On September 4, the City Council approved a levy increase of 7.77%. More than half of the amount will be used to make debt payments. A large portion of this budget was based upon the City’s six departments submitting budgets with increases of less than 1%. The balanced budget still allows the City to deliver the best possible services yet remain fiscally responsible with taxpayer money. Cottage Grove’s Tax Capacity Value, or Tax Base, increased 9% for 2020, minimizing the levy impact on taxpayers. Taking the average home in the City, valued at $253,000, the impact equates to an annual property tax increase of $49, or $4 per month. Of the total property tax you pay, 27% goes to the City, and is used to pay for public services like police, fire and EMS, parks and recreation, street maintenance, and community and economic development.

Important, Upcoming Dates to Remember

Ravine Parkway Grand Opening
Tuesday, September 17—5 to 7 p.m.
Ribbon Cutting at 6 p.m.
Ravine Parkway, between Jamaica and Keats Avenue

Fire Prevention Open House
Saturday, October 12—10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tours and Demos
Central Fire Station, 8641 80th Street

Public Works Open House
Thursday, September 19—3 to 7 p.m.
Free Event!
8635 West Point Douglas Road South

Ice Arena Grand Reopening
Sunday, October 20—5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Come Celebrate with Us!
8020 80th Street South
Meet the New HERO Center Manager: Dan Anselment

Dan Anselment has been hired to manage the new HERO Center, a state-of-the-art training facility for first responders. Anselment has spent the past five years overseeing the University of Tennessee’s Law Enforcement Innovation Center and National Forensic Academy. He also served as an officer with the Burnsville Police Department (8 years). His roots demonstrated a connection to the Twin Cities, but it was his work as a law enforcement trainer and his recent experience managing several training facilities in Tennessee that ultimately won the endorsement from leaders in both Cottage Grove and Woodbury (who jointly own and operate the HERO Center). First responders from the two cities will begin to train in the facility in early 2020; the same time the center opens to the public (including the indoor range).

Lemonade Day a Huge Success for Young Entrepreneurs

When the organizers put Lemonade Day together for 2019, they had some lofty goals. 25 young entrepreneurs also had some pretty big goals as they put together their business plans, built their stands and marketed their product. Their work really paid off on August 4, the day the Mayor proclaimed Lemonade Day. Thanks to Modern Automotive Performance for sponsoring such a great and inspiring program. Also, thank you Cottage Grove, for supporting our very talented business leaders of tomorrow.

Motorists Slow Down; School’s in Session

School is back in session and the Cottage Grove Police Department is asking motorists to slow down in school zones and keep their eyes out for kids, especially those who walk or bike to school. “Our community does a really good job of focusing as they drive through our school zones. The beginning of the school year just gives us a chance to remind folks to be aware there are more children out and about in the mornings and afternoons,” Chief Pete Koerner said. This year, Officer Mike Tadych (right) will be the School Resource Officer (SRO) in the Middle Schools while Officer Adam Pelton (left) returns as the SRO at Park High School.
Sharpen those Skates, Work on the Ice Arena’s North and South Rinks Almost Complete

It’s been a long summer full of hard work, but it’ll pay off next month when the staff at the Cottage Grove Ice Arena reopens both the North and South Rinks. A new refrigeration system will comply with new coolant regulations and provide a smoother surface in the two rinks. It’s definitely a big win-win!

The construction process began in mid-March, as crews basically rebuilt the two ovals. St. Paul Park’s Total Mechanical poured concrete, placed rebar and put down miles of tubing. The tubing is connected to the large refrigeration system (shown on the left), which was brought in by crane on June 12. The new process will use ammonia to keep the ice cool. It replaces the outdated R-22 system; manufacturers will no longer make the product starting next year. Perhaps the biggest benefit is the cost savings the City expects as ammonia is much less expensive than its R-22 predecessor.

Mayor Bailey. What does that mean? The young Mayor will spend time at the Central Fire Station, learning more about the equipment used to respond to fires and emergency medical calls. He or she will hop in a Squad Car with the Mayor and Police Chief and also visit the hardworking team at Public Works. Then the mini-Mayor will pitch his or her exciting idea to the City Council and host a press conference for the media.

For more details, there’s a link on the City’s website. Log on to the page at cottagegrovemn.gov/mayorforaday for details. We’re asking for candidates to submit an essay, 250 words or less, and it must include an idea on how to make Cottage Grove a better place to live. Submissions are due by October 18. We can’t wait to see what our students come up with to improve the City where pride and prosperity meet.

Cottage Grove Looking for Candidates to Write Essays for “Mini-Mayor” Contest

Mayor Bailey is always looking for the next great idea that will continue to make Cottage Grove the best City in the country for people to live, work and play. He hears from folks by mail and phone and through social media. Now, he wants to hear from our youth. Not only is the City’s new “Mayor for a Day” contest an opportunity for our young residents to express their ideas, it’ll give the winner a chance to spend a day with Mayor Bailey. What does that mean?

The Ice Arena reached another key milestone on August 28th when the brand new, four-sided scoreboard was lifted and placed high above the North Rink. This addition would not have been possible without the large and generous contribution made by the Cottage Grove Hockey Association. Game on!
Mission Kids Glo Run: Light it up!
A run in the dark? Sweet! Participants will be given Glo items (ahead of time) along with other items to “light it up!” Wear your own glowing or neon attire for extra fun. Neon signs will guide runners on the one-mile route. After your run, test your skills in our laser beam maze. The run is for kids between the ages of 6 and 12, costs $15, and will be held at Ojibway Park in Woodbury on Friday, September 20th. Arrive at 7 p.m. to get geared up before the run starts at 7:30 p.m.

Skate Lessons
The Cottage Grove Skate School offers lessons for skaters of all ages and abilities year round during a fun filled 9 week course. Classes range from the Learn to Skate Program designed to prepare participants for recreation skating, figure skating, hockey and speed skating, to Advanced Figure Skating Lessons from ISI Certified Instructors.
Visit https://www.cottagegrovemn.gov/departments/parks_&_recreation/ice_arena.php

River Oaks
Golf Course and Event Center
11099 South Highway 61
Phone: 651-438-2121
www.riveroaksmunigolf.com

- Spiral Brewery Four Course Dinner on September 20th at 6:30 p.m.
  $45 per person or $345 for a table of 8
- Glow Golf featuring dinner and prizes on September 21st at 6:30 p.m.
  $70 per twosome
- 1st Annual BIG CUP SCRAMBLE on September 29th at 9:00 a.m.
  Shotgun start and prizes for each division, option of Skins Game or Players Pool
- Greens Keepers Revenge Day on October 5th at 11:00 a.m.
  Strange tee box locations and difficult pin placements will make this one of the most challenging rounds of golf this year!
  $200 per foursome
- Tattersall Distilling Four Course Dinner on October 10th at 6:30 p.m.
  $45 per person or $345 for a table of 8
- Dueling Pianos by Sweet Keys on October 25th at 5:30 p.m.
  This event will bring music to life in an exciting way!
  With dinner included, bring your friends and family for an evening of fun!
  $45 per person or $300 for a table of 8