dedication to our community. Thank you, Mayor Tourville, for your 39 years of service and leadership. Your dedication, hard work, and determination have benefited the city over many years. Good luck to you, George, in your future endeavors! Please join me in welcoming newly elected Councilmembers Sue Gliva and John Murphy, both of whom I thank for their commitment. I would also like to commend Councilmember Brenda Dietrich for her strong mayoral campaign. Residents benefited from the campaign and the vetting of each candidate. Lastly, I would like to recognize our citizens for a strong voter turnout this year. Your participation in our city government is essential.

2021 will bring many challenges to our residents and their families, our local businesses and our city leadership, and these challenges will test our resolve. However, I am certain that we as a community will overcome the difficulties we face in the new year with confidence, determination, and grace, and emerge more resilient, together.

Thank you,  
Tom Bartholomew



**Tom Bartholomew**



Sue Gliva



John Murphy

## MEET YOUR NEW CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

### SUE GLIVA

As a long-time resident of Inver Grove Heights, I believe in being involved in the community. Most recently serving on the District 199 School Board, I was actively involved in Finance, Policy, and Personnel Committees. My professional experience includes small business ownership, as well as various accounting and finance roles in Fortune 500 companies and now as the Financial Controller of a small business in a neighboring community. Married with three grown children, my husband Keith and I enjoy cooking and trying out new restaurants. I am a die-hard Vikings fan and will never turn down a good cupcake!

### JOHN MURPHY

I've been a member of the Inver Grove Heights community for over 50 years, and I look forward to serving the residents of IGH. I've always valued taking an active role in my community. I've been a member of the Northern Dakota County Chamber and YMCA Advisory Board. I am a current member of the West St. Paul-Mendota Heights Rotary Club and River Heights Chamber of Commerce. I also spent 10 years coaching Parks & Rec. baseball and softball in IGH. I'm a 1982 graduate of Simley High School and hold a BA from the University of Minnesota.



### TAKE A SURVEY

## Tell Us What You Think About Market Gardens in IGH!

As a city government, we strive to meet the needs of our residents as they change over time. City Council is considering an amendment to the city code to address a relatively new trend called market gardens. A market garden is like a personal or community garden where food crops or ornamental crops, like flowers, are grown and harvested for personal use, consumption or donation, with one important distinction. A market garden would allow the same growing and harvesting of crops but would **expand growing beyond personal use and allow for the retail sale of crops grown on site to the public**. Sales would only occur in a house or garage (no tents on sidewalks or in driveways) and only a few days per week.

Currently the city code does not allow retail sales of products from residential districts. Allowing retail sales would be a departure from a long-standing restriction on residential-zoned properties. Before a change is made, City Council wants to find out what residents think about market gardens by conducting a short survey. Do you think the city code should be amended to allow the retail sale of crops grown on property in a residential neighborhood?

Take our **short survey on market gardens!**

Scan the code with your phone's camera, or go to [www.ighmn.gov/57/Planning-Zoning](http://www.ighmn.gov/57/Planning-Zoning)







## United Properties Adds First Tenant, Simpson Strong-Tie, to InverPoint Business Park

We are thrilled to welcome **Simpson Strong-Tie** to the IGH business community. Last month, Simpson Strong-Tie became the first tenant to occupy InverPoint Business Park, located at 8450 Courthouse Blvd. off Highway 55 in Inver Grove Heights. Simpson Strong-Tie is **one of the country's leading makers**



**of screws, fasteners, and connectors used by builders and contractors to make stronger, safer buildings and homes.** The company signed a lease with United Properties in June of 2020 for the 80,000 square-foot space. Nineteen employees will work at the IGH site.

**InverPoint Business Park**  
8450 Courthouse Blvd.

<https://news.strongtie.com>

"Simpson Strong-Tie is pleased to have selected Inver Grove Heights for its new warehouse location, which will allow the company to provide better

customer service and faster delivery to the lumberyards, home centers, and hardware stores that sell Simpson Strong-Tie products," added Simpson Strong-Tie Inver Grove Heights Warehouse Manager Kyle Mueller.

"We have had a great partnership with Simpson Strong-Tie throughout the development process and believe they will be

a great neighbor in the city of Inver Grove Heights," said United Properties Development Manager Connor McCarthy. "United Properties is looking forward to the continued relationship and continued development at InverPoint Business Park in the near future."

United Properties, a prominent real estate developer that owns InverPoint, will continue to market and recruit new businesses and construct other build-to-suit buildings at this site in the coming years, adding employment and tax base to the city. Stay tuned!



**Proposed United Properties Development, InverPoint Business Park in IGH.**

### ABOUT UNITED PROPERTIES

United Properties has been creating deep roots in the commercial real estate industry for more than 100 years. The company imagines new possibilities in real estate to help strengthen communities and create lasting legacies. United Properties provides market expertise for ground-up development, redevelopment and acquisitions of value-add and stable investments. The company invests in and develops office, industrial, retail, mixed-use and senior housing properties. United Properties is owned by the Pohlad Companies and is headquartered in Minneapolis, with offices in Denver and Austin, Texas. For more information, visit [www.uproperties.com](http://www.uproperties.com) or follow on Twitter at [@UPDeepRoots](https://twitter.com/UPDeepRoots).





## Fire Safety Corner Cooking Safety

While cooking can bring family together, it is also the number one cause of home fires and home injuries. By following a few safety tips you can help to prevent these fires and reduce the number of injuries.

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

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

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

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

For an oven fire...

- Turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire...

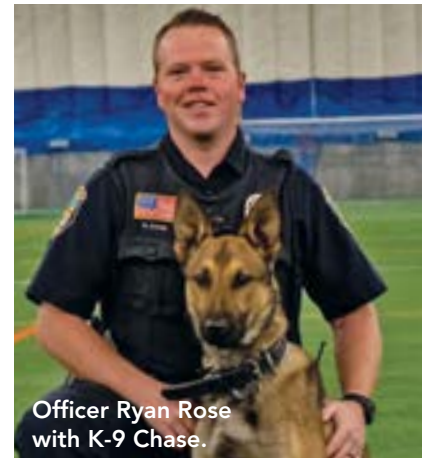
**JUST GET OUT!** When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.

Call 9-1-1 from outside your home.

Stay safe.

## IGH PD Officer Completes Training with New K-9

IGH PD Officer Rose and his partner Chase recently completed their months-long training together. At the culmination of the training they took three different certification exams over a period of three days: the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) Certification, the National Police Canine Association (NPCA) Certification and a Narcotics Certification. They passed all certifications with high scores. We are excited to have this duo patrolling our community and keeping the citizens safe!



Officer Ryan Rose with K-9 Chase.

## New Police Squad Designed by Officers

Our patrol fleet was getting old and high in mileage, and it was time to purchase new patrol vehicles. Last year, after doing some research, we took a different approach and chose to save money by leasing vehicles instead of purchasing them. Since we were getting new vehicles, we had a contest within the department and let each patrol shift design what they wanted their squad car to look like (following a few rules, of course). Because it is their "office on wheels," we wanted officers to feel comfortable with how the interior was set up and to take pride in what the exterior looked like. All police department employees got to vote on what squad design they liked the best, and that squad became our new design.



New squad design.





## Good News on 2021 Adopted City Budget

The 2021 city budget process, led by IGH Finance Director Amy Hove, began in June 2020, and the final 2021 budget was adopted by City Council on December 14, 2020. Despite 2020 being an incredibly challenging year economically for this city and many others, we have some positive news to share.

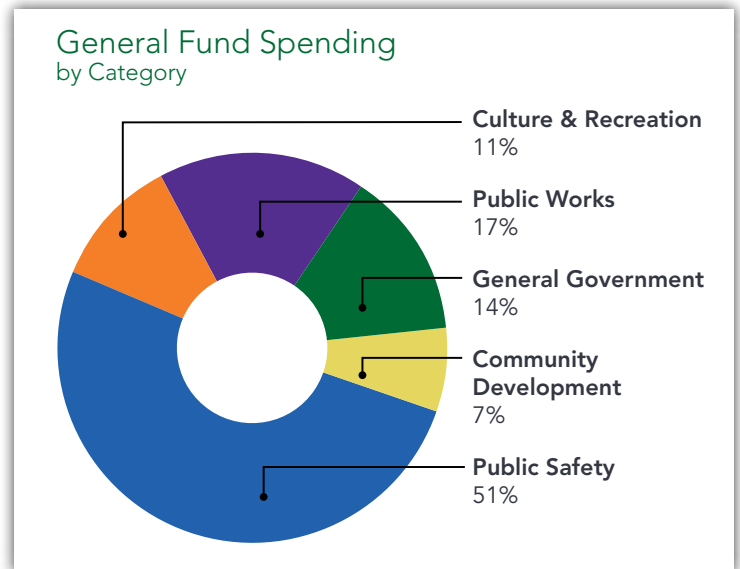
The city tax levy total for 2021 is \$26,123,358, an increase from \$24,730,883 in 2020. However, the tax levy rate is projected to decrease from .51037 to .49936—a decrease of 2.16%. This is due in part to the fact that the value of property in the city grew, increasing tax capacity. When tax capacity increases it is because of various growth factors, including the development of commercial properties, growth in terms of market value added from new homes and businesses, and the value of previously existing homes and businesses going up. This past year in particular, the value of existing homes in IGH went up in part because of residential home improvement projects.

Additional good news includes a more than \$200,000 reduction in expenses between our preliminary budget presented in September and the final adopted one. 2021 city budget priorities include:

- Public safety, with 51% of the city’s general fund allocated to cover these vital city services.
- Increased funding for our Pavement Management Program. An additional \$500,000 will go into this fund to help with street repair and replacement.

- Supplying our growing city with the goods it needs to steward our assets, including our roads, trails and parks.
- Adding support staff hours to provide additional service to residents and businesses seeking building permits and inspections and additional accounts payable support.

City leadership has also maintained our debt levy ratio at just 12.3%. This keeps our bond rating at AA+, which makes it easier for the city to service debt and borrow funds, if needed. Should you have any questions about how our city budget process works, please email Amy Hove at [ahove@ighmn.gov](mailto:ahove@ighmn.gov).



### DO YOU KNOW PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT?

In this issue we are kicking off a column to help residents learn about the ins and outs of Pavement Management—the process and the planning. For more information tune in to our City Council meetings at [www.townsquare.tv](http://www.townsquare.tv), or visit [www.ighmn.gov/CurrentConstruction](http://www.ighmn.gov/CurrentConstruction).

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- Road maintenance plans and funding in IGH extend 5 years into the future.
- All roads in IGH are inspected and rated on a 3-year cycle, and a standard of 70 out of 100 rating is the goal for all roads.
- If a road falls below a 36 rating, it becomes a candidate for reconstruction.

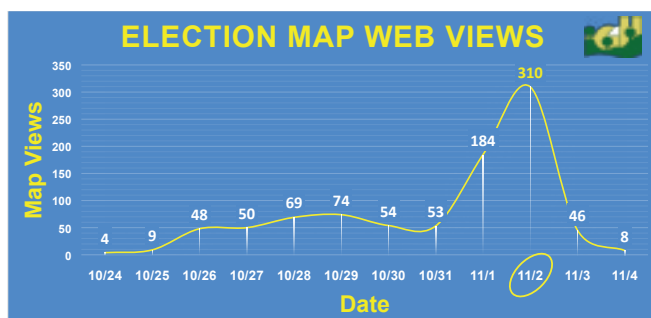
## GIS CORNER

## MAPS FOR ALL SEASONS

As mentioned in our last GIS Corner article, the GIS Team at the City of Inver Grove Heights has created a series of new web maps covering a range of topics. These maps are designed to aid residents in finding information about the city in an easy-to-navigate format. While all the maps have been receiving a respectable number of views, it was particularly exciting to see the election-oriented “Find Your Polling Place Map” received close to 1,000 views in the week leading up to the November elections. The graph below illustrates this.

Looking for a way to enjoy the winter months? Check out the Park Finder Map! The map provides tools to find parks based on the amenities they provide. If you are interested in going ice skating or sledding, or ice skating AND sledding, you can select what is of interest on the map’s filter and easily find which parks offer those activities. In addition to winter activities, the map includes all your favorite summer activities, as well: picnic tables, baseball, disc golf, and pickleball to name a few!

You can view current maps by visiting our website at [www.ighmn.gov](http://www.ighmn.gov) and clicking the “Maps” tile on the homepage. This tile will take you to the maps landing page, featuring available topics. Be sure to check back often! We will continue to develop new topics and release new maps, like our most recent addition, the Support Local Businesses Map, which highlights local cafes, restaurants and markets affected by recent COVID-19 restrictions. This map serves as a resource for our community to join together and support our local businesses when they need us most. If you have an idea for a useful map, we’d love to hear it. Please send your ideas to [Communications@ighmn.gov](mailto:Communications@ighmn.gov).



Views of the GIS-created “Find Your Polling Place Map” spiked the days leading up to Election Day.

## Batteries Are Hot Right Now—and Not in a Good Way

Batteries—mostly lithium-ion—are causing fires daily at waste and recycling facilities across the U.S. When your batteries, cell phone or other rechargeable gadgets are dead, **do not**



toss them in the trash or recycling carts. Instead, bring all batteries and rechargeable devices to the Recycling Zone in Eagan **for free**.

**Tape both ends of each battery with any kind of tape to keep them from accidentally heating up.** Use a container that can be left at

the Recycling Zone to hold the batteries you are discarding and put it in your trunk or backseat. Stay in your vehicle while dropping off and let staff unload for you.

Other items accepted at the Recycling Zone include:

- Automotive products like motor oil and gas
- Computers, TVs and other electronics
- Paints and stains
- Household cleaners
- Yard and garden chemicals

The Recycling Zone, 3365 Dodd Road, Eagan, is open all year long, four days a week. For a complete list of accepted items and drop-off hours, visit [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us) and search Recycling Zone.



# Insights

This newsletter is published quarterly and is mailed, one copy per residence, to all residential and postal customers in the City of Inver Grove Heights.

## WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

If you have any comments, give us a call at 651-450-2500.

### CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

Tom Bartholomew, <i>Mayor</i>	651-450-2505
Rosemary Piekarski Krech	651-450-2504
Brenda Dietrich	651-450-2503
Sue Gliva	651-450-2506
John Murphy	651-450-2507

### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

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

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

### EMAIL

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## 4th Annual Community Safety Survey

JANUARY 1–FEBRUARY 1, 2021

The Inver Grove Heights Police Department's 4th Annual Community Safety Survey is open from January 1, 2021 through February 1, 2021. We ask everyone who lives, works, or regularly visits the City of Inver Grove Heights to complete our Community Safety Survey.

- Everyone's input matters.
- It takes 5 to 7 minutes to complete.
- The data from the survey will help us identify and address community problems.
- The survey helps us develop our 2021 Policing Plan.
- When it is finalized, we will share the results on our web page.

There will be links for the survey on our city website, or you can scan the survey QR code with your smartphone or device to bring you right to the survey.



**Take our short survey now through February 1.**

Scan the code at left with your phone's camera, or go to  
[www.ighmn.gov/869/Community-Safety-Survey](http://www.ighmn.gov/869/Community-Safety-Survey)