



Cottage Grove Reports

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Water and Sewer Rate Changes
- City Seeking Election Judges
- Free Product Room at Environmental Center
- Ribbon Cuttings:
 - RoseBuds Early Learning Center
 - Primrose School of Cottage Grove
- My Future Cottage Grove Updates
- January Artist of the Month
- Upcoming Events at River Oaks
- Eagles Bar and Grill Specials
- Hockey Fest
- Ice Arena Events
- Recreation Events

Where Should City Parks Be Connected?

One of the My Future Cottage Grove initiatives is to improve pedestrian safety and connections to our community parks. You can help by providing your input in an online interactive map related to this initiative. By doing so you can help make the City's livability even better as you input determines the future! When you add a location to the map consider where you currently walk or bike, and where you'd like to see a future bike trail or sidewalk connection. Visit <http://bit.ly/2he5XZH> for the online map. Click on the "Connection to Parks" tab.



Photo Contest Entry by Susan Mayer

Pete Koerner Appointed New Public Safety Director



Captain Pete Koerner

Koerner is an active member of the community serving on the Friends in Need Food Shelf board, on the Cottage Grove Lions Club, and volunteering in many events such as the Holiday Train and Strawberry Fest committees.

"I'm honored to serve the community I call home," said Koerner.

The Cottage Grove City Council appointed Captain Pete Koerner as the City's next public safety director. Koerner's appointment is effective Feb. 24 with a swearing-in ceremony to held at the March 7 City Council meeting.

Koerner has been with the Cottage Grove Police Department since 1992 when he began work as a community service officer. In 1995 he became an officer, detective in 2002, sergeant in 2003 and public safety deputy director and captain in 2006. Over the course of his career he has held many specialty assignments including SWAT crisis negotiator and negotiations commander, use of force and TASER instructor.

Public Safety Director Craig Woolery Retires



Public Safety Director Woolery

"I was provided an opportunity when I came here to serve this community," said Woolery. "It's been the best community I could have asked for; to live in, to work in, and to be a part of."

Public Safety Director Craig Woolery is retiring from a long career in law enforcement. His last day will be Feb. 23.

Woolery began his Cottage Grove career in April 1983 as a community service officer/paramedic, became a police officer in 1986, and was named public safety director in 2006.

Woolery said he feels blessed to work for a department that is loved by its community and respected by its public safety peers. He worked hard to have an open, transparent, and responsive department and is proud of the City's strong public safety department that serves the community compassionately while providing protection.

Interested in Public Safety? Join the Public Safety Board!

The Cottage Grove Public Safety Board is looking for new members to join the board. If you are a citizen of Cottage Grove with an interest in Police, Fire or EMS with a knack for fundraising ideas and a desire to help our Public Safety department, then join the board!

Meetings are held at City Hall on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Visit the City's website or email cgpublicsafetyboard@gmail.com for more information.



Coming Up

- Feb 26** **Single-Family Housing Panel**, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
Listen to developers in the market discuss the current trends in the single-family housing market.
- Feb. 17** **Hockey Fest** (see back page)
- Mar 24** **Egg Hunt**, 9 a.m., Ice Arena
- Mar 25** **Cottage Grove Lions Easter Breakfast**, 8 am-Noon, VFW Red Barn
- Apr 12** **Tornado Drill Day**, 1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m.
- Apr 21** **Chamber Business Expo**, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Ice Arena

For more city-wide events, including council and commission meetings, visit the calendar on the City’s website.

RIVER OAKS



Golf Course and Event Center

11099 South Highway 61
Phone: 651-438-2121
www.riveroaksmunigolf.com

Golf Leagues | River Oaks is now accepting applications for all in house leagues: Tuesday and Wednesday senior men’s, Thursday morning ladies, and weekend men’s club. You don’t need a foursome to join, we can fit you in with a group. Leagues are a great way to meet new people and get out and join the game. There is no limit to the number of members in a league, so tell your friends to join you!

Upcoming Events |

Visit <http://bit.ly/RiverOaksEvents> for more information.

- Feb. 24: Craft Show, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Mar. 3: Live Music
- Mar. 17: St. Paddy’s Event
- Mar. 24 – Apr. 8: Golf Kick Off Specials

Eagles Bar and Grill Weekly

Specials | The Eagles Bar and Grill has specials, along with a full menu, every Friday and Saturday, 3 – 9 p.m.

- Friday | Fish Fry
- Saturday | Prime Rib

Water Rate Changes Went Into Effect Jan. 1

On Dec. 20, the Cottage Grove City Council approved new water and sewer rates which went into effect on Jan. 1. Residents will see the rate change on their Feb. 15 water bill.

The new tiered usage system is designed to encourage water conservation. The majority of residents, 63 percent, currently use less than 6,000 gallons of water per month and will see a minimal change in their utility bill.

The new rates are a result of a water and sewer rate study that was authorized by Council in April of 2017. The study was already underway before the City enacted a watering ban in response to pumping reduction measures to meet new Minnesota Department of Health health-based values.

The study reviewed the City’s operating and capital expenditures for water and sanitary sewer systems and recommended a financial plan and cost-based rates for both systems. It relied on audited financial reporting information and other revenue, expense, and development information. The study did not consider any future capital expenditures relating to water treatment facilities.

The result of the study is the implementation of fair and equitable water and sanitary sewer

rates and rate structures to meet the needs of each system over a five-year period from Jan. 1, 2018 through Dec. 31, 2022 while promoting water conservation in accordance with Minnesota State Statutes and maintaining financial reserves sufficient to provide operational stability.

The change is the first year of a two-year phased water and sewer rate increase. The last rate increase was in 2008.

The new rates, including commercial rates, can be found on the City’s website: <http://bit.ly/CGWaterRates>

Residential Water and Sewer Rates

Residential Base Charge

Single Family	\$2.25
Multi-Family (per REU)	\$1.69

Residential Usage Charge (per month)

Up to 6,000 gals	\$1.18 per 1,000 gals
6,001 to 9,000 gals	\$1.44 per 1,000 gals
9,001 to 12,000 gals	\$1.83 per 1,000 gals
Over 12,001 gals	\$2.42 per 1,000 gals

Residential Sanitary Sewer Rates

Base Charge	\$3.00
All Usage	\$3.45 per 1,000 gals

Be An Election Judge!

We are seeking eligible voters to work as an Election Judge at the Primary and General Elections on Aug. 14 and Nov. 6.

Election Judges are paid \$10 per hour for attending a mandatory two-hour training session and for time worked on Election Day.

Election judges may serve voluntarily without pay. For eligibility requirements, more information, and application, visit <http://bit.ly/ElecJud> or contact Cottage Grove City Clerk, Joe Fischbach at jfischbach@cottage-grove.org or 651-458-2883.

Free Product Room at the Environmental Center

Got spring fever and the urge to purge? Planning to get rid of household hazardous items you no longer need? What better way to get rid of things you don’t need or use, than by dropping them off at the Washington County Environmental Center for FREE! In fact, some of the items you drop off might be stocked in the Free Product Room for others to pick up.

The Free Product Room is located inside the Environmental Center, 4039 Cottage Grove Drive, Woodbury. Available products are first inspected to ensure they are useable. Some of the more popular products are paint, stain and household cleaners. Residents of Washington County may browse the shelves and take home products, free of charge. So if

you are on a tight budget you might just find the paint or stain you were looking for at no cost. Other popular products include lawn and garden products and automotive fluids.

Additional items that can be dropped off for free at the center include electronics such as TVs and computers; automotive fluids such as used motor oil, antifreeze and gasoline; yard and garden products such as insect and weed killers; common household items such as oven cleaner, fluorescent bulbs, and aerosol cans.

For hours, location and a list of accepted wastes and recyclables, go to www.co.washington.mn.us/604/Environmental-Center

Ribbon Cuttings



RoseBuds Early Learning Center, connected to Rose of Sharon Lutheran Church, celebrated a remodel with a ribbon cutting on Jan. 9 and is now able to provide full-time child care Monday through Friday. They are located at 6875 Jamaica Avenue. Call 651-459-4526 or visit www.rosebudsearlylearningcenter.com for more information.



Primrose School of Cottage Grove held their ribbon cutting on Jan. 27. They are located at 6927 Pine Arbor Drive S., at the corner of Hinton Ave S. and 70th Street S. For more information, call 651-302-7877 or visit <https://www.primrosecottagegrove.com>.

My Future Cottage Grove Updates

The City Council adopted the seven recommendations from the My Future Cottage Grove community engagement project and turned them into initiatives in September. Since October, the City and volunteers have been working hard on implementing the recommendations. The Community Center Task Force has met twice and is beginning to determine what the community wants in a community center. The Food and Fun Festival Committee is working to determine ways to celebrate the community's diversity. In the next few weeks, groups will start meeting to help program Settler's Island,

develop a housing plan, work on park connections and pedestrian safety, and attract retail and restaurants. While groups have started meeting for each of the initiatives, they are always looking for more volunteers to join. If you would like to volunteer, contact Becky Ahlvin at rahlvin@cottage-grove.org or 651-458-2814.

To find more information about the status of each of the My Future Cottage Grove initiatives, visit <http://bit.ly/MyFutureCG>.



January Artist of the Month: Crystin Voxland

Crystin Voxland was named the Arts Commission January Artist of the Month. Voxland began drawing and doodling at a very early age, getting into painting as an artistic medium in high school. After high school, she received her degree in Art Education from Minnesota State University-Mankato. Voxland knew she wanted to explore teaching arts to younger children and began her career in Early Childhood Education.



In 2015, Voxland moved to Cottage Grove with her fiancé where they run an arts-based family childcare and stay busy with fun art projects with the daycare kids. In her spare time, Voxland remains an active artist, taking commissions through her pet portrait business Creative Paws Portraiture.

Voxland finds inspiration in her personal life from nature and often finds herself portraying animals and landscapes, painting her own furry friends. Friends and family took notice and Voxland began to paint portraits of pets for other people, working directly from photos to create her pet portraits.

More information on the Artist of the Month program is available on the City's website.

SNOWMAN CONTEST!



Entries are due Feb. 28. Submit your best snowman photo for a chance to win a prize! Email a picture of you and your snowman to mpietruszewski@cottage-grove.org.

Photos may be used on City's website, social media accounts, and print publications.





City of Cottage Grove - 2017 Annual Report

139 views

CottageGroveMN
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SUBSCRIBE 435

Have you checked out the City's 2017 Annual Report yet? Search for "CottageGroveMN" on YouTube to find the City's channel. While you are there, make sure you subscribe so you know when the City adds a new video.

ICE ARENA

8020 80th Street S.
Phone: 651-458-3400

ICE SKATING LESSONS

Our Learn-to-Skate program prepares participants for all ice sports. Students are individually evaluated to make certain they are in the appropriate level. Call for more information.

Dates: Sundays, Feb. 18–April 22 (skip Apr. 1) | Mondays, Feb. 19–April 16

Cost: \$77

Levels: Skating Tots: Ages 3–5, new to skating.
Level 1: Ages 5–8, minimal skating skills.
Level 2: Ages 5 and up, have passed Level 1.
Level 3: Skaters who have passed Level 2.
Level 4: Skaters who have passed Level 3.

FIGURE SKATER PRACTICE (\$5-\$10)

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

Tuesdays, Thursdays 2:30–5:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, Fridays 6–7:30 a.m.

Saturdays 6:15–7:45 a.m.

Sundays 8–9:30 p.m.

ADULT OPEN HOCKEY (\$5)

Join others, ages 18+, on Monday evenings. Bring your own hockey equipment. Helmets required. 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. Check website or call for current schedule. Helmets mandatory for those under age 18.

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; check website or call for current schedule. Rental skates available for \$4 per pair.

OPEN BROOMBALL (\$5/player)

On Sunday nights join other players, ages 17+, on our 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. Check website or call for current schedule.

Join us for Hockey Fest, the BIGGEST fundraiser of the year for the Boys and Girls hockey programs! There will be food, games, mascot appearances, a bounce house, silent auction, and more. Support the youngest skaters, have some fun family time, and enjoy great hockey!

HOCKEY FEST

Guest Appearances!
Say "Hi", Get an autograph,
give a high five, take a picture!

- 11am-Noon: Goldy Gopher
- Noon-1pm: Wes Walz
(former MN Wild player & FSN announcer)
- 12:30-1:30pm: Nordy
from MN Wild

Bounce House
Chuck-A-Puck
Face Painting
50/50 Raffle
Silent Auction

FREE! FREE! FREE!

FEBRUARY 17 - 8AM TO 6PM
COTTAGE GROVE ICE ARENA
8020 80TH STREET SOUTH

For more information call 651-458-3400



RECREATION NEWS

Hockey Skills Competition | Spend the day competing in the 12th Annual Youth Hockey Skills Competition! Youth hockey players are welcome to 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 awarded for fastest skater, long range shooting, shooting accuracy, breakaway contest, superman slide, stick-handling drill. Prizes and lunch will take place at the end of the day. Register in the office the day of the event.

Ages: 9 to 14

Date: Feb. 19

Time: 9 a.m.–noon

Location: Ice Arena, 8020 80th Street S.

Cost: \$12 (skater) | \$5 (goalie)

Upcoming Recreation Events

- **Kid Fest**, April 7, 9 a.m. – noon, Ice Arena
No entrance fee, visit with more than 40 area vendors and learn about summer programs for youth. Activities for kids at the event
- **Egg Hunt**, March 24, 9 a.m., Ice Arena
\$7 per ticket
- **Spring Break**, March 26 – 30, Peter Thompson Park
Fun events scheduled daily, cost per day \$21 to \$34
- **Supervised Playground**, registration now open

Visit www.cottage-grove.org/recreation for more information or to register for events