



# December 2019

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

## Jessie Diggins brings World Cup to the Twin Cities

We all remember the announcer screaming "Here Comes Diggins!" over and over again at the Winter Olympics as Afton's home town hero crossed the finish line for the Gold Medal at the 2018 Olympics. What an exciting time for Jessie and all of us here in Afton.

When I spoke with Jessie, while sitting at Selma's working on the plans for her Afton Homecoming, she told me that her next goal was to bring a World Cup Cross Country Ski Race to Minnesota. True to form, she did it. The race is coming to Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis this March - another win for Jessie. This will be the first World Cup Cross Country ski race in Minnesota since 1985, and the first one in the USA in 19 years.

The Fastenal Parallel 45 winter festival on Saturday and Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, will feature youth and citizen events and activities. Jessie will race in the World Cup Sprint race on Tuesday, March 17. The racing will begin at 2:15 pm with qualifying rounds. The elimination heats begin at 4:15 with the finals ending at 6:30 p.m. The top Cross Country skiers in the world will be racing; this is the final sprint race of the World Cup season, where the Crystal Globe will be awarded to the best male and female sprinters over the entire season.

Reserved seating is sold out but general admission is still open at a cost of \$25 per person. With general admission you can walk the course interior and take in the race at your favorite spot. There will be food carts, beverages, and activities throughout the day.

Check out the promotional commercial filmed last summer here in Afton at <https://www.facebook.com/mnworldcup/videos/720127868491680/>.

Please show your support for Jessie by attending with your Afton spirit and cow bells! For more information on this event, and to order tickets, use this link: <https://www.loppet.org/events/paralle45/>

Stan Ross  
Ward3 City Council

**The City Office is Closed**  
**Tuesday, December 24**  
**Wednesday, December 25**  
**Wednesday, January 1**  
*In observance of the Holidays*

### CITY MEETINGS

**December 2, 2019**

Planning Commission Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

**December 3, 2019**

Natural Resources & Groundwater  
5:30 P.M.

**December 17, 2019**

City Council Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

**December 18, 2019**

Heritage Preservation Commission  
5:00 P.M.

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

### CITY COUNCIL

Mayor: Bill Palmquist 651-308-0569  
Ward 1: Annie Perkins 651-592-3007  
Ward 2: Lucia Wroblewski 651-436-3982  
Ward 3: Stan Ross 651-436-1346  
Ward 4: Randy Nelson 651-436-2479

### CITY HALL

Monday — Friday

9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

651-436-5090

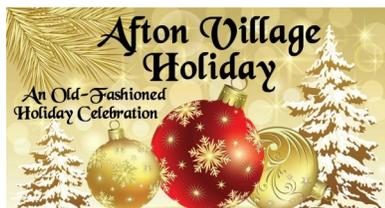
### CITY WEBSITE

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

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Animal Control 715-386-7789  
Building Inspector 651-436-6469  
Burning Permits 651-248-5103  
Environmental Center 651-275-7475  
Highland Sanitation 651-458-0043  
Mally's Sunshine Kennel 715-246-2467  
LSCV Fire Dept 651-436-7033  
Sheriff's Dept 651-439-9381

**EMERGENCY 911**



**Friday, December 6 - Candlelight Night, 5pm-9pm**

**Saturday, December 7 - 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 schedule of events, visit: <http://exploreafton.com/afton-village-holiday/>

## Notes from the Mayor

We learned in November that the St. Croix River between Taylor's Falls and Stillwater has been added to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) growing list of impaired waterways. Overall 30 percent of the state's lakes and 50 percent of its streams are now listed as impaired. This is sad and disappointing news. The issue in the St. Croix is due to high levels of phosphorus.

When a pristine river like the St. Croix is threatened by excessive nutrient loading, the only way to fix it is for municipalities up and down the river to do everything they can to limit the amount of sediment and fertilizers reaching the creeks and streams that empty into the river. To do this there must be a partnership with landowners, farmers, and developers. Many area farmers are taking active steps in this regard already.

Afton's development goals focus on the preservation of open space. This helps ensure we do not worsen the problems of nutrient loading and other issues impacting the surface and ground water in our area. We also know the benefits to water quality that come from buffers and restoring native prairies. The new development on 60th street is a prime example of both the goals, and the challenges, of dealing with this issue.

By permanently preserving over a hundred acres of open space along Trout Brook and converting it from fertilized row crops to a native prairie, we are making good progress. However, issues with the stormwater treatment system on the residential component of the project were identified this summer and have required extensive meetings between our engineers, neighbors, and the developer. To be sure it was a challenging, historically-wet, construction season, and many projects around the state faced similar issues, but this system must work as intended. This begs the question on how we as a city should approach future projects regarding water quality and control systems. We are getting more and heavier rain events every year. Currently, we rely on Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS), which are updated at the state level and should reflect these changing conditions and prescribe proper treatment. But it is unclear if that is enough given our recent experience. It is an issue I would like us to think about. Nonetheless, I am confident the issues will be fixed and meet the permit requirements to ensure that water entering Trout Brook is treated properly. It has to. The new report on impaired waterways from the MPCA drives that point home.

December 1st historically marks the beginning of the coldest 90 days of winter, although this year early November might have something to say about that. But this is also the start of the holiday season. Don't forget to come down to the annual tree lighting and celebration in the Old Village December 6 and 7. It is always a fun, family-friendly event. Details are in the newsletter.

I hope you have a joyful and peaceful holiday season.

**-Bill**

### Annual Village Holiday Bake Sale

*to benefit the Afton Historical Museum*

**Bakers** ~ remember to schedule time on your calendar to make a little something for our **Village Holiday Bake Sale**.

Baked goods should be delivered to the museum on

**Thursday, Dec. 5.**

*This annual fundraiser benefits the Afton Historical Museum. Please show your support and participate. Thank you!*

### HOLIDAY GATHERING

AFTON CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

**Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.**

Please join us at 6PM for an open house prior to the December 17 City Council meeting to share stories and enjoy holiday treats.

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

## November Meeting Highlights

### November 4, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting

#### The Commission:

- Reviewed the draft Preservation and Land Conservation Development (PLCD) Ordinance Amendment.

### November 19, 2019 City Council Meeting

#### The Council:

- Approved Pay Voucher No. 3 to Great Northern Landscapes for the Downtown Village Project.
- Approved the Cooperative Agreement with Washington County for maintenance of street improvements.
- Denied the request from Tom Gasser regarding the placement of the retaining wall and rain gardens.
- Reviewed the Short Term Rentals draft Ordinance.
- Approved a rate increase for Highland Sanitation for 2020.
- Designated Shepherd of the Valley as the Polling location for 2020 elections.

MEETING PACKETS, VIDEOS AND APPROVED MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE AT:

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

## Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

**Friday, December 20th, 2019**

### Winter Solstice Bonfire

Celebrate the longest night and the return of the light at Belwin's annual solstice bonfire. Special guests [Ikidowin Youth Theater](#) will treat you to Ojibwe stories that can only be told when there is snow on the ground. Evening includes night hikes and hot cider and cookies in the warming house. Please RSVP so we have enough for all. Storytelling at 6:30pm. Please carpool and bring a chair and flashlight. \$5 per car.

**Saturday, December 21st, 2019**

### Education Center Third Saturday

Explore the Belwin Education Center and its miles of rolling, wooded trails. Guided Experiences at 11:00 a.m. and at 1:00 p.m. December topic: Winter Hike with naturalist Lynette Anderson. Free to independently explore the Education Center and trails. Guided Experiences: Free for members, \$10/family for non-members.

**Belwin Conservancy**  
**1553 Stagecoach Trail South**  
**Afton MN 55001**  
**651-436-5189**  
[www.belwin.org](http://www.belwin.org)

## Budget and Tax Hearing

All are Invited to Attend Afton's 2020 Budget and Tax Hearing

**7:00 pm, Tuesday, December 17, 2019**

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 2020 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")

## Free Math Tutoring

Eastern Twin Cities Islamic Center – ETCIC (formerly ISWEM) is offering FREE Math Tutoring for Grades 3 to 12 on Wednesday's from 6 PM to 7:30 PM at its location at 12585 Hudson Road S, Afton, MN 55001. This program is open to everyone. For additional details and to register, please see <https://tinyurl.com/y3moppd5> or email [contact@iswem.org](mailto:contact@iswem.org).

## Reminder - Open Burning is Prohibited by Afton Ordinance (Sec. 10. 130-136)

It shall be unlawful for any person to start or allow to burn, any open fire on any property within the city without first having obtained a "burn permit" from the Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Protection District, except for supervised recreational or cooking fires contained within approved fire rings, pits or barbecue grills.

"Recreational fires" are defined as being three feet in diameter at the base with flame height not exceeding 3 feet and is fueled only by natural wood with logs 3 inches in diameter or larger. Fires fueled by other materials, including but not limited to treated or painted wood, plastic, rubber, leaves, grass, trimmings or any garden or yard vegetation, regardless of size, are not recreational fires.



CITY OF AFTON  
3033 ST CROIX TRAIL SO  
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AFTON, MN 55001



PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
AFTON MN 55001  
PERMIT NO. 15

### Valley Library December 2019

**Library Closed:**

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

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

**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**

### **Washington County Yard Waste site opens in Hugo**

The Washington County Northern Yard Waste Site is open in Hugo at 5527 170th St. N.

The county yard waste collection site accepts leaves, grass, brush, and tree waste from residents at no charge. No business yard waste is accepted.

The site is open year-round, with limited hours during the winter. The site will be open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday from December through March.

Organics, such as food scraps and paper towels, are also accepted at the Northern Yard Waste Site. Food and other organics must be kept separate from yard waste. Learn more and sign up for the organics drop-off program at

[www.co.washington.mn.us/organics](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/organics).

To further expand disposal options, the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a reciprocal agreement with Ramsey County in September to allow Washington County residents to use four Ramsey County yard waste sites at no charge in Arden Hills, Battle Creek, Frank & Sims, and White Bear Township. For additional information visit [www.co.washington.mn.us/yardwaste](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/yardwaste) or call 651-275-7475.

You may view this newsletter

**INCOLOR**  
on the city website.



*Please recycle this newsletter after use.*

### **Recycling News**

Some of us still have that trusty aluminum can crusher on the wall of our garage. Crushed cans take up less space, and crushing aluminum cans can sometimes be fun. Well, processes have changed, and it's called single-stream recycling. Single-stream recycling allows both residential and commercial recyclers to place all recyclables into one bin, regardless of material type. This makes recycling easier for the consumer and increases participation throughout the community. However, it complicates the sorting process at the recycling facility, and that is why you should no longer crush those aluminum cans. Furthermore, steel cans, such as soup cans, should have the lids placed inside the cans with the tops pinched inward. All cans should be rinsed so there are no food particles. Adhering to these guidelines, facilitates the sorting process and makes it more efficient.

Highland Sanitation picks up our trash and recyclables. They take them to Tennis Sanitation and Roll Off LLC in St. Paul Park, where the recycling is done. More information is available at <https://www.tennissanitation.com/>

*Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee*

### **County seeks input on Food Scrap Collection program**

Washington County is seeking input from residents to help guide the development of a new program, and they'd appreciate your feedback. Click the link to tell them what you think. Link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F9ZFXGR>

