



APRIL 2018

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

“Bringing Home The Gold”



Jessie Diggins is returning home to Afton and on Saturday, May 12th Jessie will be Afton’s Guest of Honor at the “Bringing Home the Gold” event.

The event will be held in the Old Village Town Square Park between 12:00PM - 5:00PM. Afton residents will have the opportunity to meet and greet Jessie, see her gold medal, take photos and get her autograph.

St. Croix Trail in Afton will be closed to through traffic during the event.

For more information email the organizing committee: stan@aftonparade.com.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT PFC’S AND YOUR WATER?

Did you miss the March 28th public information meeting with the MN Department of Health? A video of the presentation and meeting will be available for viewing on the City’s website after April 15th.
www.ci.afton.mn.us

You also may contact the MN Pollution Control Agency with your questions via email at: pfcinfo.pca@state.mn.us.

METAL & TIRE RECYCLING DAY

Mark your calendars ~ Metal and Tire Recycling Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 2, at the City Garage, 1675 Stagecoach Trail. 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Watch your May Newsletter for more details.

CITY MEETINGS

April 2, 2018

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

April 3, 2018

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

April 17, 2018

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

April 18, 2018

Heritage Preservation Commission
5:00 P.M.

April 25, 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

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 ~

Afton is shedding its winter coat of white. The otters hop slide tracks shown below are now melting away. With sadness I have put skis away and am readying roller skis, inline skates and bikes for warmer weather activities.

Afton itself is busily preparing spring festivities: May 12th from 12:00 to 5:00 we'll celebrate Jessie Diggins's Day with "Bringing Home the Gold" in Town Square Park. In June there will be a celebration of the Old Village Improvement Project completion; the timing isn't set yet.

While our animal sliders are much slower than Jessie, they do leave interesting tracks. Below are samples, along with a photo of my other skiing companions.

~ Richard Bend



Reservations open now for Victorian Tea at Historic Courthouse April 28

The Victorian Tea, a tradition at the Washington County Historic Courthouse, will be noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 28. The Historic Courthouse is at the corner of Third and Pine streets in Stillwater. Proceeds from the tea go to the Historic Courthouse Restoration Fund. Victorian Tea tickets are \$40 each and include an afternoon of catered food and tea music, conversation, charming table settings, and a program by the Minnesota Historical Society. On-line and on-site ticket reservations are now available. The program is sponsored by Washington County Parks. For more information, call 651-275-7075 or email historiccourthouse@co.washington.mn.us. See www.co.washington.mn.us/hc for more information about this and other Historic Courthouse events. Follow Washington County Parks on social media at @WashCountyParks.

Guided morning bird hikes continue with April 7 hike at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park

A rotating schedule of bird hikes throughout Washington County Parks will continue with a hike 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Saturday, April 7, at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park. Learn to identify the birds that call the St. Croix Valley home and contribute to citizen science data collection by completing bird count surveys with the guide. The surveys collected will assist the county's Natural Resources team and related work in conjunction with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund grant. It is a one-hour guided hike. Meet at the playground, with parking in the playground parking lot. For Washington County park locations, see www.co.washington.mn.us/parks. Under park locations, find a county map with park contact information; search "guided bird hikes" on the county website for more information. The hikes will traverse turf, gravel, and paved trail depending on trail conditions. Participants should bring binoculars and dress for hiking and the weather. This program is free with a parks vehicle permit (\$7/daily or \$30/annually) and is open to people of all ages and abilities. ADA accommodations can be made as needed. All minors must be accompanied by an adult.

County will conduct household hazardous waste collections in communities, starting in Hugo April 21

Washington County will conduct household hazardous waste collections in county communities during 2018. Satellite collections bring the services offered at the Washington County Environmental Center closer to residents, making it more convenient and practical for them to recycle and dispose their household hazardous waste and electronics. The agreements allow the county to use sites owned by others to conduct household hazardous waste collections. Events planned for spring are:

- at the Hugo Public Works Garage, 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 21, 6900 137th St. N., Hugo;
- at the Mahtomedi Community Education Building, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 28, 1520 Mahtomedi Ave., Mahtomedi;
- at the Cottage Grove Public Works Garage, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 5, 8635 W. Point Douglas Road S., Cottage Grove;
- at Lily Lake Ice Arena in Stillwater 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 19, 1208 S. Greeley St. Stillwater;
- at the Forest Lake Transit Center, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 2, 19955 Forest Road N.; enter at Headwaters Parkway.

Confidential document shredding will be available at all events.

In addition to remote-site collections, the Washington County Environmental Center, 4039 Cottage Grove Drive in Woodbury, provides residents with a free and convenient disposal option for household hazardous waste, electronics, and recyclables all year round. It is open Tuesday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The center accepts household hazardous waste, electronics, and recyclables. The center also has a Free Product Room, in which residents may browse the shelves and take home previously-owned products such as paint, stain, automotive supplies, household cleaners, and other products. All items taken to the Environmental Center are inspected to determine if they are usable products.

March Meeting Highlights

March 5, 2018 Planning Commission Meeting

The Commission:

- Held a public hearing for the Matt Cooper Variance Application at 3988 River Road.
- Held a public hearing for the Nick Squires Variance Application at 14641 Afton Blvd.
- Held a public hearing on the Afton Creek Preserve Application for a Preservation and Land Conservation Development (PLCD).

March 20, 2018 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- The Council denied the acceptance of the dedication of the 5-acre parcel at 5550 Odell Avenue as parkland with the reservation of a public road right-of-way easement.
- The Council approved the rezoning of the five acre parcel at 14220 60th Street from Rural Residential to Agriculture.
- The Council tabled action on the Afton Creek Preserve Application for Preliminary Plat and Conditional Use Permit to the April 17, 2018 Council meeting.
- The Council appointed Annie Perkins and Justin Sykora each to three year terms on the Planning Commission.
- The Council appointed Bob Dickie to a three year term on the Parks Committee.
- The Council approved an extension of the current Building Inspection Services Agreement to December 31, 2018.
- The Council received an update regarding the planning process for Jessie Diggins Day, which is scheduled for May 12.
- The Council declared May 12 as Jessie Diggins Day.
- The Council approved the removal of the two old outhouses at Town Square Park.

MEETING PACKETS AND APPROVED MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE AT: www.ci.afton.mn.us

Washington County celebrating reopening of Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park in June

Washington County Parks is planning a number of events to celebrate the reopening of Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, which has been closed for renovations during the past year.

Visitors to the newly-renovated Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park will be able to enjoy the park for **free** until July 1 after the park reopens in early summer.

A reopening celebration is planned for June 1-3, which will include a variety of programs and events, including a Bird Hike 9 a.m. Saturday, June 2, and Run the Ravine Family Fun Run, with a children's run at 10 a.m. and a 5K at 10:30 a.m.

Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park was closed March 1 of last year for improvements that include:

- a new park entrance;
- a new park circulation road, parking lots, associated pedestrian improvements and trails;
- updated and improved Ravine Lake outlet;
- ravine stabilization project done by the South Washington Watershed District;
- new trails within the park in accordance with the park's master plan;
- vegetation management and invasive species control; and
- a new playground.

The park is at 9653 Keats Ave. S. For more information, see the Washington County website at www.co.washington.mn.us and search "Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park" or call the park office at 651-430-8240.

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Friday, April 13 (Rain date April 14)

**Spring Galaxy Party
8:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.**

Did you know spring is a good time to view other distant galaxies? This is because our Milky Way galaxy is at or below the horizon, giving us an unobstructed view of intergalactic space. Join Minnesota Astronomical Society members to view galaxy superclusters like Markarian's Chain in the Virgo, Leo and Coma Berenices constellations. Free for members, \$10 for non-members. RSVP requested.

Saturday, April 21

**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. April topic: Early Spring Birds. Free and open for everyone. Guided Experiences \$10 for non-members.

Saturday, May 19, 2018

**10th Annual Bison Release
Includes the EcoArt Fest
and 5K Run with the Bison**

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. EcoArt Fest

**10:00 a.m. 5K Fun Trail Run
12:00 p.m. Bison Release**

In partnership with NorthStar Bison and the YMCA of Woodbury, come and welcome a herd of juvenile male bison from NorthStar Bison to their summer home. New events scheduled for the day of the release include a 5K Fun Trail Run at 10:00 a.m. prior to the bison release. A small registration fee will go toward maintaining the prairie for the bison and you. An EcoArt Fest will run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with interactive arts. Food trucks will be on site. Park at Belwin Conservancy's Lucy Winton Bell Athletic Fields, 15601 Hudson Road, West Lakeland, and follow signs. Free and open to everyone.

**Belwin Outdoor Science
Education Center,
1553 Stagecoach Trail S.,
Afton.**

651-436-5189

www.belwin.org



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 calendar of events
for April 2018**

**Library CLOSED Wednesday April 18
all day for staff training**

**Valley Library Building Project
Community Engagement Event
Tuesday, April 10, 6:30 PM—8:00
PM**

Washington County Library invites residents, patrons, and other members of the public to share their thoughts and opinions about Valley Library as part of the study that will result in recommended changes for the library. **The next community engagement event planned for the spring will take place on Tuesday, April 10 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Afton-Lakeland Elementary School in the Media Center.** Afton-Lakeland Elementary School is located at 475 St. Croix Trail South, in Lakeland.

**PATRON
AFTON, MN 55001**

You may view this newsletter
IN COLOR
on the city website.



*Please recycle this
newsletter after use.*

Family Storytime

Mondays, April 2, 9, 16, & 30; 10:30AM—11:00 AM

STEM Saturdays

Saturday, April 21, from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.
Ages 5-13

Steam Storytime

Monday, April 23 from 10:30—11:30 AM

Dog Gone Reading with Legacy

Tuesday, April 24 from 3:30—5:30 PM

Antique Appraisal with Mark Moran

Friday, April 27 from 10:30 AM—1:30 PM
Mark Moran, former senior editor of Antiques and Collectibles Books and author of more than 25 books, will appraise values of your heirlooms and treasures. Registration is limited to 40 people and one object per person. The public is welcome to observe the appraisal process. Call or visit the Valley Library to reserve your spot beginning 3/27/18.

**Full Calendar of Events:
www.washcolib.org**

**Valley Branch Library
380 St. Croix Trail South
Lakeland, MN 55043
651-436-5882**

2018 Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale

Washington County is excited to partner with the Recycling Association of Minnesota to sell compost bins and rain barrels at low cost. Washington County residents will get an extra \$20 off each item!

Home Composter Compost Bin

\$64 full price | \$44 after discount
Available for pick-up beginning April 13, 2018

Rain Catcher Rain Barrel

\$79 full price | \$59 after discount (While supplies last!)
Available for pick-up beginning May 3, 2018

To receive the discounted price, order online at RecycleMinnesota.org and enter **promo code "Washington."** Proof of residency is required at purchase. Limit two rain barrels and two compost bins per household.

Pre-ordered items will be available for pick-up at the Washington County [Environmental Center](#) in Woodbury during normal business hours. Compost bins will be available for pick up **April 13th 2018** . Rain Barrels will be available for pick up **May 3rd 2018**.

