



Cottage Grove Reports - Monthly

December, 2007 Vol. 1 No.7

Your 2008 Proposed Property Tax Levy

In September the City of Cottage Grove’s preliminary tax levy was adopted by the City Council and certified to the County. The proposed 2008 total tax levy is \$12.2 million up 3.1% from the 2007 levy of \$11.8 million.

The City’s proposed tax rate of (35.2) is 1.84% lower than that of 2007 which represents the fourth straight year of decline in the tax rate.

A home valued at \$222,000 with a zero percent increase in taxable market value will see a yearly decrease in the City portion of their property tax from \$731 to \$718 about a 1.8% decrease.

The cost of City operations is going up slightly. The 2008 proposed total City budget is \$26,368,152, which is a 0.5% increase over the 2007 total budget. This increase supports the commitment to the pavement management program, and reducing impacts of the planning and construction at the Ice Arena. The City also faces the ongoing challenges associated with the slowing housing market and addressing state mandated storm water utility requirements.

Where Your Tax Dollars Go – Breakdown of Property Taxes Paid

Your property taxes go to support various local jurisdictions (County, School, City, etc.) that provide service to you and your community. The City’s portion of your taxes is about one-third of total property taxes paid.



Other 4% County 23% City 32% School 40%

How Does the Cost of City Services Compare to Other Purchases?

On average, the owner of a \$222,000 house would spend about the same amount for their cable and telephone usage as the combined costs of police and fire protection, street reconstruction, public works operations such as snow plowing and parks, trails, recreation services, water, sewer, streetlights and stormwater services.

Comparison of City Taxes to Other Monthly Bills

<i>Property Taxes and City Utility Services</i>	\$105
Electricity / Gas	\$150
Telephone Service	\$30
Cable TV (Digital)	\$75
Cell Phone	\$65
Broadband Internet	\$45
Large Caribou / Starbuck coffee twice / week	\$20

Seasonal Flu vs. Pandemic Flu

Influenza (flu) is a respiratory infection caused by the influenza virus that is spread through coughing and sneezing. A person usually becomes sick one to five days following exposure but can spread the disease to others during a period from one day before until seven days after they become sick. Symptoms of flu include a rapid onset of fever, body aches, runny nose, headaches, chills, sore throat, and non-productive cough.

Seasonal flu usually begins to show up in October and lasts through April. Every year a new vaccine is created to offer protection against seasonal flu. About 36,000 people die from seasonal flu in the U.S. every year. Infection with the flu can lead to complications such as bacterial pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections, and dehydration. There is an increased risk of complications and death in the elderly, young children, pregnant women, and those with an already weakened immune system.

Pandemic flu is an outbreak of the influenza virus that spreads very rapidly to many people worldwide and causes high rates of serious illness and death.

For this to occur, a new virus is needed that humans have never been exposed to and is easily transmissible from person to person. Much of the knowledge of pandemic flu comes from studying the three pandemics that occurred in the 20th century.

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Around Town Updates

Culvers Restaurant. The architects working on this restaurant proposed to be located in the current Kohl’s parking lot are expected to submit complete construction plans by 12/14/07.

Jamaica BP. The Linn Companies has purchased the property from BP (they formerly leased the store) and have indicated plans to build a new store and car wash in 2009.

Langdon Neighborhood/Gold’s Gym. At the November 13 EDA meeting the board unanimously recommended continued activities toward redevelopment of the former Majestic Ballroom site. Anxon Inc. has proposed redevelopment of the site for a Gold’s Gym facility.

Historic Playing Cards, and Other CG Logo Gifts are Great Choices

How about a deck of Cottage Grove Historic Playing Cards for all of your friends and family? These casino-quality playing cards feature 54 different historical facts about the growth of Cottage Grove and can be purchased at City Hall for \$5.00 per deck. Shipping is available upon request for a nominal fee. Contact 651-458-2827 with order questions. Other City eStore gift options include:



- **Golf Wind Shirts** **\$25.00**
- **Wine Glasses with CG logo**
\$5.50 each or \$20 for a four set
- **Sweatshirts** **\$22.00**
- **Kids T shirts** **\$9.00**
- **Adult Size Tank Tops** **\$10.00**
- **Baseball Caps** **\$10.00**
- **Coffee Mug** **\$2.50**
- **Beanie Bear** **\$7.00**
- **Water Bottles** **\$6.00**
- **Travel Mugs** **\$6.50**

Cottage Grove Annual Photo Contest

Cottage Grove residents with an eye for photography, the City is announcing its annual Photo Contest. We have traditionally received many excellent entries and we encourage you to join in by submitting your own favorites to the sixth annual photo contest.



The "focus" of your pictures can be Cottage Grove People, Cottage Grove Landmarks, or Cottage Grove Nature. Winners will receive a prize and also acknowledgement in many places including the community newsletter Cottage Grove Reports—Monthly, the City website and in the lobby of City Hall.

The deadline is December 28th! Please submit your best photos by completing the entry form and reviewing the contest rules that can be found on our website at www.cottage-grove.org, at City Hall located at 7516 80th Street South, or by calling 651-458-2800.

Seasonal Flu vs. Pandemic Flu Con't -

The Spanish influenza pandemic of 1918-19 caused an estimated 40-50 million deaths worldwide, and about half of those deaths were healthy adults in their 20's-40's. The "Asian flu" pandemic of 1957 caused an estimated 2 million deaths worldwide, and the "Hong Kong" flu of 1968 an estimated 1 million deaths.

Take personal responsibility for staying healthy:

- Cover a cough or sneeze
- Wash hands after touching nose and mouth
- Get an annual flu shot and stay home when sick

For more information on seasonal flu or pandemic flu, please visit these websites: PandemicFlu.gov: [Official U.S. government Website for Information on Pandemic Flu and Avian Influenza](http://OfficialU.S.governmentWebsiteforInformationonPandemicFluandAvianInfluenza)

- **Never burn a candle on or near anything that can catch fire.** Keep burning candles away from furniture, drapes, bedding, carpets, books, paper, flammable decorations, etc.
- **Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.** Do not place lighted candles where they can be knocked over by children, pets or anyone else.
- **Be sure the candleholder is placed on a stable, heat-resistant surface.** This will also help prevent possible heat damage to counters and table surfaces and prevent glass containers from cracking or breaking.
- **Keep burning candles away from drafts, vents, ceiling fans and air currents.** This will help prevent rapid, uneven burning, and avoid flame flare-ups and sooting. Drafts can also blow lightweight curtains or papers into the flame where they could catch fire.

Candles Can be Beautiful and Dangerous - Follow Safety Rules

Candles are safe products, however, an estimated 18,000 candle fires are reported annually. According to fire experts, the bulk of candle-fire incidents are due to consumer inattention to basic fire safety or the misuse of candles.

The National Candle Association urges consumers to be careful when burning candles, and to following these rules for burning candles safely:

- **Always keep a burning candle within sight.** Extinguish all candles when leaving a room or before going to sleep.



Holiday Tree Disposal

The compost site, located at 95th and Glendenning Road will be open during the first two weekends in January so you will still be able to drop off your holiday tree for a small fee during:

Saturday, January 5th & 12th from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 6th & 13th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



Fire Hydrant Rules

Property owners are required to keep a three-foot clearance around a fire hydrant on their property, per City Code.

Holiday Shopping at River Oaks

Nothing beats a great golf related gift for the holidays. Check out the Pro Shop at River Oaks for great golf equipment and accessories. Our holiday shopping hours are:

- December 8, 15, 22 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
- December 9, 8 a.m.-12pm save up to 50% on selected items.
- Gift certificates are available.

You can also schedule your 2008 Golf Tournaments!

Stock Your Car for Winter Driving

Carry items in your car to handle common winter driving tasks - such as cleaning off your windshield, as well as supplies you might need in an emergency:

- Snow shovel, broom and ice scraper;
- Abrasive material, such as sand or kitty litter, in case your vehicle gets stuck in the snow;
- Jumper cables, flashlight and warning devices, such as flares and markers;
- Blankets for protection from the cold;
- A cell phone, water, food and any necessary medicine (for longer trips or when driving in lightly populated areas);
- Avoid asphyxiation from carbon monoxide, don't run your car for long periods of time with the windows up.

Volunteers Are Needed

The City of Cottage Grove is accepting applications to fill vacancies on the:

Economic Development Authority - To attract and retain businesses in Cottage Grove, assist businesses with expansion, and enable the rehabilitation and/or redevelopment of areas within the community.

Human Services/Rights Commission - To encourage all citizens, whether individual or corporate, to join in establishing and preserving full and true equity among all residents and visitors and to discourage any form of discriminatory practices.

Planning Commission - Responsible for reviewing land use and development proposals and preparing, updating and implementing the City's Comprehensive Plan; processing zoning applications; preparing ordinance text amendments to the zoning, subdivision and sign ordinances; and assist in the preparation of the capital improvements program.

Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission - Responsible for reviewing, and conservation and land use matters and assists in the Planning Commission in the preparation and implementation of park and open space plan of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Public Works Commission - Responsible for reviewing infrastructure and utility system repairs, replacements and additions, monitors signage and striping of City streets, and works directly with the Engineering Department on current and future projects.

Anyone interested in serving on any of these Advi-

sory Commissions should submit an application to Joe Fischbach, at 651-458-2883. Applications are also available on the City's web page, www.cottage-grove.org, click on the "eForms" tab.

Cottage Grove Ice Arena Activities

Public Skating – Skate with your family and friends

Sundays	Noon – 1:30 p.m.
Wednesdays	6:30 – 8 p.m.
Tue. & Thursday	10:30 a.m. – Noon
	\$4 per skater for all sessions

Figure Skaters Practice – Similar to public skating but is limited to figure skaters

Tuesdays	3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Thursday	3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
	\$4 per skater for all sessions

Come to the Ice Arena and enjoy these special events. Skate to music with your family and friends this holiday season!

X-Mas Eve Skating Party

Monday, Dec. 24	12:15 – 1:45pm
	\$4 per skater

New Years Eve Skating Party

Monday, Jan. 31	12:15 – 1:45pm
	\$4 per skater

Ice Arena Skating Lessons

The Cottage Grove Ice Arena offers skating lessons year-round to people of all ages and abilities. The winter session runs from late November through January. Spring session begins in February. Log onto www.cottage-grove.org or give us a call at 651-458-3400 for more information.

Ice Arena Construction Capital Campaign Still Underway

The City of Cottage Grove is seeking to expand the existing facility. Fundraising dollars will help to keep our ice activities affordable for all users. In return for contributions, the ice arena is offering a variety of advertising, sponsorship and donation programs.

The Facility Sponsorship Package is the largest form of commitment to this community project.

Facility Sponsorship Options:

Main Rink.....	\$250,000 or \$25,000 per year
Expanded Rink.....	\$250,000 or \$25,000 per year
Studio Rink.	\$100,000 or \$10,000 per year

By donating a puck, you can contribute to the success of the ice arena during construction and well into the future. The Puck Donation program is a limited time offer. Puck Donation Options:

Bronze	\$100.00
Silver.....	\$200.00
Gold	\$300.00

E-Mail: zdockter@cottage-grove.org or 651-458-3400 for information on the Facility Sponsorship and how to donate.





The Recreation Department

8020 80th St. So., Cottage Grove, MN 55016 ~ 651-458-3400 ~ www.cottage-grove.org



December 2007

Winter Break Bash

If you are looking to have a good time over winter break, we have the thing for you. Join the C. G. Recreation Department as we play games, make crafts, and enjoy the winter weather. Be sure to bring along your winter gear, ice skates (if you have them), any "G" rated movies you like, and your lunch (refrigerator and microwave are available). You must pre-register for this Bash.

Ages.....5 and older
DatesDecember 21, 26,
27, & 28, 2007
Time.....8:00-4:30 p.m.
PlaceHearthside Park
Cost.....\$14 per day

Cheerleading

This exciting program will explore cheerleading in a fun and non-competitive setting, while learning motion/jump techniques and sideline/performance cheers. All participants should wear appropriate clothing, tennis shoes, bring a bottle of water, and a snack. Each participant will receive their very own set of pom-poms. We will have a performance for friends and family on the last day at 11:40 a.m.

Ages..... 4-8 years old
Dates January 12 & 19, 2008
Time..... 9:00-Noon
Place Peter Thompson Park
Cost..... \$42

Be Belle's Guest

Kim Maxwell from Once Upon A Star invites you to a Beauty and the Beast pizzazz party! In full Belle costume, Kim will lead the party with flannel board games, ribbon dancing and a bookmark craft. Children please dress for an enchanted party and parents don't forget to bring the camera!

Ages..... 3-6 years old
Date..... January 29, 2008
Time..... 11:15 - 12:15 p.m.
Place Peter Thompson Park
Cost..... \$10

Welch Village

Ski & Snowboard Trip

Enjoy a fun day skiing or snowboarding with your friends at Welch Village. The program fee includes bus transportation, lift ticket, rental equipment, a safety discussion, and an on-the-hill lesson. All skiers/snowboarders are required to take the lesson. The rental equipment includes skis or snowboards. You must register for one or the other and may not switch during the day. Youth may bring their own skis or snowboard (must have metal edges and have bindings & leashes to secure the boot to the board).

Grades.....4th - 12th
DateJanuary 28, 2008
Place Welch Village
Cost.....\$38

Bus Pick-up Time 9:45-10:00 a.m.
Bus Drop-off Time 5:30 p.m.

Pick-up & Drop-off at Woodridge Park

Adult Broomball League

Looking for some excitement this winter? The Recreation Department's Inaugural Co-Ed Broomball League could be the solution to your winter boredom. Games are 55 minutes long and are played 7 on 7. These game are officiated. Sticks and balls will be provided for each game by the Recreation Department. The season will be eight weeks long, with playoffs on the last night. Playoff champions will receive a plaque and a \$50 gift certificate to a local restaurant. There will be a manager's meeting on January 2nd at 6:30 p.m. at Hamlet Park. For questions on the league or to register call the Recreation Department at 651-458-3400.

Ages.....18 and older
Dates.....Tuesdays, Jan. 9, 16,
23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20,
& 27, 2008
TimeGames start at 6:15 p.m.
PlaceHamlet Park
Cost.....\$75.00 per team

Dodgeball

The Cottage Grove Dodgeball League is here again and it's time to get it on. Guys, get your friends, neighbors, or co-workers together to test your strength on the Dodgeball court. The games will be officiated. There will be a minimum of 4 teams and a maximum of 8 players so hurry and sign-up. Each team will play a minimum of 6 games. League winners will receive a plaque, \$50 gift certificate to a local restaurant, and bragging rights. There will be a manager's meeting on January 3rd at the Cottage Grove Ice Arena at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room to go over rules.

DatesJan. 10, 17, 24, 31,
Feb. 7, 21, 28, & March 6, 2008
Time 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Place..... Grey Cloud Elementary
Cost \$85 per team



Register for
programs online at:
www.cottage-grove.org

Winter Outdoor Skating Rinks

The City of Cottage Grove has six outdoor ice skating rinks with supervised warming house facilities. The locations listed below have lighted hockey and/or general skating rinks. The warming houses will be closed if:

1. Warm temps have softened the ice.
2. Wind chill is -19 degrees or colder.
3. Heavy snowfall has not been cleared.

Warming House Sites:

Hamlet Park 459-1281
Hearthside Park..... 459-6256
Highlands Park..... 459-1295
Peter Thompson Park..... 459-2974
Pine Tree Valley Park 459-1552
Woodridge Park 459-7037

Warming House Hours:

Monday - Friday 4 p.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday - Sunday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
New Year's Eve & Day .. 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
No-School Days..... 2 p.m.-9 p.m.

The Cottage Grove Reports - Monthly, is published 12 times a year and mailed to all residents with their utility statement and sent directly to residents not receiving City utilities. The newsletter is written, published and edited by City Staff. For more information contact Kenneth Smith at 651-458-2804.