



Cottage Grove Reports

After Successful Summer Season, Road Construction Work Winding Down



Motorists may notice the last 400 feet of 80th Street, where it meets Keats Avenue, hasn't been fully reconstructed. The City and County will be working on a future intersection improvement there in the coming years.

The City would like to thank homeowners and drivers for their patience during these busy few months of road construction. 2021 promises to be a bit of a reprieve for construction projects in the City, as crews plan to repave about 3.5 miles of neighborhood streets in Cottage Grove.

Perhaps we found one silver lining in this year's Stay at Home order. Our roadways weren't as busy as they normally are, helping the City's Public Works and Engineering Departments facilitate one of the most aggressive construction seasons in Cottage Grove's history.

We'll start with the West Point Douglas Road project as teams rehabilitated two miles of the heavily traveled stretch between Jamaica Avenue and 80th Street. Not only did crews vastly improve the road for motorists, they've also extended the sidewalk on the south side of West Point Douglas for walkers and bicyclists.

The second big project the City tackled this summer was a complete reconstruction of 80th Street, between Keats and Jamaica Avenues. This job was broken into two phases and encompasses more than 1 mile of roadway. Not only did it involve the street but teams also added a paved trail on the south side of 80th so pedestrians aren't forced to cross the busy roadway, making the entire stretch safer for everyone traveling through that section.



Water Main Extension Projects Close to Completion

The City is closing in on completing two major utilities projects as crews extend water mains into the River Acres and Granada Avenue neighborhoods. All told, 159 are on tap to receive City water. Both projects are fully funded by the State of Minnesota. While the work on behalf of the Granada Avenue homes is wrapping up, crews will complete the River Acres project sometime in November.

City Council Approves Operating Levy for 2021

The City Council adopted the preliminary 2021 property tax levy on September 2, 2020. The 2021 property tax levy of \$17.6 million is a 3.99% increase from the 2020 levy of \$16.9 million. This increase does not necessarily mean an increase to individual property taxes due to a 9% increase in the City-wide tax base. Property specific notices will be mailed to all residences in November with comparisons of proposed property taxes by jurisdiction and year (2021 vs. 2020). The City's information meeting (formerly known as "Truth in Taxation") will be held Wednesday, December 2, 2020 as part of the regular City Council meeting beginning at 7 p.m.

Re-register to Pay Your Utility Bill Online

Just a quick reminder: If you'd like to pay your utility bill online, you'll need to re-register through the City's new payment system. You'll find more information at cottagegovm.gov/utilitybill. If you would like to pay by phone, please call 1-844-855-0025 and be sure to have your account number on hand.

Marathon Petroleum Donations Help Keep our Community Safe

Cottage Grove’s Public Safety Teams would like to thank Marathon Petroleum Company for two donations that will help crews efficiently and effectively respond to fires and search and rescue operations. Marathon’s generosity allows the CGPD to purchase a drone and an additional \$14,000 gift will be used to outfit the Fire Department’s new ladder truck with lifesaving equipment.



The Need for Speed... SIGNS!

The CGPD would like to thank the Public Safety Board for generously donating money for the purchase of two portable radar speed signs, which accurately display how fast drivers are going. The first sign on Hadley Avenue drew quite a community response. As requests came in to place the signs in neighborhoods all over the City, the board purchased another \$3,000 sign to help the Police Department respond to the City’s needs.



Congratulations 2020 Green Garden Award Winners

Every year, it seems, Cottage Grove residents and business owners try to outshine the previous year when it comes to Green Garden entries. This year our horticulturalist and interns judged 16 of the City’s best and most beautiful gardens and containers. Picking winners in three categories (commercial, residential and container) was a difficult task, but a fun one nonetheless! Without further ado, here are your 2020 Green Garden Award Winners:

Residential: Sandy and Gary Borst



Container: Jason and Therese Stommes



Commercial: Garden World



This year’s winners (Sandy and Gary Borst not pictured below)



Special thanks go out to the City’s Horticulturist Marcus Honcharenko and summer interns Leslie Owsley and Kevin Link, both students at the University of Wisconsin– River Falls. The trio spent the past couple of months planting in and around the City’s signs, boulevards and tree beds. We appreciate their work, and all the work of our residents and business owners who keep Cottage Grove beautiful.

Kathi Buss Retires from CGPD After 40 Years of Service

The CGPD has changed and evolved over time, but through it all, Kathi Buss has been a steady hand helping guide police officers and administrators. Buss started with the Department in 1980, and through the decades, she’s supported the department’s mission of service in too many ways to mention. Buss’ final role with the CGPD was as the Support Services Supervisor. Kathi, thank you for the many years of dedication and commitment. Enjoy a well deserved retirement!



Looking for Cottage Grove's Community Hero; Now Accepting Nominations

Everyone knows a cashier, nurse, police officer, EMS employee, firefighter or other essential worker who really stands out and deserves to be recognized! Here's your chance. The Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce will be accepting nominations through October 15th. The winner will be honored at a community "Evening of Excellence" on Thursday, November 5th. You'll find more details on the Chamber's website, including the nomination form you can fill out for a worthy friend or employee!



**NOMINATE A
HERO TODAY!**



Cottage Grove Area
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

www.cottagegrovechamber.org

Friends in Need to Host Fall Fundraiser

To support the Friends In Need Food Shelf, The Myers' Thrivent team will donate \$5 for every person registered for the fall fundraiser featuring the Dwayne Tannahill Jazz Quartet on September 27th at 7:00 p.m. and \$2 for every 'Like' on "The Myers - Thrivent" Facebook page by 9/27/2020 (up to \$10,000).

Please register at <https://finfundraiser.eventbrite.com>.

The virtual event will be streamed on Comcast Channels 14 & 18, CenturyLink Channels 8539 & 8542, and All Saints Lutheran Church Facebook & YouTube Channel.



FRIENDS in NEED
the end of hunger

BizRecycling Offering COVID-19 Relief Grants

If your business has been negatively impacted by COVID-19, you may be eligible for a BizRecycling Relief Grant. Receive up to \$10,000 to support a wide range of operational expenses related to managing waste and recycling. The relief grants include more eligible expenses than regular BizRecycling grants and are available to businesses which may be new to BizRecycling as well as those previously participating in the program. Go to <https://bizreliefgrant.com/> for more information.



PARKS & RECREATION

For more information call
651-458-3400

Fall Stick & Puck

These sessions are great for exercising, practice skating, stick handling and shooting skills. Skaters 18 and younger must wear a helmet and skaters 12 and younger must have a parent present in the arena. No walk-in sign ups will be allowed at this time.

Pre-registration is required and the fee is \$10.

Figure Skater's Contract Ice

These sessions are for dedicated figure skaters to practice figure skating skills, jumps, and spins. Ice time may be spent working individually on skills or with a coach. Due to restrictions still in place for ice arenas to operate, we will not be offering Figure Skater's Practice. Pre-registration and payment is required for all skaters and coaches on the ice and the fee is \$10.



Fall Archery League: Min 5/Max 10

This league is suitable for both those who have never shot a bow and those who have some experience. On the first day staff will cover determining eye dominance, safety rules, warm-up exercises, bow-size to archer, proper shooting techniques and consistency. All equipment will be provided. Then archers will begin competing in a variety of competitions, earning points each week while aiming for a variety of targets. The League Champion will win a trophy. The program for ages 9-13 will be held on Mondays, from September 14 to October 12, from 4:00-5:15 p.m. The fee is \$60.

Kayak Krew: Min 6/Max 8

This beginners course is a great opportunity to learn how to kayak. Even better, it's close enough to come back for more. The Krew will learn how to adjust a kayak, how to launch, proper paddling techniques, basic kayaking strokes and safety precautions for kayaking. It is critical to arrive on time each day. This "krew" is for kids ages 12-16 and classes will be held on Fridays, from September 25 to October 9, from 1:30-3:00 p.m. at Hazen P. Mooers Park. The fee is \$55.

Paint and Parachutes: Min 10/Max 16

Missing those painted pictures hanging all over the house, but not missing the mess? Sign up for Paint and Parachutes! This will be a great program to let kids be kids - making an awesome painting to take home each day before playing outside games to get them running around. This is a drop off program; parents are not required to stay. Paint and Parachutes is for kids ages 4-7. It will be held on September 25, October 9 and 23, and November 6 at Hamlet Park. The fee is \$48.



River Oaks Golf Course & Event Center

11099 South Highway 61

Fall Golf—Fall golf is coming and the course is in great shape! Call 651-438-2121 x1 or go online to www.riveroaksmunigolf.com to book your tee time.

Glow Golf—This fall, head out onto the course after sunset and experience a completely different game of golf. Find a partner or a group and play golf at night with a glow in the dark ball and glow in the dark pins. Glow Golf is every Friday and Saturday from September 18th through October 10th.

Big Cup Scramble—Join us on September 27th for our 2nd Annual Big Cup Scramble! This event will have 3 person teams, a 9:00 a.m. shotgun start, and includes 18 holes, range balls, lunch, awards and prize money!

Register Online at riveroaksmunigolf.com