



Cottage Grove Reports

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Fire Department Open House Scheduled for October 11



The Fire Department will host an open house on Saturday, Oct. 11 is Oct. 6 to 12. Stop by Fire Station 2, 8641 80th Street S. between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to watch kitchen fire demos, try using a fire hose on the sprinkler house, and more family-friendly fun activities. Fire trucks, ambulances and other equipment will be on display. Walking tacos and beverages will be available for sale. Fire Department staff will also visit all Cottage Grove second-grade classrooms that week to talk about fire prevention.

Fire Department Receives AED Donation

In July, the Cottage Grove Fire Department received a donation of two Philips FRx automatic electronic defibrillators (AEDs) from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community. The donation was part of the Mdewakanton LIFE program whose purpose is to create greater awareness of CPR and AEDs, as well as a faster first response to a cardiac incidence in neighboring communities. The new Philips AEDs will be used by the police and fire departments in cardiac emergencies.



From left: Mdewakanton Director of Public Safety Greg Hayes, Cottage Grove Deputy Fire Chief Wesley Halverson, Fire Chief Rick Redenius and Mdewakanton Assistant Director of Public Safety Eric Zimmerman

New Traffic Signal at 70th Street and Meadow Grass

During September and October, construction will take place at the intersection of 70th Street and Meadow Grass Avenue. Turn lanes and a traffic signal will be added to the intersection.

Meadow Grass Avenue will be closed to both vehicle and pedestrian traffic during the turn lane construction phase of the project. The closure will take effect at 7 a.m. on Sept. 5 and is anticipated to continue through Sept. 30, weather dependent.

70th Street will remain open through the intersection, along with the paved trail along the north side of 70th Street.

The traffic signal is expected to be operational on Oct. 17, with final completion of the project by the end of October.

For updates on this and other projects, visit the City's website, click on "City Projects" in the Quick Links on the home page.

Cottage Grove Named One of Minnesota's Safest Cities



Cottage Grove has been named one of the top 21 safest cities in Minnesota by Safe Choice Security. The listings compared crime statistics (both property and violent crimes) of more than 300 cities in Minnesota. Cottage Grove was rated number 17. The article stated that the police and other departments do an impressive job of keeping the city's crime rate low.

Read the entire article at <http://www.safechoicesecurity.com/blog/safest-cities-minnesota/>

Fall Hydrant Flushing to Begin in September

Fall flushing will begin the week of Sept. 8, weather permitting. Hydrant flushing is done to ensure proper operation and to get rid of accumulated mineral deposits. Water discoloration may occur when the main is

being flushed. Run your home faucets for 10 minutes to clear the water. Flushing is done in zones beginning with zone one. Check the map on the City's website for the flushing schedule. Call 651-458-2808 with questions.



2015 Property Tax Levy and Budget

The City Council considered the preliminary 2015 property tax levy and operating budget on Sept. 3. The 2015 property tax levy of \$13.4 million represents a 5.5 percent increase from the 2014 levy. The levy may decrease from the amount presented, but cannot increase.

The preliminary levy and budget amounts were arrived at during a four month process involving City Council and staff in analysis of city operations and capital outlay costs. A budget open house was held Aug. 20 where staff presented information on how the property tax levy will be spent in 2015.

The impact of the levy increase to an individual property will depend on a variety of factors, most importantly what valuation change has taken place for that property for the upcoming tax year. City wide tax capacity values are expected to increase an average of 13 percent.

Property specific notices will be mailed to all residences in November with comparisons of proposed property taxes by jurisdiction and year (2015 vs. 2014). Residents are encouraged to review these notices and attend the public information sessions identified by each taxing entity to find out more about their 2015 property taxes.

The City's information meeting will be held Dec. 3 as part of the Council meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. The adoption of the 2015 final levy and budget will occur after the informational section of the meeting.



Community cookbooks, compiled by the Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, are available at City Hall for \$15 each. The cookbooks make a great holiday gift.

2014 Green Garden Award Winners



The winners of Cottage Grove's annual Green Garden award were announced. The winners were Terry and Karen Erickson, in the residential category, and Culver's in the commercial category. The Ericksons' garden at 7100 94th Street won for its number of unique features including two ponds, a hand-built backyard patio, and an intricate handmade rose-covered trellis. In the commercial category Culver's, 7998 Hardwood Ave. S., was chosen because of the large number and variety of well-maintained annuals and hanging baskets around the building. Each winner will receive a large stone engraved with the City's logo to add to their garden.

Amended Recycling Legislation to Affect Commercial Businesses

Beginning Jan. 1, 2016, most commercial buildings and public entities will be required to separate at least three recyclable materials from their waste and have them recycled through a licensed recycler.

According to the 2014 legislation, metro area commercial buildings (with few exceptions) that have four cubic yards or more per week of solid waste collection service will be required to recycle at least three materials.

Minnesota Waste Wise can help
Washington and Ramsey Counties have partnered with the Minnesota Waste Wise Foundation, a nonprofit affiliate of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, to develop a program called BizRecycling. Through the program, businesses can take advantage of free professional consultation on waste reduction and recycling, including in-depth technical analysis, waste bill analysis and help with developing and implementing a program to save businesses money.

Funding is available

Waste Wise can also provide financial assistance grants. The program has several types of grants available to help businesses start a new recycling or food waste/organics recovery program. Even if a program is already in place, Waste Wise can help identify areas for improvement that may also be linked to grant assistance.

Recycling should save, not cost money

In Washington County, solid waste is taxed at a rate of 35 percent, in addition to a 17 percent tax from the state. This 53 percent tax is applied only to the solid waste bill and does not apply to recyclables. If businesses reduce the volume or frequency of their trash pick-up, it will save money. Waste Wise will not only help businesses prepare for the new recycling requirements, they can also help save money by evaluating the current trash service and identify opportunities to separate out recyclables or heavy food waste. For more information, visit: www.lesstrash.com, or call 651-266-1199.

Business News

Business owners: do you have announcements or new offerings to share? Contact Danette Parr at 651-458-2824 or dparr@cottage-grove.org

Life is Good in Cottage Grove: Growth Partners Golf Outing

The 19th Annual Growth Partners Golf Outing, hosted by the City and the Economic Development Authority, was held Aug. 12 at River Oaks Golf Course. This annual event allows outreach to developers, builders, bankers, and business partners and is designed to encourage development in Cottage Grove. The 2014 event was the largest to date with more than 90 participants. The sponsors for the 2014 event were Bolton & Menk, Stantec, SEH, 3M, Vanguard Construction, NFP Financial Concepts, Werner Electric, Wells Fargo Insurance, Wold, Levander Gillen & Miller, and WSB & Associates.



Growth Partners Awards Given to D. R. Horton and 3M Company

The Cottage Grove Economic Development Authority recognized the efforts of two of the City's development partners with Growth Partners awards. Mayor Myron Bailey, Economic Development Authority president, presented the awards to D.R. Horton and 3M Company at the 19th annual Growth Partners appreciation golf outing. D.R. Horton was recognized for re-energizing the East Ravine housing district with their East Ridge Woods subdivision. 3M Company was recognized for their long-term partnership with the City which was highlighted with the expansion of their Cottage Grove campus in 2013.



Mayor Bailey presenting awards to D. R. Horton (top) and 3M Company



Chipotle and Noodles Building Construction Underway in Gateway North Retail District

In June, the old Hollywood Video building, located at 7180 East Point Douglas Road, was demolished. Crews have been working all summer constructing a new building which will house Chipotle Mexican Grill and Noodles & Company. A third tenant has not been announced. Watch for grand opening information on the City's website.



River Oaks Golf Course

The fall season is rapidly approaching. The days may be shorter and cooler, but fall is a great time to golf! Why not take advantage of some of our great golf deals:

Enjoy **Twilight Golf** daily after 3 p.m.
\$19.50 or ride for \$28.50.

Weekend Foursome is only \$37 per person for 18 holes with cart after 12:30 p.m.
Friday, Saturday, Sunday (with online coupon.)

See you at *your* golf course ~ open until it snows!

11099 South Highway 61 | 651-438-2121
www.riveroaksmunigolf.com



KFAN's Common Man, Dan Cole Coming to River Oaks October 18



The second annual Fall Fest will take place Saturday, Oct. 18 at River Oaks with music and comedy entertainment. Music begins at 7 p.m. and laughs start at 8 p.m. with KFAN radio host "The Common Man" Dan Cole. The comedy show is rated "R" for some adult language. Appetizers and drinks will be available for sale. The entertainment is inside but folks can also go outdoors and enjoy the evening in front of a bonfire. Tickets are \$15 each. Reservations are suggested but not required. Call 651-438-2121 ext. 4 or email sue@riveroaksmunigolf.com.

Parks & Recreation News

FOR MORE INFO CALL 651-458-3400

Fall Tot Spot

Our Friday Tot Spot is not your typical program. Your child might use a magnifying glass to explore beneath rocks, play a game of tag on the playground, or draw a masterpiece with frozen paint. The weekly games, songs, crafts, story time, and projects are all theme based. Time will be spent outside (if weather permits) and creating messy crafts or experiments; please dress accordingly. Bring a lunch and beverage each day. This is a drop-off program with qualified Recreation Department staff coordinating on-site.

Ages: 3–5

Dates: Sept 26; Oct 3, 10, 24, 31;
Nov 14, 21; Dec 5, 12, and 19

Time: 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Place: Pine Tree Valley Park

Cost: \$150



Craft Camp

Crafts your thing? Then Peter Thompson Park after school on Tuesday afternoons is the place to be. In this craft camp series four crafts will be made that participants can take home: Friendship Bracelet, Pom Pom Party Basket, Pony Bead Dragonfly, and fall decorations including a wreath.

Ages: 7 and up

Dates: Sept 16, 23, 30 and Oct 7

Time: 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Place: Peter Thompson Park

Cost: \$45

MEA Break

NO-SCHOOL DAY ACTIVITIES FOR OCT. 16 AND 17

Play games, make crafts, watch movies and have lots of fun during MEA break. Participants should bring a lunch; microwave and refrigerator available for use. There will be opportunities to play outdoors; please dress appropriately.

Ages: 5 and up

Dates: Oct. 16 and 17

Time: 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Place: Peter Thompson Park

Cost: \$40

Looking to rent ice?

Call 651-458-3400

COTTAGE GROVE Ice Arena

651-458-3400

Fall Ice Skating Lessons

Fall sessions run Sept. 21 to Nov. 22. Register online or call 651-458-3400.

Public Skating Sessions (\$4)

Spend quality family time while practicing your skating skills. Skate rentals are \$2. Skating aids (buckets) available for beginners. Check the website or call for times.

Adult Open Hockey (\$5)

For ages 18+ on Mondays. Bring your own equipment; helmet required. Check the website or call for times.

Figure Skater Practice (\$8–\$10)

For the dedicated figure skater, level Alpha and above. Practice figure skating skills, jumps and spins. Please check the website or call for times.

Co-Ed Open Broomball (\$5)

For ages 17+ on Sundays, 8–9:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 28. Join other players for a pick-up game of broomball and great exercise. Sticks available to use. No experience necessary. Helmets required.

River Valley Adult Hockey League

The seven game season (plus playoff) begins Nov. 9. Games are played on Sunday nights. No checking or slap shots. All games will be officiated. Players must be ages 17 and older. Rosters/waivers due by the second game. Full payment due at time of registration. Register by Oct. 31.

Cost: \$945.00 per team

Place: Cottage Grove Ice Arena
8020 80th Street S

MEA Break–Oct. 16 and 17

Youth Open Hockey (\$5)
9–10:15 a.m.Public Skating (\$4)
10:30 a.m.–noonHigh School Open Hockey (\$5)
12:15–1:30 p.m.

Birthday Parties

The “coolest” birthday party venue in town is the Ice Arena. Different packages are available. Visit the website or call for more details.

Advertise at the Ice Arena

There are many advertising opportunities in the Ice Arena: graphics on the Zamboni, wall ads, dasher board ads on the rink, and more. Market your business at the most heavily trafficked spectator facility in town. Call 651-458-3415 for details.