



# FEBRUARY 2018

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

## Afton Native to Lead U.S. Olympic Ski Team

Afton native Jessie Diggins will lead the 2018 U.S. Women's Cross Country Skiing Team that will compete at the Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang beginning February 9. The cross country team will have its first competition on Saturday, February 10 with the women's skiathlon - a blend of classic and freestyle technique. Diggins will be among contenders in that event .



## Important Parking Reminders

Sec. 22-58. Maximum parking time. No vehicle will be left standing or parked at the curb of any street or on any public place within the corporate limits of this city for more than 48 continuous hours. (Code 1982, § 704.102(2))

Sec. 22-59. Parking during snow-removal period. No person, except physicians or emergency calls or other emergency vehicles, shall park on any street in the city during a snow-removal period. (Code 1982, § 704.102(3))

\*Snow-removal period means a period of time of no more than 48 hours after each snow-fall; except that such snow-removal period shall be deemed to have terminated on those streets on which snow has been removed if the removal has been completed in a period of time less than 48 hours.

## Senate District 54 Special Election

A special election will be held to fill the vacancy in Senate District 54 caused by the resignation of Senator Dan Schoen. *This includes Washington County residents in Afton, Cottage Grove, Denmark Twp, Grey Cloud Island Twp, Hastings 1-1, and St. Paul Park.*

### February 12 General Election

**VOTE IN PERSON 7:00 A.M.—8:00 P.M.** at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church 14107 Hudson Road S, Afton, MN

### VOTE ABSENTEE at the Washington County Service Centers

**Absentee Voting Begins:** February 5, 2018  
Hours: Monday – Friday 8AM-4:30PM  
Saturday, February 10 8AM-3PM

- Woodbury Service Center – 2150 Radio Drive, Woodbury
- Cottage Grove Service Center – 13000 Ravine Parkway S, Cottage Grove
- Stillwater Government Center – 14949 62nd Street N, Stillwater
- Call **651-430-6175** for Absentee Voting Information

## City Office Closed

**Monday, February 19**

*In observance of Presidents Day*

## CITY MEETINGS

**February 5, 2018**

Planning Commission Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

**February 6, 2018**

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

**February 20, 2018**

City Council Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

**February 21, 2018**

Heritage Preservation Commission  
5:00 P.M.

**February 28, 2018**

Parks Commission  
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 308-0569

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  
Hillcrest Animal Hosp 484-7211  
LSCV Fire Dept 436-7033  
Sheriff's Dept 439-9381

**EMERGENCY 911**

## A Letter from the Mayor ~

Our resident churches and non-profits make big contributions to Afton. In addition to enriching the lives of individuals, these organizations have partnered directly with the city, improving its functioning, strategic planning and outreach to residents.

Here are just a few examples:

Shepard of the Valley Church hosts city elections, as well as state and federal elections. It continues to provide gifted, historically-costumed Christmas carolers for holiday festivities in the old village lending a warm and cheerful atmosphere.

Memorial Lutheran Church hosts numerous public information events as all who have wished to learn about the Old Village improvements and other municipal projects know so well. In addition, it hosted a wonderful series of interdenominational, educational and social gatherings with the Muslim community, fostering greater understanding and warm personal ties between individuals in all communities.

The Afton Islamic Center, although its facility is not yet fully constructed, has invited residents to its events. Members of its Board who hold positions in state government have offered liaison services and advice to Council members to assist the city with road planning.

St. Peter Lutheran Church has hosted invaluable events for the city, bringing together its members and residents from throughout Afton to consider the community's long-range planning alternatives for the Manning Avenue corridor and to consider whether or not Afton residents were in favor of making Afton a charter city. These events educated both residents and elected officials on the community's shared values and policy preferences providing valuable guidance.

The Afton Historical Museum documents and preserves Afton's history in many forms: Afton's unique river city culture, its pre-settlement and post-settlement artifacts, records of Afton's settlement and evolution as a pioneer village, rural township, and current rural-by-design city. The Museum has reviewed a sampling of Afton's city documents as a first step toward helping to ensure that prior to their digitizing, any originals of historical significance are carefully preserved and stored. It has worked tirelessly restoring the city's Mount Hope Cemetery, now open for arranged tours by residents and visitors in the summer.

Belwin Nature Conservancy has hosted events at City Hall and at its own center on how to manage invasive species in Afton and on other environmental conservation procedures, educating and informing both residents and city officials on best practices and on methods for enhancing the health and attractiveness of Afton's landscape for residents, wild and human. Through management of its own land, it provides habitat for Afton wildlife and beautiful trails from which residents can enjoy both wildlife and the surrounding vistas.

River Valley Riders provides equine therapeutic activities for children and adults, improving self-confidence, balance, coordination and social skills. To insure horses are also cared for in Afton, This Old Horse, Inc. provides homes and care for horses that otherwise would have neither.

The non-profits I have listed above are a sampling. I hope in the coming year will you will join the city in supporting, frequenting and applauding all our wonderful Afton churches and other non-profits. They are a treasured group of Afton resident-partners.

Richard Bend



### **Yellow Ribbon Alliance Lower St. Croix Valley**

The Yellow Ribbon Alliance of the Lower St Croix Valley is looking for volunteers to represent the City of Afton. The Alliance unites all areas within a community to create a comprehensive network that connects and coordinates agencies, organizations, resources and employers for the purpose of proactively supporting Service members and military families. The group meets monthly. **For more information please call: Randy Kopesky [651-226-1434](tel:651-226-1434).**

## January Meeting Highlights

### January 8, 2018 Planning Commission Meeting Highlights

#### **The Commission:**

- Recommended that the City Council deny the preliminary plat application for a PLCD for Afton Creek Preserve.
- Reviewed the Comprehensive Plan
- Heard a presentation on groundwater and water supply protection

### January 16, 2018 City Council Meeting Highlights

#### **The Council:**

- Heard a report from the St. Croix River Association
- Designated the official depository for 2018
- Designated the official newspaper for 2018
- Approved the regular meeting schedule for 2018
- Approved Change Order #8 for the Downtown Village Project
- Discussed the Afton Creek Preserve PLCD Subdivision Application
- Approved committee appointments for 2018
- Appointed Bake Baker to the NRGCC for an additional term
- Designated City Attorney for 2018
- Designated City Engineer for 2018
- Designated official City signatories for 2018
- Approved pay voucher No. 9 from Geislinger and Sons for the Downtown Improvement Project

### Enjoy winter with guided fitness hike at Lake Elmo Park Reserve

Explore the Washington County Parks trail system with guided fitness hikes in 2018. The one-hour hikes involve a warm-up and fitness challenges along the way.

The next hike will be 9 to 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, at Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

The one-hour hikes involve a warm-up and fitness challenges along the way. Trails are a mix of turf, gravel, grass, snow and pavement depending on trail conditions, time of year and location. Plan to arrive 10 minutes early. If light rain, hike will go on as scheduled. The program is for those ages 13 and older. All minors must be accompanied by an adult.

All guided fitness hikes are at the Lake Elmo Park Reserve Thursdays from 9 to 10 a.m. and will meet at the Nordic Center. The Fitness Hike March 1 will take place at Pine Point Park. The 2018 schedule is:

Feb. 1, \*March 1 - Pine Point Park, April 5, May 3, June 14, June 28, July 12, July 26, Aug. 9, Aug. 23, Sept. 6, Sept. 20, Oct. 4, Nov. 1 and Dec. 6.

These programs are free with a parks vehicle permit (\$7/day or \$30/annual) with the exception of Free Tuesdays. Follow Washington County Parks on social media at @WashCountyParks.

## Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

### Friday, February 16

#### **Owl Prowling: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Join us as we hike through the winter woods listening for owls and other nocturnal creatures. Come dressed to be outside. Ages 12 and up (under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). RSVP required. Free for members, \$10 for non-members.

### Saturday, February 17

#### **Open Third Saturday: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Participate in programs, meet Belwin staff, explore the trails and connect with nature. NEW! One-Hour Guided Experiences at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. departing from the Education Center. February topic: Winter Birds. Come listen and look for plucky winter bird life. Free and open for everyone.

### Saturday, February 17

#### **Annual Open House 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., talk at 7:00 p.m.**

Featuring a special talk by painter Lindsay Halleckson and composer Mary Ellen Childs, two Minnesotans partaking in The Arctic Circle expedition program next fall. Learn about their work and this unique interdisciplinary residency program in the Svalbard archipelago just 10 degrees from the North Pole. Plus, enjoy stargazing with Minnesota Astronomical Society members, woodland walks with Belwin staff, and a roaring campfire and s'mores.

**Programs take place at the Belwin Outdoor Science Education Center, 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton.**

**651-436-5189**

[www.belwin.org](http://www.belwin.org)

**Not a member? Join online prior to the event to support our programs and enjoy everything we have to offer.**



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



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PERMIT NO. 15

**Valley Library calendar of events  
for February 2018**

**LIBRARY CLOSED:**

**FEBRUARY 19 (Presidents Day)**

**Family Storytime**

Mondays, February 5th & 12th, 10:30AM—11:00 AM

**STEM Saturdays**

Saturday, February 17, from 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM. Ages 7-14

**Book Club**

Thursday February 22, 5:00 PM—5:55 PM

**Snowshoe Story Stroll at Lake Elmo Park  
Reserve**

Saturday, February 24, 10:00 AM—11:00 AM

**STEAM Storytime**

Monday, February 26 10:30AM—11:30 AM

**DOG GONE READING with Legacy**

Tuesday, February 27, from 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM.  
Children in grades K-7.

**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.*

**A Letter From the Fire Chief ~**

It is an extreme honor to have recently been promoted to the position of Fire Chief of the Lower St Croix Valley Fire Department. I have had the privilege to work with many talented and dedicated individuals over the years and to work for former Chiefs Gail Pettee, Dick Johnson, Allen Eisinger and Kris Peterson as well. We have a full staff at this time with our recent hirings this past month. These members (and their families) give unselfishly of their time every single day of the year. We cannot thank them enough for their service!

I would also like to give the community an update on our most recent fundraising efforts. With the recent completion of our community based Pancake Breakfast with Santa this past December, we were able to raise enough funds to purchase a Four-Gas Monitor to assess certain hazardous conditions and 30 Thermal Barrier Hoods for our firefighters. Cancer is a prevalent hot topic item at this time in the fire service and these hoods offer much more in the way of protection, including the neck and chest regions, that are prone to dangerous carcinogens during firefighting. Thank you to all who came to the breakfast or made a special donation towards these causes. It is very appreciated!

**KEEP THEM CLEAR!**

If there's a fire hydrant near your home or on your property, please do your part to keep it accessible this winter for use. The Clear-Away Zone should be a wide enough perimeter around the hydrant for firefighters to work (generally about 3 feet each direction). Remove any snow and ice and also clear a patch from the hydrant to the street.

Also, please check any furnace or water heater vents outside your home to make sure they are clear of snow. Exhaust vent blockage can cause harmful Carbon Monoxide from appropriately escaping to the outdoors.

Fire Chief Jim Stanley