



Cottage Grove Reports

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FACEBOOK LIVE COMMUNITY VISIONING SESSION SET FOR JAN. 3

We're doing it again! You gave such great feedback during the last Facebook Live Community Visioning session that we scheduled another one. **Join us Jan. 3, from 8 to 8:30 p.m. on the City's Facebook page** (<https://www.facebook.com/CottageGroveMinnesota/>). Use your smartphone, tablet or computer. Tap on the video for sound. Comments and questions can be typed at any time during the live session. Pop in for five minutes or stay for the entire 30 minutes. The video will be available for viewing after the live event ends. Join in and let your voice be heard!

City Council Says Goodbye to Two Members



Council Member
Justin Olsen



Council Member
Jen Peterson

The last City Council meeting of 2016 will mark the final meeting for two of the members of the City Council.

Council Members Justin Olsen and Jen Peterson both served for eight years on the council.

Before being elected to council, Olsen served on the Public Safety, Health and Welfare Commission (now the Public Services Commission) and Peterson served on the Human Services/Human Rights Commission.

Cottage Grove saw many changes over the past eight years including the expansion of the business park, new housing developments bringing more residents to the city, many road improvements, and the completion of a new City Hall facility on time and under budget.

"I am most proud of the work we did on bringing a new City Hall/Public Safety Facility and Cottage Grove Fire Department into reality," said Olsen.

"I'm also very proud of the work we did on the city budget and moving the city into a AA+ bond rating through responsible fiscal management. We've grown the tax base and facilitated significant growth in our commercial sector, including many positive strides in the business park."

Peterson, a long-time advocate on housing issues, is most proud of the work the Council did related to affordable housing.

"It has been my mission all along to bring in more affordable rental apartments so young adults just starting out on their own don't leave and plant their roots elsewhere," said Peterson. "Although this goal of mine wasn't accomplished, I feel that getting our first Habitat for Humanity and the Legends of Cottage Grove for seniors is good progress. I hope this progress continues so we can get affordable apartments for families and workforce."

Both say they are honored to have served the community they love.

Olsen and Peterson will be recognized during a brief presentation at the Dec. 21 City Council meeting which begins at 7 p.m.

A reception for the outgoing council members, along with Senator Sieben and Representative McNamara, will take place at 8 p.m. on Dec. 21 at River Oaks Golf Course and Event Center, 11099 Highway 61 S.

Mayor Bailey to Serve Third Term; Johnson and Mills Elected to Council

In the November elections, Wayne Johnson and LaRae Mills were elected to serve four-year terms on the Cottage Grove City Council. Johnson and Mills replace Council Members Olsen and Peterson, who both choose not to run for another term.

Cottage Grove Mayor Myron Bailey ran unopposed and was reelected to serve his third four-year term as Mayor.

They will sworn into office at the Jan. 4, 2017 City Council meeting.

Fire Department Seeking Historical Memorabilia

The City is seeking fire-department related historical memorabilia to put on display in the new Central Fire Station. The new station will have room in the lobby to display the items. Construction on the station is expected to begin spring 2017. Items being sought include fire department gear, uniforms, helmets, patches, masks, badges, letters of accommodation, certificates, photos, videos or any other miscellaneous item of interest going back to 1957, when the East Grove Volunteer Fire Department was formed.

Items can be donated or loaned to the City. The City's Historical Committee will review all the items submitted and help determine the proper display or displays. Contact John Burbank, 651-458-2825 or jburbank@cottage-grove.org by Jan. 20, 2017.

Prepare for Winter Driving

The Cottage Grove Fire Department reminds everyone to stay safe during winter travel by being prepared. Have a winter survival kit in your car ready to go if you become stranded. Download a winter survival tip sheet at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/educational-materials/Documents/Winter-Survival-Brochure.pdf>

HOLIDAY SHOPPERS!

Buy a River Oaks gift certificate for that hard-to-shop-for golfer! Available at www.riveroaksmunigolf.com or call 651-438-2121 ext 1.



Officers Phillips and Sorgaard Sworn In at Council Meeting

Congratulations to Cottage Grove police officers Katie Phillips and Matthew Sorgaard, who were sworn in at the Nov. 16 City Council meeting. The swearing in was ceremonial as both officers had been officially sworn in on their first day of employment. The ceremony gives an opportunity to recognize the officers' completion of field training and allow their family and friends to congratulate them. Phillips' mother, Jan, pinned on her badge and Sorgaard's badge was pinned on by his wife Jessie.



Holiday Lights and Decoration Contest Winners and Nominees

Congratulations to Joe Hayes, 9331 73rd Street, and Brian Lipinski, 7590 Hyde Avenue, the winners of this year's holiday lights and decoration contest. The other nominees:

- 6583 Innsdale Avenue S.
- 7135 Hidden Valley Trail
- 7854 Gresham Lane
- 8020 Jensen Avenue S.
- 8050 Jasmine Avenue S.
- 9038 Upper 81st Street S.
- 7363 Ivystone Avenue S.
- 8834 Upper 89th Street Circle S.
- 8500 Hilo Trail

The City partners with the South Washington County Bulletin on this annual contest. View photos of the homes on the Bulletin's website: <http://bit.ly/2goELHW>



Winner Joe Hayes and family with Council



Winner Brian Lipinski and family with Council

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
December 23

CATEGORIES
Celebrations and Events
Historical
Parks and Trails
Nature
People
Streetscape

Photo Contest

We know there are a lot of talented photographers in the community! Submit your photos for a chance to win \$50. All photos entered must be taken in Cottage Grove and become the property of the City. The deadline for this year's photo contest is Dec. 23.

The winner in each category will receive \$50 and have their photos highlighted on the City's website and Facebook page. Visit the City's website for contest rules and submission form: <http://bit.ly/2ewB0eR>



Cottage Grove Florist Moves to West Point Douglas Road

Cottage Grove Florist celebrated their recent move with a ribbon cutting on Nov. 18. Owner Bill Junco redesigned the space and in addition to plants and flowers offers gift items, including many from local artisans. Those interested in selling items on consignment can contact him at 651-459-7179. Cottage Grove Florist is at 8599 West Point Douglas Road next to the Bulletin License Center. Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. For more information, visit www.cottagegroveflorist.com. Watch the ribbon cutting video: <http://bit.ly/2g6COBd>



Merchants Bank Celebrates Move with Ribbon Cutting

A grand opening celebration for Merchants Bank was held Nov. 17. The bank moved from their Gateway North shopping center location to what was previously the Famous Dave's restaurant. The move allowed the Hy-Vee redevelopment project to move forward. The Merchants Bank Cottage Grove branch is located at 8479 East Point Douglas Road and is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Visit www.merchantsbank.com for more information. Watch the ribbon cutting video: <http://bit.ly/2g6Nujl>



Groundbreaking for The Legends of Cottage Grove

A new independent senior living facility in Cottage Grove is one step closer to reality with the Dec. 6 ceremonial tossing of dirt. The apartments will be for those over age 55, and limited to those whose income is less than 60 percent of the area median income. The Legends of Cottage Grove will have 184 rental units, with one-, two- and three-bedroom options. The facility is being built on East Point Douglas Road, near White Pines. It is expected to open late fall 2017. For more information visit www.legendsofcottagegrove.com or call 763-452-3169. Watch the groundbreaking video: <http://bit.ly/2hkvK44>



Now Open!

The Eagles Bar and Grill Restaurant celebrated their grand opening in November. 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.

The restaurant has undergone minor renovations with additional updates scheduled to take place during the winter months.

In 2016 the City Council took over the administration of River Oaks and appointed Council Member Steve Dennis as general manager.

At the ceremony, Dennis encouraged community members to support the new restaurant, reminding everyone that it is a community-owned business.

The Eagles Bar and Grill is located at River Oaks Golf Course, 11099 Highway 61 S. and is open 4 to 10 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday with a Sunday brunch coming soon!

Visit www.riveroaksmunigolf.com or call 651-438-2121 for more information.

Be sure to like The Eagles Bar and Grill on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheEaglesBarandGrill> for up-to-date information on the restaurant, including daily specials.



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: *Spring Sessions*: Saturdays, Feb. 18 to April 15; or Mondays, Feb. 13 to April 10.

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 the 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.

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

3 on 3 Pond Hockey Tournament

This outdoor round-robin tourney will have three divisions: Squirt (U10), Peewee (U12), and Bantam (U14). Teams are made up of 3 to 5 boys or girls with a minimum of 15.

Date: Jan. 16
 Time: 10:00 a.m.–2 p.m.
 Location: Hamlet Park,
 8883 Hamlet Road S.
 Cost: \$15 per team

Winter Break

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

Hockey Skills Competition

Youth hockey players compete with their friends while showcasing their skills. After the skills portion we'll drop the puck for a game of 3 on 3. Prizes and lunch will take place at the end of the day. Register in office the day of the event.

Ages: 9 to 14
 Date: Feb. 20
 Time: 9 a.m.–noon
 Location: Ice Arena, 8020 80th Street S.
 Cost: \$12 (skater)
 \$5 (goalie)

Warming Houses Open December 26 (Weather Permitting)

Hamlet, 8883 Hamlet Ave. S.
 M/W 5–8 p.m. | Sat Noon–8 p.m.

Highlands, 6975 Iidsen Ave. S.
 M–F 4–8 p.m. | Sat/Sun Noon–8 p.m.

Pine Tree Valley, 8431 Indian Blvd.
 M–F 4–8 p.m. | Sat/Sun Noon–8 p.m.

Hearthside, 8245 Hearthside Rd. S.
 T/Th 5–8 p.m. | Sun Noon–8 p.m.

Peter Thompson, 6327 Highland Hills Blvd.
 M–F 4–8 p.m. | Sat/Sun Noon–8 p.m.

Woodridge, 9000 90th Street S.
 M–F 4–8 p.m. | Sat/Sun Noon–8 p.m.