



Cottage Grove Reports

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Winter Parking Reminder

Winter parking rules are in effect until March 31. No on-street parking between 2 and 6 a.m. is allowed whether or not it is snowing.

Any vehicle parked on the street during this time may result in the registered owner being issued a citation. The vehicle may also be towed at the owner's expense.

At all other times parking is allowed on the street if the vehicle does not interfere with the removal of ice and snow from city streets.

Public Safety Presents Citizen Life Saving Awards

Two citizens, Moises Maldonado and Vinny Mergens, was presented Citizen Life Saving Awards at the Dec. 2 City Council meeting.

On Nov. 6, 2015, Cottage Grove Public Safety were dispatched to a local restaurant on a report of a male choking. Cottage Grove Public Safety arrived within two minutes of the call and found that Maldonado and Mergens had taken quick action that saved the man's life.

Within moments of noticing the individual choking, the two men were able to move the man up against a table and together performed the Heimlich maneuver which dislodged the piece of food that was obstructing his airway. Police Sergeant/Paramedic Mike Coffey stated, "without this action, [we] would have found an unconscious and unresponsive patient upon arrival".

Because of their prompt action that afternoon, they helped save the man's life. Cottage Grove City Council and Public Safety awarded both men the Citizen Life Saving Award for their selfless actions and willingness to get involved.



From left: Police Sergeant/Paramedic Mike Coffey, Council member Steve Dennis, Council member Jen Peterson, Public Safety Director Craig Woolery, Vinny Mergens, Council member Justin Olsen, Moises Maldonado, Council member Dave Thiede, Mayor Myron Bailey.

"It is important that we recognize citizens who make the decision to take heroic actions, in this case undoubtedly saving the life of a complete stranger," said Public Safety Director Craig Woolery.

A Citizen Life Saving Award is awarded to a member of the community for performing lifesaving acts without the presence of an unusual hazard or risk of personal injury.

Watch the presentation online at www.swctc.org under the Cottage Grove archived meetings.

National Recognition for Excellence in Financial Reporting

For the 25th consecutive year, the City of Cottage Grove received the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The award was presented to finance staff at the Dec. 2 Council meeting.

"This certificate is the gold standard that every Finance Director wants for their City," said Finance Director Robin Roland. "That Cottage Grove has received this award for 25 consecutive years is because of the dedicated finance staff and the leadership of City Councils, both current and past."



From left: Council member Steve Dennis, Council member Justin Olsen, Finance Director Robin Roland, Mayor Myron Bailey, Assistant Finance Director Brenda Peper, Accountant Cathy Mohr, Council member Jen Peterson, Council member Dave Thiede.



Dec 18 Photo Contest Entries Due

Details on the City's website

Jan 2 & 9 Holiday Tree Disposal

9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., \$2 per tree, free with donation for Friends in Need Food Shelf, Compost Site, 9600 Glendenning Road

Jan 29 Skate Night

5–8 pm, Highlands Park Pond

Stay Up-to-Date on City Council Actions

City Council meetings are typically held the first and third Wednesday of the month beginning at 7 p.m. at City Hall., 12800 Ravine Parkway S. An open forum is included for people that wish to address the Council on subjects not on the regular meeting agenda. Meetings are streamed live or can be watched anytime at www.swctc.org, choose "video on demand".

Happy Holidays

from River Oaks Golf Course and Event Center Staff

Thanks to all our patrons for your support of River Oaks

Give the gift of golf this year! Buy a gift certificate online at www.riveroaksmunigolf.com, click on "gift cards" or call 651-438-2121 ext. 3. Cards are mailed out within 24 hours.



River Oaks Golf Course
11099 Highway 61 South

A Greener Holiday Season

On average, a typical Minnesotan creates approximately six pounds of waste each day. During the holiday season (from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day), the amount of household waste increases by more than 25 percent. This waste includes shopping bags, wrapping paper, additional food waste, packing material, etc. that results in an additional 1 million tons per week being added to the nation's garbage.

Sustainable gifts

This holiday season, consider a more sustainable approach to the holidays. Consider giving a gift of an experience like a membership to a museum, a hot air balloon ride, a family vacation, theater or sporting event tickets, or season passes to a local amusement or water park. Other meaningful holiday gift ideas may include a family recipe book, a photo book, a cooking or painting class, a canoe trip, or personalized "coupons" such as a night off from household chores, or a special day or night out.

Consider sustainable options such as a "garden" (seeds, gloves, tools, etc.), a handmade gift or food item, or see if there is an upcycled or recycled version of what you were going to buy.

Parties and entertaining

During the holiday season, parties and family get-togethers can also provide an opportunity for being sustainable. Consider reusable tableware, glassware and napkins, and make sure that recycling containers are accessible. Set a theme for gift giving and challenge everyone to come up with a gift that provides an experience or is homemade.

When cleaning up after a gathering, remember to place wrapping paper, gift boxes, cardboard, and other paper packaging into the recycling bin. Eggnog cartons, bottles and cans, cookie tins, and any plastic with a recycling number 1-7 can also be placed in recycling, along with other metal, glass, plastic and cartons.

Challenge yourself

Incorporate some sustainable gifts into the giving season this year. In this busy life, you may be surprised how much someone may appreciate an experience with you compared to a material item that may be put into storage and forgotten. For more ideas on how to plan a green event, visit: www.rethinkrecycling.com/event-planning.

Cottage Grove Farmers Market Donation

The Cottage Grove United Church of Christ Farmers Market had a very successful season with 26 vendors. At the Dec. 2 City Council meeting, Bev Gross, on behalf of the Farmers Market, presented a \$900 donation to the City Council for Stone Soup Thrift Shop.



Bev Gross, left, presents check for Stone Soup Thrift Shop to Council member Peterson and Mayor Bailey and Council member Thiede watch.

70th Street and Jorgensen Lane Traffic Control Change

Left turns can now be made from Jorgensen Lane onto 70th Street.

In 2014, when Washington County added a roundabout at 70th Street and Keats Avenue, a concrete "pork chop" island was added at Jorgensen Lane S. to prevent left turns onto 70th Street.

With the recent removal of that island, left turns can once again be made at that intersection. Jorgensen Lane S. runs behind the Almar Village shopping center located at 70th Street and Keats Avenue (County Road 19).

Holiday Lights and Giving Back to the Community Contest Winners



The winners of the annual Holiday Lights and Giving Back to the Community contests were announced at the Dec. 2 City Council meeting.

The Gardner and Bergeson families were named the Holiday Lights contest winners. They each received an outdoor holiday spruce planter from Laska Gardens to add to their festive décor.

The addresses of all of the homes nominated for the holiday lights contest:

- 6583 Innsdale Avenue S. (winner)
- 8834 Upper 89th Street Circle S. (winner)



- 8364 69th Street S.
- 9331 73rd Street S.
- 8638 Hadley Avenue
- 7135 Hidden Valley Trail
- 9658 Indian Blvd. S.
- 7520 Irish Avenue S.
- 7788 Jasmine Avenue S.

Giving Back to the Community Award

Hale to the Bird was selected as the winner of the Giving Back to the Community Award. Hale to the Bird is a family-friendly 5K Thanksgiving Day run in Cottage Grove that raises money for the Friends in Need Food Shelf. Local businesses that supported the Hale to the Bird 5K this year



included Arbor Hill Tree Farm, Craftsman Renovations, Jack Geramo with State Farm Insurance, Park Grove Bowl, and Travel Made Real.

The event was started in 2010 by three local men, Adam Elling, Matt Elling, and Tim Maurer. It has grown from less than 100 participants to more than 600 in five years and has raised more than \$15,000 for the food shelf.

This is the seventh year that the City has partnered with the South Washington County Bulletin to present the Holiday Lights and Giving Back to Community contest.

Red Rock Corridor Commission Seeks Public Feedback

The Red Rock Corridor Commission has made a recommendation for the corridor's bus rapid transit route and is seeking feedback on the route and station locations for the project.

Two Alternatives

Prior to the Commission's action, two bus rapid transit route alternatives were reviewed comparing travel time data, projected ridership, capital costs, and operating considerations. Route Alternative #1 travels primarily along Highway 61 while Route Alternative #2 provides more direct access to the corridor communities by deviating from Highway 61 in appropriate locations.

On Dec. 2 the Commission unanimously recommended Route Alternative #2 as the most efficient manner to serve the southeast metro communities.

The recommended route will provide convenient access to the largest number of riders, offer the lowest operating cost per rider, serve the most jobs in relation to the station locations, and stay true to the overall vision for transit in the southeast metro.

Attend the Jan. 13 Open House

The commission invites the public to attend an open house to provide their feedback on Jan. 13, 2016, from 5 to 7 p.m. at St. Paul Park City Hall, 600 Portland Avenue.

A brief presentation and information boards will help participants understand the differences between the two alternatives. Staff will be available to answer questions.

Other Ways to Comment

If you are not able to attend the open house, comments will be accepted by phone, email or mail through Jan. 20, 2016 at:

651-430-4314

redrockcorridor@gmail.com

Project Manager—Lyssa Leitner, AICP
Washington County Public Works
Department
11660 Myeron Rd North
Stillwater, MN 55082

For more information on the Red Rock Corridor visit www.redrockcorridor.com.

COTTAGE GROVE **Ice Arena****Winter Break****Dec. 21-23, 28-31, Jan. 1**

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

Winter Holiday Skate

A fun-filled afternoon of public skating to holiday music! Enjoy cookies and hot cocoa courtesy of the Ice Arena.

Date: Dec. 20
 Time: Noon–1:30 p.m.
 Cost: \$5

Skate with the Wolfpack

Join the Wolfpack Hockey boys and girls teams for a fun-filled afternoon of skating! Helmets required.

Date: Dec. 27
 Time: 2–3:30 p.m.
 Cost: Free

New Year's Eve Skate

Ring in the New Year with an afternoon of

public skating. We'll dim the lights and turn on the tunes. Concessions available for purchase.

Date: Dec. 31
 Time: 3:30–5 p.m.
 Cost: \$5

U10B/U12B/U12A**Tournament**

January 15 to 17

Ice Skating School Lessons

Spring Sessions run Feb. 15, 2016 to April 17, 2016. Register online or call the Ice Arena office.

Figure Skater Practice (\$5-\$10)

Sessions are for the dedicated figure skater, level Alpha and above. Practice figure skating skills, jumps and spins. Check the website for schedule as times may vary.

Public Skating (\$5)

Get exercise, practice skating and have fun at open skate sessions. Skate aids (buckets) are available for those learning to skate.

Session times vary. Check the schedule online for dates and times. Rental skates are \$4 per pair.

Adult Open Hockey (\$5)

Join others, ages 18+, on Monday evenings. Bring your own hockey equipment. Helmets required. For times, check the monthly event calendar on our website or call ahead as some sessions may cancel due to special events.

Ice Arena Birthday Parties

Celebrate the special day at the Ice Arena! Visit website or call for more information.

Advertise at the Ice Arena

For more information call 651-458-3415 or download a brochure online.

Arena Dry Floor Event Rentals

Indoor turf in the West Rink is available for rent from March through September. Call 651-458-3415 for availability and cost.

Parks and Recreation For more info call 651-458-3400**Winter Break****No-School-Day Activity (\$20/day)**

Bring winter gear for outdoor play, a dry set of clothes for inside play, ice skates and sleds (if available). There will also be craft activities, foosball, ping pong and games. Bring a lunch; refrigerator and microwave available.

Ages: 5 and up
 Date: Dec. 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30
 Time: 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
 Location: Peter Thompson Park,
 6327 Highland Hills Blvd.
 Cost: \$20 per day

Tot Spot

Participants at our Friday program will enjoy theme-based games, songs, crafts, projects and story time. Theme changes weekly. Dress for outdoor play (weather permitting) and messy crafts and experiments. Bring a lunch and beverage. This is a drop-off program.

Ages: 3 to 5
 Date: Jan. 8, 15, 22, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26,
 Mar. 4 (winter session)
 Apr. 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20,
 27 (spring session)
 Time: 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
 Location: Pine Tree Valley Park,
 8431 Indian Blvd.
 Cost: \$120 per session

Adult Boot Hockey Tournament

Join others for a one day Boot Hockey Tournament at Old Cottage Grove Community Park. Cash prize for the first place team. All games (45 minutes) will be played 4 vs. 4 plus a goalie; max of 16 teams. Each team is guaranteed three games. Registration deadline is Jan. 18.

Ages: 18 and up
 Date: Jan. 23
 Time: 8:30 a.m. games begin
 Location: Old Cottage Grove Community
 Park, 7500 Langly Avenue S.
 Cost: \$50 per team

Warming Houses Open Dec. 26 (Weather Permitting)

Hamlet, 8883 Hamlet Ave. S.
 M/W 5–8 p.m. | Sat Noon–8 p.m.

Hearthside, 8245 Hearthside Rd. S.
 T/Th 5–8 p.m. | Sun Noon–8 p.m.

Highlands, 6975 Idsen Ave. S.
 M–F 4–8 p.m. | Sat/Sun Noon–8 p.m.

Peter Thompson, 6327 Highland Hills Blvd.
 M–F 4–8 p.m. | Sat/Sun Noon–8 p.m.

Pine Tree Valley, 8431 Indian Blvd.
 M–F 4–8 p.m. | Sat/Sun Noon–8 p.m.

Woodridge, 9000 90th Street S.
 M–F 4–8 p.m. | Sat/Sun Noon–8 p.m.