



# Cottage Grove Reports

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## Cottage Grove Police Department's K9 Blitz Retires



K9 Blitz worked his last shift on May 27 after serving the community for nearly 10 years. Blitz, along with his handler Police Officer Vandervort, was a valuable member of the Police Department making countless apprehensions, drug detections and public presentations since he joined the force.

He was recognized for his years of service at the June 1 City Council meeting.

Blitz was introduced to the community in June 2007, the third K9 for the Police Department. Officer Gary Gronos began the program with his K9 partner "Fritz" in 1968 and Officer Denis Erickson with his K9 partner "Major" in 1974.

After being idle for many years, a grassroots effort to start another K9 program began with the full support of the Mayor and City Council.

Blitz was born in 2006 in the Czech Republic, attended the St. Paul Police K9 training course in March of 2007, followed by narcotics school, and soon after received his United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) PD1 certification.

In addition to countless individual citizen donations, many local businesses made significant donations including: financial donations from Cogentrix, CP Rail, and 3M Cottage Grove; space for a K9 obstacle course from 3M Cottage Grove; veterinary services from Cottage Grove Animal Hospital; dog food from Chuck and Don's of Cottage Grove; and construction of the K9 obstacle course from Boy Scout Troop 237.

Ownership and responsibilities of Blitz will be transferred from the City over to Officer Vandervort where Blitz will live with the family and enjoy retirement as a "civilian."

Blitz's replacement, K9 Gunnar, began service on June 8.

## Historic Preservationists of the Year



Congratulations to Wayne and Angi Butt on being named the 2016 Historic Preservationists of the Year. They received the award in recognition of their dedicated efforts to refurbish and repurpose the 1947 arched roof barn, known as the John P. Furber Wedding and Event Center, allowing for its continued existence as a unique component of the historic fabric of the community.

### Fourth of July Celebration

A Fourth of July cookout with fun and games followed by a thrilling patriotic fireworks display will take place at Kingston Park, 9195 75th Street S.

The family-friendly event begins at 6:30 p.m. with the sale of brats, hotdogs, chips, candy and soda pop.

Activities for children include games, raffle prizes and face painting.

Sponsored by the Cottage Grove Lions Club.

## Coming Up

- Thursdays Farmers Market**  
2:30–6:30 p.m., Cottage Grove United Church of Christ parking lot, 7008 Lamar Ave.. Volunteer run.
- 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.
- July 8 Citizens Academy Application Deadline**  
2016 academy meets Aug. 9 to Sept. 27, 6:30–9:30 p.m. Free to attend; must apply. For more information call 651-458-6011 or visit <http://bit.ly/1ZseX18>

Find more events on the City’s website in the Calendar of Events.



Congratulations to Sgt. Steve McCarthy on serving as a police officer/sergeant with Cottage Grove Public Safety for 25 years. Sgt. McCarthy started his law enforcement career as a part-time police officer with the Cottage Grove Police Department, and worked with the Robbinsdale Police Department for 18 months before returning to Cottage Grove. He has worked as a patrol officer, detective and sergeant. Prior to law enforcement, he proudly served in the United States Air Force.

## Road Construction Projects Around Town

A few road construction projects are happening in Cottage Grove this summer. We realize that construction can be inconvenient at times and we appreciate your patience. Please exercise extreme caution when entering or leaving the construction sites.

### 70th Street and Jamaica Avenue

A roundabout is being constructed at this intersection, along with turn lanes into the Dodge Nature Center. Work is underway and will continue through the summer with an anticipated completion in September. Access to Jamaica Avenue from 70th Street is closed. A bypass lane on 70th Street is in place while work is being done on the roundabout. Signage is up to help navigate the road closure. This is a joint project between the City and Washington County.

### Hadley Avenue and 95th Street

A roundabout is being constructed at the

intersection of Hadley Avenue and 95th Street. In addition, Hadley Avenue (from 90th Street to 100th Street) and 95th Street (from Hadley Avenue to Mississippi Dunes Blvd.) will be reconstructed to three lanes with curb, gutters and street lights.

Hadley Avenue, from 95th Street to 90th Street, will be closed for approximately three months beginning in June.

#### Detours:

Hamlet Park and Pine Hill Elementary School: North access only; 80th Street to Hadley Avenue.

Pine Glen Park: From Highway 61/10, go south on Jamaica Avenue, right on 100th Street, right on Hadley Avenue, right on 97th Street to Pine Glen Park.

Visit the City’s website for updates on both projects. Click on the “construction” quick link on the home page.

## Green Garden Award Nominations Being Accepted

Nominations for the annual Green Garden award will be accepted until July 22. All nomination sites must be located within the City of Cottage Grove. Contestants may not win in consecutive years.

The four categories:

- **Entryway**—Based on overall appearance from the street.
- **Container Design**—Based on the overall container/potted plant.

- **Commercial and Residential**—Based on the overall appearance, plant variety and arrangement, uniqueness, creativity, environmental aesthetics and upkeep of the entire garden.

Download a nomination form from the City’s website, or pick one up at City Hall.

Winners will be announced at a City Council meeting.

## Cedarhurst Meadows Park Grand Opening June 23

Join us in celebrating the addition of another park in Cottage Grove. There will be an official ribbon cutting, backyard games, light refreshments, and a chance to meet your neighbors.

Date: Thursday, June 23  
Time: 5–7 pm  
Place: Cedarhurst Meadows Park  
9380 67th Street S.

## Enter the Second Annual Films in 5 Festival

The Cottage Grove Arts Commission is accepting submissions for the second annual Films in 5 Festival, which will be held Oct. 1 in the lecture hall at Park High School. Anyone can submit a film or video that is five minutes or less in length.

Films must be made in 2016. There is an entry fee of \$5 and the deadline to submit is Aug. 31. Prizes are awarded for the top three. More details and an entry form are available on the City’s website: <http://bit.ly/1t1NXVB>

## RE/MAX Professionals



RE/MAX Professionals, 7420 80th Street S., celebrated the completion of their interior remodel with a ribbon cutting on May 10. They have been part of the Cottage Grove business community for 11 years. For more information on RE/MAX call 651-455-7000. Watch the ribbon cutting video by SWCTC at: <http://bit.ly/1WCVc2Z>

## Rivertown Cakes Bakery



Rivertown Cakes Bakery Boutique, 7750 Harkness Avenue S., held a ribbon cutting on May 19. The bakery also does special orders. Call 612-325-3627 for more information. Visit their Facebook page for hours, product offerings and specials: <https://www.facebook.com/Rivertown-Cakes-Bakery-Boutique-156791669608/> Watch the ribbon cutting video by SWCTC at: <http://bit.ly/1TXFE7t>

## Wireless World



A ribbon cutting on June 3 marked the grand reopening of Wireless World, 8800 East Point Douglas Road, Suite 600. The business doubled the size of their store. Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. Call 651-769-8255 for more information. Watch the ribbon cutting video by SWCTC at: <http://bit.ly/1XpxWG4>

## Strawberry Fest

June 16 to June 19,  
Kingston Park



Kick-off summer at the annual Cottage Grove Strawberry Fest! This fun-filled, family-focused event offers something for everyone. A few highlights:

### Thursday, June 16

Carnival & food vendors, 4–10 pm;  
Talent Show and MN Sings competition, 7 pm

### Friday, June 17

Carnival & food vendors, 2 pm–midnight; MarketPlace 10 am–sunset;  
Chalk Walk, 5:45–7 pm;  
*Crooked Dice* band, 4:30–6 pm,  
*Rhino* band, 8 pm–midnight

### Saturday, June 18

5K Race & Walk, 8 am start; Kids 1K, 9:30 am start; Carnival & food vendors, 10 am–midnight; MarketPlace 10 am–sunset; Grande Day Parade, 10:30 am;  
*Teddy Bear Band*, 2 pm; *Uncle Chuck* band, 7 pm–midnight; Fireworks, 10:30 pm.

### Sunday, June 19

Carnival, 11 am–4 pm

The full schedule of events is available on the City's website or at [www.cottagegrovestrawberryfest.com](http://www.cottagegrovestrawberryfest.com)

## River Oaks Golf Course

It's summertime at River Oaks and golf is in full swing!



### Upcoming special events at River Oaks.

- **June 16–19, U.S. Open Golf Special.**
  - Partner with a Pro by choosing a U.S. Open golfer the day you golf and combining your scores for a chance to win prizes.
  - Enjoy a special Philly cheesesteak and chips for \$6.75 at The Eagles Bar and Grill.
  - Check out the food and drink specials on Father's Day, June 19.
- **July 14–17, British Open Golf Special.**
- **July 28–31, PGA Championship Golf Special.**
- **Sept. 30–Oct. 2, Ryder Cup Golf Special.**

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 soon!

River Oaks | 11099 Highway 61 South | Cottage Grove | 651-438-2121



At their May 18 meeting, the City Council approved a new name and logo for the bar and grill area at River Oaks Golf Course, giving it its own identity. The name is *The Eagles Bar and Grill*. A new menu and expanded services are in the works. Watch the City's website for updates on the menu. The golf course will remain River Oaks Golf Course.

# Recreation News

For more information 651-458-3400

## 10th Annual Strawberry Fest 5K 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

## Kids 1K Run

All participants receive a Strawberry Fest Race shirt upon completion of the race. Time will be kept on a clock. Although the race is timed, the emphasis is just to finish. The route is three times around two soccer fields, so runners are visible at all times and love to be cheered on! Adults are able to run with their child if needed.

Ages: 10 and younger

Date: June 18

Time: 9 a.m., Check-in

9:15 a.m., Race start

Place: Kingston Park

Cost: \$15

## 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: Everyone is welcome; children must be accompanied by an adult

Date: June 22

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Bluestem Lane S. and Meadow Grass Avenue

Cost: Free

## Movies in the Park

Watch movies at Highlands Park in the dark on a 20-foot screen! Bring your own snacks, lawn chairs and blankets for a night under the stars. Movies begin at dusk. Arrive early to enjoy the splash pad. In case of inclement weather a decision will be made by 5 p.m. and the movie will be shown at 7 p.m. on the turf in the West Rink at the Ice Arena. For location status call the weather hotline at 651-458-6060.

Date: June 24

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

Date: Aug. 5

Gnomeo &amp; Juliet

## Fish Camp

Explore underwater habitats, learn about water stewardship, understand the need for regulations, and improve fishing techniques. Discover who's who in the underwater world and how to help take care of them. Participants need to bring their own lunch and beverages (refrigeration will not be available).

Registration fee includes use of equipment, supplies, and handouts. Check-in at the picnic shelter. A park pass is not needed to drop-off and pick-up campers.

Ages: 8–12

Date: June 28

Time: 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Place: Washington County Ravine Regional Park

Cost: \$30

## Catch of the Day

### FISHING AT HIDDEN VALLEY POND

This event is open to anyone interested in fishing or wanting to learn more about fish. Bait provided. Bring your own gear; a limited number of fishing poles will be available. There will also be a live fish display and games. No registration

necessary. No fishing license needed at this event for anyone age 16 and younger. The Cottage Grove Recreation Department and MinnAqua have stocked Hidden Valley Pond for another great fishing season.

Ages: Everyone is welcome

Date: July 14

Time: 1–3 p.m. and 5–7 p.m.

Place: Hidden Valley Pond

Cost: Free

## 22nd Annual Safety Camp

Cottage Grove Police, Fire and Recreation departments are teaming up to encourage youth safety. Participants will experience two days of fun while learning about important safety issues such as how to use 911, basic first aid, fire prevention and bike, water, kitchen, and electrical safety—all taught by industry professionals in an energetic team-style setting. Cost includes t-shirt, hat, lunches, snacks, water bottle and an all-sport helmet. Participants should bring their own lunch and snacks if there are dietary restrictions.

Family and friends are invited to attend the graduation ceremony at the close of camp July 20 at 4:30 p.m. Please bring your own lawn chairs.

Ages: 8–11

Date: July 19–20

Time: 7:45 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Place: Hamlet Park

Cost: \$55

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

Racers test their endurance while biking two miles and running one mile along the trails of Ojibway Park. Participants must bring their own bike, a properly-fitted bicycle helmet, and wear athletic shoes.

Ages: 6–12

Date: July 23

Time: 9 a.m., ages 6–9 arrive

10 a.m., ages 10–12 arrive

Place: Ojibway Park, Woodbury

Cost: \$25