



Cottage Grove Reports

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Add “Create a Butterfly Garden” On Your Spring To-Do List

You may have heard that pollinators, particularly Monarch butterflies, are in trouble. More than one third of all plants or plant products consumed by humans are directly or indirectly dependent on insects for pollination. The decline of pollinators affects us all—but we have the power to make small changes that will positively affect pollinators.

Here are three simple steps to support pollinators in your backyard:

- When working on new landscaping projects, choose plants that pollinators love and that are suited for your site conditions (soil type, light, planting space, etc.). Some ideas for plants include: wild geraniums, coreopsis, purple

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Spring Cleanup Day Set for May 2



It's not too early to begin making plans to dispose of unwanted items at the annual Spring Cleanup Day. Bring your items to the Cottage Grove Public Works Garage, 8635 W. Pt. Douglas Rd. S. on Saturday, May 2, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. The enclosed flyer lists items accepted and fees. Only cash or checks will be accepted. Call 651-458-2808 with questions.

Prevent Home Garage Fires

Think about cleaning out your garage as you prepare for the annual Spring Cleanup Day

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, there are 6,600 garage fires every year resulting in 30 deaths, 400 injuries and \$457 million in property loss. Don't let *your* garage become a statistic.

Keep your home and your family safe by following these tips:

- Store oil, gasoline, paints, propane and varnishes in a shed away from your home.
- Keep items that can burn on shelves away from appliances.
- Plug only one charging appliance into an outlet.
- Don't use an extension cord when charging an appliance.

Here are garage construction safety tips:

- A 20-minute fire-rated door that is self-closing and self-latching from the garage into the house.
- A ceiling made with 5/8-inch Type X gypsum board (or equivalent) if you have living space above the garage.
- A wall with a 1/2-inch gypsum board (or equivalent) if the wall attaches the garage to your home.
- An attic hatch cover if you have attic access from the garage.
- A heat alarm—not a smoke alarm—in your garage. The heat alarm will sound if temperature rises too high. Learn more about what type of heat alarm is best for garage installation at www.usfa.fema.gov.

Spring Business Showcase

The 12th Annual Spring Business Showcase is a great way to learn more about local businesses and organizations. It takes place Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Cottage Grove Ice Arena, 8020 80th Street S.

The free event features a wide variety of products and services as well as fun family

activities including the 3M Visiting Wizards, a balloon artist and a live animal exhibit with the Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center. Be sure to visit the premier sponsors to be entered into a drawing for special prizes. The first 400 in the door will receive a free tote bag. The showcase is hosted by the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce.



Coming Up

- Apr 13-17 Severe Weather Awareness Week**
Learn more at <http://bit.ly/cgsevereweather>
- Apr 16 Tornado Drill Day**
1:45 and 6:55 p.m. Statewide tornado drills
- Apr 17 Confidential Paper Shredding**
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Washington County Environmental Ctr, 4039 Cottage Grove Drive
- Apr 27 Newport Transit Station Grand Opening** 4 to 7 p.m.
Located in the southwest corner of Interstate 494 and Highway 61
- Apr 29 CSAH/70th Street Open House** 4:30 to 7 p.m.
Washington County Cottage Grove Service Center, 13000 Ravine Parkway S
- May 16 Standing Strong 5K**
Proceeds towards anti-bullying programs at the middle schools. More info: <http://on.fb.me/1FaOyp5>
- May 19 Make 'N' Take Rain Barrel Workshop** Three rain barrel options to choose from. Cost range \$65-\$125. Washington County Environmental Center, 4039 Cottage Grove Dr., Woodbury. Register by May 11. Call 651-330-8220 ext. 44 or jradtke@mnwcd.org
- May 21 Night to Unite Informational Picnic** Learn about hosting your own neighborhood party or register your party. Hosted by Public Safety at Kingston Park, Indian Blvd. & 75th Street. Call 651-458-6040 or ggriffith@cottage-grove.org

Arbor Day Celebration Sunnyhill Park Ribbon Cutting

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 | 9-11 AM | 6201 IDEAL AVENUE S

Sunnyhill Park, one of Cottage Grove's newest parks, officially opens April 25. The 5-acre park, nestled among homes in the Pinecliff neighborhood, includes a playground, a multi-use court for basketball and pickleball games, a picnic shelter and paved trails.



To celebrate Arbor Day and the opening of Sunnyhill Park, we invite you to help us plant trees, shrubs and flowers at the park beginning at 9 a.m. Bring shovels and work gloves if you have them.

Mayor Bailey will kick-off the event with an opening message and proclamation. A ribbon cutting will follow when the planting is completed, at approximately 11 a.m.

Buckthorn removal

Residents are also encouraged to remove buckthorn from their property. Residents must call 651-458-2844 by April 24 to schedule a pickup.

(Butterfly Garden continued from page 1)

coneflower, anise hyssop, beebalm, and swamp milkweed. Consider choosing plants that haven't been treated with systemic insecticides (they can move into pollen and nectar). Ask for help from a local garden center or nursery for suggestions.

- Improve on existing landscapes. Leave pollinator friendly plants such as dandelions and clover in lawns for early season nectar. Mow to a height of three inches, and consider adjusting the frequency and timing of mowing.
- Be smart when using pesticides. Use only when necessary, and choose pesticides with a low toxicity to bees (look for the bee hazard icon).

A more comprehensive list of plants and pesticide toxicity to bees is available at <http://tinyurl.com/PollinatorFriendlyYards>.

If you decide to make a change to support pollinators you can take the Pollinator Hero Pledge at <http://tinyurl.com/PollinatorHeroPledge>.

If you are interested in learning more about pollinator friendly native plants and landscaping, visit www.bluethumb.org

Golf season is off and running at River Oaks Golf Course!

The golf course and driving range opened March 16—the earliest on record. Our staff has mowed the greens which are in great shape, and the golf carts are going. Now is your chance to get an early start to enjoying your golf course.

Improve your game by signing up for a clinic, lessons or viewing our online videos.

League space and golf tournament dates are still available.

Check out "Weekend Foursome Special", "Players Special" or "Twi-Light Golf" for money savings.

Remember, as a Cottage Grove resident, you are already a member.

For more information on any of these items, visit www.riveroaksmunigolf.com or call 651-438-2121 ext. 3.



Business News

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

Werner Electric Supply Announces Expansion to Begin This Spring



Werner Electric Supply announced it will be expanding their headquarters, regional distribution center and office facility here in Cottage Grove beginning this spring. The company plans to add an additional 65,000 square feet.

“Werner has been experiencing double digit growth, year over year, for a long time now. This investment in people and facilities represents our commitment to growing with our customers and our investment in Minnesota,” President Ben Granley stated.

The company worked closely with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), and received approval for a Job Creation Fund award of \$325,000 to assist the expansion. The Job Creation Fund is a pay-for-performance program that provides expansion support funding to businesses after they meet certain criteria, including

minimum requirements for job creation and private investments.

Werner Electric Supply currently employs 130 workers. This expansion will bring more than 50 more jobs to the community over the next three years.

In 2007, when Werner Electric Supply built their facility, the deal allowed the City to add an additional 30 acres to Hamlet Park for the entire community to enjoy.

“This is exciting news for Cottage Grove as Werner is an integral part of our community,” said Mayor Myron Bailey. “We thank them for continuing to invest in our community.”

Retail Market Analysis Study

The results of a retail market analysis study were presented to the Cottage Grove Economic Development Authority and City Council during a workshop before the March 18 Council meeting.

The study was conducted by retail consultants McComb Group. The findings were presented by Jim McComb, who founded the firm in 1974 and specializes in retail and real estate market research. McComb is considered a retail expert.

The study identified retail market demand for stores, restaurants and services in Cottage Grove. McComb identified the City’s trade area and noted that the City’s vacancy rate is not abnormal.

His conclusions were that the city could support additional businesses, and provided reinforcement on the type of businesses the City is currently pursuing:

- Movie/Entertainment Venue
- Full Service Restaurants
- Women's/Family Clothing

- Physical Fitness Facilities
- Furniture
- Home Goods
- Sporting Goods
- Additional Grocer (25-30,000 sq. ft.)

A third-party study lends credibility when city representatives meet with retailers and service industry representatives in an effort to attract them to the City.

The study was paid for with the Economic Development Authority trust fund, not the City’s general fund.



From left: Owner David Gysland, Owner Kevin Gysland, Mayor Myron Bailey and Washington County Commissioner Karla Bigham.

CrossFit Riparian Ribbon Cutting

CrossFit Riparian has opened in Cottage Grove. A ribbon cutting was held April 1 to welcome the business to the community. A father and son team, David and Kevin Gysland, are co-owners and also local residents. Free one-on-one introductory sessions. Classes begin April 13. CrossFit Riparian is located at 8599 West Point Douglas Road. Call 651-706-2233 or visit www.crossfitriparian.com for more information. Watch SWCTC’s video coverage of the opening: <https://youtu.be/3mC81Pt4rQk>

We want your input!
Take the Shop Local Survey by May 15

Let us know
what
businesses
you would
support
financially



www.cottage-grove.org OR
www.surveymonkey.com/s/shoplocalcg

Recreation News

For more information 651-458-3400

Kids Mud Run

Kids will climb, jump, slide, and run their way through obstacles around the park and end with a crawl through the mud pit. The course is about three quarters of a mile. Participants may run the course up to two times. This is not a timed event; the goal is to finish the race.

Groups of ten will start every five minutes. After check-in, groups of friends can approach the start line and await the signal to begin.

Pre-register to guarantee a spot. Limited to 100 racers per age group. Registrations taken at the park the day of the race only if space is available.

Rec Works–Youth Volunteer Training

This program is a must for anyone interested in volunteering during summer playground programs. Youth will learn volunteer expectations and summer programs/events. Training includes material packet and 2015 recreation shirt.

Participants should specify the park location (Hamlet or Peter Thompson) and shifts they would like to volunteer at

All participants receive a commemorative t-shirt and Gatorade.

The Cottage Grove Kids Mud Run will benefit an Inclusive/Accessible Playground to be built at Woodridge Park in 2016.

Date: May 30
Place: Woodridge Park
9000 90th Street S.
Cost: \$25
8:45 a.m. Check-in begins
9–10 a.m. Start times: 6–9 year olds
10–11 a.m. Start times: 10–12 year olds

during the summer when they attend the training. Shifts are: 8:30 a.m.–noon or 12:30–4 pm.

Date: May 19
Time: 5:30–7 p.m.
Place: Cottage Grove Ice Arena
8020 80th Street S.
Cost: \$30
Ages: 12–16

Strawberry Fest 5K Race and Walk

Don't miss the 9th Annual Strawberry Fest Race and Walk at Kingston Park. The race will be chip timed. Race times will be posted on-site immediately following the race and posted on our website (by age category) the following Monday. Walkers will not be timed.

Medals will be awarded to the first place male and female in the following age categories: 18 and younger, 19–25, 26–40, 41–55, 56 and older.

All participants receive a Strawberry Fest Race shirt, water and snacks upon completion.

Date: June 20
Park: Kingston Park
Race: \$20 on or before June 17
\$25 after June 17
Walk: \$15 on or before June 17
\$20 after June 17
Time: 7 a.m. registration check-in begins
8 a.m. race begins
Walk begins immediately after race.
Route: Kingston Park–Trailway Corridor–Pine Tree Valley Trail–80th St.–Jenner Ave.–Kingston Park Trail



Home Alone

The Home Alone class is perfect for youth who stay home alone in the summer or fall. Topics covered include the importance of going straight home after school, when an adult should be contacted, emergency phone numbers, dealing with peer pressure from friends, answering the door and phone, and much more.

Ages: 9–13
Date: May 13
Time: 5:15–6:45 p.m.
Place: Ice Arena Meeting Room
Cost: \$25

Looking to rent ice or indoor turf?

The indoor turf is located on the West Rink and can be rented for a variety of events. Call 651-458-3400 or visit www.cottage-grove.org for details.

For available ice times, visit www.rinkfinder.com or call 651-458-3400

Summer Supervised Playgrounds

- Hamlet & Peter Thompson Park 7:30am - 4:30pm
- 3 Adult Staff:
- 35 Youth Per Site
- Weekly Auto Pay
- Flexible Scheduling
- Daily (\$20) or Weekly (\$80) Registrations

Get Your Kids Outside This Summer

Use Park Address for Summer School Transportation

Call 651-458-3400 to register TODAY!