



# Cottage Grove Reports

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Oltman Middle School Ground Breaking

Chamber of Commerce Moves

Eagle Scouts Receive Awards

Films in 5 Winners

Holiday Train Arrival

Tree Lighting Ceremony

Holiday Lights Contest

Santa Breakfast Buffet

The Eagles Bar and Grill Grand Opening Celebration

Winter Ice Skating Lessons

Ice Arena Events

Recreation Events

Warming House Attendants Wanted



## You're Invited! Attend the Future Visioning Session on Dec. 1

Meet others from the community, talk about your relationship to the community, and share what you want the community to be for yourself, your children and your grandchildren in a fun and welcoming environment. You'll work in small groups answering questions and sharing your thoughts on the City's future.

Dec., 1, 7 to 9 p.m., at the District Program Center, 8400 E. Point Douglas Road.

Let your voice be heard—join in. My Future Cottage Grove.

## Thrivent Financial Donation For Playground

The Inclusive Playground at Woodridge Park is another step closer to being built thanks to a large donation from the East Metro Thrivent Financial Team. They held a successful community event in September that resulted in a \$17,687 donation to be used toward the building of the Inclusive Playground.

With this donation, funding for the \$750,000 project is at 72 percent.

The Inclusive Playground Task Force has been working diligently to raise funds for the 24,000 square-foot playground that will be accessible for everyone. The goal is to begin building in 2017, but that can only happen once all the funding is in place. Donations can be made online at <http://bit.ly/2f5AINz> or by calling 651-458-3404.



From left: Molly Pietruszewski, Recreation Supervisor; Roland Skillings, Thrivent; Dan Myers, Thrivent; Arlene Myers, Thrivent; Councilmember Peterson; Mayor Bailey; Councilmember Olsen; Councilmember Dennis; and Councilmember Thiede.

## Operation Thank an Officer Donates K-9 Vest

In October, the City Council accepted a \$1447.99 donation from Operation Thank an Officer to purchase a ballistic vest for the City's K9 Gunnar.

The nonprofit organization made the donation to show their appreciation and support of the Cottage Grove Police K9 Unit. The City is very thankful and appreciative of the generous donation.



## Winter Parking Ban Began Nov. 1

Winter parking rules are in effect Nov. 1 through March 31. No on-street parking between 2 and 6 a.m. is allowed whether or not it is snowing.

The registered owner of any vehicle parked on the street during this time may be issued a citation. The vehicle may also be towed at the owner's expense.

Parking is allowed on the street at all other times if the vehicle does not interfere with the removal of ice and snow from the street.

## Cottage Grove 46th Best Small City in America

Cottage Grove was named the 46th Best Small City in America in a recent study from the leading personal finance outlet WalletHub.com. To help Americans enjoy a good quality of life and affordable living costs, WalletHub's analysts compared 1,268 U.S. cities with populations between 25,000 and 100,000. Their data set of 30 key metrics ranged from "housing costs" to "school-system quality" to "number of restaurants per capita." Read the study: <http://bit.ly/2fh9Tqt>

**Coming Up**

- Nov. 24**    **Hale to the Bird 5K**  
Family-friendly, dog-friendly 5K walk/run, 8 am, Hamlet Park. Proceeds benefit Friends in Need Food Shelf. Register: <http://bit.ly/2fUoonf>
- Dec. 5**     **Strawberry Fest Logo Contest Deadline**, More info: [www.cottagegrovestrawberryfest.com](http://www.cottagegrovestrawberryfest.com)
- Dec. 23**   **Photo Contest Entry Deadline**  
Win \$50! Enter the annual photo contest. Entry forms can be found on the website: <http://bit.ly/2ewBOeR>

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

**Let's Talk About Cottage Grove!**

As part of the City's Comprehensive Plan update process, the City is looking for feedback from the community which will help guide future land use and development decisions in Cottage Grove and help us promote access to active transportation and healthy food.

By taking the survey you'll be entered to win one of ten \$50 Target gift cards. The survey can be completed in less than five minutes.

Here is the survey link: <https://www.getfeedback.com/r/HMOZZbPY>

The Minnesota Statewide Health Improvement Program, Minnesota Department of Health sponsored this survey.

**Connect with the City on Social Media**

 <https://www.facebook.com/CottageGroveMinnesota/>

 <https://twitter.com/cottagegrovemn>

 <https://www.instagram.com/cottagegrovemn>

 <https://www.youtube.com>  
Search "CottageGroveMN"

**Oltman Middle School Groundbreaking**



A groundbreaking ceremony was held Oct. 5 for the new Oltman Middle School. A group of children, who will be among the first group of students in the new school, had the honor being the first to toss dirt with the gold shovels. The new school will be located at 65th Street and Geneva Avenue, touching all four corners of the cities it will serve. It is expected to open fall 2018. Watch the video: <http://bit.ly/2fDdLWH>

**Chamber of Commerce Moves to New Location**



The Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting to celebrate their move. They are now located at 8617 West Point Douglas Road. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Call 651-458-8334 or visit [www.cottagegrovechamber.org](http://www.cottagegrovechamber.org) to learn more about the organization. Watch the video: <http://bit.ly/2faDALx>

**Eagle Scouts Recognized at City Council Meeting**

Nathan Fischer, Travis Smith and Steven Zaspel, Troop 777, were honored with Eagle Scout awards at the Oct. 19 City Council meeting.

Fischer built two life-size mangers for nativity scenes at Presbyterian Homes in Bloomington, Smith built two lanes of horseshoes at Arbor Meadows Park, and Zaspel cleared out invasive species that were taking over the sugar bush area used for tapping maple syrup at Carpenter Nature Center.



Nathan Fischer, Travis Smith, and Steven Zaspel at the City Council meeting.

**Arts Commission's Second Annual Films In 5 Festival a Hit**

The second annual Films in 5 Festival was a hit with more than 80 people attending the screening of the 11 entries. Each film was less than five minutes long.

- First Place: "Can We Get a Cat?", directed by Ann Simpson.
- Second Place: "Minneapolis Beneath the Asphalt Part 1: The City Changes", directed by John Akre.

- Third Place: "They Call Me Schatzie", directed by Karla Bigham.
- Fan Favorite: "Party in the USA", directed by Tori Novotny and Paige Witt.

Links to view the short films are available on the City's website, <http://bit.ly/2es6gyU>

## Holiday Train

December 9  
5:45 pm arrival

The brightly lit train arrives along West Point Douglas Road just south of the 80th Street Bridge and Belden Crossing. Arrive early to enjoy refreshments and shop for Holiday Train sweatshirts, knit caps, fleece mittens, fleece blankets and more. Free hot beverages and cookies will be available, and mini-donuts, cheese curds, corn dogs, and popcorn will be available for purchase.

All cash and personal care items collected at the stop go directly to the local Friends in Need Food Shelf that serves residents of Cottage Grove, Grey Cloud Island, Newport, and St. Paul Park. The goal this year is to raise \$90,000.

Additional Holiday Train fundraising events:

- **Loaves of Holiday Bread** sold at several churches in November
- **Spaghetti Dinner**, Nov. 19  
American Legion, 328 Broadway Avenue W., St. Paul Park
- **Cub Foods Grocery Bagging**, Nov. 20  
Cub Foods, 8690 E. Point Douglas Road

## Santa Breakfast Buffet

December 11  
9 am to 1 pm

All families are invited to join Santa at a special Breakfast Buffet at River Oaks, 11099 Highway 61 S.

Enjoy a delicious array of Chef prepared foods including pastries, muffins, fruit, pancakes, waffles, biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, egg bake, potatoes, sausage, ham, bacon and a beverage.

- \$6.99 for ages 6 to 11
- \$12.99 for 12 and over
- Free for ages 5 and under

No reservations required.

Don't forget to bring your cameras and enjoy live holiday music and crafts for kids!

## Tree Lighting Ceremony

December 7  
5:30 pm

Join the Mayor and City Council for the City's annual tree lighting ceremony on Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m. outside City Hall, 12800 Ravine Parkway S. This tradition includes hot cider, holiday cookies, and Santa arriving on a fire truck. Members of the Park High School choir will entertain with carols before the tree is lit. Everyone is invited to head inside City Hall to visit with Santa and stay for the City Council meeting and learn who won the winter lights contest.

## Winter Lights Contest

Brighten those long winter evenings by recognizing neighbors who decorate "in style" for the holidays! Entries are judged on holiday spirit, overall appearance, theme and use of LED lights. Qualifying nominees must be located in Cottage Grove with displays visible from the street. Nominations are due Nov. 28. Winners announced at the Dec. 7 City Council meeting. For more information or to make a nomination call Molly at 651-458-3404 or email [mpietruszewski@cottage-grove.org](mailto:mpietruszewski@cottage-grove.org).

This contest is presented in partnership with South Washington County Bulletin.

# grand opening celebration



The Eagles Bar and Grill will hold a ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration Nov. 17, from 4 to 6 p.m.

The newest restaurant in Cottage Grove offers mouth-watering prime rib sandwiches, specialty sandwiches, soups, salads and burgers, including a "build your own" burger option. Open 4 to 10 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

Located at River Oaks Golf Course, 11099 Highway 61 S. in Cottage Grove. Call 651-438-2121 for more information or visit [www.riveroaksmunigolf.com](http://www.riveroaksmunigolf.com).

Like The Eagles Bar and Grill on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/TheEaglesBarandGrill>) for up-to-date information on the restaurant.

Holiday shoppers! Buy a River Oaks' gift certificate for that hard-to-shop-for golfer! Available online or call 651-438-2121 ext 1.



Gift Certificates  
Available



# COTTAGE GROVE Ice Arena

For more information call 651-458-3400

## Ice Skating Lessons

REGISTER ONLINE OR CALL 651-458-3400

Our Learn-to-Skate program prepares participants for all ice sports. Students are individually evaluated to make certain they are in the appropriate level. Please come prepared with: sharpened, leather, single blade hockey or figure skates; warm and comfortable clothing including mittens; and a bike/hockey helmet if skater is age 5 or younger. Choose Monday evening or Sunday afternoon sessions.

Dates: *Winter Session:* Nov. 28 to Jan. 30; or Dec. 4 to Feb. 5  
Cost: \$72

## Open Skate Sessions (\$5)

These sessions are a chance for your family to get exercise, practice skating, and have fun. Skating aids (buckets) for those learning to skate. Session times vary; please check website or call for schedule. Rental skates available for \$4 per pair.

Check out the My Cottage Grove video on skating at the Ice Arena: <http://bit.ly/2cRnVPI>

## Open Broomball (\$5)

On Sunday nights join other players, ages 17+, on Studio Rink for a pickup game of broomball. Players must bring their own helmets and sticks. Limited amount of sticks available on a first come, first serve basis. Please check website or call for current schedule.

## Now Hiring: Warming House Attendants

The Recreation Department is accepting applications for Warming House Attendants to supervise warming houses and outdoor skating rinks at City parks. Minimum age is 16 and applicants must have good communication skills and pass a criminal history background check. Basic first aid and CPR desirable. Positions run Dec. 26 through March 2017. Hours are 4 to 8 p.m. on weekdays and noon to 8 p.m. on weekends. Pay is \$9/hour.

Download an application from the City's website, or pick one up at the Recreation office located inside the Ice Arena.

Dec. 5: Application deadline  
Dec. 12: Interviews  
Dec. 21: Training  
Dec. 26: Start Date

## Adult Open Hockey (\$5)

Join others, ages 18+, on Monday evenings. Bring your own hockey equipment. Helmets required. Please check website or call for schedule as some sessions may cancel due to special events.

## Stick & Puck (\$5)

For hockey skaters of any age to come skate with sticks and pucks! Work on skating skills, drills and stick handling. Please check website or call for current schedule.

## Figure Skater Practice (\$5-\$10)

Sessions are for the dedicated figure skater, level Alpha and above. Practice figure skating skills, jumps and spins.

Tuesdays 2:30–5:30 p.m.  
Wednesdays 6–7:30 a.m.  
Thursdays 2:30–5:30 p.m.  
Fridays 6–7:30 a.m.  
Saturdays 6:15–7:45 a.m.  
Sundays 8:15–9:45 p.m.

## Winter Break: Dec. 19–23, 26–30, Jan. 2

Youth Open Hockey, \$5, 9–10:15 a.m.

Public Skate, \$4, 10:30 a.m.–noon

High School Open Hockey, \$5, 12:15–1:30 p.m.

## Skate with The Wolfpack: Jan. 8

An opportunity to skate with your favorite Wolfpack Hockey players from 2:15–3:45 p.m.

# Parks and Recreation

For more information call 651-458-3400

## Grand Slam (\$35)

Spend the day at Grand Slam in Burnsville doing unlimited laser tag, bumper cars, miniature golf, and batting cages. Everyone receives four game tokens, a hotdog, and small pop. Additional concessions available for purchase or bring a cold lunch. We'll be at Grand Slam from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Ages: 5 and up

Date: Dec. 2

Time: 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Location: Peter Thompson Park,  
327 Highland Hills Blvd.

Cost: \$35

## Winter Break ((\$20/day)

Bring winter gear for outdoor play, a dry set of clothes for inside, ice skates and sleds (if available). There will be crafts, foosball, ping pong and games. Bring a lunch; refrigerator and microwave available. Pre-registration required.

Ages: 5 and up

Date: Dec. 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30

Time: 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Location: Peter Thompson Park,  
327 Highland Hills Blvd.

Cost: \$20 per day