



City of Afton

July 2016

3033 St. Croix Trail South
P.O. Box 219
Afton, MN 55001

Afton's 4th of July Celebration

The Afton Parade Committee and the Afton Historical Museum are excited to announce that this year's parade Grand Marshal is Dave Dahl from KSTP-TV. Dave has lived in Afton for the last 16 years and was born and raised in Minnesota. Dave attended the University of Minnesota and earned his degree in meteorology from Florida State University before coming home to 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS in 1977; he has been on the air since 1979. Dave actively supports many worthy causes in our communities, to name a few: Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Kiwanis, Rotary; and, on a very personal level, the American Heart Association - in gratitude for his daughter Kayla's successful heart surgery at the age of two. Dave has received the American Meteorological Society Seal of Approval for television and radio weather broadcasting and was named 1998 Broadcaster of the Year by the Minnesota Broadcaster's Association. Other professional accomplishments include producing a documentary on tornado-chasing for The Weather Channel and a special report on The Discovery Channel for his tornado chase in April 1996. Dave also received an Emmy Award in 2003 for Single Newscast ("Wellstone Crash").



Stan Ross, Chair, Afton Parade Committee
www.aftonparade.com



JOIN THE FUN AT...

Summer is the time to Get Ticked Off!

Washington County has prepared flyers and handy wallet cards listing tips for keeping ticks off, for removing them safely and listing symptoms to watch for of tick-related diseases. *** **Pick up these FREE materials at City Hall.** ***



Artwork by Tyler Linner

Dreaded Lone Star strikes again...
as Lymie and Woody remain "Nervous Ticks."

CITY MEETINGS

CITY OFFICE CLOSED- JULY 4
for Independence Day

July 11, 2016

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

July 19, 2016

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

July 20, 2016

Heritage Preservation Commission
5:00 P.M.

July 20, 2016

Natural Resources & Groundwater
6:30 P.M.

July 27, 2016

Parks Committee
6:00 P.M.

July 27, 2016

Afton Branding Committee Meeting
7:00 P.M.

*All meetings are held at City Hall
unless otherwise noted.*

CITY COUNCIL

<u>Mayor:</u>	Richard Bend	436-7684
<u>Ward 1:</u>	Bill Palmquist	308-0569
<u>Ward 2:</u>	Joe Richter	436-1819
<u>Ward 3:</u>	Stan Ross	436-1346
<u>Ward 4:</u>	Randy Nelson	436-2479

CITY HALL

Monday — Friday
9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
651 - 436 - 5090

CITY WEBSITE

www.ci.afton.mn.us

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Animal Control	715-386-7789
Building Inspector	436-6469
Burning Permits	248-5103
Environmental Center	430-6655
Highland Sanitation	458-0043
Hillcrest Animal Hosp	484-7211
LSCV Fire Dept	436-7033
Sheriff's Office	439-9381

EMERGENCY 911

Downtown Improvement Projects: Afton residents, we now estimate, will be required to cover only 22% of the Old Village road and sanitary sewer project and the rest will be covered by federal, state, county and watershed district grants. Clearly, taxes Afton residents pay to state and federal governments will be “coming home” to benefit Afton directly.

New Grants Committee forming: City Council has authorized formation of a Grants Committee to seek out grants in other areas which may similarly benefit Afton. Each month the city receives notices of various grants that Afton might be able to apply for in areas as diverse as the arts, solar energy, city infrastructure and the environment, but we have not had any structure in place to take advantage of all these opportunities. Our thriving environmental, artistic and business communities should be lining up to participate and our goal is to facilitate doing so. →

If you have grant-writing expertise or an interest in a particular art, environmental or business sector, or have an idea of how grants could improve some other aspect of life in Afton please volunteer to serve on this committee.

Committees and Commissions contribute important work to City:

When attending the Council’s existing committees and commissions I am constantly impressed by the hard work, intelligence, skill and efficiency demonstrated by members. The Public Works Committee is currently making great progress on updating the city’s capital improvement plan for roads; the Parks Committee is focusing on generating affordable plans for a replacement of the outhouse in Town Square Park; the Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee is in the process of implementing a long term study of water quality in Afton; the Heritage Preservation Commission is completing its application to the State Historic Preservation Office for local designation of 13 sites in Afton as historic properties; The Branding Committee is processing survey results and is forming a mission statement at its next meeting; and the High Speed Internet Committee, having completed its arrangements for expanded internet speed and coverage in Afton, has already been dissolved with its work completed.

Dear Deer,

Stay away from my flowers and garden...

Do deer treat your yard as a fine neighborhood bistro serving delectable delights? Here are some tips to discourage them, in order of effectiveness:

1. **Fencing** – 8 feet high with woven wire; best remedy; unsightly & expensive.
2. **Electric Fencing** – smear peanut butter on aluminum foil attached to the fence. The peanut butter lures, but deer won’t want to repeat the contact (keep in mind, this is for “dumb” deer; smart ones may learn to avoid the lure).
3. **Deer Repellent** – You can buy deer repellent spray or pellets—or you can make your own. A simple method is to cut chunks of deodorant soap (Irish Spring, Dial) to place under plants or drill a hole in the soap, attach string and hang near plants. For a simple homemade spray repellent, blend 3-6 eggs and a cup or two of cold water at high speed. Optional add-ins: several tablespoons of garlic powder (NOT garlic salt) or minced garlic cloves and/or several tablespoons of hot sauce. Add this mixture to a gallon of water in a garden sprayer (always put water in BEFORE adding mix or it becomes too foamy). Let stand for 24 hours. Spray on plants; reapply after heavy rain and every two weeks to two months, depending on how anxious deer are for food. Repellents can be inappropriate for food crops; they can make the fruits or vegetables taste bad.
4. **Motion Activated Sprayers** – provides an unexpected cold blast of water. One sprayer spike costs approximately \$50; multiple sprayers can be hooked up by hose to one water source.
5. **Ultrasonic Devices** – emits noise that deer can’t stand (like playing heavy metal music for grandma).
6. **Netting** – placed around small trees, allows them to get sun and rain, but keeps deer away from tender growth.
7. **Deer repellent plants** – some claim there are flowers, bushes and trees that deer steer clear of. . **(my experience?? someone forgot to tell the deer.)**



Experiment - Keep in mind that what works on “your” deer can vary from year to year. Deer can become accustomed to repellents; it’s a good idea to rotate and use different kinds of repellents. *(And we humans think we are superior beings...)*

Get more details at: www.planetnatural.com/deer-repellent and at www.deer-departed.com/deer-repellent-tips.

Planning Commission, June 6

- **Scheduled** a presentation for Minimal Impact Design by the Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization (MSCWMO) for the July 11 Planning Commission meeting to assist cities in incorporating MIDS into their zoning regulations.
- **Continued** discussion on the Teitelbaum Minor Subdivision application at 15511 Afton Hills for subdividing an existing fifteen-acre parcel into three, five-acre residential parcels. At issue were code requirements related to driveways, particularly the number of driveways allowed on a parcel and the distance required between driveways. The existing driveway easement serves the property to the south, which bisects proposed Parcel C.
- **Recommended** approval to City Council for the Chaim Teitelbaum Minor Subdivision at 15511 Afton Hills Drive, which included strongly advising the applicant to apply to the City for an Administrative Permit to allow a driveway for proposed Parcel C to come off of the existing driveway easement which bisects the newly created parcel, for traffic safety and environmental factors.
- **Recommended DENIAL** to the City Council for the Brown Trout LLC Minor Subdivision application at 15311 Putnam Boulevard and 2573 Stagecoach Trail, with the following findings of fact: The variance request does not comply with the requirements in Section 12-477 for construction on nonconforming lots of record; Putnam Boulevard is not an open road, therefore no access is possible from the proposed subdivision's Putnam parcel; putting a driveway over the steep slope from the proposed Putnam parcel is problematic. A driveway must be 12% or less; the slope over which the driveway is proposed is much steeper. The house under construction should not have had a building permit issued without access and frontage verified and approved by the city; a house may not be less than 50 feet to the front of the lot. While both proposed parcels meet the minimum lot area of 5 acres, the minimum contiguous buildable area of 2.5 acres and minimum lot width of 300 feet, there are a number of existing legal non-conformities and the new house and septic system require the proposed lot line realignment to meet the required side yard setback. Creating a subdivision with non-conforming lots are not allowed in the Afton City Code.

City Council Meeting, June 21

- **Heard** presentation by Natalie Warren of St. Croix River Association on their outreach efforts and projects.
- **Heard** presentation by Bob Sherman, new Executive Director of Youth Services Bureau on services received by Afton residents. Council contributed \$1,500 for 2016.
- **Continued** applications by Chaim Teitelbaum at 15511 Afton Hills Drive and Brown Trout LLC at 15311 Putnam and 2573 Stagecoach Trail for Minor Subdivisions, per the applicants' requests.
- **Approved** quote from Astech Corp for the 2016 Crack Fill and Seal Coat Projects in the amount of \$29,450. This includes using the extra seal coat rock at the City Garage.
- **Scheduled** a Special City Council Meeting for June 30th at 3:30pm to consider awarding bids for the Wastewater Treatment System and for Charitable Gambling conditions of approval for the Lumberyard Pub.
- **Authorized** pothole patch repair in the identified area on Afton Hills Drive, not to exceed \$11,000, to extend the life of the road until a reconstruction can be budgeted.
- **Designated** as a "minimum maintenance road" Old Cemetery Road that bisects 15711 Upper 34th Street S and continues up the steep hill that serves a few residences and Mt. Hope Cemetery. This includes installing signage informing minimum maintenance.
- **Disbanded** the Afton High Speed Internet Committee, which worked to get high speed internet to all areas of Afton through CenturyLink. Project completion September 2016.
- **Adopted** a Summary Ordinance for publication of the City Cemetery Operation and Maintenance ordinance that was passed in May and adopted an amendment to the "sale of lots" section, stating no future burials will be approved in any city cemetery.
- **Hired** a contract videographer to record City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Thanked long-time videographer, Mark Nelson, for his dedicated service.

Downtown Improvement Projects Update



Bids were opened for the Downtown Improvement Projects on Friday, June 24.

The project includes the reconstruction of County Road 21 through the downtown area, the sanitary sewer collection system and reconstruction of all local streets in the downtown area, stormwater improvements and levee improvements.

The low bid was received from Geislinger, Inc. in the amount of \$12,542,476.71, which was within 0.7% of the Engineer's estimate.

The City Engineer will now work with the contractor to finalize plans for construction timing and staging. This information will be passed along to residents and businesses in the August City Newsletter.

Grants Committee Formed

The City Council at its June 21st meeting voted to form a Grants Committee and is looking for interested volunteers to assist in searching and applying for grants to benefit the Afton community.



Interested persons should complete and submit the "Application for Commission or Committee" available on the City website or at City Hall.



CITY OF AFTON
3033 ST CROIX TRAIL SO
P.O. BOX 219
AFTON, MN 55001



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PERMIT NO. 15

Learn what to do about Aquatic Invasive Species at Afton House Inn, July 14

Join St. Croix River Association and Washington Conservation District in exploring Aquatic Invasive Species: *What Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are present in Lake St. Croix and nearby lakes? How do I identify AIS? How do I prevent AIS? What do I do if I find AIS in my lake?*

Please RSVP for this FREE EVENT:

www.tinyurl.com/FeedYourBrain2016

Feed Your Brain: Aquatic Invasive Species meeting
July 14, 6 – 8 p.m.,
Afton House Inn,
3291 St. Croix Trl S
(Pennington Room).



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS
Prevent the transport of nuisance species. Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

PATRON
AFTON, MN 55001

View this newsletter
IN COLOR
on the city website.



Please recycle this newsletter after use.

Valley Branch Library July Events



A Home for Fairies! Friday, July 8, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Where do the magical fairies and gnomes live? Create your own fairy or gnome and build a cozy home for them. Ages 7-11.

Preschool Dance Party, Monday, July 11, 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Dance, jump, sing and laugh to music old and new!

RAD Zoo, Wednesday, July 13, 4 to 5 p.m.

A fun, interactive presentation with turtles, lizards, snakes and a small alligator. All ages.

Play, Baby, Play, Monday, July 18, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Babies explore various materials to stimulate their sense of wonder! Ages birth to 3.

DIY Day at the Library: Duct Tape Art, Wednesday, July 20, 2 to 6 p.m.

Stop in any time during the day to enjoy a fun, self-directed craft. Ages 7-17.

I Survived ... the Shark Attacks of 1916, Thursday, July 21, 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Are you afraid of the water? Read this book from the popular series by Lauren Tarshis and practice your "survival" skills with games like "Hit the Shark in the Eyes and Gills" or "Keep Your Eyes on the Shark at All Times." Ages 8-12.

Preschool STEAM Storytime: Ocean Animals, Monday, July 25, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

STEAM Storytime includes stories, songs, rhymes and special activities incorporating science, technology, engineering, art and math.

Dog Gone Reading — Read to Legacy, Tuesday, July 26, 4 to 6 p.m. **(Prepare for the Dog Days of Summer, NOW!)**

Bone up on reading! Certified therapy dog, Legacy, is ready for YOU! Sign up for 15-minute reading sessions, 651-436-5882.

Spy Training Day, Wednesday, July 27, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Gain skills and powers of a top secret spy at this "special ops" training day. Dress in black and wear sunglasses! You'll be assigned a secret identity when you arrive. Ages 7-12.

Valley Library Book Club, Thursday, July 28, 5 to 6 p.m.

The book this month is "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr. Read the book, come, and discuss. Open to all.