



# Cottage Grove Reports

## Tony Jurgens Named Cottage Grove's Volunteer of the Year



From Left: Councilmember Jen Peterson, Councilmember Steve Dennis, Tony Jurgens, Mayor Myron Bailey, Councilmember Justin Olsen, and Councilmember Dave Thiede

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The Cottage Grove City Council recognized Tony Jurgens as the City's Volunteer of the Year at the annual volunteer recognition event held during Volunteer Appreciation Week.

Beginning in 2007, Jurgens has served three terms on the City's Economic Development Authority, two terms on the City's Public Works Commission, is currently serving on the City's Public Services Commission, and is a member of Washington County's Library Board.

He has volunteered as a neighborhood watch block captain and, along with his wife, has hosted a Night to Unite neighborhood block party for the past 10 years. He also volunteers on the finance council at his church, and has been a deputy grand knight for the Knights of Columbus.

For the past 30 years, the City of Cottage Grove has recognized its volunteers at an annual banquet.

## Sustainable City Awards Given to District 833 Schools and Resident Sherry Holtmeyer

In celebration of Earth Day, the Cottage Grove City Council recently presented a 2016 Sustainable City Award to seven elementary and middle schools for their milk carton recycling programs and to Cottage Grove resident Sherry Holtmeyer for her home solar panel installation project.

Armstrong Elementary, Crestview Elementary/Nuevas Fronteras, Cottage Grove Elementary, Cottage Grove Middle School, Hillside Elementary, Grey Cloud Elementary, and Pine Hill Elementary recycle 112 pounds, or 3,736 milk cartons daily.

Holtmeyer's solar panel produced more electricity than she uses. A Made in Minnesota Solar Incentive program helped



her fund the project. Learn more at <http://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/your-home/save-energy-money/mim/>

Visit the City's website for more information on the Sustainable City Award.



The third annual Memorial Day ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. on May 30 at the Cottage Grove Veterans Memorial located outside City Hall, 12800 Ravine Parkway S. In case of rain the ceremony will be moved inside City Hall. The event is hosted by Cottage Grove's Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Group.

Coming Up

- May 19 Rivertown Bakery Boutique Ribbon Cutting**  
10 a.m. 7750 Harkness Ave.
- May 19 Night to Unite Informational Picnic**  
6 to 8 p.m. *New Location!*  
Woodridge Park, 9100 90th Street S. Learn about hosting Night to Unite neighborhood block parties. Pizza, cookies, beverages while supplies last. 651-458-6040 or [griffith@cottage-grove.org](mailto:griffith@cottage-grove.org) for more information.
- May 20 Splash Pad Opens**  
Weather dependent
- May 21 Standing Strong 5K Walk/Run** Funds go towards anti-bullying programs at Oltman and Cottage Grove Middle Schools.  
<https://sites.google.com/site/standingstrongcg/>
- May 22 22 a Day is 22 Too Many**  
A 22 Mile Walk/Run to raise awareness of veteran suicides. 8 a.m. start from Cottage Grove Armory, 8180 Belden Blvd. <http://22adayis22toomany.weebly.com>
- June 9 Farmers Market Opens**  
Thursdays, 2:30-6:30 p.m., through mid-October. Volunteer-run market located at Cottage Grove United Church of Christ parking lot, 7008 Lamar Ave.
- June 16-19 Strawberry Fest**  
Kingston Park, More info at [www.cottagegrovestrawberryfest.com](http://www.cottagegrovestrawberryfest.com)
- June 23 Burglary Prevention and Juvenile Issues**  
6:30-8 p.m., City Hall, 12800 Ravine Parkway S.  
No cost to attend; Presented by the Cottage Grove Public Safety Board.

**Mayor Bailey Appointed to Metro Cities Board**

Mayor Myron Bailey was appointed as a member of Metro Cities board of directors at the organization’s annual meeting held April 21. Metro Cities is an organization that represents metropolitan communities at the Metropolitan Council and the State Legislature.

The Mayor said he looks forward to working with other elected officials throughout the metro area, providing a perspective from cities in Washington County.

**Cottage Grove: State’s Most Fiscally Sustainable City**

Cottage Grove was ranked as Minnesota’s most fiscally sustainable city in a recent study by United States Common Sense. The California based non-profit ranked more than 13,000 local governments around the country by reviewing and evaluating their Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports and related documents.

To derive their rankings, the organization calculated three financial indicators or ratios: a budget balance ratio; an asset

flexibility ratio; and a pension funding ratio. A fiscally sustainable government maintains a generally balanced budget balance ratio (total revenues / total expenses), a positive and relatively high net asset ratio (net assets / total liabilities) and a low per capita unfunded liability associated with retired public employees’ pension benefits. All factors were weighed equally to calculate a city’s overall national performance rank.

**A Recycling Refresher**

Recycling is an important way for each of us to conserve resources and reduce the amount of waste going into incinerators and landfills. Below is a list of acceptable recyclables in Cottage Grove:

- Cardboard boxes (flatten boxes)
- Newspaper (inserts acceptable)
- Magazines, phone books and office paper (place shredded paper in a paper bag stapled shut)
- Paperboard (cracker, chip, cereal and cake boxes; remove all liners and flatten.)
- Mixed mail (envelopes with windows are okay)

- Metal cans (rinse clean; labels okay)
- Glass containers (rinse clean; remove caps and lids)
- Plastics (No. 1-7; rinse, flatten)

The list above includes items that are collected by all licensed haulers in Cottage Grove. To find out if your hauler collects additional materials that are NOT on the list above, please contact your hauler directly. A link to the company websites for the licensed haulers can be found at: <http://www.cottage-grove.org/environment/recycling-and-solid-waste>.

**ALDI is Now Open in Cottage Grove**



Hundreds showed up for the grand opening of ALDI on April 28. Thanks to input from loyal customers, the Cottage Grove store presents a new look, offering a modern and convenient shopping environment featuring more room for customers’ favorite products. ALDI is located at 9010 Jamaica Avenue S. The hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

## Changes Coming to Fire Station 2

Fire Station 2, located on 80th Street, was built in 1972 as the Cottage Grove community faced rapid growth and was expanding east from Highway 61. In 1985, the Station was expanded and now 30 years later the time has come for another change.

Like many departments, years ago the Cottage Grove Fire Department used a traditional call out response method. That meant firefighters were paged from home, responding to the nearest station, getting into their apparatus and responding to the emergency. That was the primary reason why fire stations were built in different areas of the City.

As times have changed, Fire and EMS response models have also changed. With more than 1,500 medical calls a year it is no longer possible to rely totally on paid on-

call firefighters responding from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Since 2011, Cottage Grove's fire personnel have efficiently responded out of one centrally located facility covering all areas of the City. No matter where you live in the community, when you call for a medical emergency, the ambulance will come from Fire Station 2. This duty crew model provides some of the best response times in the Twin Cities metro area. In fact, response times to fire and medical emergencies are consistently faster now than they were five years ago, averaging just over five minutes in the city of Cottage Grove.

At over 30 years old, Fire Station 2 is outdated and does not adequately support the 24/7 staffing and operations of today. In order to maintain the excellent delivery

of fire and emergency medical services, Fire Station 2 will need to be replaced as it is well beyond a remodel or repairs.

Like many cities, moving to a central station would require the consolidation of Fire Station 1 on Grange Blvd. and Fire Station 3 in East Cottage Grove. In turn, nearly all of the EMS and Fire apparatus would be kept at a larger Fire Station 2, which would still be located on 80th Street. Station 4 located on 95th Street and Jamaica would remain in service with equipment to serve the industrial park.

The construction of a central fire station will serve current and future needs of South Washington County communities of Cottage Grove, St. Paul Park, Newport and Grey Cloud Island Township for the next 30 years. Watch for information on the project on the City's website.

### Woodridge Park Inclusive Playground Project



whether you're up or down,  
there is fun for everyone on our playground

## Woodridge Park Inclusive Playground Task Force Update

The Inclusive Playground Task Force, working with the City, has surpassed the three year mark working on this project and are very proud to be in the fundraising phase.

The 23,000 square-foot playground will fit perfectly in the space between Woodridge Park's new building, pavilion, mature trees, and the basketball/tennis courts.

Follow this community project on the City's website; search "A Park For Everyone", or on the GoFundMe page at <https://www.gofundme.com/inclusiveplaycg>.

The Inclusive Task Force members invite you to join them and help build a playground for everyone in our parks system!

## River Oaks Golf, Grill and Event Center

### Upcoming special events at River Oaks.

- **June 16-19**, US Open Golf Special.
- **July 14-17**, British Open Golf Special.
- **July 15-Aug. 25**, Chili Dippers Junior League. Elementary, Middle School and High School Leagues.
- **July 28-31**, PGA Championship Golf Specials.
- **Sept. 18**, River Oaks Big Cup Tournament.
- **Sept. 30-Oct. 2**, Ryder Cup Golf Specials.
- **Oct. 15**, Cottage Grove Open.

Applications are still being accepted for Tuesday Night Couples League, Weekend Men's Club, Tuesday and Wednesday Senior Men's Leagues, and Thursday Morning Ladies League.

Visit [www.riveroaksmunigolf.com](http://www.riveroaksmunigolf.com) to learn more about the special events, golf rates, golf lessons, golf leagues or to book a tee time.

River Oaks Golf Course is a highly rated, beautifully maintained course. See you on the links!



11099 Highway 61 S.  
Cottage Grove, MN

# Recreation News

For more information 651-458-3400

## Rec Works: Youth Volunteer Training

This is a must for anyone interested in volunteering during summer playground programs. Learn about volunteer expectations and summer programs and events. Training includes material packet and 2016 recreation shirt. At the training, attendees will identify whether they want to volunteer at Hamlet or Peter Thompson park as well as their desired shifts of either 8:30 a.m.–noon or 12:30–4 p.m.

Ages: 12–16

Date: May 31

Time: 6–7:30 p.m.

Place: Woodridge Park

Cost: \$30

## 2016 Kids Race Series

Join Woodbury and Cottage Grove Parks and Recreation as we partner again to offer the annual Kids Race Series. Routes will be staffed and well marked to aid in a successful run. Participants should arrive on time and direction will be given for their start time. Participants receive a T-shirt and drink at each race. Pre-register to secure a spot; day-of registrations will only be accepted if space is available. All races are for ages 6 to 12, and cost \$25.

## Kids Mud Run: Challenge Accepted

Climb, jump, slide, and run your way around the park through muddy and wet obstacles, ending with a crawl through the mud pit. Participants have the option to run the three-fourth of a mile course twice. This is not a timed event; the goal is to finish messy! An extra set of clothes for after the run is strongly advised.

Ages: 6–12

Date: June 4

Time: 9–10 a.m. \*

Place: Woodridge Park

Cost: \$25

\* Arrive anytime between 9-10 a.m., waves will run as participants arrive and the course clears.

## Kids Duathlon: Bike it. Run it. Du it!\*

Date: July 23

## Kids Glo Run: Light it up!\*

Date: Sept. 17

\* Details on these events will be in the July newsletter.

## Neighborhood Pond Dipping

 East Metro Watershed educators join Cottage Grove staff to host a family-friendly event to explore and learn more about our local ponds. Discover natural plants and the role these plants play in providing habitat and filtering pollution from our waters. Use dip nets to get a closer look at the tiny critters

that are living in the lake. Participants should wear outdoor and pond muck friendly shoes and clothes. Pre-registration not required.

Ages: All; minors must be accompanied by an adult

Date: June 22

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Bluestem Lane S. and Meadow Grass Avenue

Cost: Free

## Strawberry Fest 5K Race and Walk

Don't miss the 10th Annual Strawberry Fest Race and Walk. The race will be chip timed with times posted on-site following the race and on the City's website the following Monday. Walkers not timed. Participants receive a Strawberry Fest Race shirt. Medals awarded to first place male and female in age categories: 18 and younger, 19-25, 26-40, 41-55, 56 and older.

Date: June 18

Time: 7 a.m. Registration/Check-in  
8 a.m. Race begins

Walk begins immediately after race

Place: Kingston Park

Cost: Race: \$20 (price increase June 16)

Walk \$15 (price increase June 16)

Route: Kingston Park–Trailway Corridor–  
Pine Tree Valley Trail–80th Street–  
Jenner Ave.–Kingston Park Trail

# COTTAGE GROVE Ice Arena

## Ice Skating School Lessons

Sessions run June 13 to Aug. 18. Register online or call.

## Public Skating Sessions (\$5)

Bring the entire family! Skate rentals \$4. Skating aids (buckets) for beginners. Check the monthly event calendar online as session times vary.

## 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)

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

## Indoor Turf Rental

Indoor turf rental at the Ice Arena is available now through September. The indoor turf is located on the West Rink and can be rented for a variety of events, such as baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, home shows, corporate events and more. Host your next event at the Ice Arena. Call for more information.

Looking to rent ice?  
www.rinkfinder.com or 651-458-3400  
Advertise at the Ice Arena  
Call 651-458-3415

## 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.

## 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.