This summer Hamlet, Peter Thompson, and Pinetree Valley Parks will host supervised playground sites. Each site will have 3 to 4 adult staff, multiple teen volunteers, and up to 40 youth from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Pinetree Valley Park will be host for ages 4-8 while Hamlet and Peter Thompson parks will host ages 5-13. Supervised playgrounds offer a fun and safe place for your child to be cared for during the summer. Each day will consist of arts and crafts, water activities, large and small group games, free play, special events, sports, and more!

More information and registration forms are available online at www.cottagegrovemn.gov/programs&events or give us a call in the office to register. Space fills quickly each year.

The cost for Supervised Playgrounds is $22/day or $88/week. A 2020 Registration Form, available on the website, must be completed for each participant. The registrar must agree to weekly payments for the fees due each week or full payment due at the time of registration. Weekly payments will be charged to the credit card each Sunday. Registration and payment will not be accepted at the park. All payments/changes must be made through the office. All registration changes must be done by noon on the preceding Thursday; there will be no refunds given after 12:00 p.m. Registrations are on a first come first served basis and is limited to 40 participants at Hamlet and Peter Thompson and 20 at Pinetree Valley each day.

On February 19 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. for $5 a skater we will be turning the overhead lights off and the party lights and music on.

Come skate at the Ice Arena on President’s Day February 17. $5 Stick and Puck Skating will be from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. $5 Public skating will be from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The City of Cottage Grove’s first ever “Day on the Hill” (January 25th) was a big success! A couple dozen residents joined City leaders for a tour of the beautiful Cass Gilbert-designed Capitol building, which was completed in 1905, and recently renovated. Following stops on the House and Senate Floors, and the Governor’s Reception Room, the group joined State Senator Karla Bigham, State Representative Anne Claffin, Mayor Myron Bailey and City Council Members for a short roundtable discussion. The event generated some great, positive feedback, so plans are in place to do it again in 2021.

The HERO Center first responder training facility, right next to City Hall, opened to great fanfare on January 14th as hundreds of community members showed up to check out the state-of-the-art facility. The Center, jointly owned and operated by the Cities of Cottage Grove and Woodbury, will host training opportunities for dozens of police, fire and EMS departments in the region. Since the State of Minnesota funded more than half of the project, several state lawmakers joined City and County staff members to celebrate the official opening of the building. Public availability on the 12-lane, 50-yard indoor firearms range will be available soon. Stay tuned for details, available Spring of 2020.
Cottage Grove Photo Contest Deadline Has Ended

Winners will be announced at the February 19 City Council meeting and each winning photographer will receive $50 and a certificate from the City Council. The 2019 photo winners will also be featured in the upcoming March issue of the Cottage Grove Reports!

Every 10 years, the United States Census Bureau undertakes a mammoth task; counting all the people residing in the United States. This count affects the allocation of funding for our community’s public resources, how we plan for the future, and it influences our voice in government. Learn more about the importance of the 2020 Census and how you can participate by visiting 2020census.gov or mn.gov/admin/2020-census

Mayor Bailey Delivers 2020 State of the City Address

Before the first City Council meeting in February, Mayor Myron Bailey presented his “State of the City” address to the City Council and State elected officials. The entire speech was also broadcast live on YouTube and can be found on the City’s Facebook Page and website (under the Council Update tab).

City Administrator Earns Prestigious Recognition

Before she was appointed City Administrator, Jennifer Levitt served Cottage Grove for many years as the City Engineer. On January 29, she was honored by the City Engineers Association of MN as the Engineer of the Year for her innovative leadership regarding several successful projects.

2020 State of the City Highlights:
- Body-worn cameras and HERO Center Training for Police
- New, 105 foot aerial truck for the Fire Department
- Repair all potholes by June 1 and add 13th plow route at Public Works
- Completing temporary water treatment plant
- Implementation of master plans at Shoppes at Cottage View and former City Hall site
- Major park expansions at Hamlet and Oakwood Parks
- Community Center
- Referendum question before voters on November 3

Part of Levitt’s legacy includes her work responding to PFC contamination and her groundbreaking work designing the state’s first 6-legged, dual lane roundabout intersection in the late 2000s. Levitt was appointed by the City Council to the position of City Administrator in December of 2018. Congratulations on the honor Jennifer, it is well deserved!

City Searching for “Volunteer of the Year” Nominations

The City of Cottage Grove is now accepting nominations for 2019 Volunteer of the Year. If you know someone who has been extremely generous of his or her time, and whose efforts benefit the City in a big way, make sure you provide us with some details. We would like to recognize them! To nominate a Cottage Grove resident, log on to the City’s website at cottagegrovemn.gov/volunteer and you’ll find a link to the nomination form. The deadline for submissions is April 3 and this year’s winner will be recognized at a banquet on April 21. Pictured (right) is last year’s Volunteer of the Year Ken Brittain.

Cottage Grove Business Owners & Employers, the City Wants to Hear from You!

The City of Cottage Grove’s Economic Development team has re-launched its Business Retention & Expansion Program in an effort to gain input and feedback from the business community. Staff members will provide surveys and conduct interviews in the coming months to gain greater perspective on how city government can facilitate educational opportunities, technical assistance and local policy resources to improve the business climate. The City wants to hear from as many employers as possible. For more information on how you can participate, or to set up an interview, contact Economic Development Coordinator Matt Wolf at 651-458-2833 or by email at mwolf@cottagegrovemn.gov.

River Oaks Golf Course & Event Center

Eagles Bar & Grill

BEER TASTING — An evening of taste and discovery starts at 6 pm on February 29! The night will include live music by local artists Matt & Laurel, over 40 local beers available to choose from, and various appetizers.

LENTEN FISH FRIDAYS — Stop into River Oaks every Friday from February 28th through April 3rd to join in on the Midwest tradition of Lenten Fish Fry! Our signature fish fry includes bread, soup or salad, a loaded plate of veggies, your choice of potato, and 12 ounces of baked or beer-battered cod served with a lemon wedge and a side of tartar sauce.

EAGLES SATURDAY SPECIALS — Not into fish? Stop in on Saturdays for our Prime Rib Special! Choose either a Queen (10oz) or King (14oz) cut of prime rib that is cooked to your liking and served with a side of succulent au jus. On Saturdays you can also take advantage of our Buy One Get One Half Off Burger Special. Open every Friday and Saturday from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

2020 MEMBERSHIPS, LEAGUES, & LESSONS AVAILABLE — The New Year is finally here and everyone at River Oaks is excited to get the golf season underway! River Oaks hopes we can start the golf season off right by sharing everything that we are offering for the 2020 season. Visit our website to learn more about our course rates, different membership options, league information, available lessons and some exciting new opportunities.