



Cottage Grove Reports

10 Fun Activities to Do Outside This Winter

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Dig Your Hydrant

Seconds count when there is a fire. Help the Cottage Grove firefighters find hydrants quickly by keeping the one near your home free of snow during the winter season.



The City Council recognized Councilmember Lehrke for his service at his last meeting, Dec. 17.

Don't let the chill in the air and the shorter days prevent you from enjoying all that winter has to offer. The joys of the season are aplenty in Cottage Grove and your parks and recreation system is open year-round to enhance your opportunities for outdoor fun. Grab your cap and gloves and consider some of the following activities to keep you happy and healthy throughout the winter season.

Walking/Running More than 60 miles of plowed recreational trails provide a great opportunity to move about the town and see all of winter's natural beauty.

Cross-Country Skiing Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park has a terrific and expansive trail system sure to give you the level of workout you desire whether you are a beginner or experienced skier.

Sledding You're never too young or too old to enjoy the thrill of sledding! Grab your friends, neighbors and/or relatives and find a sledding hill in a park near you.

Skating Although indoor ice arenas are very grand, the experience of skating under the sun and stars is irreplaceable. Parks staff works hard to maintain seven outdoor ice rinks each season. Don't forget to join us for the annual skating event on the Highlands Park pond on Jan. 30. There will be lights, music, treats and a bonfire while we skate on nature's ice rink!



2012 Photo Contest Entry

Dog Park The dog park is open year-round so grab your canine friend and enjoy the open spaces of this 14-acre winter wonderland.

Archery Range Grab your bow and take aim in any season.

Sporting Events Support your local sport programs by taking in a game of basketball, hockey or whatever fits your pleasure.

Ice Fishing Come to Hidden Valley Park pond on Jan. 10 and enjoy some ice fishing, education and fun with the Recreation Department and Minnesota DNR.

Youth Pond Hockey Tournament School's out Jan. 19 so form a team with your friends and enjoy hockey the old fashioned way. No goalies.

Build a Snowman The Recreation Department's first "Do You Want to Build a Snowman" competition is underway. Build your snowman anytime this winter, take a picture and submit before Feb. 19 to enter. Challenge your friends and neighbors to participate!

2014-2015 Boulevard Tree Trimming

Tree trimming on boulevard trees located in the City rights-of-way began in December and will continue through April. The area included is south of 80th Street, east of Jamaica Avenue, north of East Point Douglas Road and west of County Road 19/Innovation Road.

The boulevard, typically 10 to 15 feet from the curb to the property line, is part of the

street right-of-way. Only trees in the City's right-of-way will be trimmed. Removing sightline obstructions helps to prevent vehicle accidents and damage to larger vehicles such as fire, trash, delivery or snow plows.

A map of the tree trimming area is available on the City's website. For more information call Public Works at 651-458-2808.



Coming Up

- Jan 10, 11 Holiday Tree Disposal**
- Jan 17, 18** 9 a.m.–3 p.m., \$2 per tree, free with donation for Friends in Need Foodshelf, Compost Site, 9600 Glendenning Road
- Jan. 20 Free Car Seat Clinic**
4–7 pm, Fire Station 2, 8641 80th Street, Call 651-357-2798 for appointment
- Feb 6 Friday Night Fish Fry**
4–8 p.m., Feb. 6 to Apr. 3 River Oaks Golf Course, 11099 Highway 61 S. 651-438-3627 for more info

For more city-wide events, check the calendar on the city's website.

Property Valuation Notices and Open Book Meetings

In January, every property owner in Cottage Grove will receive an important notice from Washington County. This "Valuation Notice" gives the property's estimated value as of Jan. 1, 2015. This value is the taxable basis for the property taxes in 2016.

Property owners have an opportunity to dispute their valuation by the processes outlined on the notice. No opportunity to dispute the valuation is given at the time of the "Property Tax Notice" which is sent in November.

Washington County has also announced their regional "Open Book" meetings for 2015. Cottage Grove will host one of these meetings on April 2, 2015 from 5–7 p.m. at City Hall. Other meetings will be held on April 8 at the City of Oakdale from 5–7 p.m., on April 16 at the City of Woodbury from 5–7 p.m. and on April 22 from 2–7 p.m. at the City of Stillwater.

If you have questions, contact Washington County at 651-430-6175.

Holiday Lights and Giving Back to the Community Winners

Brad and Michelle Austin and Bill and Barb Johanson were the winners of the 2014 Winter Lights Contest. The Austins' home (bottom left) featured "A Christmas Story" leg lamp in one window. The Johansons' brightly lit display is set to music. Cub Foods, 8690 East Point Douglas Road, was selected as the winner of the Business

Giving Back Award for their continued support to the community.

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



6932 Innsdale Ave. S. is completely covered in lights.



8638 Hadley Ave. S. is decorated Halloween to New Year's Day.



Cub Foods Manager Elaine Manovich (center) accepts award.

Canadian Pacific Holiday Train Rolled Into Town Dec. 10

Thousands were on hand to see the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train when it returned to Cottage Grove on Dec. 10 stopping at its usual location along West Point Douglas Road. The Friends in Need Food Shelf reported donations of \$105,765.79 with 12,031 pounds of food and toiletries collected.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's stop a success.

Visit the City's Facebook page (www.fb.com/CottageGroveMinnesota) to view photos from the event.

Watch the SWCTC video of the event: <http://vimeo.com/114518037>



Mayor Bailey arrived to the event on the Holiday Train this year.



Santa visited with children during the Holiday Train stop.



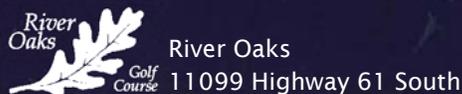
These two little ones had a great view of the train.

Happy New Year
from the Golf Shop
at River Oaks Golf Course

The 2015 golf season is only a few months away. Secure your golf tournament date today by calling 651-438-2121 ext. 3.

Coming in 2015:

- GPS on our fleet of golf carts. Chart your way around the course with exact yardages and pictures.
- Online booking of start times. Choose "Online Tee Time" on our website.
- Newly enhanced golf cart staging area outside the golf shop.
- New golf shop lounge area with large TV, lounging chairs, relaxed atmosphere with beer, soda, sandwiches and snacks when checking in.
- Updated, easy-to-use website, www.riveroaksmunigolf.com



If you are a business owner with announcements or new offerings to share, please contact Danette Parr at 651-458-2824 or dparr@cottage-grove.org

Ribbon-Cuttings Around Town

Chipotle Mexican Grill

www.chipotle.com

The Dec. 15 ribbon-cutting ceremony welcomed Chipotle to town. Dozens of eager fans lined up to be one of the first to eat at the new location. Chipotle employs 42 people and is located at 7180 East Point Douglas Road. Hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Sunday. Watch the SWCTC video of the ribbon-cutting:

<http://youtu.be/vRZGVizZJEM>



Chipotle Marketing Strategist, Mike Fuller, watches as General Manager Omar Renteria cuts the ribbon.



Cody Newton, 19, Zac Wilmes, 20, and Zac Newell, 21, arrived at midnight to ensure they would be the first customers.



Noodles Manager Abbie Klebs prepares to cut the ceremonial ribbon.

Noodles & Company

www.noodles.com

A ribbon-cutting for Noodles & Company was held on Dec. 15. The Cottage Grove restaurant is one of only five locations nationwide to offer a wine and dessert bar. With this new concept, Noodles offers wine suggestions to complement each customer's menu selection. Noodles employs 30 people and is located at 7180 East Point Douglas Road. Hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Sunday; 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Watch the SWCTC video of the ribbon-cutting:

<http://youtu.be/xZDdRCp3Eh0>

Local Teens Give Back This Holiday Season

Recently, local teens enrolled in the Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice program at Northeast Metro 916 Career and Technical Center participated in a holiday project named Winter Wonder Caps. Each student knit a winter hat, purchased mittens and wrote an illustrated children's story on how to be a good citizen for their assigned kindergarten buddy from Webster Elementary in North St. Paul.

Morena Garcia and Samantha Stainbrook, both seniors at Park High School, gave the gifts to their Webster buddies when they met for the first time on Dec. 18. The Winter Wonder Caps is part of a year-long project where each student mentors a kindergarten student.

The annual project is led by the program's instructor, Mary McGuire, who is a former

Cottage Grove Police Officer/Paramedic. After learning that Webster Elementary has a high percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced lunches, McGuire said they upped the ante this year by providing winter hats for all 465 students as well as snacks teachers can use for the entire year.

As part of the Northeast Metro 916 program, each student is assigned a mentor working in law enforcement. Garcia's mentor works on the Albert Lea Police force while Sgt. McAlister with the Cottage Grove Police Department mentors Stainbrook.

"It's very heartwarming to see future officers knit hats and interact with their buddies," wrote McGuire. "I want them to see that as how they are mentored, they too can mentor."



Morena Garcia (left) and Samantha Stainbrook with their Webster kindergarten buddies

Both Garcia and Stainbrook are members of SkillsUSA. They will be joined by Hailz Spreeman from East Ridge High School in presenting their community involvement project at the State of Minnesota SkillsUSA competition in April 2015.

COTTAGE GROVE Ice Arena

Looking to rent ice?

www.rinkfinder.com

651-458-3400



Ice Skating School Lessons

Spring sessions run Feb. 14 to April 19.
Register online or call 651-458-3400.

Public Skating Sessions (\$4)

Skate rentals \$2. Skating aids (buckets) available for beginners. Check the monthly event calendar online for times.

Wolfpack Mite Jamboree

Jan. 30 to Feb. 1
Feb. 27 to March 1
No cost to the public

Cottage Grove Girls Invitational

Jan. 16, 17 and 18
No cost to the public

Figure Skater Practice (\$8-\$10)

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

Tuesday, Thursday: 2:30–5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Friday: 6–7:30 a.m.
Saturday: 6:15–7:45 a.m.
Sunday: 8–9:45 p.m.

Adult Open Hockey or Broomball (\$5)

Join others, ages 18+, for a pick-up game on Monday (hockey) or Sunday (broomball) evenings. Broomball sticks available. Bring your own hockey equipment. Helmets required. Check the website or call 651-458-3400 for times.

Birthday Parties

The “coolest” birthday party venue in town is the Ice Arena. Kids can celebrate their special day and have a blast skating with their friends. A variety of packages are available. Check website or call 651-458-3400 for details.

Equipment Sanitizing

Drop off your gear at the Ice Arena front desk and your equipment will be sanitized and ready for pick-up within 24 hours. Call 612-202-4243 or visit

www.sanisportmn.com with questions.

Cost includes all required gear for the sport.

Hockey \$35
Football \$30
Lacrosse \$30

Ice Arena Advertising Display your message at the most heavily trafficked spectator facility in Cottage Grove. Call 651-458-3415 for more information.

Recreation News

For more information **651-458-3400**

Skate Night at Highlands

Join us at Highlands Park pond for the seventh annual Skate Night and enjoy an evening of skating and free hot cider. The Park building (with restrooms) across the street will be open. There is also a sledding hill! Free. Be sure to check the weather hotline (651-458-6060) if uncertain.

Date: Jan. 30
(Make-up date is Feb. 13)
Time: 5–8 p.m.
Place: Highlands Park
70th Street and Idsen Ave.

Do You Want to Build a Snowman?

Submit your best snowman photo for a chance to win a winter prize pack! Email a picture with you and your snowman to mpietruszewski@cottage-grove.org by Feb. 19. Photos may be used on the City's social media sites, websites and other publications.

3 on 3 Pond Hockey

Three divisions—Squirt/U10, Peewee/U12, and Bantam/U14—in this outdoor round-robin tournament. Four openings in each division. Teams consist of 3 to 5 boys or girls. The 15-minute games are played with no contact or goalies.

Matching uniforms not required. Players must have a light and dark jersey and wear a helmet and skates at all times. Each team guaranteed three games. Pre-register by Jan 14. Prizes to champions of each division.

Date: Jan. 19
Time: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Place: Hamlet Park
8833 Hamlet Road S.
Cost: \$15 per team

Hockey Skills Competition

Spend the day competing in the 9th Annual Youth Hockey Skills Competition. Youth hockey players are welcome to compete with their friends while showcasing their skills in events such as fastest skater, long range shooting, shooting accuracy, breakaway contest, and the superman slide. After the skills portion we'll drop the puck for a game of 3 on 3. Prizes and lunch (included in the fee) will take place at the end of the day. Register in the office on the day of the event.

Date: Feb. 16
Time: 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Place: Ice Arena
Ages: 9–14
Cost: \$10/Skater and \$5/Goalies



2013 Photo Contest Entry | Jennifer Savard