



Cottage Grove Reports

The Start of a New Era: Central Fire Station Grand Opening

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Blue and Green Environmental Challenge
- SMART Irrigation Controller Program
- Fourth of July Celebration
- Night to Unite
- Sign up for Code RED
- HERO Center Funding
- Summer Concert Series
- River Oaks Golf Course and Event Center
- Recreation Events
 - Safety Camp, Catch of the Day, 3rd Lair, Party in the Park, Pollen Power, Splash Pad Events

Fun in the Parks Instagram Photo Contest

When you're in the City of Cottage Grove, you are never more than half a mile from a park! Get out and explore your parks and post your pics of them to Instagram for a chance to win one of three "I <3 Cottage Grove Parks" T-Shirts.

It's easy to enter! Follow the City's Instagram account @cottagegrovemn. Take a nature related photo in a park and post your photo to Instagram with the hashtag #CottageGroveParks2018 in the description.

Each submission is one entry to win. By submitting, you agree to allow the City of Cottage Grove to publish your photo(s) in City publications, website, and social media sites. The deadline to enter is July 7. Winners will be notified by July 17.



On June 2, hundreds attended the grand opening celebration of the Central Fire Station, located at 8641 80th Street S. After remarks, there was a ceremonial hose uncoupling—the Fire Department's twist on a ribbon cutting.

The Central Fire Station provides a statement of pride, strength and service to the community. It is designed to function with the Fire Department's Firefighter/Paramedic model, which operates with 24-hour shifts. Two ambulances are staffed and ready to respond at all times. Full-time Firefighter/Paramedics and paid-on-call Firefighters are always on duty. The Department now has 14 full-time and 55 paid-on-call staff. Rather than serving out of multiple, outdated stations, the Firefighters with their apparatus and equipment are all consolidated in one location. This allows for response times of around 6 minutes, one of the best response times in the Twin Cities area.

Cottage Grove's Fire Department has a long, rich history, beginning in 1959 with the equipment and one apparatus housed in a garage that belonged to one of the members of the new department.

The original building (Fire Station 2) that occupied the space of this new station was constructed more than 45 years ago and was

beyond its ability to serve the needs of the community. The replacement of Fire Station 2 was overdue but it was well planned and now serves the city's new service model.

The station is user friendly, provides work and meeting spaces as well as spaces for community use. It also has dormitories for night portions of shifts, a living area, a kitchen, office space, a locker room, laundry rooms, and a fitness center. The apparatus bays also have multi-purpose training rooms that allow for Fire and EMS training year-round, and utility rooms where the Firefighters store their equipment, maintain their breathing equipment, and store medical supplies for ambulances.

The Central Fire Station is a 10-bay, 31,000 square-foot facility, with a total project cost of \$9 Million. The state-of-the-art facility is designed to function today and well into the future.



Coming Up

- Jun 21** **Farmers Market opens**, 2:30 – 6:30 p.m., every Thursday through October. Cottage Grove United Church of Christ parking lot.
- Jun 24** **Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park Reopens**, No vehicle permit needed through June 30. More info: www.co.washington.mn.us/parks
- Jul 19** **Summer Concert Series**, 6:30 p.m., Hearthside Park, 8245 Hearthside Rd. S.
- Jul 31 to Aug. 14** **City Council Filing period**, City Hall, 12800 Ravine Parkway S., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Filing fee is \$5
- Sept 27** **Fashion Show, Stone Soup Fundraiser**, 5:30 to 8 p.m., John P. Furber Barn, more info: <https://www.stonesoupthriftshop.org/>

For more city-wide events, including council and commission meetings, visit the calendar on the City’s website.

The CodeRED Emergency Notification System is a fast communication



service allowing the City of Cottage Grove to notify citizens of an emergency situation. It enables the city to provide mass notification quickly and easily. This service is free to all Cottage Grove residents and businesses located within city limits. For more information, and to sign up, visit <http://bit.ly/CGCodeRED>.

Community Solar Gardens

Have you received a letter in the mail from CleanChoice Energy, stating that you could potentially save money on your electricity bill by joining a community solar garden? If you have, know that these are legitimate business solicitations from a Renewable Energy Company looking to expand into the State of Minnesota. The City of Cottage Grove does not send these solicitations. For more information about these solicitations, please refer to the “Solar Garden Information” section under “quick links” on the City website.

Be Environmentally Friendly

Join the Blue and Green Environmental Challenge

We’ve revamped our Sustainable City Award from years past and turned it into the Cottage Grove Blue and Green Environmental Challenge. The Challenge encourages you to live in a more environmentally friendly way by making little changes in your everyday activities.

This year, the Challenge focuses on water conservation. By adopting small changes, both inside and outside your home, you can become eligible to be entered into a monthly drawing to win a \$50 credit on your water bill. Those who go above and beyond by submitting a Smart Tip will be entered into a grand prize drawing for either a tree with a watering bag; an irrigation controller; or a gift card to Zywiecs.

More information, including rules and entry forms, can be found on the City’s website.

SMART Irrigation Controller Program

Applications for this year’s Smart Irrigation Controller Program will be available starting Monday, June 25. Applications will not be accepted before June 25.

The Smart Irrigation Controller Program, first started in 2017, is designed to help residents conserve water by replacing their existing irrigation controller with a smart irrigation controller. A smart controller has built-in water saving features, which help residents water their lawns more efficiently.

The supply of irrigation controllers is limited, and applications will be accepted on a first come–first served basis. The cost is \$35, and only one controller per resident. An in–home Wi–Fi connection is required for this irrigation controller. Applications will be available online starting Monday, June 25. Applications must be submitted online. For more information, visit the City’s website.

Join us in Celebrating Night to Unite on Aug. 7

On Tuesday, Aug. 7, join hundreds of neighborhoods across the nation as they celebrate Night to Unite. Build a strong community and bring awareness of crime prevention by hosting or attending a neighborhood block party. The event is a chance to enjoy a summer evening with your neighbors. Police officers, firefighters, elected officials and City staff will visit block parties. Once again, donations for the Backpack and/or Paper Products Campaign will be accepted. Learn more about Night to Unite at <https://www.cottagegrovemn.gov/police/tours-a-events/night-to-unite> or call 651-458-6035.



Fourth of July Celebration

The annual Fourth of July celebration will take place at Kingston Park, 9195 75th Street S.

The family–friendly event begins at 6:30 p.m. with food and activities. Fireworks begin at dusk. A larger display is planned this year due to support from multiple local businesses. Watch our Facebook page and website for a list of all of the businesses.

The event is sponsored by the Cottage Grove Lions Club.

One Step Closer for the HERO Center Training Facility

The Public Safety Regional Training Facility (HERO Center) has received bonding approval for the construction of the building. The legislature and Governor Dayton’s bonding bill that was approved and signed on May 30, includes 9.5 million dollars in a matching grant for the construction.

The facility, which will be jointly owned by Cottage Grove and Woodbury, will be approximately 47,000 square feet of state of the art, immersive training space for our Public Safety responders. The facility’s design allows for a multi-disciplinary versatile and flexible space for Police, Fire and EMS.

The space includes two 50-person classrooms, indoor reality based training areas with movable walls, outdoor reality based training areas with simulated housing, outdoor fenced K9 training area, virtual simulation training, response to resistance training area, and firearms proficiency training.

The facility will create opportunities for hosting community based safety, education, and training programs—such as CPR, and Firearms Safety—and will also have a shooting range that is open to the public. The HERO Center will also provide flexible spaces to allow for multiple public safety disciplines to work in collaboration, and ensure required local and regional training needs are met now and into the future.

A special thank you to Senator Bigham, who carried the bill in the Senate, and Representatives Franke and Jurgens, who carried the bill in the House.



Free Summer Concert Series and Blues for Kids Harmonica Session on June 21

Don’t miss the first Arts Commission’s summer concert series on June 21, 6:30 p.m., outside at the City Hall Amphitheatre. The South Washington County Community Band will perform. That day is also Make Music Day and to celebrate, a Blues for Kids harmonica session, taught by Arts Commissioner Joe Flipovich, begins at 6 p.m. The first 25 kids will receive a free harmonica.

Taco Barraco Food Truck will be selling food while supplies last. The free, inaugural summer concert series is sponsored by the City’s Arts Commission. Future concerts will be held July 19 and Aug. 16.



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PARKS AND RECREATION

For more information call 651-458-3400

Safety Camp

Cottage Grove Police, Fire, and Recreation Departments are teaming up to encourage youth safety. Participants experience two days of fun, all while learning about important safety topics such as how to use 911, basic first aid, fire prevention and bike, kitchen, electrical, and water safety—all taught by industry professionals in an energetic team-style setting. Registration fee includes t-shirt, hat, lunches, snacks, and a water bottle. Participants should bring their own lunch and snacks if there are dietary restrictions. Family and friends are invited to attend the graduation ceremony at the close of camp on June 27 at 4:30 p.m. Please bring your own chairs.

Dates: June 26 – 27
Time: 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Ages: 8 – 11
Cost: \$58
Location: Hamlet Park

Catch of the Day

The Cottage Grove Recreation Department and MinnAqua have stocked Hidden Valley Pond for another great fishing season. This one-day event is open to anyone interested in fishing or wanting to learn more about fish. We have a limited number of fishing poles available OR test your luck and make your own fishing pole with provided supplies. Bait will be provided. No registration necessary. Anyone 16 and younger does not need a license to fish during this event.

Dates: July 11
Time: 2 – 6 p.m.
Ages: All ages
Cost: Free
Location: Hidden Valley Pond

3rd Lair - Skateboard Competition

This summer, 3rd Lair will be hosting a skateboard competition in skate parks in Minnesota. The event will consist of four divisions (8 and under, 9-12 year-olds, 13 and up, and expert) so any age can enter. This is a great free event for all levels of skateboarders and a fun night for the community - complete with a DJ, music and prizes. Register on site.

Dates: July 27
Time: 6 p.m.
Ages: All ages
Cost: Free
Location: Hamlet Park

Party in the Park

Recreation Staff will be hosting a party at Highlands Park. Bring your lunch and come for the whole day, or stop in when you can for some fun. Staff will be playing games and hoping to create a Cottage Grove record for the most kids playing TWISTER!

Dates: July 19
Time: 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Ages: 5 – 12
Cost: Free
Location: Highlands Park

Pollen Power

Join our horticulture interns and park staff to learn about pollen in our community and why pollination is important. Everyone will leave with a souvenir. No registration necessary.

Dates: July 25
Time: 9 a.m. – Hamlet Park
10 a.m. – Pine Tree Valley
11 a.m. – Peter Thompson Park
Ages: All ages
Cost: Free

Splash Pad Special Events

Besides cooling off in the Splash Pad, enjoy more fun and join Recreation staff on Fridays over the summer by the building for different activities!

Dates: June 15 – BINGO
June 22 – Magic Show
June 29 – Coloring Contest
July 6 – NONE
July 13 – Tie Dye
July 20 – Library Story Time
July 27 – Kids Talent Show (sign up at 10:45 a.m.)
Aug. 3 – Spin Art
Aug. 10 – Key Chains
Aug. 24 – Light Sabers
Time: 11 a.m.
Ages: All ages
Cost: Free
Location: Highlands Park

Pop Up Splash Pad Events

Come and cool off at one of our Pop Up Splash Pad Events this summer. Each event will promptly start at the designated time and will include a water balloon toss, ice block melt challenge, and approximately 30 minutes of sprayed water from Cottage Grove's Fire Department. Events are free and require you just to Pop IN.

Dates: June 20 – Hamlet Park – 5:30 p.m. – Ice Cream Treat
July 24 – River Oaks Golf Course – 5:30 p.m. – Frozen Treat
Aug. 1 – Woodridge Park – 2 p.m. – Popsicles from Police
Ages: All ages
Cost: Free

Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park

The Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park is reopening June 22 with a weekend long celebration! **Join Cottage Grove Recreation Staff June 22 from 5:30 – 7 p.m. for a craft to celebrate the opening!** The first 100 kids will be provided the supplies and directions to your own DIY Hairy Friend. All you need to do at home is add water and sunshine; and maybe trim that hair (grass) once in a while.

To celebrate the reopening of the park, no vehicle permit is needed through June 30, 2018.

