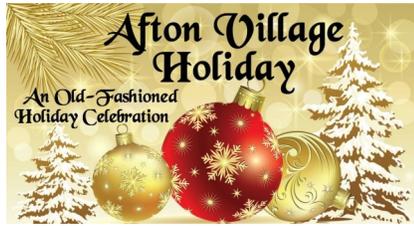




**DECEMBER 2018**

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



**Friday, November 30 - Candlelight Night, 5pm-9pm**  
**Saturday, December 1 - Family Day, 9am-4 pm**

Afton will be transformed into a winter wonderland with Horse & Wagon rides, Strolling Carolers, Christmas Tree lighting, Artist Gift Market, Children's Crafts, festive food & drinks and more.

For a full listing of events, visit: <http://exploreafton.com/afton-village-holiday/>.

**The City Office is Closed**

**Monday, December 24**  
**Tuesday, December 25**  
**Tuesday, January 1**  
*In observance of the Holidays*

**CITY MEETINGS**

**December 3, 2018**

Planning Commission Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

**December 4, 2018**

Natural Resources and Groundwater  
Committee 5:00 P.M.

**December 18, 2018**

City Council Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

**December 19, 2018**

Heritage Preservation Commission  
5:00 P.M.

**December 26, 2018**

Parks Committee  
6:00 P.M.

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

**CITY COUNCIL**

Mayor: Richard Bend 436-7684

Ward 1: Bill Palmquist 436-2238

Ward 2: Joe Richter 436-1819

Ward 3: Stan Ross 436-1346

Ward 4: 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](http://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

Mally's Sunshine Kennel 715-246-2467

LSCV Fire Dept 436-7033

**HOLIDAY GATHERING & RECOGNITIONS**

**AFTON CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.**

December will mark the last meeting of two long-serving members of our City Council. Richard Bend has served our community as Mayor for the past five years. Joe Richter has represented the residents of Ward 2 as Council Member for the past twelve years. Please join us at 6PM for an open house prior to the December 18 City Council meeting to help us thank them for their service, share stories, and enjoy holiday treats.

**A quorum of the City Council or City Commissions may be present at this gathering.**

## A Letter from the Mayor ~

After five years I've run out of things to say in the newsletter. This morning, after days of rolling ideas around in my head, I woke up early and wrote a brilliant piece, only to be told, accurately by my editor-wife, Carol, that it was maudlin. She advised me to tell everyone what remains to be planned and implemented now that I completed all the tasks left to me by previous administrations.

I said, "No, that is too preachy, most people will have different ideas about what needs to be done, and now it isn't my place to tell others what to do. I'm going to go outside, take the goats for a walk, take the dogs for a walk, take the front loader off the tractor and put the snowblower on."

The lake finally froze over completely last night. The geese had all left this morning and only a few swans decorate the frosty surface.

Have a great winter and enjoy the old village festivities, starting with the Christmas tree lighting this Friday evening.

~Richard

## Licensing protects pets!

**ALL DOGS (& cats)** that venture out-of-doors in Afton are required to be licensed and have current rabies vaccinations. This is for the health & safety of residents, pets and wildlife.

Should an animal be **lost** or **found**, residents should call City Hall first to attempt reuniting pets with owners, saving Animal Control and impound charges.

Two year licenses for "altered" pets is \$5; unaltered is \$10. Current license period is January 1, 2019 — December 31, 2020. (*What a deal!*) **An additional \$5 late fee applies after March 31.**

For each pet, complete an Animal License Form, found on Afton's Home Page, attach a copy of the current rabies vaccination certificate and appropriate fee per animal. Mail or bring to City Hall.



The Lower St Croix Valley Fire Department will be hosting its annual **Pancake Breakfast with Santa** on Sunday, December 2nd from 8:00 am until Noon.

Join us for All You Can Eat Pancakes at the Lower St Croix Valley Fire Department in Lake St. Croix Beach.

Santa once again will be in attendance and is excited to see everyone before Christmas. Free Will Donation and remember to bring an item for the local food shelf! Hope to see you there!

## November Meeting Highlights

### November 5, 2018 Planning Commission Meeting

#### *The Commission:*

- Recommended approval of an application from Tom Gasser for a Variance at 4220 River Road.
- Discussed dividing up sections of Ordinance 12 for members to study and develop areas of expertise.

### November 20, 2018 City Council Meeting

#### *The Council:*

- Approved a Variance application from Tom Gasser for a Variance at 4220 River Road.
- Recognized Jim Stanley's 40 years of service on the Lower St Croix Fire District.
- Renewed the 3 year contract for building inspection services with Stensland Inspection Services.
- Approved a resolution reauthorizing the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program.

MEETING PACKETS, VIDEOS AND APPROVED MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE AT:  
[www.ci.afton.mn.us](http://www.ci.afton.mn.us)

### Budget and Tax Hearing

*All are Invited to Attend Afton's 2019 Budget and Tax Hearing*

**7:00 pm, Tuesday, December 18, 2018**

Afton City Council Chambers  
 3033 St Croix Trail South  
 Afton, MN 55001

The hearing is an opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide feedback regarding the proposed budget.

**The 2019 Proposed Budget is available at  
 City Hall or on the City's website at:**

[www.ci.afton.mn.us](http://www.ci.afton.mn.us)

(Click the top tab: "City Finance Information")



## Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

### Thursday, December 6

#### **An Evening with Craig Blacklock**

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Craig Blacklock is one of the country's most distinguished nature photographers. His most recent book, *St. Croix & Namekagon Rivers: The Enduring Gift*, celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act protecting the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers, and was co-produced by the St. Croix River Association and Blacklock Photography Galleries.

Join us for a visual journey down the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers as Craig's photos are set to original music by Stillwater's Peter Mayer. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Program from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Q & A will follow the video. Books will be available for sale, and Craig will sign books before and after the program. *Free and open to everyone, RSVP is requested to [events@belwin.org](mailto:events@belwin.org)*

### Saturday, December 15

#### **Open Third Saturday Events**

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Participate in programs, meet Belwin staff, explore the trails, and connect with nature.

#### **One-Hour Guided Experiences at**

11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. departing from the Education Center. **December topic: Winter Wander.** Experience the tranquility of the winter woods, learn about the upcoming Winter Solstice, and find some calm before the holiday festivities begin.

*Free and open to everyone; Guided Experiences \$10 for non-members.*

### Thursday, December 20

#### **Winter Solstice Bonfire**

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate the winter solstice with musical theater troupe Impossible Salt, night hikes, warm drinks, and a huge bonfire. RSVP requested. Please consider carpooling.

*Open to everyone. Suggested donation: \$5/car.*

For Information & To RSVP for events:

**Belwin Conservancy**  
 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton  
 651-436-5189  
[www.belwin.org](http://www.belwin.org)



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



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## **Valley Library Featured Events for December 2018**

**Library Closed:**

**Monday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 25  
(Christmas Eve and Christmas Day)**

**Tuesday, Jan. 1 (New Year's Day)**

### **Spotlight On...Our Favorite Things**

The holidays drum up plenty of wish lists full of favorite things, and Washington County Library is no exception. No matter how you celebrate, we want to share in the joy by giving you a whole bunch of our top choices from WashCoLib's many materials, tools, and resources. Our book clubs will give us their best recommendations, our staff will share what they think deserves a big red bow, and we'll show you how to use one of our databases as a gift idea generator! We can even point you in the direction of a great program to try in the New Year. Stay tuned throughout December as we spotlight our favorite things on WashCoLib.org.

### **Featured Events**

#### **STEM Saturdays: Rovers on Mars**

Saturday, Dec. 1 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The rovers Opportunity and Curiosity will soon be joined by a new rover (not named yet) that will bring the first helicopter to fly on another planet! Mars rovers are paving the way for astronauts to soon follow. What is Mars like? Is it similar to Earth? How long will it take to get there? This journey to the red planet will answer all these questions and more. This intergalactic adventure at Valley Library will be presented by Christopher Mick of Space St. Croix. No registration required.

#### **Virtual Reality Demonstration**

Thursday, Dec. 6 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Come try out the library's virtual reality equipment at Valley Library! VR allows us to experience many amazing things- dinosaurs, roller coasters, and many of earth's beautiful locations. We will have a high-powered Oculus Rift and some super portable Oculus Go headsets. No registration required for this drop-in session.

#### **Gingerbread House Decorating**

Tuesday, Dec. 11 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Ring in the holiday season at Valley Library by decorating a gingerbread house to take home. Pre-built houses and decorations provided. Registration required. Register online at WashCoLib.org/Events, at the Information Desk, or by calling 651-436-2042.

### **Full Calendar of Events:**

**[www.washcolib.org](http://www.washcolib.org)  
Valley Branch Library  
380 St. Croix Trail South  
Lakeland, MN 55043  
651-436-5882**

**PATRON  
AFTON, MN 55001**

You may view this newsletter

***IN COLOR***  
on the city website.



*Please recycle this  
newsletter after use.*

## **Winter Snow Reminders**

- ▶ The City's snow plow contractor hits the streets on a one-inch snowfall; however, if icy or slippery conditions exist, they may be sent out to also sand/salt hills and intersections.
- ▶ Sidewalks in the Village must be shoveled within 24 hours of a snowfall.
- ▶ Plowing snow onto or across a city street is illegal; violations are a misdemeanor and civil penalties may apply.
- ▶ Please slow down and drive for the conditions of the road, especially on Afton's curvy roads and hills.
- ▶ Be patient. We try to get around to all "Primary" routes within 24 hours; "Secondary" roads within 48 hours. (please see the Map of Snow Plow Routes on the City Website, under "Roads & Bridges," "Snow Removal")
- ▶ If your road has not been plowed or dangerous conditions exist, please call us at City Hall 651-436-5090 so we can get it the attention it deserves.

## **Slippery Out There!**

The City provides a sand/salt mixture for Afton residents to use to control ice on driveways. Please fill buckets only - no skid loaders - **This service is not for commercial use.**

The mixture is at the garage located at 1675 Stagecoach Trail. If you go there and its gone, please call and advise City Hall.