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City of Inver Grove Heights

# Insights

Important Information for Residents

New Option Available for Absentee Voting

## 2016 Voting Begins With State Primary Election on August 9

The State Primary Election shall be held in the City of Inver Grove Heights on Tuesday, August 9, 2016. The voting precincts and polling places for these elections will be as follows:

- Precinct 1: Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, 7160 South Robert Trail
- Precinct 2: Inverhills Church, 8265 Babcock Trail
- Precinct 3: National Guard Armory, 8055 Barbara Ave.
- Precinct 4: Inver Grove Heights City Hall, 8150 Barbara Ave.
- Precinct 5: Emanuel Lutheran Church, 2075 70th St. E.
- Precinct 6: St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, 3535 72nd St. E.
- Precinct 7: St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, 3535 72nd St. E.
- Precinct 8: River Heights Vineyard Church, 6070 Cahill Ave E.
- Precinct 9: Crossroads Church, 5590 Babcock Trail
- Precinct 10: Bethesda Lutheran Church, 2855 47th St E.

**Please note Precinct 6 and 7 are combined for the 2016 State Primary and General Election.**

All eligible voters of the City may vote in said election at the aforesaid polling places for the voting precinct in which the voter resides. The polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

**Voter Registration**

Have you recently moved to the City of Inver Grove Heights? Don’t forget to

register! Voter Registration cutoff for the State Primary Election is July 19, 2016. You may register online at [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org) or stop into Inver Grove Heights City Hall to complete your registration. Or you can register at your polling location on Election Day with proof of residency.

**Absentee Voting Without Envelope**

New this year is the implementation of Absentee Voting without an Envelope, which allows the voter to complete the ballot and deposit the ballot into the ballot box starting seven days before the election. This goes into effect on August 2 through August 5, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Extended hours are Saturday, August 6, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Monday, August 8, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The location is Inver Grove Heights City Hall, 8150 Barbara Ave.

**Absentee Voting**

Absentee Voting is open June 24 through August 5, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Extended hours are Saturday, August 6, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Monday August 8, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Where to Find Information**

Voters may register to vote, update voter registration, view sample ballots, find polling locations, and apply for absentee ballots online at [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org). Questions? Call the Elections Hotline at 651-450-2463.

## Annual Financial Report

At the May 23, 2016 City Council meeting, council approved the 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, Management Letter, and Other Required Report. The 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is available on City’s website at [www.invergroveheights.org](http://www.invergroveheights.org).

## Save the Date!

Saturday, September 24 is our annual Clean-Up Day! Due to the popularity of this event, we’re offering extended hours this year from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. In addition, we will work toward reducing the amount of waste that goes into the landfill and will be trying to recycle more. Watch our website and Facebook page for updates!

# Good to Know

**By raising the deck on your lawnmower to 3 inches, you can combat weeds, reduce watering, and save money.**



## Summer Lawnmowing Tips

**W**ith hot weather here, we'll soon be struggling to keep the grass green and the weeds at bay. Here are some summertime tips to help you green up your lawn without greening up our ponds and lakes in the process.

Great ways to combat weeds, reduce watering, and save money are to raise the deck on your lawnmower and leave the grass clippings on the lawn. A mowing height of about three inches is best.

Crabgrass and other weeds need sunlight to germinate, and longer grass will deprive the noxious little seeds of the light they need.

Your lawn will have a tremendous leg up on the weeds just by being cut a little longer.

Higher grass also shades itself and lets the soil retain moisture better, which means you'll water less. The root depth is generally equal to the height of the grass, so longer grass means deeper roots. Deeper roots don't dry out as

fast and the plants will still have access to water after the top inch or two is dry.

Short lawns need a lot of water because you need to keep the surface constantly moist. Longer lawns can stay green and healthy with much less.

Clippings left on the lawn are wonderful for retaining moisture and organic matter in the soil, but please sweep them off your driveway and the street. They wash into the storm sewer where they clog pipes and cause phosphorus pollution.

If you choose to bag your clippings the same thing can happen if you pile them near any pond, lake, or wetland. The phosphorus from the clippings turns the water green with algae which choke out native aquatic life.

Also consider that when you bag your clippings, you're removing that much organic matter from your soil every time you mow. How much chemical fertilizer do you need to buy to replace that?



# County Home-Improvement Loans

**D**oes 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 above.

You can apply for a home-

## Loan Eligibility

Below are eligibility rules for home-improvement loans from the Dakota County Community Development Agency. Income limits are as of March 2016 and are subject to change.

Household Size	Maximum Income
1	\$46,000
2	\$52,600
3	\$59,150
4	\$65,700
5	\$71,000
6	\$76,250
7	\$81,500
8	\$86,750

improvement loan by returning a completed application to the CDA.

Applications can be downloaded from the CDA's website at [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.

FYI



## Need to Report a Problem?

You can now report it using your smart phone. Visit <https://yourgov.cartograph.com/> to get the app and be a part of YourGov!

## The 2017 City Budget Calendar

City staff began working on the 2017 budget in May as individual departments began determining their expected expenditures for next year.

### June 2016

Initial budget discussion at June 6, 2016 work session meeting and departments began to prepare budgets.

### July 2016

Departments meet with Budget Committee to review budgets.

### Late July to December 2016

City Council work session meetings to discuss budgets.

### September 26, 2016

City Council to approve the 2017 Preliminary Budget and Tax Levies

### December 12, 2016

Truth-in-Taxation Budget Presentation and City Council to approve the 2017 Final Budget and Tax Levies

## Food Truck Day!

Food Truck Day is Thursday, August 18, 11 a.m to 1:30 p.m. at the Argenta Hills Development near 80th and Robert (close to Target). Watch our website and Facebook for updates!

## Inver Grove Heights CVB Is Now on Instagram

Follow us on Instagram @visit\_igh and tag your Inver Grove Heights Instagram photos with #VisitIGH for a chance to have your pictures featured on our account! Find us also on Facebook: [facebook.com/visitIGH](https://facebook.com/visitIGH); Twitter: [twitter.com/visitigh](https://twitter.com/visitigh); and Pinterest [pinterest.com/visitigh](https://pinterest.com/visitigh).

# Water-Saving Strategies for Home Lawns

Provided by

University of Minnesota Extension

**O**n average, three times more water is used during the summer than in the winter in the Twin Cities, and much of this water is used outdoors. If you own an irrigation system or water your lawn with portable sprinklers, you can reduce your overall water use by implementing some practical strategies:

**1. Pay attention to the weather.** During a Minnesota summer we may see heavy periods of rainfall followed by extended periods of drought. Homeowners with lawns should adjust irrigation practices accordingly. Operating irrigation controllers in manual mode is one way to monitor and cut down on water use, rather than using an automated schedule.

**2. Select turfgrass species that use less water and can tolerate drought.** Choice of grass species will impact irrigation requirements. Traditional turfgrass species for Minnesota include Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, fine fescue, and tall fescue. The fescue species offer the best drought tolerance potential.

**3. Adjust irrigation systems to conserve**

**water.** To encourage rooting and drought tolerance, lawns should be irrigated infrequently (one time or less per week) with a sufficient volume of water (up to 0.5 inches).

Set irrigation programs or sprinklers to water during the morning hours, because daytime irrigation is often lost through evaporation or wind deflection.

**4. Implement water-saving technologies.** Rain sensors connected to irrigation controllers are vital to conserving water. There's no need for an automatic sprinkler system to be used when it's raining.

**5. Conduct an audit on your irrigation system.** Irrigation auditing is one great way to conserve water. Irrigation contractors will often perform this service for you if you have a contract with them.

Auditing an irrigation system includes three basic steps: 1) checking system components including sprinklers, valves and controllers, 2) conducting a performance test, and 3) programming the controller.

For more information on conducting an irrigation audit, visit the irrigation-audit website provided at left.

## For More Information on Lawn Care

### U of M Extension

#### Lawn Care:

[www.extension.umn.edu/turfgrass](http://www.extension.umn.edu/turfgrass)

### U of M Turfgrass

#### Science Blog:

[www.turf.umn.edu](http://www.turf.umn.edu)

### Sustainable Landscape Information Series:

[www.sustland.umn.edu](http://www.sustland.umn.edu)

### U of M Yard and

#### Garden News:

<http://blog-yard-garden-news.extension.umn.edu/>

### Conducting an irrigation audit:

[https://www.irrigation.org/Resources/Audit\\_Guidelines.aspx](https://www.irrigation.org/Resources/Audit_Guidelines.aspx)

### ET estimates for Minnesota:

[http://agwx.soils.wisc.edu/uwex\\_agwx/sun\\_water/et\\_wimn](http://agwx.soils.wisc.edu/uwex_agwx/sun_water/et_wimn)

### U of M Climatology

#### Working Group:

<http://climate.umn.edu/>

## City Regulations for Garage Sales

**T**he garage sale season is upon us! When planning your event, please keep in mind the following City regulations:

Garage Sales: The regulation of garage sales is intended to prevent their frequency from becoming a nuisance. Garage sales are allowed in all residential zoning districts with the following restrictions:

- There shall not be more than four sales events in each calendar year per dwelling unit. This number does not include the participation in any city sanctioned garage-sale event.
- Sale events are limited to any consecutive 72-hour period.
- Garage-sale signs must comply with the sign ordinance. No directional signs or advertising signs with respect to garage sales shall be attached to utility poles, trees, or signposts. All directional

signs or advertising signs shall be freestanding. Each such sign shall be promptly removed after garage sales by the person conducting the sales.

- Garage-sale signs may be erected on private properties other than the property where the sale is conducted, provided permission from the private property owner is obtained.
- Personal property offered for sale at garage sales shall be that of the owners/occupants of the property at which the garage sale is conducted. Personal property of members of several families may be offered for sale at a garage sale at property owned or occupied by one of the participant families.
- No consignment personal property may be offered for sale at garage sales.
- Garage sales shall be conducted so as not to obstruct or interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

# Night to Unite: Tuesday, August 2

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to help you celebrate Night to Unite with a visit to your neighborhood block party.

Depending on the size of your gathering and space available, we will come prepared with games and/or freebies for you and your neighbors.

If you are interested, please go online to [www.invergroveheights.org/nighttounite](http://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.

Staff will make every effort to visit as many events as possible between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Parties will be given priority based on the date the application was submitted. If you have any questions, call 651-450-2585. Pre-register by Tuesday, July 26.

## **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 25 through Saturday, August 27. 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 22.

If you are interested in having a garage sale, download a registration form at [www.ighdays.org](http://www.ighdays.org).

Registration forms and payment are due by August 1 in order to be included on the map.

## **Being Safe is Definitely Cool!**

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 bike helmet, certificate of completion, medallion, t-shirt and a bag full of fun safety items. Ages 6 to 11. Thursday, August 4 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Veterans Memorial Community Center; Fee \$15. Register by Thursday, July 28. Register

online at [www.invergroveheights.org/onlineregistration](http://www.invergroveheights.org/onlineregistration).

## **Youth Fall Soccer League**

We offer soccer fun for youth ages 5 to grade 4. The league gives soccer players the opportunity to learn the game in a fun, positive environment.

Leagues begin in mid to late August. Sign up your youngster at [invergroveheights.org/onlineregistration](http://invergroveheights.org/onlineregistration). Register by Monday, July 13.

## **Youth Flag Football**

Join us for this instructional program that stresses the fundamentals of football! We have a 5-6 year-old-league and a 7-9 year-old league. Practices begin in late August (Tuesdays or Thursdays) with games being played on Saturdays. This program relies upon the leadership of volunteer coaches. If you are interested in coaching, please call the Parks and Recreation Office at 651-450-2585. Register by Thursday, July 28.

## **Free Summer Movies in the Park**

Enjoy an outdoor movie at sunset! Movies are held at South Valley Park. 9 Yum Yum Ice Cream truck will provide ice-cream-treats for purchase.

Thursday, July 21: "The Peanuts Movie" (approximate start time of 9 p.m.).

Thursday, August 13: "Finding Nemo" (approximate start time of 8:20 p.m.).

## **Free! Minnesota Twins Youth Clinic**

Join the Minnesota Twins Play Ball! clinic coaching staff for this free clinic designed to teach basic fundamentals including hitting, fielding and throwing through hands-on instruction. The Minnesota Twins provide safe, youth-friendly, equipment. Each participant will receive a free commemorative Twins item.

Participants are asked to bring their own baseball or softball glove.

No pre-registration required.

Friday, July 22

Ages 6-9: 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Ages 10-16: 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Rich Valley Athletic Complex (1841 105th Street East). Note rainout location is Veterans Memorial Community Center.

# Recreation and More



## "Lawn of the Week" is Back!

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 Gerten's. The City also will consider nominations sent via email to Jen Graham at [jgraham@invergroveheights.org](mailto:jgraham@invergroveheights.org).

# 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)



## July/August 2016

### City Council

- Monday, July 5 Study Meeting, 6 p.m., City Hall
- Monday, July 11 City Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Monday, July 25 City Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Monday, August 1 Study Meeting, 6 p.m., City Hall
- Monday, August 8 City Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Monday, August 22 City Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Monday, August 29 Special Meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall

### Economic Development Authority

- Monday, July 11 EDA meeting, 5 p.m., City Hall

### City Commissions

- Wednesday, July 6 Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Tuesday, July 19 Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Tuesday, Aug. 2 Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Tuesday, August 16 Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Wednesday, July 13 Park & Recreation Advisory Commission meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Wednesday, Aug. 10 Park & Recreation Advisory Commission meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Thursday, July 28 Environmental Commission meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Thursday, August 25 Environmental Commission meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall

### Other

- Thursday, July 23 No CVB meeting in July
- Thursday, August 25 CVB meeting, 9:30 a.m., River Heights Chamber of Commerce Board Room