

Save the Date!

IGH ANNUAL
CLEAN-UP DAY
Saturday, September 23
8 a.m. – 12 Noon
Public Works Facility Parking Lot

Stop by to get rid of unwanted items for a *minimal* fee! To reduce the amount of waste that enters the landfill, the City of Inver Grove Heights is continuing to offer recycling opportunities. Watch our website and Facebook page for updates!

PHOTO CONTEST

We are looking for photos to capture the spirit of the Inver Grove Heights' community. Here's your chance to feature your photos in the City's Insight Newsletter. There are five categories we are looking for:

- Pets
- People
- Nature
- CityView or CityScope
- Business

Send your photo to us by Friday, July 21, 2017 for a chance to be featured in the City's Insight Newsletter. Those chosen will receive a one day family pass to Veterans Memorial Community Center which includes access to the Waterpark. Send photo submissions to City Clerk, Michelle Tesser, mtesser@invergroveheights.org.

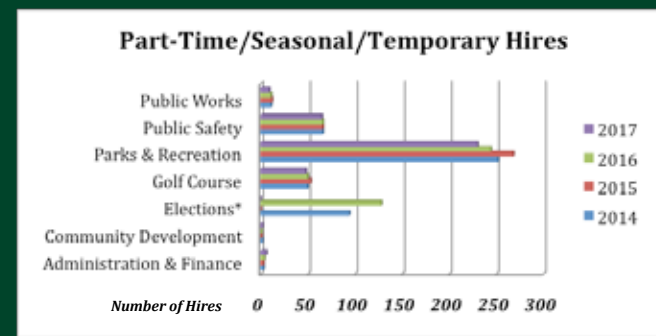


CAREER CORNER

Part-Time, Seasonal and Temporary Hiring Statistics

Have you ever wondered how many part-time, seasonal and temporary employees the City of Inver Grove Heights hires each year? These types of positions play a vital role in providing many of our services and programs to our community.

Below are the hiring statistics by department from 2014 to present as of June 23, 2017:



*Elections occur every two (2) years.

If you are interested in a part-time, temporary or seasonal position, please visit our website at: www.invergroveheights.org/jobs and apply online. You may also contact Carrie Isaacson, Administrative Services Coordinator at (651) 450-2510 or cisaacson@invergroveheights.org with questions or to request more information.

JULY/AUGUST 2017 MONTHLY MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL DAY AND DATE	MEETING	TIME	PLACE
Monday, July 10	Study Session (before regular council meeting)	6:00 PM	City Hall
Monday, July 10	Council Meeting	7:00 PM	City Hall
Monday, July 24	Council Meeting	7:00 PM	City Hall
Monday, August 7	Study Session	6:00 PM	City Hall
Monday, August 14	Council Meeting	7:00 PM	City Hall
Monday, August 28	Council Meeting	7:00 PM	City Hall

CITY COMMISSIONS DAY AND DATE	MEETING	TIME	PLACE
Tuesday, August 14	Economic Development Authority	5:00 PM	City Hall
Tuesday, July 5	Planning Advisory Commission	7:00 PM	City Hall
Tuesday, July 18	Planning Advisory Commission	7:00 PM	City Hall
Tuesday, August 1	Planning Advisory Commission	7:00 PM	City Hall
Tuesday, August 15	Planning Advisory Commission	7:00 PM	City Hall
Wednesday, July 12	Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission	7:00 PM	City Hall
Wednesday, August 9	Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission	7:00 PM	City Hall
Thursday, July 27	Environmental Advisory Commission	7:00 PM	City Hall
Thursday, August 24	Environmental Advisory Commission	7:00 PM	City Hall

OTHER DAY AND DATE	MEETING	TIME	PLACE
Thursday, August 24	Convention & Visitor's Bureau	9:30 AM	Chamber of Commerce

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS INSIGHTS

This newsletter is published bi-monthly 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 Plekarski Krech (651) 450-2504
Paul Hark (651) 450-2503
Kara Perry (651) 450-2506

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Joe Lynch (651) 450-2511

ON THE WEB

www.invergroveheights.org

EMAIL

cityhall@invergroveheights.org

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER



Get Registered for Group Lessons at Inver Wood Golf Course

Taking a golf lesson is the best investment you can make towards improving your golf game. Inver Wood offers adult and junior golf lessons throughout the summer.

Adult Group Lessons (Max. 10 Students)

The Inver Wood adult group lesson program will focus on providing a fun and informative learning atmosphere to help each student develop as a golfer. Emphasis will be on improving full swing and short game technique. Other topics will also include: golf course etiquette, safety, practice routines and on course playing strategy. These lessons are open to both beginning golfers and students who have some playing experience.

Junior Group Lessons (Max. 8 Students)

These lessons will teach the developing junior golfer the basic concepts of the set-up, full swing, chipping and putting. Emphasis will be on providing a fun, action-filled learning environment. Etiquette and safety will also be covered.

RATES

Private Lessons \$40.00
Adult Groups \$80.00 (5 one hour classes)
Junior Groups \$40.00 (5 one hour classes)

GROUP SESSIONS

Summer Session II
July 10 – August 10
Fall Session
August 14 – September 14

Adult lessons will be offered on the following days with classes beginning promptly at **6:00 P.M.**

Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday



JUNIOR GROUP LESSON SCHEDULE

- Age 8 – 10
Boys/Girls – Monday or Wednesday – 4:00 p.m.
- Age 11 – 14
Boys/Girls – Tuesday or Thursday – 4:00 p.m.

Register for lessons today by going to www.inverwood.org or call 651-457-3667.

Check Out Inver Wood's Renovated Golf Course

Summer is in full force and now is the time to make your tee time at Inver Wood! Inver Wood replaced the irrigation system throughout the course, constructed new bunkers, and updated the driving range, making it a beautiful, challenging and fun course to play.

Inver Wood's 27 holes sit on 235 acres of rolling, wooded terrain. The championship course offers 18 challenging holes and the 9-Hole Executive Course offers the same beauty without as much challenge.

Inver Wood's practice center is uniquely designed with two fairways, along with strategically placed greens and bunkers that add more dimension to the driving range concept. The practice center was designed to offer an "on course" feel that allows the golfer to work on his or her game in an actual golf hole environment.

Inver Wood also offers FootGolf. FootGolf is a way to enjoy time on a golf course by playing a new, exciting sport that combines the popular sports of golf and soccer together. The sport is played much like a traditional game of golf. Players kick a soccer ball from the starting tee area to the hole, which is 21 inches in diameter and marked with a flag.

Make your tee time today by going to www.inverwood.org. Questions about the course? Call 651-450-3667.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS INSIGHTS

A bi-monthly newsletter providing important information and upcoming events for the City of Inver Grove Heights' residents.



WWW.INVERGROVEHEIGHTS.ORG

JULY/AUGUST 2017

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WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE CITY?

This article is spotlighting the many 2016 City Council and City staff accomplishments in a 6-part series that will provide an overview of City Department highlights.

City's Financial Stability Is Strong

The City's 2016 financial year and fiscal stability is on track. The City received a strong bond rating that tied into the city's goals of maintaining and creating a financially strong City. At the end of the year review, the city's financial planning and controls have remained strong. The City has adopted a comprehensive set of internal control procedures that assure safeguards in internal accounting controls, reliable financial reporting and maintaining accountability of assets. Because of the reporting stability and strength the City Council and staff have been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence of Financial Reporting.



30 Years Of Excellence Award

For the 30th year in a row, the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the City of Inver Grove Heights by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. The primary responsibility for the award is preparing the award-winning CAFR. This is judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

City Implements A New Financial Process: Escrow Billing

An example of an internal accounting control is the new implementation of a procedure related to escrow accounts. The City accepts escrow funds primarily related to planning applications, engineering-related issues/agreements or in lieu of bank letters of credit. These funds are held on behalf of the applicant and used to cover costs such as legal, engineering, publication and staff time. Unspent funds are returned to the applicant at the end of the process. Each month account holders are mailed statements indicating account balance and activity throughout the year. The practice requires a coordinated effort between Engineering, Finance and Planning staff.

City Maintains "AA" Bond Rating from S&P

Over the winter the City refinanced two bond issues. As part of the process the City completed a bond rating call with Standard & Poors (S&P) and has maintained its "AA" rating. This is the second highest rating a City can receive. An "AAA" rating is usually for larger cities. The first refinancing was related to the financing of the City Hall/Public Safety remodel/ expansion and will save taxpayers about \$830,000 in future debt payments. The second refinancing was related to the installation of services in the Northwest Area (NWA) that will save taxpayers about \$230,000 in future debt payments.

Why is an "AA" rating important?

The reason why a bond of "AA" is important is because it helps the City get a lower bond interest rate. Similar to your own personal credit rating, the city also has a rating structure. This rating is important because it saves taxpayers money. There is a lot that goes into the bond rating calculation which includes the city's financial internal controls, strong management, budgetary performance, budgetary flexibility and liquidity. The City Council has made financial decisions that have guided the City into this strong position. City staff implements policies and determines financial obligations and investment based on their direction. The City of Inver Grove Heights is financially strong and has an "AA" bond rating because of the strong direction and long-term vision of the City Council and City staff.

2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

The 2016 CAFR is available to the public for review. At the June 12, 2017 City Council meeting, council approved the 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, Management Letter, and Other Required Report. The 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is available on City's website at www.invergroveheights.org under Department-Finance.

2018 Budget Process Calendar

Are you interested in learning more about the city's financing and future budgeting process? Here are some important dates that the Council will discuss during the 2018 Budget:

Work Sessions Meetings

- August 7, 2017
- September 5, 2017
- October 2, 2017
- November 6, 2017
- December 4, 2017

City Council Meetings

- September 11, 2017
- December 11, 2017

Questions?

All City financial documents are available at www.invergroveheights.org under Department-Finance. If you have questions about any of these documents, contact the Finance Director, Kristi Smith at ksmith@invergroveheights.org.



THE "HALO EFFECT" OF TOURISM

Minnesota's tourism advertising has a halo effect with wide reaching benefits! Halo effect refers to the tendency to have a positive opinion of something or someone if they make a good first impression, regardless of whether the first impression is accurate or not. According to Longwoods International, this effect carries over to Minnesota's tourism advertising, which shows that the positive first impression people have of the state as a place to visit extends to other areas such as viewing the state as being a good place to live (46% increase compared to those who had not seen tourism advertising for the state), attend college (41% increase), start a career (49% increase) or start a business (60% increase). For people who had both seen tourism advertising for Minnesota and travelled to the state the image left was even more pronounced: There was 134% increase in those who viewed the state as a good place to live, 138% increase as a good place to attend college, 148% increase as a good place to start a career, 183% increase as a good place to start a business. Not only does tourism advertising increase economic vitality by generating travel to the state, it benefits economic development by increasing the likelihood people will choose Minnesota as a place to live, learn and do business.

Source: Minnesota 2016 Tourism Advertising Evaluation, Longwoods International



PARKS & RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Aging Mastery Program (Ages 55 Plus)

We are excited to announce that Inver Grove Heights Parks and Recreation has been awarded a grant from the National Council on Aging to host the Aging Mastery Program (AMP)! This is a comprehensive and fun approach to aging well that encourages people to take actions to enhance their health, financial well-being, social connections, and overall quality of life.



We offer various sessions "Lunch and Learn", "Dinner Date to Educate" and a "Friday Fast-Track" which all include a full meal and \$60 worth of educational materials. Central to the AMP philosophy is the belief that modest lifestyle changes can produce big results and that people can be empowered and supported to cultivate health and longevity. Equally important, the program encourages mastery – developing sustainable behaviors over time. Participants in AMP course go through a 10-core program covering the following topics: Navigating Longer Lives, Exercise and You, Sleep, Healthy Eating & Hydration, Falls Prevention, Medication Management, Financial Fitness, Advanced Planning, Healthy Relationships and Community Engagement.

All sessions take place at Veterans Memorial Community Center
Dates: September 12 – November 16

Session	Times
Tuesdays: Lunch & Learn	11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
September 12 – November 14, 2017	
Registration Code: Indiv: AS-F100; Cpl: AS-F101	
Thursdays: Dinner Date to Educate	6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
September 14 – November 16, 2017	
Registration Code: Indiv: AS-F102; Cpl: AS-F103	
Fast-Track Fridays: (two sessions a day)	11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
October 6 – November 3, 2017	
Registration Code: AS-F104; Cpl: AS-F105	

Fee: \$39 person or \$59 couple (includes full meal each meeting date, \$60 worth of educational materials, bag and free gift). Register one week prior to start date of session.

Community Round Table Sessions

We want to hear it! You are invited to share your thoughts and ideas on current and future programs and services for adults 55+ in Inver Grove Heights.

These round table-style forums will assist Park and Recreation staff with developing a strategic map of programs to fulfill the evolving and diverse interests of our growing number of adults in the community. Input from participants will help identify current programming strengths, articulate specific needs and interests as well as spark the community in conversation about ensuring Inver Grove Heights is a community that actively engages its aging adult population. Pre-registration encouraged, light refreshments and gift card drawing will be held at each session.

All sessions take place at Veterans Memorial Community Center

Dates	Times	Registration Code
Monday, October 9	6 – 8 p.m.	AS-F106
Tuesday, October 24	7 – 9 p.m.	AS-F107
Wednesday, October 25	10 a.m. – Noon	AS-F108

Fee: FREE, but pre-registration is encouraged. Register one week before session start date.

Night to Unite: Tuesday, August 1

Let us help your neighborhood celebrate! Parks and Recreation staff will come to your party and pass out some freebies while visiting with you and your neighbors. To apply for a visit, please go online to www.invergroveheights.org/nighttounite to register your party. Here, you will have the opportunity to also request police and/or fire visits to your gathering. Please pre-register by Tuesday, July 25.

IGH Days: City-Wide Garage Sale

Come to shop or come to sell! The Inver Grove Heights Days City-Wide Garage Sale will be held Thursday, August 24-Saturday, August 26. Sale-goers can pick up maps for \$1 at the Veterans Memorial Community Center, Bremer Bank, Cub Foods, Drkula's 32 Bowl and the Corner Store beginning August 21. If you are interested in having a garage sale, download a registration form at www.ighdays.org. Registration forms and payment are due by August 1 in order to be included on the map.

Lawn of the Week

Get your mower and green thumb ready – this summer our "Lawn of the Week" program is back! City staff will be identifying residents whose lawns exemplify neatness, creativity, beauty and use of natural resources. As they find a winner, a sign will be placed in their front yard for one week. The winners will be honored at a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting in the fall. Recipients will receive a certificate of achievement and gift card from Ace Hardware. The City will consider nominations as well via email to jgraham@invergroveheights.org.



Youth Safety Camp: Being Safe is Definitely Cool! (Ages 6-11)

Join us for our Youth Safety Camp! Learn how to keep your cool with all types of safety issues: fire, water, bike, health/wellness, drugs, environment, first aid and many more great new topics! Educational sessions will be taught through interactive games and "hands on" experiences. You'll receive a camp itinerary one week prior to camp. Fee includes pedometer, ice/hot pack, certificate of completion, medallion, t-shirt and a bag full of fun safety items.

Thursday, August 3
7 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Community Center
Fee: \$15.
Register by Thursday, July 27.
Register online at www.invergroveheights.org/register.



Water Park Closed for Renovations

The water park and hot tub at Veterans Memorial Community Center will be closed from August 21-mid October for renovations. The improvements will include a new play structure, re-conditioning the water slides, new slide stairs, painting and a new pool shell.

RECYCLING AT RICH VALLEY ATHLETIC COMPLEX

Sports tournaments, picnics, walks, playgrounds, nature: what else do you expect of your parks? Now you should expect recycling, too.

Across Dakota County, parks were chosen to be the first to get the new bins. With help from Dakota County, we rolled out new recycling containers at Rich Valley Athletic Complex in July 2016. Now you will find paired trash and recycling bins throughout the park to make recycling more convenient. Just like at home, all bottles, cans and cardboard can go into the recycling bins in the parks. Just remember, with recycling now available, you don't have to 'trash' the parks. Relax, play, eat, enjoy yourself, then recycle. It's that easy.

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



CODE CORNER

GRILLING

Every year, along with warmer weather, comes increased outdoor grill usage and unfortunately an increase in grill-caused fires. According to a National Fire Protection Association report, nearly 9,000 home fires a year involve grills. Of the home fires involving grills, gas-fueled grills accounted for four out of five fires. These tips will help you to have safe grilling experiences.

SAFETY TIPS

Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors. Never use a grill in a garage, vehicle, tent or other enclosed space, even if ventilated, due to risk of harmful carbon monoxide buildup.

The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.

Never leave a lit grill unattended. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area. Children under five are especially vulnerable to burns from contact with a hot grill surface. Grill contact accounted for 37% of burns seen at emergency rooms in 2014 involving children under five.

Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.

Before the season's first barbecue, check the gas tank hose for leaks by applying a light soap and water solution to the hose and then turning on the gas. If there is a propane

leak, the solution will bubble. Other signs of a propane leak include the smell of gas near the barbecue or a flame that won't light.

If you are using a gas grill and the flame goes out, turn the grill and the gas off, then wait at least five minutes to re-light it.

Clothing can easily catch fire, so be sure your shirt tails, sleeves or apron strings don't dangle over the grill.

Never turn on the gas when the lid is closed. The gas may build up inside, and when ignited, the lid could blow off and cause injuries or burns.

After cooking, make sure you completely close the valve on your gas grill.

Always store gas grills – and propane tanks – outside and away from your house.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire. Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.

Alternatives to starter fluid include charcoal chimney starters that allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel or electric charcoal starters.

When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

Solar POWER HOUR

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

WEDS, JULY 19
7:00-8:00 PM

INVER GROVE HEIGHTS, MN
CITY HALL
8150 BARBARA AVE. E.

INTERESTED IN SOLAR ENERGY?

Learn about solar energy options available to Minnesota residents, including residential solar, community solar, and solar for your business. We'll cover financial considerations, available incentives, and how to go about selecting the right installer. Find out what you need to know to get started.

HERE'S WHAT WE'LL COVER:

- Solar for your home or business
- Community solar
- Cost comparisons & available incentives
- Energy efficiency improvements
- Financing options

www.GrowSolar.org

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

midwest renewable energy association

Center for Energy and Environment

CAROLYN FOUNDATION

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www.TheEnergyFair.org

The ENERGY FAIR

CLEAN ENERGY + SUSTAINABLE LIVING

ST. PAUL, MN / SEPT. 9-10