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We’ll Take your Buckthorn
If you’re trying to get rid of pesky buckthorn on your property, our Public Works teams will come by and pick it up for you (no brush though!). Just let us know by 3 p.m. on April 26, put the buckthorn on the curb, and we’ll haul it away on the 29th or 30th, weather permitting. Call Adam at 651-458-2844 to schedule a pick-up!

Sod Damaged by Plows?
Now that the snow is gone, you’re probably assessing your lawn. If your boulevard grass was damaged by a snowplow this winter, maintenance workers will repair the damage with black dirt and grass seed. We typically perform the repairs in May. Please call Public Works at 651-458-2808 to report any damage you believe may have been caused by a plow. The Public Works phone line is answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Spring Cleanup Day; We’ll Take Big, Electronic and Hazardous Items
You may want to take out more than the papers this spring, and if you’ve got some hard-to-get-rid-of-trash, we’ve got good news for you! The Public Works Department will take that trash off your hands and it doesn’t matter if it’s large, electronic or hazardous.

- Cottage Grove Spring Cleanup Day
- Saturday, May 4 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Public Works Garage (8635 W. Pt. Douglas Rd. S.)

Hazardous material and electronics will be accepted free-of-charge. Larger items like hot water heaters, sofas, and appliances will cost you $10 to get rid of. Our Public Works team will dispose of these items in an environmentally-friendly way. For more information and additional pricing go to the City’s website and click on the “Public Works” tab or call 651-458-2808.

Celebrate Arbor Day at City Hall, It’s Time to Talk Trees
Come celebrate Arbor Day with us on Tuesday, April 23 at 5:00 p.m. The first 150 people will receive a free, bare-root ornamental tree! We’ll hand out one tree per residence, proof of residency is required. The annual celebration will also feature a ceremonial tree planting at 5:30 p.m. And our Forester will be on hand to provide information to homeowners about Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). This year, residents of Cottage Grove can take advantage of significantly discounted pricing for ash tree treatment through a unique partnership with Rainbow Treecare. We’ll have much more on this program at the celebration, and we’ll also host a short EAB presentation from the Department of Agriculture. Scientists will show you what to look for, how to treat EAB and what to expect in the future.
Finally, warmer temperatures have arrived! Here are some springtime reminders to make sure you stay up to code on your property. Failure to comply could result in a citation.

- Make sure your car, boat, RV, trailer or any other type of vehicle is parked on a paved, brick or concrete surface at all times – NOT the lawn. All vehicles in public view must be licensed and operable.

- Evaluate your outdoor storage. Items like machinery, household appliances, furniture or other unused material are prohibited; remove them from your property or store these items in a garage or shed.

- Still storing those leaves from the fall? Please discard and do not continue to store yard waste in your yard.

- Need to advertise your garage or yard sale? Remember to remove your signs at the end of your sale and always ask permission to place signs on someone’s private property.

- Certain times of the year, grass and weeds can grow very quickly. City Code states grass and weeds shall not reach a height greater than 8 inches (8”).

The City has hired a second Code Enforcement Officer, so you’ll see two officers throughout the summer making sure residents and business owners are doing their part to keep our city beautiful.

Mother Nature finally took care of our snow and ice cover, but she left us with a lot of potholes. Public Works employees scrambled to fix potholes in March. If you find one we might have missed, send an email to potholes@cottagegrovemn.gov.

The City would also like to remind business owners to take care of the potholes in their parking lots. One of the most common commercial code issues our Code Enforcement Officers see is lack of parking lot maintenance. Lots must be maintained so they don’t present a hazard to people or their property.

We’re asking business owners and service providers to fill potholes and large cracks. Minor patches or repairs do not require a City permit, while total resurfacing does. Questions? Contact Code Enforcement Officer Samantha Drewry at 651-458-2876 SDrewry@cottagegrovemn.gov.

Irrigating with Smart Controllers

The City of Cottage Grove will once again offer irrigation controllers for pennies on the dollar. Qualified residents and small business owners can purchase a $200 Rachio smart controller system for $35. You’ll help the City save water, you’ll save money on your own water bill and you can still keep that lush, green lawn! The Rachio allows you to control your irrigation system from your smart phone while coordinating local weather forecasts, soil types and City watering restrictions.

To apply for one of the 220 smart controllers the City has in stock, visit the city’s webpage at www.cottagegrovemn.gov/savewater. Applications will be processed as they’re received, and if approved, you can pick up your controller at City Hall during normal business hours. Can’t make it during those hours? The City is also offering “after hours” pick-up times at City Hall on April 23 and May 9 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

City Watering Restrictions

Water restrictions allow watering before noon or after 4pm every other day – if your house number ends in an even number, water on even numbered days. If your house number ends with an odd number water on odd-numbered days.

Patching Potholes on Streets (and in Commercial Parking Lots)
The course is now open! Don’t forget to sign up for a league. The club is offering weekend men’s club, Tuesday and Wednesday Senior Men’s Leagues, and a Thursday Ladies League.

Interested in group lessons, clinics, camps or season memberships? Log on to riveroaksunigolf.com for more information. We can’t wait to see you on the links this spring.

RIVER OAKS
Golf Course and Event Center
11099 South Highway 61
Phone: 651-438-2121
www.riveroaksunigolf.com

$99 + TAX
4 TWILIGHT ROUNDS OF GOLF AND 4 ITEMS FROM THE GRILL MENU
Valid Friday-Monday starting at 5:00 p.m. ($10 value per meal item). Offer must be used same day as purchase and the grill is open until dusk, weather permitting. Offer expires May 31, 2019. Coupon cannot be used with any other offers or discounts.

EAGLES BAR & GRILL

Upcoming Events
Celebrate Easter Brunch with us!
Sunday April 23 at 12:00 p.m.

-Kids Clinic on the Putting Green with Chicken Tender Bar on April 26
-Family Golf Outing on April 28

Wine Dinner Featuring Cracked Barrel Winery on April 26 at 6:30 p.m. Must pre-register online and be 21 years old or older to attend.

You Can Join the Cottage Grove Police Department ... For a Day of Fun!

Police Week is coming up, and it gives the Cottage Grove Police Department an opportunity to bring you inside the world of law enforcement. The CGPD is hosting its annual Open House on Saturday, May 11th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at City Hall. It’s a great chance to meet your officers and register for “Night to Unite” block parties. You can also try on police gear, take a seat in a squad car or check out the Department’s newest vehicles and pieces of equipment. The Lions Club will be grilling and selling hot dogs and brats. Last year, the CGPD celebrated an incredible open house turnout; this year’s event will be even bigger and better than the one in 2018.

Heads Up, Your Polling Place Location May Have Changed

The City of Cottage Grove has updated its polling place locations for 2019 and beyond. The Clerk’s Office, through a City Council Resolution, has consolidated 11 polling places into 7 polling places. The change offers the City a chance to better utilize its resources on election days. Registered voters will receive a post card in the mail in October indicating where their new polling place will be located. A map of these new polling places can be found on the City’s website. It’s never too early to start planning for the next election. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact City Clerk Joe Fischbach at 651-458-2883.
Parks and Recreation

Safety Camp

Cottage Grove Recreation and Public Safety are teaming up to encourage youth safety. During the two-day camp, participants learn the basics of bike and water safety, kitchen and electrical safety, fire prevention and first aid technique. The cost of the program includes 26 safety presentations, a t-shirt, a team-colored hat, lunches (if you have concerns or restrictions please send a lunch), snacks and a water bottle. Safety Camp is being held from 7:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. on June 25-26 at Hamlet Park. It is for ages 8-11 and costs $58.

A Graduation Ceremony for family and friends closes out the camp on Wednesday, June 26 at 4:30pm.

Summer Archery Camp

Archery Camp offers a course covering the basics and no experience is necessary. The camp covers eye dominance, safety rules, warm-up exercises, tackle sized to archer, proper shooting techniques and consistency. Safety equipment will be provided. Archers should wear tennis shoes and snug upper body clothing. The Camp is from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on June 18, 20, 25, and 27 at Pine Tree Pond Park. It is for ages 8-13 and costs $75.

Strawberry Fest 5K & Kids 1K

Don’t miss the 13th Annual Strawberry Fest Race and Walk at Kingston Park on June 15. The race will be chip timed and participant times will be posted on-site immediately after the race. Times will also be posted on the City’s website the following Monday. Those participating in the walk and 1K will not be chip timed.

5K participants receive a Strawberry Fest Race shirt. Medals will be awarded to the first place male and female in their respective categories. All 1K participants receive a medal.

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Rec. Works—Youth Volunteer Training

This program is a must for anyone interested in volunteering during summer playground programs. Youth will learn volunteer expectations and summer programs/events. A material packet and 2019 recreation shirt will be provided.

Please provide the park location (Hamlet, Peter Thompson or Pine Tree Valley) and shifts you would like to volunteer this summer at the training. Shifts are 8:30-Noon or 12:30-4:00 p.m.

This program is being held from 9:00-12:00 p.m., June 2, at the Cottage Grove Ice Arena. It is for ages 12-16 and costs $30.

Pop Up Splash Pad

Come and cool off at one of our Pop-Up Splash Pads this summer. Each event will start with a water balloon toss followed by 15 minutes of “water spray” from the Cottage Grove Fire Department. We end with a frozen treat and the events are absolutely free!

June 20 - Hamlet Park - 6 p.m.
July 25 - River Oaks Golf Course - 6 p.m.
August 22 - Woodridge Park - 2 p.m.

The Cottage Grove Reports Monthly is mailed to all residents with their utility statement, sent directly to residents not receiving City utilities and at www.cottagegrovenmn.gov. Comments may be sent to City of Cottage Grove, 12800 Ravine Parkway S., Cottage Grove, MN, 55016. Phone 651-458-2800.

Mayor Myron Bailey. Council Members: Steve Dennis, Wayne Butt, La Rae Mills, Dave Thiede.