



# Cottage Grove Reports

## St Croix Bridge Pieces Built at Grey Cloud Island Location

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A completed bridge section waiting to be moved to the storage yard for curing.



### Public Works Open House Set for September 22

Everyone is invited to attend the Public Works Open House on Sept. 22, from 3 to 7 p.m.

There will be free demos and fun activities for all ages. Drive a front end loader, go on a hay ride, have your face painted, get a balloon animal, and see the views from an aerial bucket truck.

Visit with more than 15 local organizations that partner with the City including 49ers (Public Works Union), Cottage Grove Bike Park, Cottage Grove Garden Club, DNR, Environmental Commission, Friends of the Mississippi River, Police Department, Public Safety Board, Rumpca Compost, Tennis Sanitation, Inclusive Playground Task Force and Wag Dog Park.

Hotdogs, chips and pop will be available for purchase.

Aggregate Industries currently has a unique project occurring at their Nelson Mine on Lower Grey Cloud Island. They are working in conjunction with Lunda/Ames to cast approximately 650 concrete bridge sections for the new St. Croix Crossing project, which will connect Oak Park Heights, Minnesota, to St. Joseph, Wisconsin. In order to cast these bridge sections a concrete plant and 600-foot casting building were constructed in 2014 at the Nelson Mine.

Inside the casting building Lunda/Ames ties together the rebar for each bridge section, places them in forms, and then pours the concrete (provided by Aggregate Industries). Once a bridge section has cured for a certain period of time, the forms are removed and the section is rolled outside on a set of tracks. From here they are placed in a storage area where they finish curing and gain strength. To date around 250 bridge sections have been completed.

One reason this site is ideal for casting the bridge sections is the close availability of aggregate. Aggregate is the largest component of concrete, typically making up 60 to 75 percent of the concrete mix by weight. Having it located directly onsite saves money by not having to truck the material over long distances. Another reason is that it is located on the Mississippi River, which allows the



A completed bridge section inside the casting building. It will be moved outside on rails.

bridge sections to be hauled to the St. Croix Crossing by barge. Each bridge section weighs approximately 180 tons and measures roughly 48 feet wide x 18 feet tall x 10 feet deep, which would be challenging to haul over the road. Once the sections have reached a specific strength rating, a large mobile lifting crane is used to haul them down to the river.

Recently 12 of these bridge sections were loaded onto a barge to complete the six hour journey to the St. Croix Crossing. This is a total weight of 2,160 tons, which is over 4 million pounds. This process of casting bridge sections is anticipated to continue into 2016.

Check out the MnDOT June 2014 to June 2015 time lapse of the St. Croix bridge at <https://youtu.be/1eaEet4-ACQ>



Upcoming Events

- Thursdays Farmers' Market**  
2:30 to 6:30 pm, Thursdays through October. Parking lot of United Church of Christ, 7009 Lamar Ave. S.
- Aug 19 Town Hall Budget Meeting**  
6 to 8 pm, City Hall
- Sep 9 Ashland Credit Union Ribbon Cutting**  
9 am, 8711 East Point Douglas Road, Suite 101
- Sep 17 CPR Class**  
6 to 10 pm, Fire Station 2, 8641 80th Street S, \$50, 651-458-2870, or [kzittel@cottage-grove.org](mailto:kzittel@cottage-grove.org) to register.
- Sep 19 Touch a Truck**  
10 am to noon, Youth Service Bureau, 7064 W. Pt. Douglas Rd. Bring a donation for the troops.
- Oct 7 Walk to School Day**  
Before and after school, city-wide
- Oct 10 Fire Dept Open House**  
10 am to 2 pm, Fire Station 2, 8641 80th Street S. Lots of fun demos and activities are planned. More information in the September newsletter.
- Oct 17 KFAN's Dan "The Common Man" Cole** 8 to 10 pm, River Oaks Golf and Event Center. Call 651-438-2121 ext. 4 for ticket information.



Riders on trail at Cottage Grove Ravine Park—  
photo courtesy of Washington County.

## Public Safety Thanks Family and Friends of Travis Winter

Cottage Grove Public Safety extends a special thank you to the family and many friends of Travis Winter for a wonderful donation.

For the past three years, Kristie Winter has hosted a fundraiser in honor of her son Travis who passed away at age 28. On his birthday, friends and family gather to share a meal, release balloons and collect items for children to be donated to Cottage Grove Public Safety. Winter wanted the fundraisers to help other children because her son left behind a daughter. This year hundreds of small toys and games were donated.

There are times when children are at the police department for things happening in their lives that are out of their control. They may be scared, confused, hurt, angry, or just bored. These donated gifts will help take their mind off what is happening.

“Kristie has been very generous with the gifts she donates to the police department,” said Officer Gail Griffith. “This is a wonderful way for Kristie to honor her son by making a difference in another child’s life.”



## Washington County Seeks Input On Cottage Grove Ravine Park Master Plan

Washington County is in the process of updating the Master Plan for Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park.

The Master Plan will guide the county in the short- and long-term development of facilities and infrastructure within the park. The planning process will continue for the next several months, and community members are encouraged to participate to help shape the future of the park.

It has been more than a decade since major improvements have been made to Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park. The updated Master Plan will chart a course for development for new and improved

facilities at the park for the coming decade, including new park roads, picnic facilities, trails, and other recreation amenities.

Those interested in participating in the planning process should attend the September public open house (date and time to be determined) to review the latest park development concepts and ideas. Those who are unable to attend the meetings are encouraged to email [parks@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:parks@co.washington.mn.us) or call 651-430-4328, to offer comments, suggestions and ideas.

Information about the plans can also be view on the county website at [www.co.washington.mn.us/CGRRP](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/CGRRP).

## 2016 City Budget Planning Process

The City Council is currently involved in workshops on the 2016 City budget. These workshops involve City departments and Council members in analysis of city operations and capital outlay costs for the coming year. Departments present their spending plans to the Council and decisions are made to include or exclude expenses and capital equipment necessary to meet City goals and Council direction.

The process began late January 2015 with a day-long strategic planning session. City Council members and department heads met and identified goals and opportunities for the coming year. In early June, the Council held a workshop to talk about specific financial targets for the 2016 budget year.

June and July were filled with City staff preparing spreadsheets and reports, putting together the mathematical plan that shows predicted revenues and expenses which are reviewed and discussed at the budget workshops that take place late July and early August.

The outcome of all this planning and analysis is the determination of the maximum property tax levy for 2016, which must be adopted by the City Council in September. Once adopted, the maximum levy may be reduced but cannot be increased. After adoption, the tax levy is sent to Washington County, who includes it with other local taxing district levies and provides a total property tax notification to local property owners.

The adoption of the 2016 preliminary property tax levy is currently scheduled for the Sept. 2 City Council meeting. If it is not adopted then, it would be considered at the Sept. 16 City Council meeting.

The public is invited to attend any or all meetings when the Council discusses the budget. Dates and times are published on the City's website calendar.

### Learn more

A budget open house/all commission meeting is scheduled for Aug. 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. at City Hall. At this open house City staff will present information on the 2016 property tax levy and budget and, along with City Council, will be available to answer questions on the budget.

## September is National Preparedness Month

**DON'T WAIT. COMMUNICATE.  
MAKE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN TODAY.**



Planning ahead and preparing for an emergency can be overwhelming. By taking it one small step at a time, you will be prepared in no time. An easy, inexpensive way to be prepared is to have a communication plan. Your family may not be

together when an emergency happens so it is important to plan in advance. You can start by asking yourself questions such as:

- How will you get to a safe place?
- How will you contact one another?
- How will you get back together?
- What will you do in different situations?
- What will you do if cell phone towers are down and you can not use your cell phone?

Tip: If cell phones are working, send a text message unless you are in immediate danger. Texts often have an easier time getting through during emergencies and you do not want to tie up phone lines needed by emergency responders.

Go to [www.co.washington.mn.us/emergencymanagement](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/emergencymanagement) and click on "Severe Weather Awareness" for a communications plan template you can customize for your family.

Follow the Washington County Sheriff's Office Facebook page for more helpful hints: [www.facebook.com/WCSOMN](http://www.facebook.com/WCSOMN)



August is here and there is a lot of summer left to enjoy golf! Be sure to visit [www.riveroaksmunigolf.com](http://www.riveroaksmunigolf.com) and check out all of the online specials, golf rates, golf programs, online golf lesson series (a must), and golf tournament information. Pricing for banquets, food and beverage can also be found online.

**Check out:** Foursome Golf Specials on the weekend (tee-off after 12:30 p.m. for \$39.50 per person for golf and cart); Weekend Senior Rates after 10 a.m. (ages 62 and older); Twi-light Golf (daily after 3 p.m. Walk for \$20.50 or ride for \$30.50); Weekday Golf Coupons; and money saving rounds of golf for residents of Cottage Grove.

Get information via email by signing up online to receive our e-newsletter.

River Oaks Golf Course and Event Center  
11099 Highway 61 South, Cottage Grove  
651-438-2121

# Parks & Recreation News

For more info call 651-458-3400

## Splash Pad Events

### Free Friday Fun

Besides cooling off in the Splash Pad have even more fun and join Recreation staff for activities. No registration necessary. Activities take place near the Highlands Park building at 11 a.m.

Aug. 21 Tie Dye  
Aug. 28 Spin Art



## Kids Race Series: Trail Run

Test your running skills along the off road trail at Carver Lake Park. This evening trail run will have youth running approximately a one mile loop along the paths, grass, and well maintained Off Road Cycling Trail. Each youth will receive a long sleeve t-shirt for participating. The routes will be well staffed the entire way with volunteers to help youth. This is the last race in a three-part series with Woodbury.

Age: 6–12  
Date: Sept. 19  
Time: 7–7:30 p.m. ages 6–9  
7:30–8 p.m., ages 10–12  
Place: Carver Lake, Woodbury  
Cost: \$25

## Sports Sampler

This class focuses on the importance of staying active, taking turns, socializing with others, following directions, and having fun. After a stretch and warm up, participants will practice basketball, soccer, tennis, and floor hockey. All equipment will be provided. Class will be held inside the park building if the weather is not suitable to be outside. Parents are required to stay and are encouraged to participate.

Age: 3–5  
Date: Sept 29, Oct 6, 13, 20, 27  
Time: 5–5:45 p.m. Session I  
6–6:45 p.m. Session II  
Place: Pine Tree Valley Park  
Cost: \$25

## COTTAGE GROVE Ice Arena

### Adult Fall Hockey League

A seven game season, with the top four teams advancing to playoffs.  
Date: Wednesday evenings Oct. 7 to Dec. 2. No game Nov. 25.  
Place: Cottage Grove Ice Arena  
Cost: \$950 per team  
Deadline: Registration deadline is Sept. 30. No refunds after Oct. 2  
Contact the Ice Arena for more information.

### Ice Skating School Fall Lessons

Fall sessions: Sept. 21—Nov. 22  
Register online or call 651-458-3400.

### 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. For times, check the monthly event calendar on our website or call ahead as some sessions may cancel due to special events.

### Public Skating (\$4)

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 \$2 per pair.

### Figure Skater Practice

(\$4-\$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.

### Ice Arena Birthday Parties

Make your child's next birthday party the "coolest" in town! The party room at the Ice Arena is available year-round. With our available packages, you're sure to find what you need to make your child's birthday party great. Each party is scheduled around public skating time and comes with the party room for one hour. Private rental of the South Rink is available for an additional \$95 per hour. Visit our website for a complete list of options.

### Advertise at the Ice Arena

The Cottage Grove Ice Arena is the most heavily trafficked spectator facility in Cottage Grove. Get the most marketing value for your dollar by displaying your message to the hundreds of thousands of patrons at the Cottage Grove Ice Arena. For more information call Jordan at 651-458-3415 or download a brochure at [www.cottage-grove.org](http://www.cottage-grove.org).

Looking to rent ice?  
Call 651-458-3400