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INSIGHTS

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

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



JULY/AUG 2019

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Meet Police Chief Melissa Chiodo

Please welcome our new Police Chief, Melissa Chiodo! She holds a Bachelor's in both English and Communications from St. Kate's and a Master's in Criminal Justice and Police Leadership from Concordia. She has 23 ½ years' experience in the police force, all with the City of Minneapolis.

She has served several roles, including Patrol Officer, Sergeant in Investigations and Patrol, Lieutenant in Investigations and Patrol, Commander in Special Crimes and Internal Affairs. She also was an Incident Commander for the City of Minneapolis, where she was involved with the 35W Bridge Collapse, the Super Bowl and the Final Four, both hosted at the U.S. Bank Stadium.

Melissa grew up in International Falls, and it was those small-town roots that drew her to this position with IGH. She liked the idea of working with another smaller City, it just felt right! She looks forward to bringing her incident command specialty with her in this new role, as well as training on fair and impartial policing. Melissa started her role in early May and has already made a point to meet with many of the PD staff.



Melissa Chiodo

COMMUNITY SURVEY UPDATES

The 2019 Community Survey results are in! There were 434 respondents, nearly 100 more than in September 2018. Nearly ninety-five percent (95%) of the respondents are residents.

Comments and details of results are available on the website. The results below have been summarized:

PUBLIC SAFETY – 41.4% rated Excellent or Good, 4.0% rated Fair or Poor, with over 54% of respondents not having recent interactions and/or having no opinion.

PUBLIC WORKS – 51.9% rated Excellent or Good, 23.0% rated Fair or Poor, with just over 25% of respondents having no opinion.

PARKS & RECREATION – 58.7% rated Excellent or Good, 11.5% rated Fair or Poor, with nearly 30% of respondents having no opinion.

CUSTOMER SERVICE – 43.8% rated Excellent or Good, 9.4% rated Fair or Poor, with nearly 47% not having recent interactions with the City and/or having no opinion.

PLANNED APPEARANCE – 34.8% rated Excellent or Good, 37.3% rated Fair or Poor, with nearly 28% having no opinion.

OVERALL CITY SERVICE RATING – 38.7% rated Excellent or Good, 24.9% rated Fair or Poor, with over 36% having no opinion.

For more information, contact Michelle Calvert at mcalvert@invergroveheights.org or call 651-450-2464.



Meet the City's New Community Development Director

Heather Rand has been named the new Community Development Director. Heather has a B.A. in Urban



Heather Rand

Planning and Political Science from Augsburg College in Minneapolis and has nearly completed a M.A. in Public Administration from Hamline University in St. Paul.

Heather has over 15 years of direct economic development leadership experience in Minnesota working for both the public and private sectors. For the last three years, she served as the City of Duluth's

Director of Business & Economic Development advancing a wide variety of commercial and housing development opportunities. Prior to that, she was employed by the state of Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) for 12 years as a business developer matching up growing businesses with shovel ready development sites and a variety of state and local development resources.

Heather started with the City in early April and she has been busy learning about the community, and the values and attributes that the residents, businesses and the City Council find important. Heather is excited to be working in a growing community to responsibly develop and innovatively redevelop so that everyone thrives.



Start Tracking Your Wasted Food

When we throw food in the trash or even compost pile, we're wasting much more than food — we waste the water, energy, labor and land used to grow and transport it. About 20 percent of our nation's fresh water is used to grow food that is uneaten. The best way to know how to prevent wasted food is to understand what you throw away.

Keep your grocery receipts and use Dakota County's *Track What You Toss* sheet to see exactly how much food you're throwing away and how much money you could be saving. To download the tracking sheet, visit www.dakotacounty.us and search *Track What You Toss*.

Over two to four weeks, write down the food that could have been eaten but wasn't. This includes food that might be composted. Don't include food you can't eat like banana peels or bones.

Visit www.dakotacounty.us for tools and tips on wasting less food.

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

Are you ready to make a difference in water quality in your neighborhood?

BECOME A MASTER WATER STEWARD

The Master Water Steward program trains, certifies, and supports residents for education and outreach campaigns and project installations.

- Help the community learn how to reduce polluted runoff and improve water quality.
- Implement projects, such as rain gardens or rain barrels, that improve storm water quality before it reaches our ponds, lakes, and river.

Master Water Stewards take part in a 50-hour program of coursework and projects between October and April. After certification, Stewards are expected to meet annual volunteering requirements.

The Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization, in partnership with the Fresh Water Society, is currently accepting applications for the Master Water Stewards Program.

To learn more or to apply for the 2019-20 program, visit www.MasterWaterStewards.org.



Listening and Learning

My first few months at the Inver Grove Heights Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) have been busy! Special thanks to the River Heights Chamber of Commerce for



Eric Satre

welcoming me, providing networking opportunities, and helping me get acclimated. Our future as a visitor destination (CVB) and business community (Chamber) is promising. My first goal is to listen. I've had the privilege to listen to local business leaders, city staff from various departments, and residents who are passionate about the city. Yes, I'm leaning into my previous CVB experience but there is much to learn about Inver Grove Heights. Thankfully, leadership isn't about knowing everything, but rather listening and applying these insights to the position.

Inver Grove Heights CVB Mission:
To market and promote Inver Grove Heights to visitors; to maintain and stimulate the community's economic vitality.

I've met with business leaders from Gertens to Drkula's, Inver Wood Golf Course to Inver Hills Community College, Inver Grove Heights Hockey Association to Town Square Television, Veterans Memorial Community Center to a growing number of restaurants, and more. The hotels in Inver Grove Heights — AmericInn, Holiday Inn Express,

Microtel, and Palace Inn — are stakeholders of the CVB with many of my Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) centered around increasing hotel occupancy, securing leisure and group travel opportunities, and leveraging local partnerships, etc.

In the last newsletter article, I mentioned two primary marketing vehicles — the **VisitIGH.com** website and CVB visitor guide, which I'm in the process of re-developing. Not only is the current visitor guide outdated (longevity is typically 12-18 months), my inventory is running thin.

The new guide will:

- **Connect things** to do, restaurants, and hotels as an itinerary of sorts rather than showing a list
- **Broaden visual appeal** by using large/quality images versus numerous small images
- **Tell a story** by featuring local business owners who reveal a unique perspective about the city

The guide will be available in digital format on the **VisitIGH.com** website as well as in print throughout the city this summer. Explore Minnesota Tourism, the state's tourism agency, will also distribute the CVB guide to visitor centers throughout the state and Mall of America.

Inver Grove Heights is building momentum. Stay connected and help share @VisitIGH on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



VisitIGH



VisitIGH



VisitIGH



Visit_IGH

THE EVENT THAT CELEBRATES ALL THAT IS INVER GROVE HEIGHTS IS BACK FOR 2019!

IGH DAYS

FAMILY FUN EVENTS, STREET DANCES, GRAND PARADE, FIREWORKS AND MORE!

FOR ALL THE EVENT DETAILS AND TO PURCHASE AN IGH BUTTON, VISIT WWW.IGHDAYS.ORG

SEPTEMBER 5-8

IGH Days is coordinated by the IGH Days Committee. The City of Inver Grove Heights helps to support and attend the event

IGH DAYS: City-Wide Garage Sale August 22-24

Come to shop or come to sell!

This event is hosted by the IGH Days Committee. IGH Parks & Recreation Department helps support this event.

Host a Garage Sale

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.



PARKS & RECREATION ACTIVITIES

To register for any of these programs
or for more information, visit
www.invergroveheights.org/register

LIKE US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Get updates on upcoming programs, events and more!
Plus, each week we will provide a video about all
that's happening in Parks & Rec! Search for Inver Grove
Heights Parks and Recreation to Follow us on Facebook,
Instagram and Twitter.



<https://www.facebook.com/IGHParks/>

<https://www.instagram.com/ighparksrec/>

@IGHParks: <https://twitter.com/ighparks>

SPECIAL EVENTS

Terrific Tuesdays — Back for Summer 2019!

From storytime in the Park to magicians, to a pop-up Petting Zoo and a Penny Carnival, these Tuesdays are sure to delight for the entire family! No need to register for these events, just come! Visit our website to get dates, times and locations and to view all our special events this summer:

www.invergroveheights.org/specialevents

Harmon Farms Trail Run — Sunday, Sept. 15

Challenge yourself on this great 5-mile and 10-mile trail run at Harmon Park Reserve. Wind along forested trails of this exciting mountain bike trail. Great tune-up for the Twin Cities Marathon!

More info: www.invergroveheights.org/harmonfarms-annualtrailrun



Picnic Perfect Parks!

Our Parks offer scenic views, great amenities and miles of trails, which make them a great place to host an outdoor celebration, family get together or have a picnic!

Park Shelter Reservations

Parks with rental space include Swing Bridge Park, South Valley Park, Groveland Park, Lions Park, Oakwood Park, Simley Island Park and Rich Valley Athletic Complex. For specific details on shelter locations and amenities, visit: www.invergroveheights.org/park-shelter-rentals

Time blocks for rentals are 11 a.m.–4 p.m. and/or 5–10 p.m.

Note: Reservations are accepted at least five working days in advance but not more than six months in advance. Refunds are not given in the event of rain or inclement weather.

Summer Camp Central

Check out all our cool summer camps! From sports camps like baseball, volleyball, lacrosse, and basketball, to half-pint safety camp, musical theater camp, skateboarding camp and more!

www.invergroveheights.org/summercamps

Have a child or teen age 10-14? Check out our summer-long Teen fitness program, Cardio Strength Investigation (CSI).

**Free/members or summer membership;
\$69/Non-member.**

FITNESS



New Class: Aqua Zumba

Splash your way into shape with an invigorating, low-impact pool party! Get wet. Get down. Get fit. Classes are included with a Community Center Membership. You may also attend with purchase of daily admission or 10-time punch pass.

<http://invergroveheights.org/98/Group-Fitness-Drop-in-Classes>

Active Adults: Tennis Lessons

Find yourself in the game! Have fun, stay in shape and meet new friends while playing the lifetime sport of tennis! All classes taught by USTA-trained instructors.

Beginner: Classes are for those who have little or no tennis experience. Learn the basic strokes and begin to rally. All participants will be given a new HEAD tennis racquet.

Advanced Beginner: Classes are for those who know the basic strokes and are working further on ball tracking, movement and consistency. Players are ready for introductory social match play.

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	CODE
Mon.	July 29- Aug. 26	Beginner: 6:15-7:15 p.m.	\$55	AP-S107
		Adv. Beginner: 7:15-8:15 p.m.	\$55	AP-S108

Register by Monday, July 22

Location: Oakwood Park

 <https://www.facebook.com/IGHParks/>

 <https://www.instagram.com/ighparksrec/>

 @IGHParks: <https://twitter.com/ighparks>

PRESCHOOL SPORTS

Little Sluggers (ages 2-5)

Hit, run and throw your way into fun with Lil' Sluggers! Fundamental skills of baseball and softball will be taught in a fun and positive environment. The program is designed to prepare the littlest athletes into their journey of organized team play by improving and developing their social and physical skills both on and off the field. Sluggers will learn how to throw, field, catch, hit and run bases.

DAY	DATE	AGES	TIME	FEE	CODE
Mon & Wed.	Aug. 5-21	2-3	5:30-6:30 p.m.	\$99	PP-S104
		4-5	6:30-7:30 p.m.	\$99	PP-S105

Register by Monday, July 29

Location: VMCC, West Arena Turf



Learn to Skate Program

Our learn to skate program is committed to fostering the development of every skater. We provide a variety of programs which teach the fundamentals of skating to all ages and abilities.

We offer classes all year long (yes we even skate in the summer!) and for every level and style from beginners to hockey players to figure skaters. Classes consist of a 30-minute group lesson, along with 30 minutes of practice time. The fee includes four open skate passes for the participant to use during public open skate times at the VMCC's ice arena.

You can view our current sessions and register online to reserve your spot. Sessions begin in July!

www.invergroveheights.org/learn-to-skate



INVER WOOD GOLF COURSE The 2019 Golf Season

Our website, www.inverwood.org, provides a convenient way for you to make Tee Times, find information and purchase Gift Cards. Our Summer and Fall Group Lesson Sessions will be accepting registrants through July 16 for Summer and August 20 for the Fall. Individuals can still sign-up for private lessons with our PGA Professional. Please call Leon Otness at **651-450-4323**. You'll also find complete information on the website about the golf courses with a video tour of the facility, hole-by-hole descriptions of our course and video golf lessons.

EXCITING NEWS!

We've added the new **Yamatrack App** for your smartphone! Yamatrack is a FREE downloadable app that you can use for GPS distancing on the Championship Golf Course.



Book your tee time online at
www.inverwood.org or
call our Reservation Line at **651-450-4320**.





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.



65 OR OLDER?

Did you know we offer a senior discount on your water rate in IGH?

Please stop into City Hall, 8150 Barbara Avenue, or contact our Utility Billing Division for details: 651-450-2520 or utilitybilling@invergroveheights.org.

* There is a short application to complete and you will need your ID. The discount will be applied to all future billings.

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Clean-Up Day!

Saturday, September 21

The City of Inver Grove Heights will host the Annual Clean-Up Day on Saturday, September 21. Stop by the Public Works Facility (8168 Barbara Ave.) from 8 a.m. to Noon 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 many recycling opportunities.



Please visit www.invergroveheights.org/cleanupday for more event information and a list of accepted items.



MONTHLY MEETINGS | July/August 2019

CITY COUNCIL

DAY AND DATE	MEETING	TIME	PLACE
Monday, July 1, 2019	Work Session	6:00 PM	City Hall
Monday, July 8, 2019	Council Meeting	7:00 PM	City Hall
Monday, July 22, 2019	Council Meeting	7:00 PM	City Hall
Monday, August 5, 2019	Work Session	6:00 PM	City Hall
Monday, August 12, 2019	Council Meeting	7:00 PM	City Hall
Monday, August 26, 2019	Council Meeting	7:00 PM	City Hall

CITY COMMISSIONS

DAY AND DATE	MEETING	TIME	PLACE
Thursday, July 25, 2019	Environmental Advisory Commission	7:00 PM	City Hall
Thursday, August 22, 2019	Environmental Advisory Commission	7:00 PM	City Hall
Wednesday, July 10, 2019	Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission	7:00 PM	City Hall
Wednesday, August 14, 2019	Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission	7:00 PM	City Hall
Tuesday, July 2, 2019	Planning Commission	7:00 PM	City Hall
Tuesday, July 16, 2019	Planning Commission	7:00 PM	City Hall
Wednesday, August 7, 2019	Planning Commission	7:00 PM	City Hall
Tuesday, August 20, 2019	Planning Commission	7:00 PM	City Hall
Monday, August 12, 2019	Economic Development Authority	5:00 PM	City Hall

OTHER

DAY AND DATE	MEETING	TIME	PLACE
No Meeting in July	Convention & Visitor's Bureau	9:30 AM	Chamber of Commerce
Thursday, August 22, 2019	Convention & Visitor's Bureau	9:30 AM	Chamber of Commerce
Wednesday, August 14, 2019	Lower Mississippi River WMO	3:00 PM	Saint Paul City Hall
Tuesday, August 20, 2019	Eagan-IGH Watershed Management Organization	5:00 PM	Eagan Maintenance Facility



CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

INSIGHTS

8150 Barbara Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077



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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
Kara Perry	651-450-2506
Brenda Dietrich	651-450-2503

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Joe Lynch 651-450-2511

ON THE WEB

www.invergroveheights.org

EMAIL

cityhall@invergroveheights.org

ECRWSSDDM
POSTAL CUSTOMER

YOU'RE INVITED TO...

IGH FOOD TRUCK DAYS



2ND WEDNESDAY OF JULY & AUGUST

JULY 10 | 4:30PM - 7PM

VMCC PARKING LOT
8055 BARBARA AVE

STOP BY TO PURCHASE
LUNCH, DINNER OR SWEET
TREATS FROM A VARIETY
OF FOOD VENDORS!

AUGUST 14 | 4:30PM - 7PM

RICH VALLEY
ATHLETIC COMPLEX
1841 105TH ST E



To find more information and vendor applications, please visit www.invergroveheights.org/foodtruckdays

INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

STRENGTHEN
NEIGHBORHOODS



PROMOTE SAFE
COMMUNITIES

NIGHT to UNITE!
Neighbors Joining Together

**TUESDAY,
AUG. 6**

www.invergroveheights.org/nighttounite