

Cottage Grove Reports



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Holiday Train Photos
- Upcoming Events
- Fish Fry Begins February 7
- Surprise Thank You to Officer Vandervort
- Holiday Lights Winners
- Talent and Fashion Show Fundraiser
- Ice Arena News
- Parks and Recreation Activities

A Big Thanks!

To Canadian Pacific for choosing our city to host the 15th Annual Holiday Train, to the Holiday Train committee, to all of the volunteers and to the entire community who helped make this year's stop and special Sheryl Crow concert a huge success. A special thank you to 3M, TCF Bank and Met Council for providing the parking lots for the event.



Photo by NATHAN KLOK

Mayor Myron Bailey declared Dec. 14 Canadian Pacific Holiday Train Day in Cottage Grove before presenting the framed proclamation.

Visit www.swctc.org to watch all of SWCTC's coverage of this year's Holiday Train event. Visit the City's Facebook page for more pictures.

Holiday Train 2013—an Event to Remember



Photo by KRISTIN KOERNER

An estimated 15,000 people attended the Holiday Train event on Dec. 14 which featured a concert by Sheryl Crow with opening acts The Claytones and Take 6.

The special concert was part of Canadian Pacific's 15th anniversary of the Holiday Train. Cottage Grove was the only city in the United States chosen to host a concert, giving recognition to the community for the best Holiday Train stop nationwide.

For this year only, the event took place in the Canadian Pacific rail yard, which was turned into a North Pole station with heated activity tents, refreshments and a large concert stage.

The gates officially opened at 4 p.m. but by 3:30 p.m. a steady stream of people began making their way to the front of the stage in anticipation of the night's headliner, Grammy-award winner Sheryl Crow.

The crowd cheered loudly when Crow took the stage. She proceeded to play 10 songs, some minus gloves even with temps hovering around 10 degrees. At one point she had to restart a song saying that the guitar strings had gone "bazonk" because of the cold.

Santa proved to be just as popular with the younger crowd as Crow was with the adults with wait times up to 30 minutes—outside in the frigid temps.

In addition to the concert and Santa, people enjoyed hot cocoa and cookies, watched ice carvings, sent electronic photo greetings, purchased souvenirs, decorated ornaments



Photo by NATHAN KLOK

and, of course, viewed the real star of the evening—the decked-out Holiday Train.

As in past years, there was no charge to attend the event, but cash or toiletry items to the food shelf were requested.

The Friends in Need Food Shelf reported donations from the event of \$142,208.08 with an additional 23,202 pounds of food and toiletries collected.

The Holiday Train is a strong tradition in our community and this special event will be a memory that will stay with our community forever.



Photo by NATHAN KLOK



Coming Up

- Jan. 22 Chamber of Commerce Open House, 7:30 am–6 pm, BEC, 7516 80th Street S.**
- Jan. 22 BEC Open House, 3–6 pm, 7516 80th Street S.**
- Jan. 24 Improv Comedy** by Locally Grown Theater, shows at 7 and 10 pm, River Oaks Golf Course, 11099 S. Highway 61
- Jan. 25 Benefit for Cottage Grove Sergeant Greg Brysky, VFW Red Barn, 9260 East Point Douglas Rd., 4 pm–midnight, Fox 9 anchor Randy Meier, silent auction, food, music, kids activities. Call 651-705-6147 or visit www.bryskybenefit.com**
- Jan. 28 Car Seat Clinic, 4–7 pm, Fire Station 2, 8641 80th Street, Call 651-357-2987**

2014 Fish Fry

Fridays, Feb. 7 to April 18, 4–8 p.m. at River Oaks Golf Course. Dinner includes fried or baked cod (all you care to eat), choice of potato, soup or salad, and dessert. Cost is \$14.95 for adults and \$8.95 for children (ages 4–12).

River Oaks Golf Course and Banquet Facility is a beautiful place to host your next event or special occasion. Learn more at www.riveroaksweddings.com.

Golf season is only months away at River Oaks Golf Course. Visit our website for 2014 golf rates and to sign up for a league. There are lots of league options to choose from. Secure 2014 tournament dates now with some great deals and specials. Call 651-438-2121 (ext. 3) for details. Be sure to stop by and check us out as we have some upgrades for the club house coming in 2014.

River Oaks Golf Course
11099 South Highway 61
651-438-3627

www.riveroaksmunigolf.com



Photo submitted By CANADIAN PACIFIC



Early arrivals



Decorating ornaments



Ice carving

Photo by KRISTIN KOERNER



Visiting Santa



Family fun



Photo by KRISTIN KOERNER



Picture posing



Electronic greetings

A Surprise Thank You—One Decade After DWI Arrest

For Melissa, Dec. 19, 2003, started out like any other day. But the ending was different. That night she had an encounter with Cottage Grove police officer Mike Vandervort that changed her life—she was pulled over for expired tabs and ended up being arrested for DWI. Her preliminary breath test was .189, which was just under twice the legal limit at the time.

With a little help from Cottage Grove police officers, Melissa surprised Vandervort at work on Dec. 19, 2013—the 10th anniversary of her arrest—to thank him and tell him how that event changed her life.

At the time of her arrest Melissa was at a low point in her life and had been using alcohol to deal with the pain.

After work that fateful December day, Melissa did what many do during the holidays—attend a party with co-workers.

“I had just started a new job and I wanted to get to know folks,” recalled Melissa.

The group spent the evening bar-hopping.

At the end of the night Melissa offered to follow an intoxicated co-worker home to Cottage Grove to make sure he arrived safely. She said she hadn’t drunk more than she normally did and felt fine to drive.

At 2:45 a.m. she began driving home going northbound on Highway 61 when she saw red lights in her rearview mirror.

“I felt relieved,” said Melissa. “I was tired of drinking.”

She remembers sitting across the desk from Vandervort who told her she could go to jail, find a sober ride home or go to detox. Knowing she needed help, Melissa choose detox.

Determined to use this as an opportunity to get her life back on track, she quit drinking, followed her sentence of a one-year probation, a chemical dependency evaluation, participation in a Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) meeting, and attending AA meetings. She succeeded and has since found sobriety.

The ticket she received that night hangs on her refrigerator as a reminder.



“I don’t even call it a mistake,” said Melissa. “It had to happen to me to get me to where I am today.”

As she thanked Vandervort, many of the officers watching commented that it was nice to learn that what they do can make a big difference in a person’s life.

“It validates everything we’re taught,” Vandervort said after being thanked. “We don’t do what we do hoping to get a thank you. For every cop here today there is probably a person like yourself but we just don’t know it. This means a lot to me.”



2013 Holiday Lights Winners

John Kruczek and Tim & Diane Maslowski were the winners of the City’s 2013 Winter Lights and Decoration Contest. Kruczek’s home (left) is located at 91852 Jergen Bay and the Maslowskis’ home (right) is located at 11570 Layton Avenue.

New this year was an opportunity to recognize a business or organization that gives back to the community during the holiday season. The Cottage Grove Lions were selected as the winner for the numerous activities they did this holiday season.



Talent and Fashion Show Fundraiser

On Sunday, Jan. 26, from 3 to 7 p.m., watch local people showcase their talents and model fashions from Stone Soup Thrift Shop in a fun-filled fashion and variety show benefitting Stone Soup. There will also be a silent auction.

The event takes place at the VFW Post 8752 (Red Barn), 9260 East Point Douglas Rd. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for ages 4–12, and free for ages 3 and under. It includes Carbone’s spaghetti dinner and dessert.

In addition to selling donated goods at low cost, Stone Soup also gives away about half of its inventory to those unable to purchase items they need.

Interested in volunteering at the event? Contact Jen Peterson at 651-271-2287 or CouncilMemberJen@aol.com.

Learn more about Stone Soup at www.StoneSoupThriftShop.org



COTTAGE GROVE Ice Arena

Looking to rent ice?

Call 651-458-3400

Ice Skating School Spring Lessons

Spring sessions from Feb. 15 to April 19. Register before Feb. 3 for a 10% discount. Register online or by calling 651-458-3400.

Wolfpack Mite Jamboree

Date: Mar. 1 at 7:45 a.m.
Mar. 2 at 10:15 a.m.

District Playoff Schedule

B1 Bantam Feb. 16–23
B1 PeeWee Feb. 16–23

Figure Skaters Practice (\$4–\$10)

For the dedicated figure skater, level Alpha and above. Practice figure skating skills, jumps and spins. Check the website or call 651-458-3400 for times.

Public Skating Sessions (\$4)

Enjoy great exercise, practice skating skills, and have fun at the ice rink! No skate rental, but skating aids are available for those just learning to skate. Check the website or call 651-458-3400 for times.

Adult Open Hockey (\$5)

For ages 18+ on Mondays. Bring your own equipment; helmet required. Check the website or call 651-458-3400 for times.

Ice Arena Birthday Parties

Make your child's next birthday party the "coolest" in town! Parties are scheduled around public skate times and include the private party room for one hour. Private rental of the south rink is available for an additional \$90/hour. Check the website or call 651-458-3400 for more information.



Park Boys Hockey—Home

01/16 vs. Mounds View
01/21 vs. Woodbury
01/28 vs. South St. Paul
02/01 vs. White Bear Lake
02/08 vs. Forest Lake
02/13 vs. Stillwater

Park Girls Hockey—Home

01/14 vs. Mounds View
01/25 vs. Stillwater
02/01 vs. Cretin Derham Hall

East Ridge Boys Hockey—Home

01/14 vs. St. Michael Albertville
01/16 vs. Stillwater
01/18 vs. Park
01/25 vs. Mounds View
02/01 vs. Woodbury
02/13 vs. Roseville
02/15 vs. Holy Family

Advertise at the most heavily trafficked spectator facility in Cottage Grove—the Ice Arena. Display your message to the thousands of folks who visit the arena. Call 651-458-3415 or visit our website for more information.



Parks and Recreation News

For more info call 651-458-3400

3 on 3 Pond Hockey Tournament

Teams will have 3-5 players and play a 20 minute half ice game with no body contact or goalies. All players must wear a helmet and skates during games; other gear is optional. Each division has eight openings. Each team guaranteed four games. Prizes awarded to champions of each division. Fees cover referees, hot cider, and snacks. Pre-register teams by Jan 17. Call for more information.

Divisions: Squirt/PeeWee and Bantam/High School
Date: Jan. 20
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: Hamlet Park
Cost: \$15 per team

Hockey Skills Competition

Spend the day competing in the 8th Annual Youth Hockey Skills Competition. Compete with friends while showcasing skills in events such as fastest skater, long range shooting, shooting accuracy, breakaway contest, and the superman slide. After the skills portion the puck will be dropped for a game of 3 on 3. Prizes and lunch will take place at the end of the day. Register in the office the day of the event.

Ages: 9–14
Date: Feb. 17
Time: 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Place: Ice Arena
8020 80th Street S.
Cost: \$10/skater; \$5/goalie



2011 Photo Contest Entry

Boys Lacrosse Leagues

Lacrosse leagues will be offered in the spring and summer for boys ages U9–U15. These are traveling teams that also participate in weekend tournaments. Visit our website for the most up-to-date registration and player information.