



Cottage Grove Reports

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Street Sweeping Begins in April

City crews will begin sweeping streets during the week of April 6, weather permitting. Residents should sweep sand from their boulevards onto the street before crews clean the streets. Vehicles should be parked in driveways so sweeping can be completed curb to curb without missing any areas. If you have questions or concerns call Public Works at 651-458-2808.

Volunteer of the Year Nominations Due April 10

The City is currently seeking nominations for Volunteer of the Year, an honor recognizing exceptional service to the community over the past year and nominations to recognize long-term service to the community. Visit the City's website to download a nomination form or pick one up at City Hall.

Photo Contest Winners



Celebrations/Events
BILL POHLMANN

Congratulations to the winners of the City's 13th annual photo contest! We asked you to send us your best shots—and you did, with almost 40 photographs entered.

The winners were announced at the Feb. 18 City Council meeting. Each winning photograph was awarded \$50.

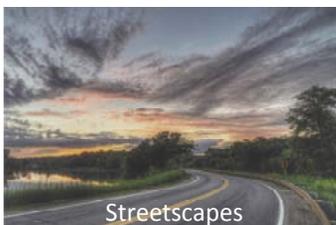
It's not too early to enter the 2015 photo contest. Photo entries are being accepted through Dec. 18.



Historical
JARED BIRD



Progress
NATHAN KLOK



Streetscapes
BILL POHLMANN



People
CHERI DRABCZAK



Parks and Trails
JULI HOLM

Living with Coyotes and Foxes in the Suburbs

Coyotes and foxes have been sighted with increased regularity in Cottage Grove's park and open spaces over the years. This is becoming a common trend in suburban Twin Cities communities. Coyotes and foxes living in urban areas can cause a range of reactions amongst residents.

The City does not respond to wildlife complaints unless the animal is sick, injured, has injured others or is posing an immediate threat to humans. In most cases, the animal needs to be put down by local police or a conservation officer if there is a threat to safety.

Coyotes and foxes are typically programmed to avoid humans so most of their hunting activity takes place at night. However, they are lured into suburban areas due to the presence of easy food sources. Once these easy food sources have been discovered, they adapt to the new lands and become more accustomed to human activity.

For these reasons, it is important that you never encourage any type of feeding of these wild animals. Do not leave out pet food, keep pets in the house (particularly at night) and keep trash cans secure. If you do find these

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Coming Up

- Fridays** **Friday Night Fish Fry**
4–8 p.m., through Apr. 3
\$15.95/adults, \$9.95/kids
ages 4–12, 3 and under free
River Oaks Golf Course,
11099 Highway 61 S.
651-438-3627 for more info
- Mar 17** **Buzz coffee shop opens**
8–11 a.m., grand opening
inside District Program Center
8400 E. Pt. Douglas Road
- Mar 29** **Breakfast with the
Easter Bunny**
8 a.m.–noon, \$7/adults,
\$5/kids 12 and under. Lots of
fun activities: bike drawings,
baby chicks, bake sale, raffle
drawing, stickers, pictures.
VFW Red Barn, 9260 E. Pt.
Douglas Road. Presented by
Cottage Grove Lions
- Apr 2** **Washington County Open
Book meeting** 5–7 p.m.,
A chance to discuss property
valuation received from
Washington County. Call 651-
430-6175 with questions.
City Hall, 12800 Ravine Pkwy
- Apr 4** **Indoor Egg Hunt**
9–10 a.m. \$6/person, includes
10 eggs (redeemable for prize),
bunny games, crafts, cookies,
juice and visit with the Easter
Bunny. Limited to 200 kids.
Ice Arena, 8020 80th Street S.
- April 16** **Tornado Drill Day**
1:45 and 6:55 p.m. Statewide
tornado drills
- Apr 18** **Stone Soup-er Bowl**
Dress as your favorite
character and bowl to help
raise funds for Stone Soup
Thrift Shop. Register by April
3. Registration forms online at
www.stonesoupthriftshop.org
or call 651-458-9786

Milk Carton Recycling at Cottage Grove Elementary



Cottage Grove Elementary students recycling their milk cartons

Beginning Jan. 5, students at Cottage Grove Elementary started recycling milk cartons in the lunchroom. The project was possible due to a partnership between Independent School District 833 (ISD 833), Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment, and the City of Cottage Grove.

Developing the program

The school already had a system in place for students to empty leftover milk into a pail. Instead of throwing the empty milk cartons into the trash, the students now place them into a separate recycling bin.

During the first week of the program, staff from Washington County and the City of Cottage Grove were on-site to educate students about what could be placed in the recycling bin, and to find out how the program might need to be modified to provide long-term success. Based on the first week of implementation, the following results illustrate the long-term impact of the program:

- 16.4 lbs. of cartons recycled daily
- 547 cartons recycled daily
- 2,870 lbs. recycled per school year, and
- 95,725 cartons recycled per school year

What happens to the milk cartons?

The waste and recycling hauler, Allied Waste/Republic Services, collects the milk cartons with other recyclables and sorts them at their recycling facility in Inver Grove Heights. The cartons are baled and sent to Fox River Fiber in De Pere, Wis.

Fox River uses the cartons to make a high quality pulp that is sold to other mills to make fine writing and printing paper, and other tissue products.

Environmental benefits

Recycling 95,725 cartons in one school year would save more than 19 trees from being harvested and manufactured into paper and provide enough fiber to produce 459 reams of paper.

Potential cost savings

When milk cartons are placed in the school trash they take up a significant amount of space in the bin. In addition to items already recycled at the school, the implementation of this new program will result in the recycling of three 32-gallon bins full of milk cartons each day.

In the next step, ISD 833 will examine the level of waste service currently provided to the school, to evaluate potential savings related to this high volume of material that is no longer in the trash dumpster.

Preliminary estimates demonstrate that the district could eliminate 17 trash pick-ups per year through the carton recycling efforts.

It is worth noting that in Washington County, commercial trash service is taxed at 52 percent versus recycling and organics (food waste), which is taxed at 0 percent. Switching to smaller and/or less frequent trash service can benefit the school district financially.

Classroom and office recycling

As part of the larger waste reduction efforts at Cottage Grove Elementary, the school has also launched a revitalized program for recycling in classroom and office areas.

The school district, in partnership with Washington County, is planning to expand the milk carton recycling program into more schools within the district this year.



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



SATURDAY, APRIL 25 | 10 AM–3 PM | COTTAGE GROVE ICE ARENA

organizations. It takes place Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Cottage Grove Ice Arena, 8020 80th Street S.

The 12th annual Spring Business Showcase is a great way to learn more about local businesses and

The free event will feature 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. Hosted by the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce.

(Living with Coyote and Foxes: continued from page 1)

animals near your property, “hazing” by aggressively yelling and waving your arms at the animal is the best measure to assure they do not become comfortable around humans.

The reality is that the City cannot do much to remove these animals from the community. Both foxes and coyotes are territorial in nature and will self-regulate their population in any given area. When animals are removed from an area, others

will move in to take advantage of the open space and claim their new land. Studies have also shown that female coyotes and fox will naturally produce larger litters to fill any voids left from a lower populated area (and produce less in overpopulated areas).

So, if you live next to park or open space where you are experiencing coyote or fox problems, please take it upon yourself to make their stay less than pleasant. Do not provide a free meal and consider hazing methods to keep their fear of humans peaked. The reality is that they have learned

to live with us so we need to learn to live with them. However, the key is to always remember that they are wild animals and should be treated as such. Many resources for dealing with coyotes and foxes in urban areas can be found with a simple search on the web as well. Please make sure any methods you use are not affecting the safety of any other animals, pets or humans in your area.

Learn more at www.dnr.state.mn.us/mammals

Dick Tinucci, Cottage Grove’s “Godfather” of Hockey

Mention the name Dick Tinucci to anyone involved in the local hockey world and you’ll hear “Dick’s one of the nicest guys around” followed quickly by “and he knows his stuff”

Tinucci, 73, grew up playing hockey. When he moved his family to Cottage Grove in the 1970s, he got involved in coaching CGAA sports, eventually deciding he enjoyed coaching hockey the best. Over the years, he’s coached a lot of players, now working with the kids and grandkids of some of those original youth hockey players.

His love of the game, as well as the players, is evident in his coaching. Why does he continue to coach?

“It’s just fun,” Tinucci said.

Tinucci, a dedicated coach whose focus has always been on skating edges and strides, coached the only Cottage Grove State Championship team, A Pee Wees, in 1989.

Tinucci skates for hours at a time while coaching. When not skating he can be found golfing or biking on the City’s park trails.

Watch for upcoming hockey clinics with Tinucci coming summer 2015.



Dick Tinucci coaching a hockey clinic at the Ice Arena.



Dick Tinucci works one-on-one with a player during a “Stride Ahead” hockey clinic.

2015 Strawberry Fest Logo



Congratulations to Leah Pinska, the winner of the 2015 Strawberry Fest logo contest. Pinska will be Grand Marshall in the parade on June 20.

She chose the superhero comic theme because she enjoys Pop Art and likes Super Hero movies. Strawberry Fest is scheduled for June 18-21 at Kingston Park.

Save the Date: Spring Cleanup Set for May 2

Spring is right around the corner and with it comes the annual cleanup day. On Saturday, May 2, from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. you can bring your unwanted stuff to the Public Works garage, 8635 W. Point Douglas Road. Watch for more information in next month’s newsletter.

COTTAGE GROVE Ice Arena

Looking to rent ice?

www.rinkfinder.com or 651-458-3400

Advertise at the Ice Arena

Call 651-458-3415

Adult Open Hockey (\$5)

Join others, ages 18+, for a pick-up game of hockey on Monday evenings. Bring your own hockey equipment. Helmets required. Check the website for times or call.

Public Skating Sessions (\$4)

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

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 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.

Birthday Parties

The “coolest” birthday party place around is the Ice Arena. Celebrate the special day and have a blast skating with friends. A variety of packages are available. Check website or call for details.

Turf Rental

Indoor turf rental is now available at the Ice Arena. The indoor turf is located on the West Rink and can be rented for a variety of events. Host your next event at the Ice Arena. Call for details.

Recreation News

For more information 651-458-3400

Work for the Recreation Department: Summer Employment Opportunities

Playground Leaders are responsible for programming, planning and supervising activities for youth ages 5–13 years old. Applicants must be a minimum age of 18. Salary is \$9 to \$10 per hour. Complete details, including application, can be found on the City’s website. Choose “jobs” under Quick Links.

Applications due: April 24 | Interviews: May 8 | Training: June 2 and 3 | Work dates: June 8 to Sept. 4 | Hours: 40 hours per week

Youth Activities Expo

ONE STOP SHOPPING FOR KIDS’ SPRING AND SUMMER ACTIVITIES

It’s time to plan those summer activities. Youth providers are together under one roof offering you and your family a chance to learn more about opportunities for youth in the Cottage Grove area. Plan to stay for something to eat from the River Oaks clubhouse.

Visit with the following organizations:

Boy Scouts

Cottage Grove Recreation

Oasis Chiropractic

Boys Lacrosse Leagues

Cottage Grove Skating School

River Oaks Golf Course

CGAA Baseball

Girl Scouts

Sonshine Pre-School

CGAA Football

Great Northern Gymnastics

Strawberry Festival

CGAA Soccer

Health Partners

Washington County Library

CGAA Softball

Kinder Kare

Woodridge Park Inclusive

Community Education

Locally Grown Theater

Playground

Cottage Grove Police

Lost Creek Ranch Camp

YMCA of Woodbury

Confidence

Co-sponsored by the Cottage Grove Recreation Department and Community Education.

Thursday, March 19

5–7 p.m.

River Oaks Golf Course and
Event Center
11099 S. Highway 61

FREE ADMISSION