



**March 2019**

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

**Afton Historical Museum**

The Afton Historical Museum’s Board of Directors is pleased to announce a new benefit for our members: unlimited use of Ancestry research software at no charge.

Are you interested in discovering your family history? Ancestry is the world’s leading resource for genealogy, providing online access to documents such as census data, birth and death certificates, and much more. This software tool along with our newly re-organized Family and Institutional files can assist in your research. Our Ancestry account is only available at the museum and we can’t wait to help you get started.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support and hope you will find this new benefit valuable. If you are interested in learning more about Ancestry and the museum’s collections, or becoming a museum member please contact Vickie Winge by email at [vickie@aftonhistoricalmuseum.com](mailto:vickie@aftonhistoricalmuseum.com) or Stan Ross at [stan@aftonhistoricalmuseum.com](mailto:stan@aftonhistoricalmuseum.com).

Stan Ross  
President, Afton Historical Museum

**A Reminder from the Post Office**

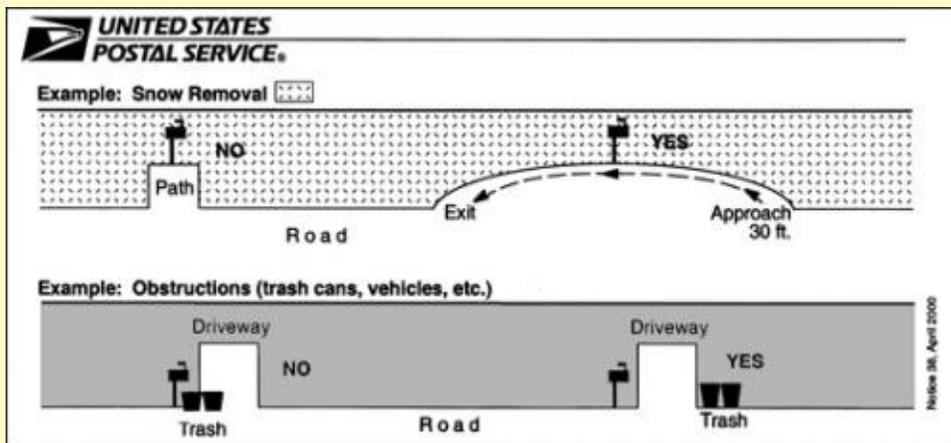
Now that Polar Vortex Jayden has moved on and we are headed for a brief warm up, we need our customers' help. Postal carriers have suffered serious injuries related to slips, trips and falls due to icy and now covered walkways and porch steps. Preventing a slip or bad fall can be as easy as putting down salt or sand on slippery surfaces or clearing the way to mailboxes.

Please take this opportunity to remove all snow and ice from walkways, sidewalks, steps, porches and around curblin boxes. Clearing snow at least six feet on both sides of curblin mailboxes allows carriers to approach and leave without backing up their vehicles.

When customers maintain a clear path to the mailbox, it helps us provide timely, consistent delivery service. More importantly, it helps keep all visitors—including our letter carriers—safe from injury in these challenging conditions.

Thank you for your assistance and for being a United States Postal Service Customer.

Sincerely,  
United States Postal Service, Northland District



**CITY MEETINGS**

**March 4, 2019**

Planning Commission Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

**March 5, 2019**

Natural Resources & Groundwater  
5:00 P.M.

**March 19, 2019**

City Council Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

**March 20, 2019**

Heritage Preservation Commission  
5:00 P.M.

**March 27, 2019**

Parks Committee  
6:00 P.M.

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

**CITY COUNCIL**

- Mayor: Bill Palmquist 651-436-2238
- 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 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**

## Notes from the Mayor

The snows of February are behind us. I want to thank all of the city and county staff who worked countless hours over the last month dealing with the historic snow totals we received. We are lucky to have such dedicated and professional people working to keep our roads safe and help us get to work and school, and who are willing to work through the night to make that happen. I would especially like to thank Public Works Director Ken Johnson whose care and skill are such a great asset to the city.

We had some good news at the February council meeting. Commissioner Gary Kriesel and several representatives from Washington County presented plans for the new, expanded library in the Lakeland Plaza. The library will grow from the current 2,500 square feet to 4,300 square feet! This is very exciting news. There will be an open house to showcase the plans in the next month or so, and construction is expected to be complete by the end of July.

The city was also presented with two awards for the Old Village project. One from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota and the other from the City Engineers Association of Minnesota. Both noted the strong collaboration of so many different partners to make the project happen. It's great to see those efforts recognized. Washington County, the City of Afton, and WSB Engineering also received the ENCITE Transportation Project of the Year Award in December. Congratulations to everyone who worked for years on the project, and to all of the residents and business owners who dealt with the construction challenges for those long months the village was torn up. It was a challenging project on virtually every level, but now that there is light at the end of the tunnel, I think it turned out great and we can be proud of the water quality improvements our community made to groundwater and the St. Croix River.

March 1 is meteorological spring. We know better than to trust that date, but even on the first day of the month we will have more sunlight than we have had here since early October. And we will gain 1 hour and 34 minutes of sunshine over the course of the month. Hope you can get out and enjoy it.

-Bill

### Getting Ready for Spring: Rinta Community Garden

Spring will be here soon; time for gardeners to get their hands dirty. The Rinta Community Garden has 20 plots available to residents of the Lower St. Croix Valley.

There is no charge for using a plot. Gardeners are asked not to use pesticides and to use organic fertilizers. There is no well water at the site, but 2 rain barrels collecting runoff from a small shed will hold 250 gallons of water for irrigation when necessary. The installation of a high fence has thwarted hungry deer.

If you are interested in a garden plot at Rinta, contact Afton City Hall or go to the Afton website for an application (Located under "Parks, Park Reservations & Special Events"). Complete and return it to Afton City Hall, 3033 St. Croix Trail, P.O. Box 219, Afton, MN 55001.

If you have additional questions, contact Barbara Ronningen at [bjronningen@yahoo.com](mailto:bjronningen@yahoo.com).



## February Meeting Highlights

### February 4, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting

#### The Commission:

- Reviewed Denmark Township's Draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan and forwarded comments to the City Council.
- Developed an approach to review elements of the PLCD Ordinance language.
- Reviewed the 2019 meeting schedule.

### February 19, 2019 City Council Meeting

#### The Council:

- Viewed a presentation on the planned expansion of the Valley Branch Library.
- Received awards for the Downtown Village Improvement Project from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota and the City Engineers Association of Minnesota.
- Reviewed and provided comments to Denmark Township regarding their Draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan.
- Approved the 2019 fee schedule for Engineering services.
- Approved James and Joan Jordan Simple Subdivision Application at 15120 42nd St.
- Approved changing the name of 15th St Ct. to Odin Ct.
- Appointed Doug Parker, Christian Dawson and Kuchen Hale to the Planning Commission.
- Appointed Jed Housker to the Parks Committee.
- Discussed Thorn Butler's drainage concerns at 15945 35th St.
- Scheduled a Work Session to interview accounting firms for March 6, 5:00 PM.
- Scheduled a River Road Neighborhood meeting for March 12, 6:00 PM.
- Scheduled a Council Work session and Goal setting for March 26, 6:00 PM.

## Dog License **LATE FEE** in effect **AFTER MARCH 31st**

You will want to hustle down to City Hall this month to get your dog license. You may also **mail** your completed license application form and a copy of the current rabies vaccination for each pet along with your check. We will mail the license tags back to you. **The late fee is an additional \$5.00 per pet after March 31, 2019.**

The **Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC)** is in need of additional members. The NRGC focuses on issues of environmental stewardship. Committee members attend area and regional meetings, particularly concerning the quality and quantity of water and other resources important to Afton. These issues are brought back to City Council with recommendations on actions. The Committee meets the first Tuesday of every month. **Applications are available on the city website or at City Hall.**

**Don't forget Daylight Savings!**  
"Spring forward" one hour on March 10th



## Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

### Thursday, March 14, 2019

#### Outside Voices Series:

#### Speaker Nancy Gibson

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

Join us for a special evening with guest speaker Nancy Gibson, co-founder of the International Wolf Center. Ms. Gibson will impart her knowledge about Minnesota's wild canids: foxes, coyotes, and wolves. Are they thriving or merely surviving? Nancy was part of the team that introduced wolves into Yellowstone National Park and Idaho. She is also co-chair of the Legislative Citizen Commission of Minnesota Resources.

**Information:** Free and open to everyone  
Belwin Conservancy Education Center, 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton.

RSVP by March 14 to [events@belwin.org](mailto:events@belwin.org)

### Saturday, March 16, 2019

#### 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. **March topic: Seasonal Changes, Spring Equinox.** Join us to look for signs of spring! Wear footwear appropriate for muddy trails.

**Information:** Free and open to everyone;  
Guided Experiences \$10 for non-members.  
Belwin Conservancy Education Center, 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton.

### Thursday, March 21, 2019

#### New Program! Women Walking

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

Come and celebrate the seasonal changes in the natural world. Vernal Equinox, Summer Solstice, Autumnal Equinox, Winter Solstice ... each brings us to a new season, a new place in our annual trip around the sun.

We will begin indoors with centering exercises and easy yoga, then move into the woods and prairies for walking meditations and experiences in the natural world. We will end our time with provided light drinks and snacks.

Wear comfortable layers and be prepared for any weather. Maximum of 20 participants.

**Information:** \$10 per person, open to everyone.

Belwin Conservancy Creative Center, 795 Indian Trail S., Afton.

RSVP by March 20 to [events@belwin.org](mailto:events@belwin.org)

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 March 2019

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

**Saturday, March 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!

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

**Thursday, March 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 Wash-CoLib.org/Events, at Valley Library, or by calling 651-436-1320.

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

**Wednesday, March 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. You can also try the library's Oculus Go Virtual Reality headsets! No registration required.

### **Galactic Heroes**

**Saturday, March 30 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Please join us for an interactive storytelling program at Valley Library featuring some popular galactic legends! They will be recounting some out-of-this-world adventures for your enjoyment. There will also be a meet-and-greet and photo opportunity after the storytelling event. Great for ages 2-12. No registration needed.

### **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.*

## **Safety Reminder: Natural Gas Meters in Snow**

**Clear away deep snow from the area  
around your *gas meter* and from *outside  
vents* of your furnace and natural gas  
appliances.**

**1. Keep a clear path to your meter so  
that professionals can access in the  
event of an emergency.**

**2. Do not use plows or snow blowers  
near the meter or other HVAC equip-  
ment to avoid damage. Use a broom or  
just do it by hand.**

