



February 2016

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

Minnesota's 2016 Precinct Caucuses

This year the Precinct Caucuses for the MN Republican party and for the MN DFL party will be held Tuesday, March 1, 2016 starting at 7:00 pm. For Minor political party caucuses contact the party directly for dates and locations.

Starting the week of February 8, the Minnesota Secretary of State website has an online caucus finder for your convenience in getting your caucus location. The Minnesota Secretary of State encourages residents to show support for their preferred candidates or political party by participating in the candidate endorsement process that leads up to the state and national party conventions.

What is a precinct caucus?

Precinct caucuses are meetings run by Minnesota's political parties. You can show support for candidates, raise issues of importance to you, influence who the party will endorse for many offices, and meet people in your community.

Caucuses are the first in a series of meetings where parties endorse candidates and set goals and values (called the party platform). In 2016, a major part of precinct caucuses will be to vote for the person you want your political party to support for President in the presidential preference ballot.

Free caucus workshop

Join Secretary of State Steve Simon on Thursday, February 25 from noon-1:30pm for the Address on the State of Elections at Wellstone Center at Neighborhood House, 179 Robie St. E, St. Paul.

After the address, representatives from the two major parties invite you to attend a workshop to learn how to participate in each party's precinct caucus process.

RSVP to attend the caucus workshop & get more info at: www.sos.state.mn.us.

Who can participate in a caucus?

To participate, you must be eligible to vote in the Fall election and live in the precinct. You also must generally agree with the principles of the political party hosting the caucus.

What will happen at the caucus?

Each political party runs their caucus meetings differently. Contact your political party if you have questions. Generally, there are four main activities at a caucus:

1. **Choose volunteers who will organize political activities in the precinct.** This could include maintaining contact lists, holding political meetings, and helping with campaign efforts.
2. **Vote for the person you want the party to support for President.** This is called the presidential preference ballot. The results determine how many delegates each candidate gets at their party's national endorsing convention.
3. **Discuss issues and ideas for the party to support.** You can present an issue or idea for the party to support, called a resolution. If you convince other attendees to support your resolution, it will be taken to the next political convention. Eventually, your resolution could become part of the official party platform.
4. **Choose delegates who will endorse candidates at future conventions.** At future conventions, party delegates will endorse state and federal candidates, including for President.

CITY MEETINGS

CITY OFFICE CLOSED

February 15, 2016

*In Observance of
Presidents' Day*

February 1, 2016

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

February 16, 2016

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

February 17, 2016

Heritage Preservation Commission
5:00 P.M.

February 17, 2016

Natural Resources & Groundwater
6:30 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

Mayor's Note

My mayor's note last month was quickly followed by a call from Kenn Kopitzke who, as usual, gave his supportive opinions, dotted with personal examples from his own experiences in Afton and as Afton's mayor. We also discussed the Civil War and the New Madrid earthquake that forced the Mississippi to flow backwards. Days later I received the call that Afton had lost Kenn, triggering my thoughts to run backwards through all our talks. We in Afton owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Kenn and others like him who preserve Afton's horse and buggy landscape and history while guiding Afton toward a technically sophisticated, high speed future.

Regards, Richard Bend

City Seeks Election Judges



Election judges are the people that serve the community by staffing the local polling places. In Afton we have been blessed with many excellent and dedicated election judges serving for many years. Even though we have been very lucky to get new recruits trained to keep

our election duty stations staffed, the time has come to issue an "all call" request for election judges. As always, this Presidential election year promises to be a busy one!

Serving as an Election Judge

Election judges are trained and certified for a two-year period as set forth by the Secretary of State and Washington County. Election judges serve on Primary Election Day, August 9, 2016, General Election Day, November 8, 2016, and any special elections in the odd year, per availability.

Election judges are usually asked to serve in the precinct where they live but may be needed elsewhere in the county. In Afton, two Head Election Judges serve all day from 6:00 a.m. until the election process is completed; all other election judges serve a partial day, either from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.; or from 2:00 p.m. until the election process is completed.

Election Judge Eligibility

To be an election judge:

- ✓ you must be eligible to vote in Minnesota;
- ✓ you must be able to read, write, and speak English;
- ✓ you cannot be a spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any election judge serving in the same Ward or duty station;
- ✓ you cannot be a candidate or the spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any candidate on the ballot in that precinct.

Becoming an Election Judge

If you are interested in becoming an election judge please contact City Hall at 651-436-5090 or email deputyclerk@ci.afton.mn.us. Each election judge must complete an application every two-year period. Each person must pass the training, become certified for the two-year period and be willing, if able, to serve for the elections or special elections in that time period.

All appointments are made by City Council and occur at the May or June Council meeting. If appointed, you must attend training conducted by the municipal clerk in July (for the August 9 Primary) and in October (for those missing certification in July and as an additional training "brush-up" in readiness for the November 8 General Election).

LSCV Fire Dept Annual Awards Banquet and Presentation held on Saturday, January 16th

Service Awards were presented to the following members:

Chip Hannigan	25 Years
Sherry Kirby	20 Years
Steve Jacobs	15 Years
Bridget O'Brien	15 Years
Rob Corey	10 Years
Brenda McKenzie	10 Years



Pete Granat was also recognized for his combined 38 years of service first as a firefighter and the last 17 years as a City of Lake St Croix Beach Fire District Representative. Pete retired from the District Board as of January 1, 2016.

The evening was topped off as Deputy Chief Jim Stanley recalled a cardiac arrest event we had in June. After thanking everyone who had played a part in the "save," he turned the microphone over to the survivor who thanked everyone himself! It was a very special and memorable evening.

LSCV Fire Department Offers CPR

Classes: 2016 could be your year to Save A Life

Do you have the necessary skills to save a life? Investing a small amount of time in education — no more than 3 hours — could mean the difference between life and death for someone who is choking or in cardiac distress. Be prepared!



Learn to recognize life-threatening emergencies and what to do. Whether you just want to learn CPR and basic lifesaving skills (or refresh your memory) or you need formal CPR and AED instructed training with certification, we've got the perfect class for you!

Sign-up today for any of four training courses:

Basic Lifesaving for Healthcare Providers; Heartsaver CPR and AED; Infant CPR; or, Friends & Family CPR.

Classes range from \$20-\$50 per person and include instruction by a certified trainer as well as a course certification card (valid for 2 years). All classes will be taught at the Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Department.

For more information or to register please email Sherry.Kirby@LSCVFD.com or call (651) 755-1584. Private groups and industry classes may be scheduled upon request.

Planning Commission, January 4

- **Heard** Solar Power Hour presentation from Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) on how solar PV (photovoltaic) systems work, financial benefits and incentives, the solar installation process, available funding options and meet energy agency representatives and solar installers. *[The City website has Solar Power Hour, solar installer, and energy agency contact information.]*
- **Held** a Public Hearing for two variances requested by Nature’s Trees, dba St. Croix SavATree, to construct a headquarters facility on 5.9 acres at the northeast corner of a Hudson Road property, PID 06.028.20.24.0002, to allow steel siding as the main exterior building material; and, to reduce landscaped buffers on the south side adjacent to an Industrial Zone from 50 to 25 feet, and on the east side adjacent to the Rural Residential Zone from 100 to 25 feet.
Commissioners questioned the reduced buffer zone and felt the power line easement to the east, being Rural Residential zone, is a problem because no trees would be allowed to be planted. So the landscaping would need to reside on the parcel under consideration, not on any adjacent land. They were concerned about the impervious surface which was noted as 32% where a max of 35% is allowed. The driveway was shown located on a neighboring parcel, and was noted that it would require a separate application from the developer for development access.
- **Recommended** to City Council DENIAL for the variance request to reduce the landscape buffers on the east and south of the property. Practical difficulty was not shown that the city’s setback requirements cause the property to not be put to a reasonable use. The plight of the proposed landowner is not due to the unique characteristics of the land, but are created by them with the design; granting a reduced landscape buffer would alter the character of the neighborhood.
- **Continued** the discussion for Nature’s Trees dba St. Croix SavATree’s variance request to allow steel siding, to get an opinion from the City Attorney on the applicability of the 2009 ordinance language.
- **Directed** staff to schedule a Public Hearing for the February 1, 2016 meeting for the updated Washington County SSTS ordinance.

City Council Meeting, January 19

- **Recognized** Kenn Kopitzke for his dedicated service to the City.
- **Approved** the Nature’s Trees variance application at Hudson Road with PID# 06.028.20.24.0002 to allow a landscaped buffer area 25 feet in width vs the required 50 foot width facing the industrial zone and the required 100 foot width facing a residential zone, with the condition that a vegetative screen with an opacity of 95% be provided and maintained; and to allow a steel-walled building with a number of conditions to increase the quality and attractiveness of the building, to enable the construction of the Nature’s Trees’ Minneapolis/St. Paul headquarters building.
- **Adopted** an amended Fee Schedule ordinance increasing the annual on-sale liquor license fee to \$1,400, the annual off-sale liquor license fee to \$150, and increasing the peddlers and solicitors license fee to \$50.
- **Authorized** a letter of no objection to a Lake Elmo minor Comprehensive Plan update increasing the allowed density of senior housing.
- **Clarified** the policy for expense reimbursement for Council members to allow mileage reimbursement only for training and conferences with prior authorization by the Council.
- **Approved** attendance by the Deputy Clerk to the annual International Code Council Educational Institute.
- **Approved** a contribution of \$1,404.51 for an informational sign at the Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Station.

Downtown Improvement Projects Update

- The City has advertised for bids for the wastewater treatment system that will serve the downtown area. Bids will be received until 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 2, 2016. The City, in cooperation with Washington County, is also planning to advertise for bids in mid-February for the remainder of the downtown improvement projects, including the wastewater collection system, the reconstruction of the local roads, the upgrade of the levee, and the reconstruction of County Road 21 through the downtown area.
- As a portion of the funding for the project, costs will come from assessments to benefitting properties, the costs reflected in the low bids will be used to determine a final assessment roll, and an assessment hearing will be held later in the spring. Prior to the assessment hearing, all property owners who are proposed to be assessed will receive a letter with the assessment amount and information regarding the assessment hearing.

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.



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



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

Valley Branch Library

February Events

Library Closed February 15

iPad Tips for Seniors

Saturday, Feb. 20, from 11 a.m. —1 p.m.

This workshop focuses on tips for the iPad geared toward seniors. Learn email, typing, Siri, dictating tips and more! Bring your iPad. **Class is FREE**, but **please register** at www.co.washington.mn.us/library or call 651-436-5882.

Preschool Storytime

Mondays, Feb. 1, 8, 22, 29, 10:30—11:00 a.m.

Pre-K & caregivers. Stories, songs and finger-plays help develop early literacy skills. No registration required.



Book Club

Thursday, February 25, 5:00—6:00 p.m.

This month's book is "Until They Bring the Streetcars Back" by Stanley Gordon West. Visit Valley Library to pick up a copy. Read the book, come, and discuss. Open to all.



PATRON
AFTON, MN 55001

View this newsletter
IN COLOR
on the city website.



*Please recycle this
newsletter after use.*

SPECIAL EVENTS — at Washington County Libraries

Don't Miss Out — Make it to one of these one-hour performances by Mu Daiko!

Mu Daiko, a professional taiko drumming ensemble based in the Twin Cities, will appear at Washington County libraries in January and February. The performances are scheduled for the following times, dates & locations:

2:00 p.m.	Saturday	Jan. 30	Park Grove Library	7900 Hemingway Ave S	Cottage Grove
1:30 p.m.	Sunday	Feb. 7	Hardwood Creek Library	19955 Forest Rd N	Forest Lake
6:30 p.m.	Thursday	Feb. 11	Oakdale Library	1010 Heron Ave S	Oakdale
2:00 p.m.	Saturday	Feb. 27	Wildwood Library	763 Stillwater Rd	Mahtomedi
1:00 p.m.	Saturday	Feb. 20	Bayport Library	582 N Fourth St	Bayport

The ensemble performs a variety of traditional and contemporary works, ranging from traditional taiko repertoire to original pieces composed by its members. Mu Daiko continues to stretch the boundaries of the art form and contribute to the innovation of American taiko.

Free and open to the public.

*Performances by Mu Daiko are funded with money from the
Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.*



Mu Daiko performs