



# Cottage Grove Reports

## Two “Cone Zones” You Need to be Aware of this Summer

### Absentee Voting Available for Primary and General Elections

In person voting at our polling places for the 2020 primary and general elections in August and November will still take place. You will likely see additional safety measures and potentially longer waits due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Voters who are not comfortable voting in person, or who would otherwise like to avoid polling places on Election Day, have the option to cast their votes via absentee ballot through the mail. Since 2014, the State of Minnesota has allowed no excuse absentee voting, meaning you can vote via absentee ballot even if you would otherwise be able to vote in person on Election Day. To find the online absentee ballot application, go to [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org). If you would like more information or to have the absentee ballot application sent to you by mail, you can contact Washington Co. Elections at 651-430-6175 .



Crews have started two major roadway construction projects in the City of Cottage Grove. Portions of 80th Street will be closed periodically to motorists throughout the summer, between Keats and Jamaica Avenues while the roadway is being fully reconstructed. Construction crews will also improve the storm sewer, repair the water main and sanitary sewer, replace streetlights, repair the curb and gutter and build a new pedestrian/bike trail on the south side of the road. Construction should wrap up in the fall. For more information on the project visit [www.cottagegrovemn.gov/80th](http://www.cottagegrovemn.gov/80th). The webpage also lists the project hotline and email address.



The other major project the City would like motorists to be aware of is the regrading and paving work crews will be completing on West Point Douglas Road between Jamaica Avenue and Belden Boulevard this summer. The work is expected to be complete by the end of August, weather permitting. Access will continue to remain open for businesses, but all drivers in the area should be on the lookout for lane closures and traffic shifts throughout the life of the project. For more details on this project, and for the project hotline phone number and email address, visit [www.cottagegrovemn.gov/WPD](http://www.cottagegrovemn.gov/WPD).



## New Water Treatment Plant Coming Online Soon

In a few weeks, the City’s new, temporary water treatment plant near Hillside Trail will come online. It was fully funded by the State of Minnesota through the 3M Consent Order. The plant ensures the City continues to meet water needs as engineers work on a long-term water plan with the State, through the consent order.





### Coming Soon! CGFD Ready for New Aerial Truck

The Cottage Grove Fire Department will have a new addition by the end of the month (fingers crossed). We're talking about a piece of equipment that will save lives and improve firefighter safety. This 102-foot aerial truck was custom built by Rosenbauer America, based in Wyoming, MN. The aerial portion was actually added in Kearney, Nebraska before the rig was shipped back to the northern suburb for completion. COVID did cause some delays, but the hope is to have the truck inside Central Fire Station by the end of June or early July. The aerial bucket, which can accommodate more than one firefighter, will help CGFD save precious time compared to having a rescuer climb up a ladder, quickly allowing our first responders to reach new heights in rescue ability and safety.



## City Employees Make Adjustments to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19



Following state guidelines, the City of Cottage Grove opened up City Hall and our Public Safety lobby on June 1st. Employees continue to encourage residents to call or pay their bills online to limit face-to-face interactions and prevent the spread of COVID-19. A drop box also remains in the front vestibule for anyone wishing to drop off building permit applications and payments. Regardless, visitors will notice some big changes in the building, including the transparent barrier that has been added to the counter area to help protect you and City employees.

A similar partition has also been added at our Public Works Department. We are asking people to stay home if they're sick and we also ask visitors to practice social distancing and avoid congregating. Sanitizer will be readily available and our staff members will constantly wipe down surfaces. Finally, the City Council began meeting in person in June; the Council Chambers has been configured to provide 6 feet of space for elected officials, staff and a small number of public participants.



### COVID Cancelled Arbor Day Party but Public Works Delivers



On Friday, May 29, Public Works crews were spread throughout the City, delivering free, bare root trees to the first 90 residents who applied. We apologize to the homeowners that weren't in the first 90 but we certainly appreciate your help in keeping the City's tree canopy healthy for years to come. Unfortunately, our annual Arbor Day event at City Hall was cancelled this year due to state social distancing requirements and efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, but we hope to be back in 2021!



## Cottage Grove's Ongoing Response to EAB



The City of Cottage Grove is in year 10 of 12 of our current Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan. As part of that plan, we will be continuing our Voluntary Ash Replacement Program. Residents with ash trees on their boulevard are encouraged to participate if they would like to replace their ash tree and help the city in reaching our goals to reduce ash population and diversify the urban forest. Residents can find more information at <https://docs.cottagegrovemn.gov/forms/ashborer>.

For private ash trees, we will be continuing our partnership with Rainbow Treecare to provide residents with a discounted rate to protect valuable trees from infestation. Information on the Rainbow Treecare Discount Protection Rate can be found by visiting <https://www.rainbowtreecare.com/emerald-ash-borer/city-partnerships/cottage-grove>.

Keep an eye out in your back yard and neighborhood for signs of EAB such as increased woodpecker activity, bark cracking, or decline in the overall health of ash canopy. If you notice any of these signs, please contact Public Works at 651-458-2808 so we can manage this pest effectively. More information can be found at <https://www.cottagegrovemn.gov/eab>.



## Advertising at the Cottage Grove Ice Arena

The Cottage Grove Ice Arena is the most heavily trafficked spectator facility in the City of Cottage Grove. Get the most marketing value for your dollar now by displaying your message to the thousands of patrons at the Cottage Grove Ice Arena. Call and talk with Jordan at 651-458-3415 or log on to <https://www.cottagegrovemn.gov> for more information and a full brochure with advertising/pricing options. Ice and Turf are also for rent. Please call 651-458-3400 to schedule.





# PARKS AND RECREATION

For more information call  
651-458-3400

## Kayak Rentals at Hazen P. Mooer Park are Now Open

Parks & Recreation is pleased to announce a new kayak rental program that debuted on May 23rd and will be continuing throughout the Summer. All of the information you need for a fun and successful kayak rental outing can be found at <https://www.cottagegrovemn.gov/kayakrental>. The website features a video, a link to the registration website, rental rules, and links for information on current water levels and the weather. Also featured are kayak rental tips like the importance of accessing your rental locker on time, never sharing your locker access, and being prepared to sanitize gear due to COVID-19.



## River Oaks Golf Course & Event Center 11099 South Highway 61

**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 date! River Oaks is now offering Social Distancing Weddings based on new guidelines! Visit our website to find out more information on 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!