



Cottage Grove Reports

Here's How You Can Conserve Water and Save Money

Green Garden Competition is Back!



The City is now accepting nominations for our annual Green Garden Awards. We'll take submissions through August 5th, visit homes and businesses the following week (while ensuring proper social distancing measures), and announce and recognize our winners on August 19th. You'll find details on the categories and nomination process at cottagegrovemn.gov/greengarden.

You're Eligible for a Discounted Smart Irrigation Controller

The City of Cottage Grove, in partnership with the South Washington Watershed District, have a limited supply of smart irrigation controllers available for residents to purchase. The price is \$35, which is a small fraction of the retail value. To learn more and to apply to receive a Rachio 3 Smart system, please visit cottagegrovemn.gov/savewater.

It's that time of the year again. Our children are home for summer break, you start pumping a lot of water to create that lush green lawn; it all adds up to everyone using more water. So what does the City do to preserve this precious resource?

Aside from planting native prairie grasses in boulevards (that don't need irrigation) holding stormwater for use on River Oaks Golf Course, and working with Home Owner Associations on irrigation audits, the City continues to use a DNR-mandated "tiered" water billing system. The more you use, the higher rate you pay, which is broken down below. Also, the City wants to provide a friendly reminder regarding watering restrictions. **Lawn watering is not allowed between the hours of noon and 4 p.m. Also, odd-numbered homes can only water on odd-numbered days and even-numbered homes may only water on even-numbered days.** There is no watering allowed on the 31st of the month, when applicable.

Residential Usage Charge (per month)

- Up to 6,000 gallons - \$1.05 per 1,000 gallons
- 6,001 to 9,000 gallons - \$1.58 per 1,000 gallons
- 9,001 to 12,000 gallons - \$2.36 per 1,000 gallons
- More than 12,001 gallons - \$3.54 per 1,000 gallons

* 63% of Cottage Grove residents use less than 6,000 gallons of water per month!



Top 9 Water Conservation Practices to Help you Save Money

1. Do not leave water running when brushing teeth, shaving or washing dishes.
2. Only run the dishwasher and washer when they are full.
3. Repair leaky toilets, water softeners and faucets, both indoors and outdoors.
4. Install faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads.
5. Water your lawns only when necessary. Once or twice a week watering encourages deeper root growth. Also, aim sprinklers carefully so water only lands on lawns and plants, not pavement.
6. Install a smart irrigation controller, never irrigate during periods of sufficient rainfall and have your system checked once a year for leaks.
7. When mowing your lawn, set the mower blades to 2-3 inches high to improve moisture retention.
8. Install a rain barrel with a screened container to prevent mosquito growth. Use the contents for outdoor watering.
9. Turn water off to outside spigots when not in use to prevent house connections and garden nozzles from leaking.

A Message from Public Safety Director Pete Koerner



To those we serve,

There has been significant local and national discussion about police reform following the horrific death of George Floyd. The Cottage Grove Police Department wants to be part of those discussions with everyone who lives and works in our City. In fact, we have been engaged in several of those local conversations in the past couple of weeks.

Our officers are proud to serve you and I am extremely proud of our City's Police Department and its employees. Are we perfect? Absolutely not. No one is. We can always improve, and we are not just committed to hearing from everyone, we are focused on listening to everyone. Do we exceed state standards in training, service and professionalism while leading the way in community policing and engagement? I can say with great confidence that we do. In fact, we tried to sum up our mission in a few, brief sentences:

“The Cottage Grove Police Department (CGPD) works in partnership with the residents and business owners we serve to provide immediate and compassionate public safety services, ensuring a high quality of life for everyone who lives and works in the City of Cottage Grove. The CPGD is committed to adhering to the highest ethical and professional standards of our profession, creating a culture reflective of the community we serve. Our Department is dedicated to continually building public trust through community policing and updated and improved training. We are honored to serve as guardians in our community, upholding the values we all hold dear.”

A lot of what is being discussed in other municipalities has been part of our practices and procedures for months and years. We hope you feel we've demonstrated our commitment to immediate, professional and transparent service. Here's a small sample:

Training:

- Officers far exceed the 3-year, 48-hour State minimum for training
- Use of Force training occurs annually
- In-Service Training includes “Crisis Intervention and Mental Illness Crises,” “Conflict Management and Mediation,” “Recognizing and Valuing Community Diversity” and “Cultural Differences” (including implicit bias training)
- Officers receive significant education regarding autism awareness, trauma informed response and emotional support opportunities for officers

Accountability:

- Residents have easy access to file complaints or pass along compliments on the City's website
- Every “Use of Force” report must be reviewed by a Sergeant and the Training Team and is tracked in our database

Community Engagement:

- Dozens of Night to Unite gatherings and annual Police Open House
- COVID-19 birthday parades
- Strawberry Fest and Holiday Train
- Rides to school for PTA fund raisers
- Daycare and preschool visits
- Pink Patch Project
- Free Dairy Queen vouchers for kids wearing bike helmets
- Regular business and park checks
- SoWashCares meal distribution
- Lights On! program (instead of tickets, free vouchers to repair broken head and taillights)

We have a lot to be proud of and a lot to build upon for the future. We can't wait to listen to you, and work with you, as we move forward together. Finally, we can't thank you enough for your continued input and support.

Sincerely,

Public Safety Director Pete Koerner
pkoerner@cottagegrovemn.gov
 (651) 458-6003

Grilling Safety Tips from CGFD

1. Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors. Do not grill in the garage if it's raining.
2. Keep your grill well away from the home and deck railings. Also, make sure it's out from under eaves and tree branches.
3. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
4. Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grill and the trays below the grill.
5. Never leave your grill unattended.

DARTS Bus Loop Drivers Ready to Serve More Riders



While it's not back up to full service, DARTS bus employees have found a way to safely increase rider capacity in the coming weeks. Recently, only one person was allowed on the bus, but in conjunction with the phasing plan instituted by the Governor and the

State, four riders at a time are now allowed to take advantage of this weekly, \$3 service. Riders must practice social distancing. It should also be noted that normal ridership levels allow for 16 riders at a time. The circulator operates every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., making five one hour loops that feature 10 different stops (including Hy-Vee, Cub, Target, Walmart and Allina Clinic). For more information, contact DARTS at 651-455-1560. The loop is sponsored by Renewal by Andersen and Allina.

You Have Options Regarding “Door to Door” Solicitors

With warmer weather there's usually an increase in the number of door-to-door sales people. While the City generally cannot prohibit people from trying to sell you something, you have the right to prohibit them by posting a “No Peddlers or Solicitors” sign, by telling them you are not interested, or by simply not answering the door. Companies and individuals must be licensed or registered with the City and carry a copy of their certificate when they go door-to-door (exceptions include persons disseminating information considered to be protected free speech, which may include fundraising, or certain sales by persons under 18 years of age, such as Girl Scout cookies). While licensed or registered companies and individuals undergo basic background checks, this shouldn't be considered an endorsement of the products or services they're selling. Always take appropriate precautions whenever you enter into a business transaction.

No Peddlers or Solicitors Signs



If you do not want to be contacted by peddlers or solicitors, you can cut out and post this sign in a visible location at the main entrance of your home, such as the inside of a storm door or a sidelight. Some quick tips are located on the back of the sign. Optional: To let kids under 18 doing fundraising for their church, school, club, or other organization know they're still welcome, you can leave the bottom green section of the sign attached.



HERO Center Shooting Range Open to the Public



The state-of-the-art HERO Training Center Shooting Range is now open to the public. 12, 50-yard lanes are available on the weekends, between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sundays. Staff members encourage you to visit herocentermn.org/shooting-range to reserve lanes, fill out waiver forms and find pricing. Walk-ins will be accepted, but again, avoid waiting in line by reserving your lane online. If you're looking for more information, you can also call 651-458-2811. The HERO Center, 10125 85th Street, is jointly owned and operated by the cities of Cottage Grove and Woodbury.

PEDDLER AND SOLICITOR QUICK TIPS

Generally, if someone you did not invite is going door-to-door trying to sell you something:

1. They should be carrying a license or registration certificate issued by the City of Cottage Grove.
2. They should not be contacting residents where this sign is posted.

EXCEPTIONS

The following persons are exempt from these requirements:

Persons under 18 years of age selling items from a school or organization that they belong to (example: Girl Scout Cookies)

Persons disseminating information considered to be protected free speech (Example: Politicians, Religious Groups)



**River Oaks Golf Course
& Event Center
11099 South
Highway 61
Phone: 651-438-2121**

Open Driving Range—For the time being, instead of buying range balls by the bucket, range slots are paid for by the hour with unlimited balls! Balls are ensured to be clean and sanitized. Come out and practice your swing, you probably need to!

Social Distancing Wedding— Don't delay your wedding ceremony! River Oaks is now offering Social Distancing Weddings based on new guidelines! Visit our website to find out about our procedures and guidelines and to request your date!

Summer Golf Lessons—Summer golf lessons at River Oaks start up in June. We offer lessons geared towards adults, women, and juniors. Whether you are new to the game or just looking to brush up on your swing, we have a lesson for you. Visit our website for dates and times.

Monday Golf Special—We want to say thank you to hospitality workers, first responders, health care workers, & teachers with this special just for them. Pay \$37 plus tax for 18 hole round with cart and save \$16 on your round! If you are in these industries, enjoy this special every Monday, all day long. Call the golf shop at (651) 438-2121 x1 to reserve your tee time!