



# Cottage Grove Reports

## My Future Cottage Grove: Share Your Vision for the Future

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

City Budget

Artist of the Month: Andrew James Hatch

Holiday Banner Contest

Upcoming Events

Be an Election Judge

Community Walk Fundraiser for Inclusive Playground

River Oaks Golf Course

River Oaks Social Media

Water Usage Tips

Recreation Events

Ice Arena Events

The City of Cottage Grove is embarking on an exciting community engagement process—*My Future Cottage Grove*. This process is to learn from residents what their vision is for the City over the next 15 to 20 years. The City is partnering with Rebecca Ryan of Next Generation Consulting on this project, which kicks off mid-September.

To ensure the vision is truly reflective of the community, the City is seeking interested volunteers to serve on the Community Engagement Steering Committee. The members of this committee will assist with community engagement, making sure we hear from the widest number of voices during this project. Committee members will also provide feedback on the first round of recommendations that emerge from the community feedback.

If you have a commitment to serve, willingness to be open-minded, and desire to help shape the future of your community, apply today. To apply, fill out the online application at <http://bit.ly/2au9iOX>



The deadline to apply is 4 p.m. on Sept. 2. If you have questions please contact Becky Ahlvin at [rahlvin@cottage-grove.org](mailto:rahlvin@cottage-grove.org) or 651-458-2814.

There will be many opportunities in the next few months for all residents to share their vision for Cottage Grove's future.

Watch for more information on the City's website and in upcoming *CG Reports*.

## Water Usage Survey

Take a survey for a chance to win one of 10 \$50 Visa gift cards. The survey was developed by a research scientist and turfgrass educator at the University of Minnesota. They are working with the Metropolitan Council on reducing homeowner water use, specifically irrigation. All information will be used for research purposes only.

Survey Link:

<http://z.umn.edu/tcwater>

## Grove 411: Sex Trafficking Presentation

The Cottage Grove Public Safety Board is hosting a special Grove 411 on Thursday, Aug. 18, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at City Hall.

Assistant Washington County Attorney Imran Ali will be doing a presentation on Sex Trafficking. Sadly, this has been increasingly affecting our youth and many young people are falling victim to trafficking. Come and learn about this

phenomenon and what we can all do to protect our youth.

The Public Safety Board is a non-profit board made up of volunteers from our community. They work to support public safety in a variety of ways through public education, purchases, support of programs, reward money for information on crimes and so much more.

## Budget Open House Scheduled for September 7

Attend a budget open house on Wednesday, Sept. 7, from 6 to 7 p.m. to learn about the City's proposed budget. The Mayor, City Council members and City staff will be available to answer your questions on the budget.

## Coming Up

- Thursdays Farmers Market**  
2:30–6:30 p.m., Cottage Grove United Church of Christ parking lot, 7008 Lamar Ave. Volunteer run.
- Oct. 1 Films in 5 Festival**  
1–3 p.m., Park High School Lecture Hall.
- Oct. 8 Oktobershred**  
1–7 p.m., Cottage Grove Bike Park, 7050 Meadow Grass Ave. More information:  
<http://bit.ly/2b7yQXn>

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

Help run the polls  
on Election Day!

Your community needs you!  
Plus, you get paid!



**Work as an election judge** at the General Election on Nov. 8, 2016.

To qualify to work 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; and you cannot be the spouse, parent, child or sibling of any election judge serving in the same precinct, and you cannot 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 serve voluntarily without pay.

Election judge application forms are available on the City's website, or can be picked up at the City Clerk's office at City Hall.

## City Budget

Work on the City budget is underway. Departments present their spending plans to the Council and decisions are made to include or exclude expenses and capital equipment required for City operations in 2017.

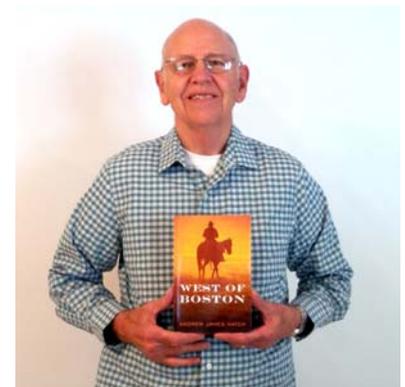
The process began late January 2016 with a day-long strategic planning session. City Council members and department heads met and identified strategic goals and priorities for the next two years. City staff spent June and July preparing budget requests which correspond to the priorities previously identified. These budget requests and their financial impacts are reviewed and discussed at budget workshops in late July and early August.

The outcome of all this planning and analysis is the determination of the property tax levy for 2016, which must be adopted by the City Council in September. Once adopted, the levy may be reduced but cannot be increased. After preliminary 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 2017 preliminary property tax levy is currently scheduled for the Sept. 7 City Council meeting. **Everyone is invited to attend a Budget Open House on Sept. 7 at 6 p.m. before the start of the Council meeting.**

## Artist of the Month: Andrew James Hatch

Andrew James Hatch is the Arts Commission's Artist of the Month. Hatch has been writing essays, short stories, poetry, and books for over 30 years and has three books available for sale on Amazon. He has lived in Cottage Grove for more than 43 years. Learn more about Hatch, and the Artist of the Month program, on the City's website on the Arts Commission page, <http://bit.ly/2b1d7yn>



## Enter the Holiday Banner Contest

The Cottage Grove Arts Commission is seeking submissions for a new Holiday Banner Competition. People are invited to create a festive design featuring this year's theme, Shop Cottage Grove. The Arts Commission will select three designs with the final winner being chosen by members of the public. The winning banner will be hung on a lamppost outside of City Hall throughout the month of December. Once the banner is taken down, the winner will get to keep the banner.

The competition is open to all. The deadline to enter is Sept. 5. The complete submission guidelines and submission form are available on the City's website on the Arts Commission page, <http://bit.ly/2aB9d0X>

Cottage Grove Arts Commission  
**Holiday Banner Contest**

The designer...is you!!!

Design a festive banner showcasing "Shop Cottage Grove"

Start creating your banner today!

For more information, including submission forms, please visit the Arts Commission page on [www.cottage-grove.org](http://www.cottage-grove.org)

**All Entries due September 5**

## Join Us on Sept. 18 at the Community Walk Fundraiser for the Inclusive Playground



One example of a piece of play equipment planned for the Inclusive Playground

Imagine...a destination playground in the heart of Cottage Grove. One that gives everyone the opportunity to play, learn and explore.

That playground—an Inclusive Playground—is planned for Woodridge Park.

Making this Inclusive Playground a reality requires funds. That's why Thrivent Financial East Metro Financial Team is hosting a Community Walk fundraiser on Sept. 18 at Woodridge Park.

All funds raised at this family-friendly event will be donated to building the Inclusive Playground.

You don't have to walk to participate. In addition to the walk there are many fun activities planned. You can also see drawings of what the park will look like when complete.

Join us and help make the dream a reality!

Here's what you need to know

Date: Sept. 18

Time: 2 to 4:30 p.m.

Check-in 1:30–2 p.m.

Walk 2:15–3 p.m.

3:30 p.m.—Remarks

Place: Woodridge Park, 9000 90th St. S.

Cost: \$30—Individual (walk)

\$50—Family (walk)

Includes t-shirt (*pre-register to guarantee a t-shirt; day of registration will only receive t-shirt while supplies last*)

Register online at:

[www.cottage-grove.org](http://www.cottage-grove.org)

Route: Woodridge Park–Hillside Trail–Jamaica Ave–90th Street–Woodridge Park.

Ages: Everyone!

Questions?

[EastMetroFinancialTeam@Thrivent.com](mailto:EastMetroFinancialTeam@Thrivent.com) or 651-458-5391.

## Water Saving Strategies for Home Lawns

Provided by U of MN Extension

On average, three times more water is used during the summer than in the winter in the Twin Cities, and much of this water is used outdoors. If you own an irrigation system or water your lawn with portable sprinklers, you can reduce your overall water use by implementing some practical strategies:

**Pay attention to the weather.** Adjust irrigation practices accordingly. Operate in manual mode to monitor and reduce water use.

**Select turfgrass species that use less water and can tolerate drought.** Traditional Minnesota turfgrass species include Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, fine fescue, and tall fescue, with fescue species best for drought tolerance.

**Implement water saving technologies.** Rain sensors connected to irrigation controllers are vital to conserving water.

For more information and tips visit: [www.extension.umn.edu/turfgrass](http://www.extension.umn.edu/turfgrass) and [www.sustland.umn.edu](http://www.sustland.umn.edu)

## River Oaks Golf Course



You don't want to miss River Oaks' next special event—watch for our golf and food specials during the Ryder Cup. Play our popular Partner with a Pro for a chance to win prizes. Enjoy mouth-watering dishes prepared by our talented chefs. Book your tee time today so you don't miss out! Call 651-438-2121 or visit [www.riveroaksmunigolf.com](http://www.riveroaksmunigolf.com)

**Sept. 30-Oct. 2, Ryder Cup Golf Special.**

Visit [www.riveroaksmunigolf.com](http://www.riveroaksmunigolf.com) to learn more about special events, golf rates, golf lessons, golf leagues or to book a tee time. River Oaks Golf Course is a highly rated, beautifully maintained 18-hole golf course.

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



## Hang out with River Oaks on Social Media!

Follow us for sneak peeks of new menu items, golf tips from our pro, food prep from Chef JW, and a behind the scenes look at events and upcoming changes at The Eagles Bar and Grill. Use #riveroaksmn when you take pictures at River Oaks for a chance for your photo to be featured on our Instagram or Facebook page!

Find us on Instagram and Twitter at @riveroaksmn

Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/riveroaksgolfcourse>

# Recreation News

For more information 651-458-3400

## Lil' Adventure Camp Kids Glo Run: Light It Up

Prior to the start of the race, runners receive shirts that **GLO** along with neon sweat bands to **LIGHT IT UP**. Runners can wear their own glowing or neon attire for extra fun. Neon signs will guide runners on the one-mile route. Routes will be staffed and marked to aid in a successful run. Stick around after the race and enjoy a bonfire and cookies. Pre-register to secure your spot; on the day of the event registrations will only be accepted if space is available.

Ages: 6–12

Date: Sept. 17

Time: 7 p.m. arrive; please arrive on time, direction will be given for start times

8:30 p.m. event ends

Place: Ojibway Park, Woodbury

Cost: \$25

## Twins Game

Join us for Park and Rec day at Target Field as the Minnesota Twins take on the Detroit Tigers at 12:10 p.m. We will return immediately after the game. Staff will stay on location until everyone is picked up. Please send additional snacks, money and sunscreen.

Ages: 8 and older

Date: Aug. 25

Place: Target Field, Minneapolis

Cost: \$30

### Bus Pickup Schedule

Hamlet Park, 10:45 a.m.

Peter Thompson Park, 11 a.m.

## Adult Fall Softball

### REGISTRATION DEADLINE AUG. 17

Registration for fall leagues will be filled on a first come, first served basis. The season includes 10 regular season games and night teams play double headers (if the schedule allows). Top eight play in a single-elimination playoff the last night to crown the league champion. All games start on the hour beginning at 6 p.m.

Recreation staff has final authority as to placement of teams and guaranteed games.

Ages: 18+

Date: Aug. 17 registration deadline

Aug. 24 Men's League begins

Aug. 25 Co-Ed League begins

Place: Lamar Fields

Cost: \$325—Men's or Co-Ed League

## COTTAGE GROVE Ice Arena

### Ice Skating School Lessons

Fall session runs Sept. 19 to Nov. 21. 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.

### 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.

### Looking to rent ice?

[www.rinkfinder.com](http://www.rinkfinder.com) or 651-458-3400

Advertise at the Ice Arena

### Birthday Parties

Make your child's next birthday party the "coolest" in town with a party at the ice Arena. Everyone can celebrate the special day and have a blast skating with friends. The party room is available year-round. Varieties of packages are available. Check website or call for details.