



Cottage Grove Reports

Dennis and Thiede Re-Elected to City Council

At the November 6, 2018 General Election, Cottage Grove voters re-elected Steve Dennis and Dave Thiede to the City Council. Both will be sworn in at the January 2, 2019 City Council meeting.



Council Member Steve Dennis



Council Member Dave Thiede

Thiede will be serving his third term in office; Dennis, his second. This year 74.76% of registered Cottage Grove voters turned out at the polls or cast their ballots through early voting.



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Johnson Elected to Washington County Board of Commissioners

Cottage Grove City Council Member Wayne Johnson was elected to the Washington County Board of Commissioners at the November 6, 2018 General Election. Johnson was sworn in at the November 27 County Board meeting and subsequently resigned his seat on the Cottage Grove City Council.

While the seat vacated by Council Member Johnson will be temporarily filled by City Council appointment, state statute requires that a special election be held in order to fill the seat for the remainder of the term since it was vacated with more than two years remaining. The special election is anticipated to be held in November 2019.

The City Council also thanked Jack Lavold for temporarily filling the Washington County Commissioner seat vacated by Karla Bigham after she was elected to the State Senate in February of 2018.



County Commissioner-elect Wayne Johnson being thanked for his service on the Cottage Grove City Council at the November 21 Meeting

Photo Contest Deadline Approaching



Contest entries for the Capture Cottage Grove Photo Contest are due Dec. 28. Winning photos receive \$50! Learn more at <http://bit.ly/CaptureCG2018>.



Coming Up

- Dec 28** **Photo Contest Entries Due**
- Feb 6** **Photo Contest Winners Announced, 7 p.m.**, Council Meeting, City Hall

Winter Reminders

Snowplow Damage to Mailboxes

The City is responsible for damaged mailboxes only if the snowplow makes direct physical contact with the mailbox. If this happens, please call Public Works at 651-458-2808 to report the damage. If the mailbox is damaged due to the snow coming off of the plow, the homeowner is responsible for the repair.

Garbage and Recycling Containers

Please remember to keep your garbage and recycling containers out of the street. Place them at the end of your driveway. This will reduce the possibility of a container being knocked over by a snowplow.

Winter Parking

Winter parking rules are in effect Nov. 1 through Mar. 31. No on-street parking between 2 a.m. 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.

2019 Property Tax Levy and Budget

The City Council adopted the preliminary 2019 property tax levy and operating budget on September 5, 2018. The 2019 property tax levy of \$15.7 million is a 3% increase from the 2018 levy of \$15.2 million. 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 2019 as they did in 2018.

Property specific notices were mailed to all residences in November with comparisons of proposed property taxes by jurisdiction and year (2019 vs. 2018). Residents were encouraged to review their notice and attend the public information sessions identified by each taxing entity to find out more about their 2019 property taxes. Prior to a law change in 2008, these meetings were known as “Truth in Taxation” hearings.

The City’s informational meeting was held Wednesday, December 5, 2018, as part of the Regular City Council Meeting. The 2019 City budget and final levy were adopted after the informational part of the meeting. Look for more detailed information on the budget in the January 2019 newsletter.

Facade Improvement Program

On December 5 the City Council approved a pilot program to improve the overall appearance of the City’s commercial districts. Over the past



two years the City’s Economic Development Division has been conducting a Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) Program in which area businesses are interviewed to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the business environment and set priorities for action to help keep the local business community thriving and growing. One of the priorities identified during the interviews was to assist in redeveloping/remodeling existing businesses that are becoming out of date. Based on this feedback the City Council implemented the pilot facade improvement program for the 2019 budget year with a budget of \$25,000. The facade improvement program allows any business or property owner in a commercially zoned building the opportunity to apply for grant assistance of 50% of the cost of improvements, up to a maximum of \$5,000. Depending on the number of applications received, additional funds may be awarded, and if the program is successful it could be continued in the future. Details on the program and application can be found on the city’s website. Applications are due by April 1, 2019, and projects will be awarded after that date. If you have any questions on how to apply or what types of improvements qualify for the program, please contact Matt Wolf, Economic Development Specialist, at 651-458-2833 or mwolf@cottagegovmn.gov.

River Oaks Holiday Gift Cards

'Tis the Season to pick up a Holiday Gift Card from River Oaks Golf Course and Event Center for that special golfer or dinner partner in your life! Can be used for any River Oaks or Eagles Bar & Grill purchases.

For more information or to purchase online, go to riveroaksmunigolf.com/online-store/



Saying I Do?

We can help! Book your wedding at River Oaks Event Center and enjoy \$500 off on room rental fees on all remaining 2019 dates! Contact Dennis Neitz at 651-438-2121 or dneitz@cottagegrovemn.gov for more information.

Now Booking for 2019!

- Fundraising Events
- School Banquets
- Golf Tournaments



Call 651-438-2121 for more details

Eagles Bar & Grill

Open 3—9 pm every Friday and Saturday

Soups • Salads • Burgers • Sandwiches

Fish Fry • Prime Rib



Beer Dinner

January 25 | 6:30 PM

Join us for a four-course meal prepared by our Chef. Each course will be paired with a different beer.

\$39 per person or \$299 for a table of 8.

For more details or to RSVP, go to riveroaksmunigolf.com/event/beer-dinner/



BOGO FREE ENTREE

(UP TO \$15.99 VALUE)

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER COUPONS OR DISCOUNTS
EXPIRES ON JANUARY 26, 2019 • VALID FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS FROM 3-9PM



Ice Arena

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

WINTER BREAK SKATING EVENTS (\$5 each)

Stick and Puck: 9 – 10:30 a.m. | Dec. 26 – 28, 31
10:15 – 11:45 a.m. | Jan. 1
Open Skate: 9 – 10:30 a.m. | Dec. 26 – 28
10:45 a.m.—12:15 p.m. | Dec. 31
Noon – 1 p.m. | Jan. 1

ICE SKATING LESSONS

Winter sessions run through Feb. 10, 2019. All Skate School participants may rent skates for only \$2. For more information, and to register, visit the City's website or call 651-458-3400.

OPEN SKATE SESSIONS (\$5)

These sessions are a chance for your family to get exercise, practice skating, and have fun. There are skating aids (buckets) for those just learning to skate. Cost - \$5 or one punch on your Public Skate Punch Card. Rental skates are available for \$4 per pair. Session times vary so please check our website for an updated schedule.

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. Helmets mandatory for those under age 18. 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. (No practice December 25)
Wednesdays 6–7:30 a.m.
Thursdays 2:30–5:30 p.m.
Saturdays 6:15–7:45 a.m.
Sundays 8–9:30 p.m.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

The Ice Arena is the “coolest” place in town to have a birthday party! Celebrate the special day and have a blast skating with friends. The party room is available year-round. A variety of packages are available. Check website or call for details.

Looking to rent ice?

www.rinkfinder.com or 651-458-3400

Advertise at the Ice Arena

Call 651-458-3415

WARMING HOUSES OPEN DECEMBER 26 (Weather Permitting)

Hamlet, 8883 Hamlet Ave. S.
M/W 5–8 p.m. | Sat Noon–8 p.m.

Highlands, 6975 Iidsen Ave. S.
M–F 4–8 p.m. | Sat/Sun Noon–8 p.m.

Pine Tree Valley, 8431 Indian Blvd.
M–F 4–8 p.m. | Sat/Sun Noon–8 p.m.

Hearthside, 8245 Hearthside Rd. S.
T/Th 5–8 p.m. | Sun Noon–8 p.m.

Peter Thompson, 6327 Highland Hills Blvd.
M–F 4–8 p.m. | Sat/Sun Noon–8 p.m.

Woodridge, 9000 90th Street S..
M–F 4–8 p.m. | Sat/Sun Noon–8 p.m.

Winter Lights and Decorating Contest



Winning Entry—The Seif Family's Radio-synchronized Display at
6788 Cattail Avenue

Winners of the 2018 Winter Lights and Decorating Contest were announced at the December 5, 2018 City Council Meeting. Here is a complete list of the entrants. Plot them on a map or enter them in your GPS and take your family for a festive holiday drive!

8762 Jody Cir

7813 Irish Ave

8638 Hadley Ave

7384 Jorgensen Ave

7590 Hyde Ave

6788 Cattail Ave

8683 Janero Ave

9244 Indian Blvd

9055 Indian Blvd

7682 Immanuel Ave

7742 Irvin Ave

9259 Indian Blvd

7782 East Pt Douglas Rd