



Cottage Grove Reports

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- City Accepting Sustainable City Award Nominations
- Habitat for Humanity Home Dedication
- Mrs. Washington County Banner Presentation
- Upcoming Events
- Cottage Grove Police Reserves
- Free Product Room at Environmental Center
- Property Valuation Notices
- Open Book Meetings
- River Oaks Golf Course
- Ice Arena News
- Recreation Activities

Black Dirt Improv Comedy Comes to River Oaks

Black Dirt Improv is coming to Cottage Grove! Show dates are March 11, April 8 and May 13 with performances at 7 and 9 p.m. at River Oaks Golf Course, 11099 Highway 61 S. The earlier show is family friendly while the later show is more for after the kids go to bed. Each performance is completely unscripted; performers improvise comedic scenes based solely on the suggestions of the audience. Individual tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door or at blackdirttheater.com/improv.

Be Part of Comprehensive Plan Update Steering Committee

Have you ever wondered how you could help make a difference in Cottage Grove's future? Here is your chance to be more involved in your community.

The City Council is looking for Cottage Grove citizens interested in volunteering to serve on a committee to update the City's Future Vision 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

The Council's goal is for this committee to be diverse in terms of interests and areas of expertise. That's where you come in!

The committee will have representatives from the City's advisory commissions, Economic Development Authority, community businesses, and Cottage Grove residents. The committee will work closely with the City's planning division staff as well as a planning consultant hired by the City.

The process is expected to take about two years with meetings held monthly.

If you're interested, fill out a Committee Volunteer application available online or at City Hall. The deadline to apply is March 7 at noon.

Apply Now to be a 2016 Election Judge

The City Clerk's office is seeking eligible voters to work as Election Judges at the Primary and General Elections on Aug. 9 and Nov. 8.

To qualify:

- You must be 18 years of age
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be a Minnesota resident
- Not have your voting rights revoked
- Be able to read, write, and speak English

In addition, you cannot be the spouse, parent, child or sibling of any Election Judge serving in the same precinct, and you cannot



The list of candidates will be given to the City Council to consider appointments at their March 16 Council meeting.

The current Comprehensive Plan was adopted in March 2011. The Metropolitan Council requires all municipalities within the seven county Twin Cities metropolitan area to update their comprehensive plans before Dec. 31, 2018.

Please contact Jennifer Levitt (651-458-2890 or jlevitt@cottage-grove.org) or John McCool, (651-458-2874 or jmccool@cottage-grove.org) for more information.

be the candidate or the spouse, parent, child or sibling of any candidate on the ballot in that precinct.

Election Judges are paid \$10 per hour for attending a mandatory two-hour training session and for time worked on Election Day. Election Judges may also volunteer without pay.

Election Judge applications can be picked up at City Hall or downloaded from the website, search "elections". Call 651-458-2883 if you have any questions.



Coming Up

- 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
- March 1** **2016 Caucuses**
- March 6** **Hastings Wedding Gala**
Noon–3 p.m., River Oaks
Golf Course, 11099 Highway
61 S. For more info:
hastingsweddinggala.com
- March 20** **Lions Breakfast with the
Easter Bunny**
8 a.m.–noon, VFW Red Barn
- April 23** **Stone Soup'r Bowl**
9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Park Grove
Bowl, 1020 Hastings Ave, St.
Paul Park. More info:
stonesoupthriftshop.org.

**Cottage Grove's Xcel Energy
Surcharge Eliminated**

Effective Feb. 1, 2016, the Xcel Energy surcharge which has been in place since October 2014 will be eliminated. Xcel customers will no longer see this surcharge on their bill. However, the City's Franchise Fee will return to the rates charged prior to October 2014.

The city had reduced the franchise fee during the surcharge period so that the surcharge and the franchise fee charge combined would total the amount of the previously charged franchise fee. With the elimination of the surcharge, the franchise fees have been increased, but the impact on customer billings should be neutral.

Now Accepting Sustainable City Award Nominations

The City of Cottage Grove is now accepting nominations for its annual Sustainable City Award which recognizes those individuals, businesses and organizations that make the city a more sustainable community.

Project categories include: sustainable building or remodeling; energy efficiency and conservation; use of renewable or alternative energy; waste reduction, composting and recycling; environmental awareness and education; water conservation; innovative storm water management practices; sustainable business practices; and youth leadership.

Residents are encouraged to make nominations. Installing solar panels,

creating a rain garden, making home improvements designed to reduce water consumption, or planting native drought resistant landscaping are some common projects that are eligible.

Nominated projects must be located in Cottage Grove and have been started within the past three years.

Nomination forms are available online, search "sustainable", and are due by Feb. 29. The winners will be announced on or near Earth Day.

The Sustainable City Award program was developed in 2013 by the City's Environmental Commission.

Habitat for Humanity Home Dedication Held Jan. 30

Four families were welcomed to Cottage Grove at a Habitat for Humanity home dedication ceremony held Saturday, Jan. 30. Councilmembers Jen Peterson and Steve Dennis attended the ceremony.

Each home owner had to put in at least 300 hours of sweat equity into their new home, attend a homeownership class and commit to a mortgage.

The four townhomes are located in the Mississippi Dunes neighborhood. The completion of the townhomes mark the end of Habitat for Humanity's three-year project in Cottage Grove.



Mrs. Washington County Banner Presentation



From left: Mrs. Minnesota, Kate Howe; Washington County Commissioner Karla Bigham; Mrs. Washington County, Stacy Ekholm; and Mayor Myron Bailey at the Feb. 3 City Council meeting.

Mayor Baily and Washington County Commissioner Karla Bigham joined Mrs. Minnesota, Kate Howe, in presenting Mrs. Washington County, Stacy Ekholm, her official banner. Ekholm will compete at the 2016 Mrs. Minnesota pageant for an opportunity to represent Minnesota at the Mrs. International Pageant. Ekholm's platform is supporting those who serve—Backing the Blue Line and providing affordable housing for vets. She is a regional property manager and lives in Cottage Grove with her husband and two children.

Police Reserves Recognized at City Council Meeting

On Feb. 3, the Mayor and City Council recognized the 16 members of the Cottage Grove Police Reserves.

In 2015, the police reserves volunteered 3,534 hours, covered 22 emergency callouts, and worked 58 special details outside their normal parades, civic events, and patrols.

Four reserve officers were also recognized for their significant contribution to the organization: Police Reserves Jeff Rossow, Tony Henseler, Dan Ries and Lauden Rinzel. Of the 3,534 total hours for the Police Reserve Program, they accounted for 1,302 hours.



Free Product Room at the Environmental Center

Don't need it? Someone might! Did you know that some of the items you drop off at the Environmental Center might be stocked in the Free Product Room for other residents to pick up, free of charge?

The Free Product Room is located inside of the Washington County Environmental Center at 4039 Cottage Grove Drive in Woodbury.

Products set out in the Free Product Room are first screened for quality. Some of the more popular items are paint, stain and household cleaners. If you are on a tight budget, you might just find the paint color

you were looking for and there's no cost to you. Other popular products in the Free Product Room are lawn and garden products and automotive fluids.

Additional items that can be disposed of free at the center include electronics such as TVs and computers; automotive fluids such as used motor oil, antifreeze and gasoline; yard and garden products such as insect and weed killers; common household items such as oven cleaner, fluorescent bulbs, and aerosol cans.

For hours and location go to www.co.washington.mn.us/envirocenter

Property Valuation Notices

In January, every property owner in Cottage Grove received a "valuation notice" from Washington County. The notice gives the property's estimated value as of Jan. 1, 2016. This estimated value is the taxable basis for 2017 property taxes. Property owners have an opportunity to dispute their valuation by the processes outlined on the notice.

Open Book Meetings

Washington County has announced their regional Open Book meetings for 2016:

- April 5, 5–7 p.m.
Cottage Grove City Hall
- April 13, 5–7 p.m.
Oakdale City Hall
- April 21, 5–7 p.m.
Woodbury City Hall
- April 27, 2–7 p.m.
Washington County Government Center, Stillwater

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

River Oaks Golf, Grill and Event Center

The 2016 golf season is just around the corner. Stay in touch with us at River Oaks Golf Course on Facebook where you can enjoy some great pictures of River Oaks, daily news, daily deals, PGA Tour information and the latest golf trends.

Book your starting times from your phone or computer using the link on our website.

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, contact our Banquet Manager at 651-438-2121 ext. 4. Select 2016 dates still available!

River Oaks
11099 Highway 61 S
www.riveroaksmunigolf.com



COTTAGE GROVE Ice Arena

Looking to rent ice?

www.rinkfinder.com or 651-458-3400

Advertise at the Ice Arena

Call 651-458-3415

Peewee B1 District 8 Playoff Bantam B1 District 8 Playoff

Feb. 14 to 21

Peewee A East Regional Tournament

Feb. 26 to 28

12UA State Tournament

March 11 to 13

Wolfpack Mite Jamboree

Feb. 19 to 21

No cost to the public.

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**

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

Youth Activities Expo

This is your one stop shopping for Spring and Summer Activities. Youth activities providers get together to offer you and your family a chance to learn more about opportunities for youth in the Cottage Grove area. This is the time to plan your summer activities. This event is co-sponsored by the Cottage Grove Recreation Department and Community

Education ISD 833. Plan to stay for something to eat from the River Oaks Grill.

Date: March 17

Time: 5-7 p.m.

Place: River Oaks Golf Course
11099 Highway 61 S.

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Egg Hunt at the Ice Arena

Cottage Grove is bringing back an Egg Hunt at the Ice Arena inside on the turf so unpredictable spring weather will not ruin the fun! Admission includes 10 eggs (redeemable for a prize), pictures with the Easter Bunny (bring your own camera), bunny games, craft station, and cookies and juice. Pre-registration strongly encouraged. Limited to 250 kids; admission may not be available the day of if the event is sold out.

Date: March 19

Time: 8:45 a.m. check-in begins
9 a.m. egg hunt

Place: Ice Arena West Rink turf

Ages: All

Cost: \$6 per ticket. Ticket needed for anyone collecting eggs, playing games, or crafting.

Spring Break

Be sure to bring your own beverages, snacks, and lunch each day (except on Friday) as well as an extra set of dry clothes and outdoor play gear.

- *Monday:* Movie Theater, bring money for snacks if you wish (\$32)
- *Tuesday:* Ping Pong Competition (\$20)
- *Wednesday:* Wooddale Fun Zone, skate/play/arcade (\$32)
- *Thursday:* Pajamas, Popcorn, and a Movie (\$20)
- *Friday:* Pizza and Pop for Lunch (\$23)

Dates: March 28 to April 1

Time: 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Place: Peter Thompson Park

Ages: 5-13

Cost: Per day prices listed above or \$110 for the whole week