



Cottage Grove Reports

City of Cottage Grove Summary Budget

The purpose of this statement is to provide summary 2016 budget information for the City of Cottage Grove to interested citizens. The budget is published in accordance with Minnesota Statute 471.6965. The complete City budget may be examined at Cottage Grove City Hall, 12800 Ravine Parkway S. between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The City Council adopted this budget on Dec. 2, 2015.

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2015 Holiday Train Stop

A crowd of thousands greeted the CP Holiday Train when it rolled into Cottage Grove on Dec. 10. The Holiday Train committee reported more than \$78,000 was donated for the Friends in Need Food Shelf. The crowd was in a festive mood and enjoyed the concert, Santa, refreshments and taking photos. View photos on the City's Facebook page at: <http://on.fb.me/1ReiUPO>

View the entire event covered by SWCTC here: <https://vimeo.com/149460532>



	Governmental Funds	
	2016	2015
	Adopted Budget	Adopted Budget
Revenues		
Taxes	\$ 12,970,800	\$ 12,316,600
Other taxes/assessments	626,300	445,600
Licenses and permits	623,575	679,750
Intergovernmental:		
State	547,450	544,950
Federal & Local	99,490	75,150
Charges for services	3,893,900	3,919,750
Fines and forfeitures	204,000	204,000
Interest earnings	109,500	122,000
Miscellaneous	744,585	669,770
Transfers	1,228,085	803,110
Total revenues	\$ 21,047,685	\$ 19,780,680

Expenditures		
General government	2,483,490	2,298,400
Public safety	7,801,300	7,474,750
Streets and highways	4,018,330	3,663,395
Sanitation/Recycling	85,680	64,800
Parks and recreation	4,109,865	4,046,775
Economic development	378,075	391,325
Capital outlay	2,085,890	1,914,705
Transfers/capital lease	1,335,695	823,320
Total expenditures	\$ 22,298,325	\$ 20,677,470

Revenues over (under) Expenditures \$ (1,250,640) \$ (896,790)

Property tax levy requirement to fund the budget \$ 14,070,800 \$ 13,402,100

Enterprise Fund Budgets 2016

	Water	Sewer	Street Lights	Cottage Grove EMS	Total 2016 Budget	Total 2015 Budget
Operating:						
Revenues	\$2,185,950	\$2,300,400	\$538,770	\$1,562,000	\$6,587,120	\$6,386,610
Expenses	1,948,940	2,692,133	821,780	1,605,010	7,067,863	6,176,950
Operating Income	237,010	(391,733)	(283,010)	(43,010)	(480,743)	209,660
Interest	70,000	75,000	30,000	6,000	181,000	181,000
Transfers/other	12,000	2,000	222,500	-	236,500	236,500
Depreciation	(815,000)	(451,700)	(145,000)	(67,600)	(1,479,300)	(1,437,500)
Debt Service	(23,670)	-	-	-	(23,670)	(27,170)
Net income (loss)	(\$519,660)	(\$766,433)	(\$175,510)	(\$104,610)	(\$1,566,213)	(\$837,510)



Coming Up

Jan. 20 Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park Master Plan presentation 7 p.m., City Hall, 12800 Ravine Parkway S. Presented by Washington County staff

Jan. 28 Free Car Seat Clinic 4–7 p.m., Fire Station 2, 8641 80th Street S. For appointment, call 651-357-2798 or email carseatinfo@healthpartners.com

Fridays Friday Night Fish Fry 4–8 p.m., Feb. 5 to Mar. 25 \$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. 1 2016 Caucuses

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



Public Safety Accepts Donation of Stuffed Animals

At the end of December, Angie Kenney donated a number of new stuffed animals to Cottage Grove’s Public Safety Department. Angie wanted the stuffed animals to be used when children needed comfort during difficult times.

New Format for Cable City Council Updates

The monthly City Council Update has a new format making it easier for you to stay up-to-date on what’s happening in the City. SWCTC has produced the Council Update to keep you informed of actions taken by the Cottage Grove City Council during the month. The format has changed and now each topic will be a separate video, each less than 5 minutes in length. This gives you an

opportunity to quickly get information on Council actions. In addition to running on cable channel 16, the videos will be shared on the City’s website and Facebook page and can be viewed online at www.swctc.org.

In December, a special year in review was also produced and can be viewed on Youtube: <https://youtu.be/-OFvZIOvQFo>

Winter Tree Care



2014 photo contest entry from Jared Bird

Late fall/early winter is a great time to put your trees to bed for the season. The leaves have fallen and the trees have stopped growing but the tree still lives. In the winter trees continue to gather water and nutrients. Fall/winter droughts can be detrimental to young trees. As such, watering as long as possible before the winter freeze is important. As winter arrives, snow cover will provide the necessary water/nutrients for trees.

Not only do we need to feed our trees, we

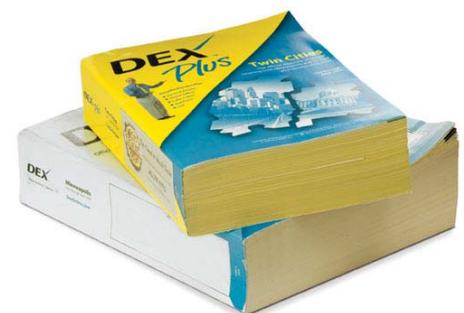
also need to protect them from winter damage. Mice, voles and other rodents love feeding on young trees and shrubs. Tree wraps for smaller trees and ornamentals is highly recommended to protect against these rodents. Further, thin barked trees (such as Red Oak, Honeylocust, Maple, Linden, Basswood and most ornamentals) are prone to frost cracking and sun scalding from winter conditions. As the frost in trees is warmed by the sun each day, it liquefies and absorbs into the tree. When overnight temperatures drop, the liquid refreezes causing cracking and scalding of the main stem. By simply adding tree wrap or plastic tubing to the stem of the tree, you can maintain a steady temperature around the stem to reduce chance of injury.

In the end, a little care during ALL seasons can go a long way in nurturing a healthy landscape for your property.

Phone Book Yellow Pages—Opt Out or Recycle

Do you use the Yellow Pages that are delivered to your doorstep each spring? If your answer is NO, consider opting out of phone book delivery. Conservation Minnesota and Minnesota’s largest phone book publishers are working together by providing an easy to use website outlining the procedure to stop the delivery of phone book yellow pages to your home. If you prefer to continue receiving the yellow pages, please remember to recycle phonebooks in your curbside bin when you are done using them.

For more information, visit: www.donttrashthephonebook.org.



Friends in Need Food Shelf Groundbreaking



From left: Rep. Dan Schoen; Sen. Katie Sieben; Karla Bigham, Washington County Commissioner; Keith Franke, St. Paul Park mayor; Michelle Rageth, Friends in Need executive director; Rick Hastings, Northern Tier vice president; Jason Akey, Northern Tier vice president of logistics; Randy Bachman of Merchants Bank.

On Dec. 16, local officials joined leaders of Friends in Need along with Northern Tier and the building contractor, AMCON, to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new Friends in Need Food Shelf building which will be located at 535 4th Street in St. Paul Park. The current food shelf building is an old VFW that is not viable for future food shelf service. Relocation to the new food shelf is targeted for early spring of 2016.

“St. Paul Park welcomes the construction of the new Friends in Need Food Shelf,” said St. Paul Park Mayor Keith Franke. “The city supports this collaborative effort of local businesses, organizations and individuals to provide better services to those less fortunate in our communities.”

The new food shelf will have a more visible location behind Carbone’s Pizzeria and Park Café north from the intersection of Broadway Avenue and Third Street. It will be constructed in the style of a grocery

store, approximately 12,000 square feet in size, with walk-in coolers, rolling storage racks and floor scales so clients can shop the food shelf aisles to select their own food. The food shelf will continue to be operated with the support of more than 160 volunteers from within the community under the direction of its 13-member board of directors.

“All of us at the Friends in Need Food Shelf are very excited this project is underway,” stated Michelle Rageth, executive director at Friends in Need. “We are so grateful for the generosity of the community, Northern Tier and many others for making this new food shelf a reality. We look forward to moving into this new location next spring and continuing our services to those in need for many years to come.”

Financing of the new food shelf is being provided by the local branch of Merchants Bank in Cottage Grove. Design and construction donations have been provided by several companies including AMCON, Boldt Company, Egan Mechanical Contractors, FPL Paving, Harris Mechanical Services, Parson Electric, TKDA, Veit USA and Werner Electric Supply. Several other donations have been provided through foundations and individuals, including memorial contributions.

“Northern Tier considers it a privilege to operate our businesses in South Washington County,” said Rick Hastings, Northern Tier vice president and general manager of the St. Paul Park Refinery. “We remain committed in our support of the

food shelf for those who rely on these services within our community.”

As part of that commitment, Northern Tier presented Friends in Need with a \$250,000 donation.

The Friends in Need Food Shelf has been serving the communities of Cottage Grove, Newport, St. Paul Park and Grey Cloud Island Township for the past 23 years. Clients receive assistance from the emergency fund and are given referrals to other agencies such as the County, Salvation Army, NAPS (Senior Food Assistance) and SNAP (Food Stamps). The food shelf also provides MNsure Navigators on-site to assist clients with healthcare options.

Anyone interested in supporting the construction of the new Friends in Need Food Shelf can make a tax-deductible donation by sending a check, with “building fund” written on the memo line, to FIN, P.O. Box 6, Cottage Grove, MN 55016. Donations can also be made by credit card at www.finfood.org or through the GoFundMe site at www.gofundme.com/FINBuild. Donors of \$100 or more will be recognized with the contributor’s name being added to a donor recognition wall that will be in the new food shelf. Individuals who donate \$200 or more will also be invited to a special donor appreciation event after the grand opening of the new food shelf.

Please call 651-458-0730 or visit www.finfood.org for more information.

Happy New Year from River Oaks Golf Course, Grill and Event Center

The staff at River Oaks Golf Course and Event Center thank you for your patronage and support over the years. In 2015 the golf course closed for the season on Dec. 11—only two days shy of our record of Dec. 13 set a few years back!

As you plan for 2016, check out our website where you can find information on golf rates; group golf lessons; golf tournaments;

Ladies Only Golf Clinics; Junior Golf lessons; Weekend Men’s Club Schedule; Tuesday Men’s Senior League; Wednesday Men’s Senior League; Tuesday Night Couples League; Thursday Morning Ladies League; menus for banquets, retirement parties, school parties, business retreats, weddings, and special parties.

If you are looking for banquet or party space with some outstanding food, River Oaks Golf Course is the place to be in Cottage Grove, and we offer it all at some great rates.

Call us at 651-438-2121 and we’ll be happy to answer any questions you might have.



COTTAGE GROVE Ice Arena

Looking to rent ice?

www.rinkfinder.com or 651-458-3400

Advertise at the Ice Arena

Call 651-458-3415

Wolfpack Mite Jamboree

Jan. 30
Feb. 19 to Feb. 21
No cost to the public

U10B/U12B/U12A Tournament

January 15 to 17

Ice Skating School Lessons

Spring sessions run Feb. 15 to April 17.
Register online or call.

Public Skating Sessions (\$5)

Skate rentals \$4. Skating aids (buckets) available for beginners. Check the monthly event calendar online for times.

Figure Skater Practice (\$5-\$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.

Adult Open Hockey (\$5)

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

Birthday Parties

The Ice Arena is the "coolest" place in town to have a birthday party! Celebrate the special day and have a blast skating with friends. The party room is available year-round. A variety of packages are available. Check website or call for details.

Arena Dry Floor Rental

Beginning March 1 indoor turf rental at the Ice Arena will be available. 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 651-458-3415 for details.

Ice Arena Advertising

Get the most marketing value for your dollar now by displaying your message to the thousands of people that come to the Cottage Grove Ice Arena, the most heavily trafficked spectator facility in town. For more information, call 651-458-3415 or download a brochure from the website.

Recreation News

For more information 651-458-3400

Skate Night at Highlands

Join us Jan. 29 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Highlands Park Pond for the 8th Annual Skate Night! The pond will be cleared of snow, bright with lights, and skatable. Enjoy an evening of skating and free hot cider. The park building with restrooms located across the street will be open. There is also a sledding hill at Highlands Park. If you're unsure whether the event will be held due to weather conditions, call the weather hotline at 651-458-6060. Feb. 12 would be the make-up date.

Date: Jan. 29
Time: 5-8 p.m.
Place: Highlands Park Pond
6975 Idsen Avenue S.
Ages: All
Cost: Free

Snowman Contest

The snow arrived just in time for our second annual Snowman contest! Build a snowman and submit your best snowman photo for a chance to win a winter prize pack from our Recreation Department. Email a picture of you and your snowman to mpietruszewski@cottage-grove.org by Feb. 29, 2016.

Submitted photos may be used on the City's Facebook page, website, or other publications.

Sports Sampler

This class focuses on the importance of staying active, taking turns, socializing with others, following directions, and having fun. After stretching and warming up, participants will practice sports such as t-ball, soccer, track, lacrosse, parachute games, kickball, and football. Equipment provided. Parents are required to stay.

Date: Mar. 9, 16, 23, April 6, 13, 20, 27
Time: 9-9:45 a.m.
Place: Ice Arena West Rink turf
Ages: 3-5
Cost: \$35

