



Cottage Grove Reports

The Community Center Conversation Begins with You

Seasonal Job Opportunities
Go to our website for more information about the positions and how to apply!



Street Sweeping and Hydrant Flushing Starts in April

Crews will begin sweeping streets the week of **April 8, 2019**, weather permitting. Residents should sweep sand from their boulevards on to the street before crews clean the streets. Please park your vehicles in driveways so sweeping can be completed curb- to-curb without missing any areas.

Hydrant flushing will also begin the week of **April 8, 2019**, weather permitting. The flushing may discolor the water briefly, but it is safe to drink. Also, the water may stain fabrics so residents should check for signs of discoloration before using their water to wash clothes. If water is discolored, run all cold taps until it is clear. Public Works recommends homeowners flush out the taps in their home at the same time water main flushing is done since iron deposits tend to also build up in residential lines. If you have questions about street sweeping or hydrant flushing please call Public Works at 651-458-2808.

Over the course of the next several months, you're going to hear a lot about the possibility of the City building a Community Center. There have been many discussions in the past, but this year's public outreach will be unprecedented. We want your voice and we need your input before we, as a community, decide if this is the time to add a destination recreation center in the Cottage Grove for all ages. At this point, City staff members are engaging in a feasibility study and wrapping up market analysis. The City will make every effort to listen, study, and recruit funding partners before putting the idea on the November ballot through a referendum question.

Why? In 2017, the City of Cottage Grove undertook an ambitious public outreach plan driven by one fundamental question: "What one wish do you have for the future of Cottage Grove?" 3,729 community members responded. The "My Future Cottage Grove" study revealed the strong desire for a Community Center. A Volunteer Task Force, made up of more than two dozen community members and city staffers, spent 2018 confirming the community's wishes while prioritizing leisure needs and comparing them to existing amenities and services already available in the City. Task force members also visited other metro-area community centers and studied their books.

Who? The residents of Cottage Grove. In short, taxpayers, voters, residents and their families. Also, potential community

partners who would share construction and operating costs.

What? A Community Center that would need to be approved by the community and built for the community. The City really needs to hear from residents!
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What's Included? You decide!

On the City's Facebook Page or on the website at www.cottagegrovemn.gov/communitycenter you'll be choosing from the following options:

- Indoor Pool (could include lap pool, zero entry children's pool, teen water elements and/or water aerobics)
- Community Rooms and Common Space (could include learning lab, learning kitchen and/or multi-purpose community rooms/birthday rooms)
- Multi-purpose Senior Programming
- Early Childhood Family Education Programming
- Fitness Center (yoga room, weights and/or cardio)
- Indoor Playground
- Gymnasium (2 court or 3 court)
- Performance Space (small stage and/or tiered seating area)
- Outdoor Park Space (could include splash pad, lawn bowling, and/or outdoor playground)
- Sports Bubble/Indoor Walking
- I won't use any of these facilities

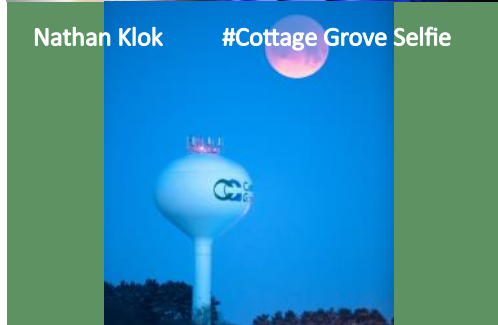
2018 Photo Contest Winners



Billy Henk Cottage Grove Outside



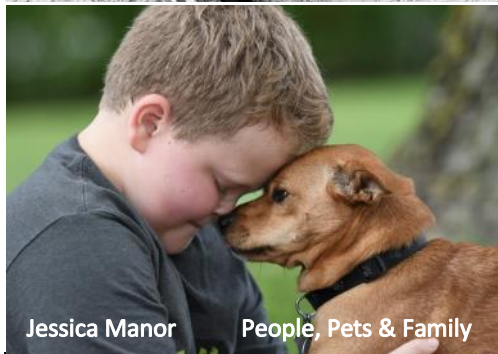
Jull Holm Celebrations & Events



Nathan Klok #Cottage Grove Selfie



Colton Kalka Youth



Jessica Manor People, Pets & Family



Melissa Soto People, Pets & Family

Community Center Conversation Begins with You (Continued)

Go to www.cottagegrovemn.gov/communitycenter to vote on exactly what amenities, if any, you'd like to see. You can also participate through the City's Facebook poll. See the sample insert on page 1.

Where? That's a great question. The City is looking at a few potential locations, and we hope to share some options soon. A lot will depend on potential partner involvement and upcoming discussions. We'll definitely keep you updated and posted as the studies and conversations continue!

When? If we're talking about the discussion, then the answer is now. Currently, city staff members and civic leaders are interacting with community organizations and residents to gather feedback. Public outreach is just beginning, and in the coming months,

the City and its architect (locally-based Leo A Daly) will narrow in on a site, refine capital costs and develop operational and financial analysis. A referendum question with the exact details may emerge in August before voters make the final decision in early November. There will be dozens of opportunities for residents to weigh-in with each step.

How? The biggest question you may be asking is "how much"? That's what this process will determine. What do residents want the City to build? Who is partnering on the project? How much will it cost to build and/or operate? We know this is an extremely important question, and we'll keep you updated in person, online and through social media, as the City receives results throughout the feasibility study.

Celebrate Arbor Day with a Free Tree

The first 150 people attending the Arbor Day Celebration at City Hall on Tuesday, April 23 at 5:00 pm will receive a free, bare root ornamental tree (one tree per residence, must provide proof of City residency). The celebration will also include a ceremonial tree planting at 5:30 and an Emerald Ash Borer Open House beginning at 6:00. We look forward to seeing you there!



Volunteer of the Year Nominations



Last year's Volunteer of the Year Justin Fox with City Council Members

The City of Cottage Grove is now accepting nominations for its annual Volunteer of the Year Award, which honors and recognizes individuals that demonstrate remarkable community service over the past year. Nomination forms are available online at www.cottagegrovemn.gov; just search "Volunteer of the Year". The deadline for nominations is March 22, 2019.

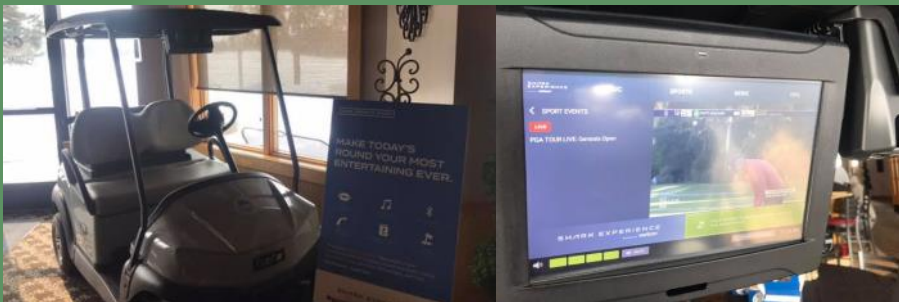
RIVER OAKS GOLF CLUB

New Carts Equipped with the Shark Experience

For the upcoming golf season, River Oaks is excited to introduce new golf carts that will feature the Shark Experience! This new feature, made available through a wireless network, provides the golfer with a touchscreen display featuring built-in speakers with Bluetooth connectivity.

The Experience allows you to stream your favorite songs, check on the score of your favorite team, or even watch games and tournaments live from the comfort of the cart. It also comes with golf game improvement features including golf tips from Greg Norman, flyovers on every hole, yardage distances to hazards and the hole and an interactive scorecard.

These features will be free for the first hole so golfers can see what the Shark Experience can do. On the second tee box, golfers can choose to pay to continue using the "Experience" for the remainder of the round or opt-out. There will be three different content packages to choose from that range from \$5 to \$10 per round. When the round is complete, a copy of your final bill will be sent by a text right to your cell phone.



2019 golf memberships and diving range passes are now available! Want details on lessons? Log on to riveroaksmunigolf.com for more information. Leagues are also forming! Business League Mondays and a Couples' League on Tuesday are two new clubs we're running. We'll also host a Friday afternoon 9 hole men's club too. Looking forward to seeing you on the links!

EAGLES BAR & GRILL

- Lent Fish Fry every Friday beginning March 8 through April 19
- Prime Rib every Saturday along with our full menu
- Offering Buy One Get One 1/2 Off on all Signature 1/2 Pound Burgers only on Saturdays from 3 to 9
- Family Friendly St. Patrick's Day Party featuring Corned Beef & Cabbage, plus fun and games for all, on March 16 from 3 to 9
- Easter Brunch reservations open up on March 18
- Cider Dinner Featuring Sociable Cider Werks on March 23 at 6:30 pm. Must pre-register online and be 21 years old or older to attend



**Buy 1
Entree Get
1 Entree
Free**

*Only Valid on Saturdays March 9-April 20.
Value up to \$15.99. Not valid with any other offers or coupons. Expires April 20, 2019

Deadline Approaching for City's Business Façade Improvement Program

If you're a business or commercial property owner and you want to spruce up your exterior this spring, we might have quite a deal for you. The City has \$25,000 in matching grant funds available for business owners considering façade improvement projects. The Economic Development Authority will disperse the grant money

among the chosen applicants. The deadline to apply is April 1. What types of projects are eligible and who can apply? You'll find all the details, including the application form, on the City's website. Once you've logged on, click on the Economic Development Department tab on the top of the site. Good luck business owners!

PARKS AND RECREATION

For more information call 651-458-3400

Easter Egg Hunt

Our popular event will be held at Woodridge Park's Inclusive Playground on Saturday, April 13 at 10 and 11 am. Admission includes 10 eggs redeemable for a prize, pictures with the Easter Bunny (bring your own camera) and cookies and juice. Anyone collecting eggs will need to purchase a \$5 admission ticket. Registration is limited to 100 kids per session. Admission may not be available the day of this event if it's sold out. Admission check-in and day of tickets will be sold 20 minutes before each Egg Hunt.

Rec Works—Youth Volunteer Training

This program is a must for anyone interested in volunteering to help during our summer playground programs. Youth will learn about volunteer expectations and summer programs/events and a training packet and 2019 recreation shirt will be provided. Let us know which park (Hamlet, Peter Thompson or Pine Tree Valley) and which shifts you would like to help out on when you arrive at the training. Shifts are: 8:30-12 pm or 12:30-4:00 pm. This event is for ages 12-16 on Sunday, June 3 from 9 to 12 pm at the Cottage Grove Ice Arena and costs \$30.

2019 Summer Softball

Men's and Co-ed leagues feature doubleheader games played between 6 and 10 p.m. at the Lamar Softball Complex. Registration will be accepted "first come, first served" with the final registration application date set for April 15. Call 651-458-3400 or go to www.cottagegrovemn.gov to register.

- Wednesday Night Men's League: \$500/team
- Thursday Night Co-Ed League: \$470/team

Summer Employment Opportunities

Currently seeking applicants for the following positions:

- Playground Leader
- Parks Maintenance Workers
- Landscape and Forestry Internships
- Ice Arena Office Assistant

Mud Run

Join Woodbury and Cottage Grove Parks and Recreation as we partner to offer the annual Kids Race Series. Participants must be between 6-12 years old. They'll receive a t-shirt and drink at each race. Arrive anytime between 9-10 am on Saturday, June 1. Racers run in waves as the course clears. The kids will be climbing, jumping, sliding, and running their way through obstacles around the park and they end with a crawl through the mud pit. It is strongly advised to bring an additional set of clothes for after the race. The last group runs at 10 am. You can pre-register to secure your spot; day of registrations will be accepted if space is available. The cost is \$25.

Cottage Grove Ice Skating School Lessons

Spring Sessions – February 18 through April 22, 2019 (please call for details)

Summer Session – June 10 through August 12.

New this year \$2 skate rentals.

Limited quantities available.

Register online at www.cottagegrovemn.gov or by calling the Ice Arena Office at 651-458-3400

Get Rid of Your Food Scraps by Composting



The Washington County Environmental Center is offering a new and exciting organics drop-off program! Starter kits will be offered to residents who sign up for the notification system and include a 2-gallon kitchen collection

pail with locking lid and handle, 10 compostable bags, a list of acceptable items and stickers to post in your home. Once your containers are full, residents can drop off bagged food scraps at the environmental center during normal business hours. Sign up and learn more at: <https://www.co.washington.mn.us/organics>.