



Cottage Grove Reports

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Ribbon Cutting: Bella Pizza
- Ribbon Cutting: York Law Firm
- Capture Cottage Grove Photo Contest
- Eagles Bar and Grill Specials
- Holiday Events at River Oaks
- Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Winter Lights and Decoration Contest
- Holiday Train Arrives Dec. 9
- Ice Arena Events
- Recreation Events
- Ernest Gillman Artist of the Month

2018 Tax Levy and Budget

The preliminary 2018 property tax levy and operating budget was adopted on Sept. 6.

The 2018 property tax levy of \$15.2 million is a 3 percent increase from the 2017 levy. Despite this increase, an increase in City-wide tax base will result in most City residents paying the same amount in City property tax in 2018 as they did in 2017.

Property specific notices will be mailed to all residences in November with comparisons of proposed property taxes by jurisdiction and year (2018 vs. 2017). Residents are encouraged to review these notices and attend the public information sessions identified by each taxing entity to find out more about their 2018 property taxes.

Prior to a law change in 2008, these meetings were known as "Truth in Taxation" hearings. The City's information meeting will be held Wednesday Dec. 6, as part of the City Council meeting that begins at 7 p.m. The 2018 City budget and final levy adoption will occur after the informational meeting.

My Future Cottage Grove

What Residents Want For Cottage Grove's Future Revealed at Launch Party



A year ago a community visioning project called My Future Cottage Grove began, facilitated by Rebecca Ryan of Next Generation Consulting. During the course of the year residents had an opportunity to share their thoughts, concerns, hopes, and dreams for the future of Cottage Grove. At the end, 3,729 comments were received.

On Oct. 25, a My Future Cottage Grove launch party was held to hear directly from Rebecca Ryan the recommendations that resulted from the community's input.

See what happened at the launch party by watching the presentation online: <https://youtu.be/2FDtCyednDo>

The seven recommendations for Cottage Grove are:

1. **Establish a COMMUNITY CENTER task force to study residents' preferences and develop options for a community center.** Among all groups studied in this initiative, a community center with a pool was among the top three wishes for the future of the city.
2. **Launch a FOOD AND FUN FESTIVAL to celebrate the community's diversity and next generation.** Park High School students poignantly observed that although there is a great deal of diversity in their school, they don't see it reflected in the community. Students of colors and those from other countries feel that the community could do more to celebrate diversity.

3. **Ambitiously program JOSEPH LA BATH SETTLER'S ISLAND and the adjacent (non-island) greenspace for all ages.** Settler's Island is a 3-acre island in the Mississippi River near Grey Cloud Island that the City acquired in 2015. It has potential to be transformational for Cottage Grove. It could serve the recreational interests of residents and, as importantly, attract guests from out of town, who can help boost demand for restaurants and retail.
4. **Develop a HOUSING PLAN that reflects what Cottage Grove is becoming.** Cottage Grove has been a traditional suburb with single-family homes on large lots for a long time. Now, with changing demographics, the housing mix needs to change to include housing for senior citizens, smaller homes or more rentals, as well as traditional single-family homes.

continued on page 2





Capture Cottage Grove
PHOTO Contest Entries Due 12/29
Winning photos receive \$50! Learn more at <http://bit.ly/2ewB0eR> or email communications@cottage-grove.org



Eagles Bar & Grill

3-9 pm Fridays and Saturdays

Happy Hour 3-5:30 pm

Full Menu

Special Features:

Fish Fry on Fridays

Prime Rib on Saturdays

Special Offer!

FREE APPETIZER

One free appetizer with the purchase of one of our popular nightly specials. One coupon per table. Not valid with any other specials or offers. Expires 12/2/17

Located at River Oaks Golf Course and Event Center
11099 Highway 61 S.

continued from page 2

- 5. Improve pedestrian safety and CONNECTION TO PARKS.** Complete streets should be added to the city's growth plan. Complete streets are designed and operated to enable safer access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders. Together, complete streets and connection to parks make the community feel accessible to all residents and increase the city's livability for all ages and abilities.
- 6. Continue to test and use DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT TOOLS with residents.** My Future Cottage Grove demonstrated that residents are engaged. As the city moves forward, engaging residents in novel ways and with new technologies will continue to be important.
- 7. Engage residents to attract and launch RETAIL and RESTAURANTS.** More retail and more restaurants are among the top wishes from residents for the future. Unfortunately, until Cottage Grove reaches a greater population,

it won't be on the radar screen for most national chains. This creates an opening for locally-owned or niche retailers.

How You Can Get Involved

Citizen committees are being formed to begin work on the initiatives. If you'd like to get involved with any of the seven recommendations, fill out an interest form available on the City's website: <http://bit.ly/2iEYRkk> and City staff will be in contact with you.

View photos from the evening's event on the City's Flickr page: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsm71amzn>

Read the entire My Future Cottage Grove report online (<http://bit.ly/MFCGreport>), or pick one up at City Hall.



Bella Pizza Celebrates Opening of New Location

A ribbon cutting on Oct. 17 celebrated the grand opening of Bella Pizza's new location at 7155 80th Street S., Suite 160 (strip mall next to Dairy Queen). Hours are Sunday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to midnight. Lunch hours are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call them at 651-769-8355 or visit their website www.bellapizzanow.com.

View the video of the ribbon cutting: <https://youtu.be/9kAsF46ZnTo>



York Law Firm Opens in Cottage Grove

York Law Firm is owned by attorney and Cottage Grove resident Amy York. The firm is located in the Rise Professional Building at 8617 West Point Douglas Road. York specializes in estate planning, estate administration and business law transactions and litigation. The phone number is 651-337-6767. Learn more at www.yorklawmn.com.



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Holiday Fun at River Oaks Event Center

River Oaks Golf and Events Center
11099 Highway 61 South
651-438-2121
www.riveroaksmunigolf.com

Friendsgiving Nov. 17 * 5–8 pm

Gather those you're thankful for and enjoy a family-style turkey dinner. We'll clean and decorate, you sit back and enjoy! \$19.99/person or \$159.92 for table of eight (includes two bottles of wine). RSVP sschuler@cottagegrove.org or call 651-438-2121.

Holiday Handmade Sip & Shop Dec. 2 * 10 am–2 pm

Finish your holiday shopping at the Sip & Shop event. Multiple crafters and vendors in one spot make it easy to shop many small businesses! Want to be a vendor? Contact Crafty Corgi Events at 651-263-6050.

Santa Brunch

Dec. 10 * 9 am–1 pm

Visit the website or call 651-438-2121 to make a reservation or for more information.

Holiday Gift Cards

Looking for a holiday gift card? River Oaks offers holiday gift cards for your special friends and family. Call or purchase online.

Tree Lighting Ceremony

Dec. 6 * 5:45 pm

Kids can help flip the switch to light the City's tree for the holiday season!

This tradition includes hot apple cider, holiday cookies, Park High School Choir caroling entertainment, and Santa and Mrs. Claus arriving on the fire truck.

The event begins at 5:45 pm, with the countdown to light the tree at 6 p.m. Santa will arrive on the firetruck before the countdown begins.

Be sure to go inside City Hall to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, have your photo taken, and get a candy cane.

The evening's City Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and everyone is encouraged to stay and learn more about city government.

Winter Lights and Decoration Contest

Nominations due Nov. 27

Judging from Nov. 28 to Dec. 5

Winners announced Dec. 6

Entries will be judged on holiday spirit, overall appearance, theme and use of LED lights. To qualify, nominees must be located in Cottage Grove with displays visible from the street.

Nominate yourself or a neighbor by calling 651-458-3404 or via email mpietruszewski@cottage-grove.org or online at <http://bit.ly/2ge41B2>

This contest is presented in partnership with South Washington County Bulletin.

Holiday Train

Dec. 9 * 5:15 pm arrival
4:30 pm festivities begin

The train will stop along West Point Douglas Road, just south of the 80th Street Bridge (across from the Youth Service Bureau).

Free hot beverages, cookies and glo-sticks for kids, while supplies last.

In celebration of 15 years in Cottage Grove, several new features have been added to this year's event.

- The Holiday Train Festival of Trees: Presented by the City's Arts Commission. Sponsor and decorate an Evergreen tree for only \$250. More info: <http://bit.ly/2gE047Z>
- Spectacular Laser Light Show and Luminaries: Sponsored by 3M Cottage Grove.
- Brats and Hot Dogs grilled by the Cottage Grove Lions Club will be available for purchase. Food from Mountain Mike's will also be available to purchase.

All cash and personal care items collected at the stop go directly to the local Friends in Need Food Shelf that serves residents of Cottage Grove, Grey Cloud Island, Newport, and St. Paul Park. The goal this year is to raise \$90,000.

Additional Holiday Train fundraising events:

- **Loaves of Holiday Bread** sold at several churches in November
- **Cub Foods Grocery Bagging, Nov. 19**
Cub Foods, 8690 E. Point Douglas Road

Cottage Grove Winter Parking Reminder: Winter parking rules are in effect Nov. 1 through March 31. No on-street parking between 2 and 6 a.m. is allowed whether or not it is snowing. The registered owner of any vehicle parked on the street during this time may be issued a citation. The vehicle may also be towed at the owner's expense. Parking is allowed on the street at all other times if the vehicle does not interfere with the removal of ice and snow from the street.

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. Please come prepared with: sharpened, leather, single blade hockey or figure skates; warm and comfortable clothing including mittens; and a bike/hockey helmet if skater is age 5 or younger. Call for more information.

Dates: Nov. 27 to Feb. 11 (Winter Session)

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.

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

ADULT OPEN HOCKEY (\$5)

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

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. Please check website or call for current schedule.

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

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

Tuesdays 2:30–5:30 p.m.
Wednesdays 6–7:30 a.m.
Thursdays 2:30–5:30 p.m.
Fridays 6–7:30 a.m.
Saturdays 6:15–7:45 a.m.
Sundays 8–9:30 p.m.

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

Display your message to the thousands of patrons at the Ice Arena.
Call 651-458-3415 or visit the website for a full brochure with pricing options.

RECREATION NEWS

GRAND SLAM!

No school? No problem! Spend the day with the Recreation staff at Grand Slam in Burnsville. Enjoy unlimited laser tag, bumper cars, miniature golf, and batting cages. Everyone also receives four game tokens, hotdog and a small pop. Additional concessions are available for purchase or bring a cold lunch. Pre-registration is required.

Ages: 5 and older

Date: Dec. 1

Time: 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Grand Slam

Place: Meet at Peter Thompson Park

Cost: \$35

HIRING WARMING HOUSE ATTENDANTS

Supervise warming houses and outdoor skating rinks at various city parks.

Apply by Dec. 5. Interviews will be Dec. 12 with training on Dec. 19.

Salary: \$9.50 per hour

Hours: 4–8 p.m. weekdays and
Noon–8 p.m. weekends

Dates: Positions run from Dec. 26 through March 2018

Must be at least age 16 to apply. Find more information, including application, on the city's website.

November Arts Commission Artist of the Month is Ernest Gillman

Gillman is a visual arts artist from Cottage Grove artist who began sketching as a child.

For years, Gillman focused on still life drawings of everyday objects—objects that represent moments in our lives and memories we hold dear. Two years ago, he began working on his Americana/Blue collar series that shows people in everyday situations and tells simple stories that are meaningful in a contemporary and timeless way. Gillman's latest projects include experimenting with colored pencil combined with graphite pencil. He will still work on his Americana/Blue collar series and bring his unique understanding of the industry after working in it for four decades.

In 2015, Gillman was nominated by the North East Minnesota Book Awards for his picture book illustrations for *Full Wolf Moon*. In 2016-2017, Gillman received a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board and he is a Minnesota State Arts Board panelist for the 2017 Visual Arts Grant Program.

Gillman and his wife have been foster parents for the past 15 years. Even though finding time is hard, Gillman continues to create the most beautiful and heart felt drawings he can. He loves drawing, and he loves the arts. Learn more about Gillman and view some of his work on the City's website.

