



# FEBRUARY 2019

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

## Notes from the Mayor

At the January meeting the council discussed the appointment to fill the vacant Ward One council seat. I want to thank everyone who expressed an interest in stepping up to serve. Each council member brought forward nominations to fill the seat. After discussion, the council voted to appoint Planning Commission member Annie Perkins to represent Ward One on the council. I am happy to say that Commissioner Perkins was on each of the nomination lists and will bring a wide range of experience to the position. In addition to serving on the Planning Commission, she represents Afton on the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization board and has also served on the city's Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee. Welcome Annie!

In January I spent a good deal of time getting advice on my new role from a wide range of people. I will continue to do that, and to talk to all of our elected representatives at the state and county levels on issues that are important to Afton. I will also continue to reach out to our neighboring communities to make sure we are talking and planning for the future. To that end, I met with the mayors of Hastings, Prescott, and River Falls as part of the Confluence Project, and also spoke to the new mayor of Woodbury shortly after the election. I am hopeful that we will begin a dialog which will allow Afton to continue to protect what we value, and be involved in the discussions and long-term plans that will impact all of our communities. We all have a lot to offer each other, and I am optimistic we will find ways to work together.

I hope you saw the Super Moon Total Lunar Eclipse in January. It was impressive. We were lucky to have a break in the clouds to see it. But if you missed it, another Super Moon will happen on February 19th. The trumpeter swans and bald eagles are entertaining all the hikers along the river these days. Look for them when you are out enjoying the increasing sunshine.

~ Bill

### The City Office is Closed

**Monday, February 18**  
*In observance of President's Day*

### CITY MEETINGS

#### **February 4, 2019**

Planning Commission Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

#### **February 19, 2019**

City Council Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

#### **February 27, 2019**

Heritage Preservation Commission  
5:00 P.M.

#### **February 27, 2019**

Parks Committee  
6:00 P.M.

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

### CITY COUNCIL

<u>Mayor:</u>	Bill Palmquist	436-2238
<u>Ward 1:</u>	Annie Perkins	
<u>Ward 2:</u>	Lucia Wroblewski	436-3982
<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](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
Sheriff's Dept	439-9381

**EMERGENCY 911**

### **FREE Grades 3-9 Math Tutoring Program - Winter/Spring Enrollment**

Offered by the Islamic Society of Woodbury - East metro (ISWEM)

We are excited to open up the enrollment for Winter/Spring Math Tutoring Program at our Islamic Center. This service is FREE and open to ALL.

If your kids need help with their Math homework or Math concepts, we can help! The program is for students Grades 3 to 9 and is held once a Week on Wednesday from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

What: Weekly Math Tutoring Program

When: Wednesdays 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Where: ISWEM, 12585 Hudson Road S, Afton, MN 55101

This Math Tutoring Program is completely FREE! But it requires registration. You can register by at [https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSdCtOEo-y-hFOHj\\_Q.../viewform](https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSdCtOEo-y-hFOHj_Q.../viewform)

# Organics Drop-off

AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



Organics are a resource, not a waste! More than one-third of our trash is organic material that can be recycled into compost. Recycling organics, such as food scraps and paper towels, is an easy way to reduce your trash and make a difference!

## How to Get Started

- 1 Sign up online & pick-up a free starter kit!**  
[www.co.washington.mn.us/organics](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/organics)  
Starter kits include a 2 gallon kitchen pail and 10 compostable bags. Kits are available to Washington County residents only.
- 2 Start collecting organics at home**  
See back of card for accepted items.
- 3 Bring bagged organics to:**  
Washington County Environmental Center  
4039 Cottage Grove Dr, Woodbury, 55129  
**Tuesdays** . . . . . 11 am - 7:00 pm  
**Thursdays** . . . . . 8 am - 4:30 pm  
**Fridays** . . . . . 8 am - 4:30 pm  
**Saturdays** . . . . . 8 am - 2:00 pm

## Accepted Items

### Food

- Fruit and vegetables
- Meat, fish, and bones
- Dairy products
- Eggs and egg shells
- Bread, pasta, beans, and rice
- Nuts and shells
- Coffee grounds, filters, and tea bags



### Non-recyclable paper

- Paper towels
- Napkins and tissues
- Pizza delivery boxes



### Certified compostable products



- Certified compostable paper and plastic cups, plates, bowls, utensils, and containers
- Look for the BPI or Cedar Grove logos to ensure it is compostable

**Not Accepted:** Yard waste • Animal/pet waste, litter, or bedding • Dead animals • Diapers  
Cleaning or baby wipes • Dryer lint and dryer sheets • Recyclable items (cartons, glass, metal, paper, plastic) • Rubber • Frozen food boxes  
Styrofoam™ • Wood

[www.co.washington.mn.us/organics](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/organics)  
651-275-7475



## Experience snowshoeing at Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park Feb. 9

Join Washington County Parks for a one-hour guided snowshoeing adventure at Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9.

The program is sponsored by DIRO Outdoors. The group will explore the park's new and improved trails through rolling hills and woods, and experience what makes snowshoeing such a great winter activity.

Class size is limited, and registration is required. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children age 14 and younger; all equipment is provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for winter outdoor activity. Other items to consider bringing are water bottle, sunglasses, snacks, and a backpack to carry items.

Participants should park at the park's first lot and follow signs to trail-head. There is a portable toilet on site; however, there is no changing areas on site.

Registration is required. See the county website [www.co.washington.mn.us](http://www.co.washington.mn.us) and search "snowshoe adventure."

Pay close attention weather conditions; with notifications to registrants sent out with 24 hours' notice. Lessons will be cancelled if there is inclement weather, including storms and/or wind chill temperatures at -10° or lower. An option to reschedule will be offered should this happen.

Call the Lake Elmo Park Reserve Office at 651-430-8370 for more information.

## January Meeting Highlights

### January 7, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting

#### The Commission:

- Reviewed the City of Woodbury's Draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan and forwarded comments to the City Council.
- Reviewed the City of Cottage Grove's Draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan and forwarded comments to the City Council.
- Developed Planning Commission members areas of specialization regarding the zoning code

### January 15, 2019 City Council Meeting

#### The Council:

- Approved the 2019 regular meeting schedule.
- Reviewed and provided comments to the City of Woodbury regarding their Draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan.
- Reviewed and provided comments to the City of Cottage Grove regarding their Draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan.
- Appointed Annie Perkins to fill the vacant Ward 1 City Council Seat.
- Approved annual committee appointments for council members.
- Approved an amendment to the Afton Creek Preserve Development Agreement.
- Established a monthly sewer fee for properties on River Road.
- Approved an increase in the monthly retainer fee for the City Attorney.

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, February 15, 2019

#### Owl Prowl

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

This popular event is led by Belwin naturalists. Hikers will be led through the winter woods in order to listen for owls and other nocturnal creatures. Come dressed to be outside.

**Information:** Free for members, \$10 for non-members. Ages 12 and up (under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Space is limited to 20 participants. RSVP by February 15 to [events@belwin.org](mailto:events@belwin.org)

### Saturday, February 16, 2019

#### Open Third Saturday

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. **February topic: Winter Bird Hike.** Walk in the winter woods, listening and looking for signs of our amazingly adaptable local birds. Bring binoculars if you have them.

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

### Saturday, February 16, 2019

#### Annual Open House and Outside Voices Series featuring Kinji Akagawa

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

Experience the beauty of a winter evening at Belwin and enjoy a special talk by artist Kinji Akagawa at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Akagawa is known for his works of great beauty in public spaces including the Walker Art Center and on Nicollet Mall. He is also an arts educator and print maker, and lives in Afton.

In addition, the Open House will include stargazing with Minnesota Astronomical Society members, woodland walks with Belwin staff, and s'mores by a roaring campfire.

**Information:** Free and open to everyone.

### Sunday, February 24, 2019

#### Winter Fun at the Creative Center

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Explore Belwin's Creative Center this winter by hiking, sledding, snowshoeing or cross-country skiing our ungroomed trails. Hot chocolate will be provided.

**Information:** Free and open to everyone. Belwin Conservancy Creative Center, 795 Indian Trail S., Afton.

For Information & To RSVP for events:

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

### Study winter constellations with Mike Lynch Feb. 9 at Lake Elmo Park Reserve

Get to know Orion the Hunter, Gemini the Twins, Taurus the Bull, and many more winter constellations during a visit with Mike Lynch 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, at Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

Mike Lynch, meteorologist for WCCO, will bring large reflector telescopes that are among the biggest mobile telescopes in the Midwest. The program will begin at the Nordic Center for a short presentation, and then move outside to the swim pond to get a close-up views of star clusters, nebulae, galaxies, and other celestial treasures. This is an outdoor event; dress for the weather.

This program is free with a parks vehicle permit (\$7/daily or \$30/annually). For questions, call 651-430-8370 or email at [parks@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:parks@co.washington.mn.us).

For more Washington County Parks programs and events, see [www.co.washington.mn.us/parks](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/parks).



### Love your pets?

#### Get them licensed!

*The City of Afton requires pets to be licensed and have current rabies vaccinations. This helps keep our pets, wildlife and the public healthy & safe. If your pet wanders away or is lost, a license makes it easier to be notified that your pet has been found and can be reunited with you without the high cost of impound fees. The cost to protect your dog for two years (Jan 1, 2019—Dec 31, 2020) is: \$5 per dog; \$10 for unaltered dogs. What a deal!*



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



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

## Valley Library Featured Events for February 2019

The library will be closed Monday, Feb. 18 for Presidents Day.

### **Spotlight On...African American History**

Pay homage to the incredible contributions and service of great African Americans during the month of February at Washington County Library. African American History month is a nationally recognized observance of influential African Americans who were leaders, inventors, advocates, innovators, educators, and more. Washington County Library can help you examine African American history with many materials, tools, and resources. The [Umbr Search](#) database peers into history through hundreds of thousands of digitized materials. Our collection offers materials for readers of all ages looking to explore both [great individuals](#), and delve deeper into [specific periods in time](#). And you can join us for a [human rights themed](#) storytime or stop by a [Super Storytime](#) featuring African American authors and illustrators.

### **Featured Events**

#### **Let's Make Stuff: Mandala Dot Art**

**Thursday, Feb. 7 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

Come learn how to make a dot mandala at the Valley Library. Making dots into circles is easy and fun and creates a lovely little piece of art. All materials will be provided. Class size is limited. Please register online at [WashCoLib.org/Events](#), at Valley Library, or by calling 651-436-1320.

#### **Game Night at the Library**

**Wednesday, Feb. 13 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

Come play table top games with fellow game enthusiasts at the Valley Library! The library has a collection of games like Splendor, Carcassone, and Sagrada, or you can bring your own to share. No registration required.

#### **STEM Saturdays: Snake Discovery**

**Saturday, Feb. 23 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Slither into the world of reptiles by touching, holding, and even feeding some scaly critters at this fun program at Valley Library! Learn what makes reptiles unique and get an up-close look at some of nature's most misunderstood creatures. You'll even get to meet some of the reptiles you can find in your own backyard. No registration required.

#### **STEM Saturdays: Bruce the Bug Guy**

**Saturday, Mar. 2 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Dr. Bruce Giebink presents a lively, hands-on program about insects and related arthropods at Valley Library. Live critters give you the chance to experience these creatures in an interactive manner. No registration required!

### **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.*

## **Unlawful Placement of Snow**

Property owners need to be aware that state law prohibits snow from being plowed from your driveway and deposited onto public streets or rights-of-way (MN Statute 169.42 Sub 1). It states: "No person shall throw, deposit, place, or dump, or cause to be thrown, deposited, placed, or dumped upon any street or highway or upon any public or privately owned land adjacent thereto without the owner's consent..."

Violations are a misdemeanor, but civil penalties can also apply if the placement of snow creates a hazard such as a slippery area, frozen rut or bump that contributes to a motor vehicle or pedestrian crash. The civil liability can extend to both the property owner and the person who placed the snow.

Other hazards created by improper placement of snow on or near a public roadway include drainage problems, drifting, sight obstruction and safe accessibility. Ensuring a safe roadway, free of snow and ice is the city's goal during the winter months. Call City Hall with questions or concerns.

