Up North Plastics Doubles in Size, Adding 200 Jobs

Mark Your Calendars for the 2020 Spring Clean-Up Event

Saturday, May 2nd
7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Cottage Grove Public Works
8635 West Point Douglas Rd

Street Sweeping and Hydrant Flushing Begins April 6th

Crews will begin sweeping streets on the week of April 6th, weather permitting. Please sweep sand from your boulevards on to the street before crews clean the streets and make sure you park your vehicles in your driveways. Hydrant flushing will also begin the week of April 6th. Flushing may discolor water briefly but it is safe to drink. Also, the water may stain fabrics so check for signs of discoloration before using the water to wash clothes. If your water is discolored, run cold water through all your taps until it is clear. Questions about street sweeping or hydrant flushing? Please call Public Works at 651-458-2808.

More than 40,500 motorists per day travel down Highway 61, between 80th Street and Jamaica Avenue. A common question City staff members have been getting recently is “What are they building on the south side of the highway?” We’ve got a great answer to this good question. “They” is Up North Plastics, and the “what” is a major expansion totaling more than 428,000 square feet. The project will create hundreds of new jobs in the area. The plan calls for a brand new building and additional storage silos. The project also includes a slight expansion of rail into the facility and includes a landscaping plan that would add 102 trees on the lot, between Jamaica and Ideal Avenues.

This latest expansion is yet another significant investment in the City’s business park, and remains consistent with a strong history of measured growth for one of Cottage Grove’s largest employers. Up North purchased the old Whirlpool property in 1985 and has since expanded its operation and workforce in 1990, 1996, 1999 and 2015. The City and State are proud to partner with the company on this recent expansion. If you’re looking for more information on the new jobs that will be created with this expansion, you can apply at www.upnplastics.com, just click on “Careers”. Construction on the expanded portion of the facility will likely be completed by Fall 2020.

Renewal by Andersen Expansion Still on Schedule

Speaking of growth and expansion; back in August of 2019 we shared details of Renewal by Andersen’s major expansion in the business park. If you’ve traveled down 100th Street in recent months, you can see how much progress crews are making. The 350,000 square foot facility is on schedule to open later this summer, bringing in 100 plus jobs to the area.
CGPD Offering Registration System for Valuable Items

While we hope you never have an item(s) stolen from your home or vehicle, “knowing what you own could be the difference between recovering and not recovering stolen property.” Cottage Grove PD Investigators are part of the “LeadsOnline” system, and we want you to be a part of it too! Just log on to https://reportit.leadsonline.com and click on "Create New Account." You can add photos, serial numbers, purchase dates and other identifying information about your valuables; police can use this information to help track stolen items, which may be pawned, scrapped, sold over the internet, etc. Help us help you... by taking part in this safe, secure and free citizen property inventory system.

Are your Carbon Monoxide Alarms Working?

- Test Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms monthly, replacing batteries once every year
- Replace Carbon Monoxide Alarms once every 5-7 years (whereas smoke alarms should be replaced every ten years)
- You can purchase alarms that detect both smoke and lethal levels of CO in just one device

Carbon Monoxide alarms should be located within ten feet of entrances to any rooms used for sleeping. CO, also known as the silent killer, is an odorless and colorless gas released when there is an incomplete combustion of fuels. For example, if your gas furnace or water heater are burning with an orange or yellow flame instead of a vivid blue flame, it may be burning gas incompletely and producing deadly CO. If your carbon monoxide alarm sounds, call 9-1-1 immediately. Cottage Grove Firefighters/Paramedics can take air samples to verify levels of carbon monoxide and treat any symptoms.

Time is Running Out! Submit Your 2020 “Volunteer of the Year”

We have a City full of generous volunteers. I’m sure every single one of them will tell you they’re not in it for the recognition, but we think they deserve it! To nominate a Cottage Grove resident, log on to the City’s website at cottagegrovemn.gov/volunteer and complete the form. The deadline is April 3rd and the winners will be recognized at a banquet on April 21st.

CGFD Lends a Helping Hand Battling Big Recycling Fire

On February 20th, the Cottage Grove Fire Department answered the call for mutual aid, sending an engine and crew to help battle the huge fire at the Northern Metals Recycling Center in Becker, MN. CGPD also sent Captain Gwen Martin, part of the state’s Incident Management Team, to assist. All told, more than 50 agencies from throughout the state helped battle the blaze.
Congratulations to our 2019 Photo Contest Winners

“Siblings Enjoy the View”
Victoria Peterson
People/Pets/Family

“Walking Into the Sunset”
Nathan Klok
Nature

“My Favorite Path”
Sydney Holm
Youth

“Colors of Kingston”
Tony Wind
Celebrations/Events

“Aerial Sunset over CG”
Nathan Klok
Business & Industry
**Eagles Bar & Grill**

**Fish Fry**—Join us Friday nights for our Famous Fish Fry for Lent. Our signature Friday Fish Fry is the best around!

**Prime Rib Special**—Don’t miss out on Saturdays either! Every Saturday we offer our Prime Rib Special! Delectable and savory prime rib hand prepared and slow-roasted.

**Wine Dinner**—On March 21st enjoy a four-course meal paired with a different glass of wine from Cracked Barrel Winery.

**Spirits Dinner**—On April 24th enjoy a four-course meal paired with a different spirit from Tattersall Distilling.

**Golf Memberships, Leagues, and Lessons Available**—2020 is finally here and everyone at River Oaks is excited to get the golf season underway! Visit our website to learn more about course rates, membership and league information, lessons, and other exciting, new opportunities.

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**River Oaks**
11099 South Highway 61
Phone: 651-438-2121

**Golf Course & Event Center**

*For more information call 651-458-3400*

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**Arbor Day**—With help from volunteers on Arbor Day, the park space near Kingston Park will be home to newly planted trees on April 25th at 9:00 a.m. Come help grow our urban forest; bring your shovels and work gloves for a morning of planting trees to strengthen our park system. All ages are welcome. In return... we will give you a tree to take home and plant in your yard.

**Plant a Tree - Get a Tree!**

**Buckthorn**—All residents are also encouraged to remove buckthorn from their property. Please call 651-458-2808 by April 24th for free curbside disposal.

**Egg Hunt**—The City of Cottage Grove’s Egg Hunt will be inside the Ice Arena on the turf floor April 4th at 9:30 a.m. Admission includes 10 eggs (redeemable for a prize), pictures with the Bunny (bring your own camera) and cookies and juice. Anyone collecting eggs will need an admission ticket. Tickets are $5 and are available at the door; no pre-registration is required.

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**Parks and Recreation**

**Summer Employment Opportunity**—Playground Leaders are responsible for programming, planning and supervising activities for youth ages 4-13 years old. Activities include arts and crafts, games, special events and many other fun things. Experience in a recreation leadership position is preferable. Leaders should have broad knowledge of games and sports and possess crafting skills. They must also be able to work well with children and have great leadership skills. Playground Leaders work Monday through Friday, up to 40 hours a week, between June 1st and August 28th. The salary is $10-$14 per hour.

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**Men’s Softball League**—The traditional Men’s League held at the Lamar Softball Complex is back for another season of play. The league features double-header games played between 6-10 p.m. (18 games). League playoffs allow teams to play in an A or B pool to ensure competitive play at the end of the season. League fees are $500 and must be submitted by the registration deadline on April 22nd.

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The Cottage Grove Reports Monthly is mailed to all residents with their utility statement, sent directly to residents not receiving City utilities, and available at www.cottagegrovemn.gov. Comments may be sent to City of Cottage Grove, 12800 Ravine Parkway S., Cottage Grove, MN, 55016. Phone: 651-458-2800.

Mayor: Myron Bailey. Council Members: Steve Dennis, Justin Olsen, La Rae Mills, Dave Thiede.