Get Ready! CP’s Holiday Train Returns on December 10th

For 16 years now, the Canadian Pacific Train has come into Cottage Grove with its bright lights and great musical acts. The tradition will continue this year with live performances by Meghan Patrick, Tanika Charles and Kelly Prescott. But what’s even more impressive is the annual visit always highlights the compassionate and generous residents of our City. Last year our local communities raised nearly $116,000 and collected 17,000 items for the Friends in Need Food Shelf! Over the past 16 years $1,143,229 has been raised at the CG stop.

Winter is Coming!
What you Need to Know

Winter Parking
Winter Parking rules are in effect between November 1 and March 31. On-street parking is not allowed between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. regardless of whether or not it is snowing (vehicles could be towed and owners may be cited). Parking is allowed at all other times if the vehicle does not interfere with the removal of ice and snow from the street.

Garbage/Recycling Containers
Please remember to keep your containers out of the street. Place them at the end of your driveway to reduce the possibility of a container being knocked over by a snowplow.

Mailbox Damage from Snowplows
The City is responsible for damage if a plow (not snow) makes physical contact with a mailbox. Please call 651-458-2808 to report the damage.

Help Wanted; City of Cottage Grove to Host its First Job Fair

It’s never too early to start thinking about finding the perfect place to work in 2020, and the City of Cottage Grove has plenty of great opportunities if you’re looking for part-time or seasonal positions for next Spring and Summer. For the first time ever, the City is hosting a job fair, providing the job-seeker all he or she needs in one quick and convenient stop. On December 30, at River Oaks Golf Course on Highway 61, representatives from several different City departments will be on hand offering job descriptions, applications and interviews for anyone 16 years of age or older. We can’t wait to meet you!
Cottage Grove Police Introduce Lights On! Program

Give me a break! That’s exactly what the CGPD is offering through a unique partnership with the Lights On! Program and Duffy’s Auto Service. Patrol Officers are now offering vouchers to motorists who have a headlight or taillight out; if they take that voucher to Duffy’s they can get their light fixed or replaced free of charge. Why? Because we could all use a break every once in a while!

Plenty of Pink Police Patches Now Available

Our first batch of pink patches sold out quickly, but have no fear, another big batch is now here! Stop by the Public Safety Desk at City Hall to purchase one for $10, or you can send an $11 check, made out to the “Cottage Grove Public Safety Board”, to The Pink Patch Project at 12800 Ravine Parkway South, Cottage Grove, MN 55016 and the CGPD will then mail you a patch.

Here’s How the City Determines Your Water Bill

Every month, 11,509 water bills go to homeowners and business owners in the City of Cottage Grove. Have you ever wondered how the City gathers all this data? The short answer is a Public Works Utility employee drives through the entire City over the course of two or three days and gathers the data through an automated wireless system. The billing data is collected electronically and readings cannot be manipulated in any way. There are many reasons why the City believes monthly readings and bills are more beneficial than quarterly audits, including the ability to catch problems quickly and easing the burden of a large bill four times per year versus twelve smaller payments. If you ever have any questions regarding your bill, you are encouraged to call our utility billing customer care specialists at 651-458-2831. To schedule an appointment to verify your meter reading and usage, please call Public Works at 651-458-2808. A Public Works employee can also show you how to read your meter; we encourage curious homeowners to check your meter before you go to bed and recheck it when you wake up. Did you run your irrigation system or water softener? In some cases, homeowners may be able to determine a problem before calling in a public works expert.

50% of water used in the City is used outdoors. On average, annual Citywide indoor water use adds up to about 650,000,000 gallons per year.

Debunking Myths

- Hydrant flushing does not affect resident’s water bills
- Tiered rates are regulated by the state and the City is not overcharging for water to make up for the 2017 watering ban
- Money paid for water bills remains in the City’s utility fund and is only used to provide quality drinking water and infrastructure
- Fact: The City wants residents to use less water, so we all want lower water bills

Cottage Grove, in compliance with state required guidelines, uses a tiered system to determine water rates. Residents are billed based on how much water is used during a monthly period, in addition to a $3 residential base charge each month:

- Less than 6,000 gallons per month = $1.05 per 1,000 gallons
- 6,001-9,000 gallons per month = $1.58 per 1,000 gallons
- 9,001-12,000 gallons per month = $2.36 per 1,000 gallons
- More than 12,000 gallons per month = $3.54 per 1,000 gallons

More than 80% of customers are billed within the first tier based on usage (6,000 gallons or less). The average monthly water bill in Cottage Grove is $14.40 per month, or $1.55 less than the monthly average of neighboring cities.
The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially during the holidays. In Cottage Grove, cooking and cooking appliances are the leading cause of fire. In fact, Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment. Please consider the following tips to keep yourself and your family safe:

- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire (oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains) away from your stovetop.

Exercise caution when using an outdoor, gas fueled turkey fryer. Use the fryer in an open outdoor space, have a fire extinguisher nearby and never leave it unattended.

Keep young children away from sources of heat and flames. Make sure sharp objects, such as knives, and other dangerous cooking equipment, are kept out of a child’s reach.

Ensure you have a working fire extinguisher nearby.

If you experience a small fire:

On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled. Never use water on a grease fire. For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

Cottage Grove’s Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on December 4, 2019 at 5:45 p.m. It will be at City Hall, 12800 Ravine Parkway South and will feature music, cookies, and .......Santa!

Santa will arrive before the event to help start the countdown to light the tree.

After the tree lighting, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available to visit inside City Hall.

Don’t Burn Your Bird, Kitchen, or House during the Holidays; Timely Information from CGFD

The City of Cottage Grove’s Arts Commission is hosting this year’s 3rd Annual Festival of Wreaths. Residents can sponsor a wreath for a $100 donation that goes to the Friends in Need Food Shelf. Sponsors can then decorate the wreaths and display them at the Holiday Train event.

Visit cottagerovemn.gov/festivalofwreaths for more information.

Visit coottagegrovemn.gov/festivalsafety for more information.

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PARKS AND RECREATION

Winter Skate School
Grab your skates! Skating sessions start 12/1/2019.
Visit cottagegrovemn.gov/icearena for more information

Figure Skaters Practice
These sessions are for level Alpha and above. During this time you are able to practice figure skating skills, jumps, and spins. Cost ranges from $4-$10 or one to two punches on your Skate Saver Card.

Tuesdays: 2:30 p.m.—5:30p.m.
Saturdays: 6:15 a.m.—7:45a.m.
Thursdays: 2:30 p.m.—5:30p.m.
Sundays: 8:00 p.m.—9:45 p.m.

Winter Break
Bring your winter gear to play outside. We will be playing games, making crafts, watching movies and having lots of fun! Be sure to bring your lunch. A refrigerator and microwave are available for use. Pre-registration is required for this program. This is for children ages 5 and older on December 26, 27, 30, 31 at 7:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. It is $22 per day at Peter Thompson Park.

Hiring for Warming House Staff
The Cottage Grove Recreation Department is hiring Warming House Attendant Supervisors to provide customer service, ensure building cleanliness, and track usage at seven warming houses and outdoor skating rinks at various city parks. Positions run from December 23, 2019 through March 2020. The hours of the positions are weekdays from 4:00-9:00pm and weekends (2 shifts from 11:00am-9:00pm). Salary is $14.00 per hour and minimum age is 17 to apply. Application packets are available at Cottage Grove City Hall, 12800 Ravine Parkway S., Cottage Grove, MN 55016 or by going to the City of Cottage Grove’s website www.cottagegrovemn.gov

HOLIDAY PARTY? — Are you planning a holiday party? Well, the holiday season is just beginning, so plan on having your holiday party at River Oaks! Our Event Center has all the amenities to make planning your party a breeze. Call us at (651)438-2121 (ext. 2), and we can help make your holiday party a memorable one.

FRIENDSGIVING (November 22nd) — This November grab those you’re thankful for and join us for a family-style Thanksgiving dinner. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors closer together this season for some great food and conversation. Enjoy the Thanksgiving party without all the setup and clean up! ($30 per person or $240 for a table of 8)

SANTA BRUNCH (December 8th) — Santa is coming to town early this year! River Oaks invites you to join us this Holiday season for a mouthwatering breakfast buffet and a chance to meet the Jolly Man. After breakfast, hop in Santa’s sleigh and take a ride around the driving range or warm-up around the bonfire for some tasty s’mores. This event is sure to be fun for the whole family. (Kids between ages 0-3 eat for free! $12.99 for kids between ages 4-12 and $17.99 for adults 13+)

*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, Wayne Butt, La Rae Mills, Dave Thiede.