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City of Inver Grove Heights

# Insights

Important Information for Residents

Requirements go into effect January 1, 2016...

## New Recycling Requirements for Commercial Buildings

According to a 2013 statewide waste composition study, approximately 75% of our trash is made up of paper, plastic, metal, glass, organic and other materials that could be collected for recycling. Over half of the waste being generated is from the commercial sector.

Businesses can currently recycle almost everything residents can. Reducing, reusing, and recycling can save money for your business and help demonstrate environmental leadership and responsibility.

Starting January 1, 2016, recycling will also be the law for many businesses. Owners of commercial buildings in the Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area that house retail, restaurants, educational and professional services, health care services and other businesses with a North American Industrial Classification System code between 41-82 and contract disposal of at least 4 cubic yards of solid waste per week must be recycling at least three materials, such as paper/cardboard, glass, plastic, metal and organics (food waste and soiled paper).

Single sort (collecting multiple recyclable materials in one container)



**See how easy it is to recycle.**

meets the requirement as long as at least three materials are collected.

Check with your hauler for details on specific recycling material acceptance, and to see if they offer separate organics recycling.

To learn more, visit the Dakota County website at [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us) and search for business recycling, or e-mail Senior Environmental Specialist, Renee Burman, at [Renee.Burman@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:Renee.Burman@co.dakota.mn.us) or call her at 952-891-7042.

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

## Nov. 15 is America Recycles Day

Watch our website and Facebook page for more information.

## Winter Parking Rules Begin Nov. 1

Effective 3 a.m. on November 1, 2015, and continuing through 6 a.m. April 1, 2016, vehicles are prohibited from parking on any street and/or highway, within the city limits of Inver Grove Heights, between the hours of 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. (City Ordinance - Title 6, Chapter 3, Section 6).

Any vehicle found in violation of City Ordinance 6-3-6, may be cited and/or towed to the impound lot. If you have questions, contact the Inver Grove Heights Police Department from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at (651) 450-2525.

## 50 Years!

The City of Inver Grove Heights is celebrating 50 years since it first became a city.

We will commemorate the event with a ceremonial tree-lighting (see page 5 for details) and during the November 23rd City Council meeting a video commemorating the past 50 years will be shown. The City is also creating a commemorative book that will be available to the public at City Hall, the Community Center, and the Chamber of Commerce. The City's website will also be highlighting some other photos and information from the past 50 years.



**TOP: South Grove, circa 1960. ABOVE: Inver Grove Toll Bridge, circa 1965. LEFT: This building served as the Inver Grove Village Hall until the formation of the Village of Inver Grove Heights in 1965. It was then put back into service briefly at some point in the early 1970s, until the new city hall was completed in 1982.**

## Home-Improvement Loans: No Interest and No Monthly Payment

Does your home need repairs that you can't afford to make? The Dakota County Community Development Agency (CDA) may be able to help!

The CDA's Home Improvement Loan (Loan) is an interest free loan program for low and moderate income homeowners in Dakota County. The Loan is repayable when your home is sold or you no longer live there – there are no monthly payments! Loans range from \$15,000 to \$25,000.

The Loan is commonly used for replacing roofs, siding, windows, furnaces, doors, and driveways. The CDA will inspect your home and work with you to determine

the scope of the project. You will get bids and a cost reasonable estimate will be selected. After loan papers are signed, the contractor can begin work. Payments will be made directly to the contractor once the work has been completed and approved by you and the CDA.

To qualify, you must be a homeowner, have sufficient equity, a satisfactory credit history and a gross annual income under the limits in the table at right.

You can apply for a Home Improvement Loan by returning a completed application to the CDA. Applications can be downloaded from the CDA's website at

### Household Size/Maximum Income

1...	\$46,100
2...	\$52,650
3...	\$59,250
4...	\$65,800
5...	\$71,100
6...	\$76,350
7...	\$81,600
8...	\$86,900

Income limits are as of March 2015 and are subject to change.

[http://www.dakotacda.org/pdf/Application\\_Rehab.pdf](http://www.dakotacda.org/pdf/Application_Rehab.pdf) or call our Housing Rehab Coordinator at 651-675-4469 to request an application by mail.

# Everything You Need to Know About Winter Street Maintenance

FYI

**T**he Street Maintenance Division's top priority in the winter is snow and ice control on the City's streets.

Winter street maintenance duties include: application of pavement anti-icing treatments, snow removal and de-icing of streets, snow removal of sidewalks and trails, tree trimming, sign fabrication and repair, storm water system maintenance, and pothole patching.

## Plow Routes

The City is divided into eight main plow routes with an average of 35 lane miles in each route. An operator is assigned a route and a truck. This allows the operator to become familiar with the operation of the truck and the obstacles within that route. There are 10 cul-de-sac routes as well, with various equipment and operators assigned to them. Each route has an average of 25 cul-de-sacs.

After a normal snowfall, it takes the crew about 8 hours to get through all routes. This varies depending on the type and amount of precipitation, the timing and duration of the event, and equipment breakdowns.

## Plowing Priorities

The City of Inver Grove Heights has established a winter maintenance policy defining snow and ice management objectives and procedures. Within this policy, snow and ice control priorities have been outlined as follows;

1. Collector streets, Police and Fire Department parking lots
2. Residential streets
3. Cul-de-sacs and City parking lots
4. Alleys and public streets under a service agreement
5. Pedestrian sidewalks and trails

## Sidewalk and Trail Maintenance

The City plows more than 27 miles of concrete sidewalks and more than 7 miles of bituminous trails. The snow-removal process is normally started the



second day after a snow event to allow the streets to be plowed first.

Clearing the snow can take two to four days depending on conditions and is performed as resources allow.

The City may not clear snowfalls of 2 inches or less, depending on the weather forecast. It is the responsibility of the abutting property owner to keep sidewalks clear of ice and debris in accordance with City Code, Title 7, Chapter 1, Section 7-1-2.

## Safety

A loaded plow truck can weigh more than 50,000 pounds. It cannot maneuver as well as the average passenger vehicle. We ask that everyone follow these simple safety guidelines during the winter months:

- Never follow closer than 75 feet from the rear of a plow truck.
- Never drive into a snow cloud to pass a plow truck.
- Do not play on, or build snow forts in, snow piles on the boulevard or in the center of a cul-de-sac.
- Do not shovel, plow, or blow snow into or across the street.

## Contact Info

If you have any questions or comments relating to street maintenance, please call or email the Public Works Maintenance Facility: 651-450-4309 or [bunderdahl@invergroveheights.org](mailto:bunderdahl@invergroveheights.org).

## How the City Code is Enforced

Please be mindful that the Code Compliance Program is a reactive program requiring residents to file a complaint when they see a property maintenance or zoning code violation occurring.

Once a complaint is made, an inspection of the property is done to confirm the violation. If a violation is found, an informational notice is then sent to the property owner to educate them on City Code, explain what the violation is, and tell them how long they have to correct it before further action is taken.

Residents receive up to three notices before a citation is issued and a court appearance is required. Staff is always willing to work with citizens if there is a hardship or reason additional time is needed for compliance.

If you have any questions about the program or would like to file a complaint, please call 651-450-2491. Thank you.

## Basics of the City's 2016 Budget

### Make a Difference. Volunteer!

The City is excited to offer a variety of volunteer opportunities that support our dynamic Inver Grove Heights community. We may have just the right fit for you! Please visit our website at [www.invergroveheights.org](http://www.invergroveheights.org) to find out more!

**A**re you a citizen of Inver Grove Heights who would like more detailed information on the budget process?

Each year the city's elected officials decide how to raise and spend the public's money, but the process to decide how that money should be raised and spent can be confusing for those who attempt to become informed.

Here are a few key numbers for you to be aware of:

- The 2016 preliminary property tax rate for 2016 is 49.840%, an increase of 3.55%.
- The preliminary property tax operating levy for 2016 was set at \$16,011,500, an increase of \$1,103,000. This increase includes \$661,900 for continuation of current services and programs, \$216,100 for new requests including mid-year hires of two Patrol Officers, two part-time Community Service Officers (CSO), promotion of a Patrol Officer to Sergeant, Engineering

Intern and Overtime, Administration and Building Inspections. Funding for the Pavement Management Program will increase by \$200,000 and funding for Park Maintenance and Replacement will increase by \$25,000.

- The City-wide levy (Operating and Debt Service) for 2016 is \$18,068,950
- The Simley Lake WMTD levy is increasing \$3,062 to \$48,745 and the Cuneen Trail/College Trail WMTD levy is decreasing \$90,895 to \$18,200. Only parcels within the WMTD are impacted by these levies.

To raise the level of public understanding surrounding the budget process, the City has created a frequently asked questions guide to the city budget. Please view this guide at [www.invergroveheights.org/2016budgetfaq](http://www.invergroveheights.org/2016budgetfaq). If you have questions regarding the budget please contact the Finance Director, Kristi Smith at 651-450-2521 or [ksmith@invergroveheights.org](mailto:ksmith@invergroveheights.org).

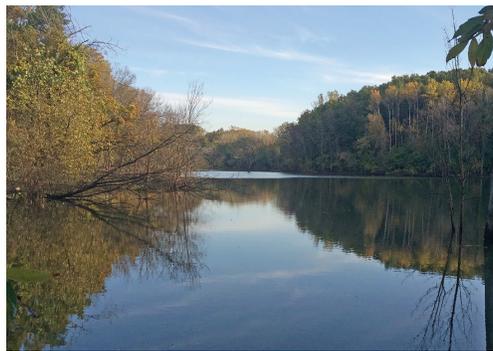
## City and Neighborhood Improve Seidl's Lake Water Quality

**I**n the summer of 2014, residents from the Seidl's Lake neighborhood petitioned the City for a neighborhood street reconstruction project. During the planning process for this project, City staff realized that it wasn't just the streets that were in need of help.

Seidl's Lake, the neighborhood's namesake, was given a "D" grade by the Metropolitan Council in their latest water-quality study of Metropolitan Area lakes. As long as we're rebuilding the streets, could we do something to help the lake as well?

Most of the runoff from the neighborhood ran directly into Seidl's Lake, completely untreated, carrying with it leaves, dirt, fertilizer, debris, and other pollutants.

The City approached the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for assistance. The SWCD offers Community Conservation Partnership (CCP) grants to public landowners in Dakota County to help improve water quality. These



**Seidl's Lake**

partnerships include technical assistance in addition to the grant funding. The City was able to receive two grants totaling about \$92,000 to assist in the design and construction of water-quality features for Seidl's Lake.

In addition to the major water-quality projects, six residents from the neighborhood chose to participate in the Rain Garden Program, which is typically offered as an opportunity for residents on a reconstruction project to have a rain garden built in their front boulevard. These six rain gardens will treat a combined 740,000 gallons of runoff every year, which will remove 1,400 pounds of sediment and other pollutants.

The year 2015 was a great one for water and roads in Inver Grove Heights. Because of a partnership between the Seidl's Lake residents, the City, Dakota County SWCD, and Bethesda Lutheran Church, we were not only able to do much-needed street reconstruction work, but were able to provide great relief to one of the City's valuable lakes.

# Join Us for Holiday Fun!

## Holidays in the Heights!

Please join us for a newly revamped holiday event, "Holidays in the Heights." Below is a list of activities that will be taking place. To pre-register for any of these events, visit [www.invergroveheights.org/online](http://www.invergroveheights.org/online) registration. Questions? Call 651-450-2585.

• **Outdoor Tree Lighting/Open Swim:** Monday, December 7 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with the tree lighting at 6 p.m.

We'll also have free open swim that evening, anniversary cake and refreshments, kids' activity, music, and more! Location: Veterans Memorial Community Center.

• **Dive-In Movie:** Friday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m. Swim and watch The Lego® Movie! Cost is \$2 in advance or \$4 at the door. Location: Veterans Memorial Community Center.

• **Breakfast with Santa:** Saturday, December 12, Santa is coming for breakfast at the Veterans Memorial Community Center in Inver Grove Heights! Families will enjoy a light breakfast (donuts, muffins, juice and coffee, etc.), visit with Santa, kids' craft and raffle drawing.

In order to be eligible for the drawing, participants must bring a pair of gloves and/or mittens to donate to those in need. Two breakfast sessions are available for

registration: 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$2 in advance or \$4 at the door.

• **Winter Party in the Park:**

Saturday, December 12 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Oakwood Park (3534 78th St. E.).

In the afternoon we move the fun outdoors to include our annual candy cane hunt, reindeer rides, fire dancers, food available for purchase, ice-skating exhibition, ice and snow games, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and a raffle drawing.

In order to be eligible for the drawing, participants must bring a pair of gloves and/or mittens to donate to those in need. Cost is \$2 in advance or \$4 at the door.

• **Skate with Santa:** Sunday, December 13 from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Community Center. Santa visits the Community Center on skates, where families can enjoy the holidays on ice! Hot beverage and snack provided. Cost is \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door.

• **Business Scavenger Hunt:** November 23 to December 21. Seek and find our holiday mascot at a local business each week! Take a photo of you and the mascot and submit for entry into our weekly toy/raffle drawing.

Clues will be posted on the Parks and Recreation Facebook page and on our website.

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## Family New Year's Eve Party

Celebrate the end of 2015 and start of 2016 with your family at the Community Center!

Swim in our waterpark while you listen to music, ice skate, play bingo, and make some cool crafts! Thursday, December 31; noon to 3:30 p.m.; fee: \$20 per family (up to 4 people), or \$8 per additional person or for individuals. Preregistration is recommended.

## Youth Basketball Leagues

Learn the game of basketball in a fun, positive environment. Sign up now to be a part of the team!

The league begins the week of January 11 and ends in mid-March. Register

online at [www.funatthegrove.com](http://www.funatthegrove.com).

### *Mite Co-Ed Basketball (boys and girls in grades 1-2)*

Mondays and/or Wednesdays  
6 to 7 p.m. or 7 to 8 p.m.  
Fee \$52 (includes t-shirt)

### *Girls Grades 3-4*

Practices weekday evenings; games on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays  
Fee: \$62 (includes t-shirt)

### *Boys Grades 3-4*

*\*note earlier start date\**

This program begins in early November. Please call 651-450-2585 to find out if any spots remain.

# Recreation and More

## Winter-Break Activities

Join us for fun during your days off from school!

• Ice Skating & the Movies: Monday, December 28

• Snow Tubing: Tuesday, December 29  
Each day: drop off 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.; pick up at 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Fee: \$35 per day.  
Register online at [www.funatthegrove.com](http://www.funatthegrove.com).

## Correction

In the last issue of Insights, a photo was incorrectly identified as the first City Council. City Council members are present in the photo, but the occasion of the photo was Gunnar Kronholm and Emil Jandric were presenting plaques that the council members are holding in the photo.

# Insights

Important Information for Residents

*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 Piekarski Krech (651) 450-2504  
 Paul Hark (651) 450-2503  
 Jim Mueller (651) 450-2506

ECRWSS  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

## CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Joe Lynch (651) 450-2511

## ON THE WEB

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

## E-MAIL

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



## November/December 2015

### City Council

Monday, Nov. 2	Study session meeting, 6 p.m., City Hall
Monday, Nov. 9	Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
Monday, Nov. 23	Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
Monday, Dec. 7	Study session meeting*, 6 p.m., VMCC, City Hall
Monday, Dec. 14	Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall

### City Commissions and other meetings (all meetings at City Hall)

Monday, Nov. 9	Economic Development Authority, 5 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, Nov. 10	Housing Committee Meeting, 5 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, Nov. 17	Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 1	Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 15	Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 18	Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission meeting**, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 9	Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

### City Hall Closures

Wednesday, Nov. 11	City Hall closed in observance of Veterans Day
Thursday, Nov. 26	City Hall closed in observance of Thanksgiving
Friday, Nov. 27	City Hall closed in observance of Thanksgiving
Thursday, Dec. 24	City Hall closed at noon
Friday, Dec. 25	City Hall closed in observance of Christmas

The following scheduled meetings are uncertain for November and December. Please check the website or call City Hall for updates.

- Airport Relations Commission
- Environmental Advisory Commission

\* Early time and place for special tree-lighting ceremony

\*\* Change in date due to holiday