



**May 2019**

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



The Re-Discover Afton event is a celebration of the completion of the Downtown Improvement Project - a thank you to all the funding partners that paid the majority of the cost, to Washington County for all their support and funding, to the businesses and residents for their patience and support during the project, and to announce the project as officially complete. The event is open to all to visit Afton and its businesses.

**CITY MEETINGS**

*City Office Closed May 27 For Memorial Day*

**May 6, 2019**

Planning Commission Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

**May 7, 2019**

Natural Resources & Groundwater  
5:00 P.M.

**May 15, 2019**

Heritage Preservation Commission  
5:00 P.M.

**May 21, 2019**

City Council Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

**May 22, 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 651-436-6469
- Burning Permits 651-248-5103
- Environmental Center 651-275-7475
- Highland Sanitation 651-458-0043
- Mally's Sunshine Kennel 715-246-2467
- LSCV Fire Dept 651-436-7033
- Sheriff's Dept 651-439-9381

**EMERGENCY 911**

**METAL & TIRE RECYCLING DAY**

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

- **SCRAP METAL** includes swing sets, bicycles, metal toys, etc. (**NO** appliances are allowed.) All fabric, rubber, wood, fluids, and anything else that is *not* metal **must be removed**.
- **TIRES** must be off the rims (metal rims can be recycled). Tire size is limited to your ability to lift them. **NO** large tires such as tractor tires. This is for personal disposal only. **NO** commercial supplies of tires.)

**PLEASE BE AWARE: THE CITY HAS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE NON-RESIDENTS, TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF TIRES, OR REFUSE CERTAIN METAL ITEMS.**

This opportunity to recycle tires and metal is one of the City's recycling projects and requires us to report "measurements" in order to receive the grant funding from Washington County. Staff will be counting the number of cars, the number of tires recycled (for pick up by Mosquito Control), and we'll receive a weight ticket from the recycler for all that metal.

*Please be patient and cooperate with staff by following their direction in lining up and unloading your metal items and tires.*

**ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP  
Coming in June**

Afton Roadside Clean Up is done by residents along their road frontages. Watch your June newsletter and the city website for more information.

**County will conduct household hazardous waste in Cottage Grove May 4**

Washington County has planned satellite weekend household hazardous waste collections for 2019. 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 next event will be 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday May 4 at the Cottage Grove Public Works Garage, 8635 W. Point Douglas Road S., Cottage Grove.

Confidential document shredding will be available.

## Notes from the Mayor

At last month's council meeting we reviewed draft language to update city ordinances regarding the discharge of firearms. Most of the proposed changes to the ordinances mirror the state rules that are already in place. There was some confusion over this as we heard from residents who had concerns about the potential language and wondered if we intended to adopt what was presented that evening. We did not. I had asked staff to make this a two-month process so we could look at draft language, make comments and changes, and then get feedback from the community on what it might look like after that discussion. I could have made the timeline for the review process more clear, so I apologize for the confusion.

Afton is a rural community, and we value our natural open spaces, and the tradition of hunting that many of our residents enjoy. Nothing in this ordinance would impact hunting, gun ownership, or our rights to defend ourselves. The discussion was about making sure we have some common sense rules about the discharge of guns near our neighbors' homes, making sure bullets do not cross property lines, and ensuring this is all being done safely without overly burdening other residents due to noise or concern for children and pets.

The council scheduled a work session to continue to discuss this, and will have a public hearing at the May 21 council meeting to get feedback before any formal action is taken. This issue comes up every few years, so I think it is time to address it in a balanced way.

On another note I would like to welcome Grant Jensen to the Parks Committee and thank Roger Bowman and James Langan for staying on for new terms on the Planning Commission. Thank you for volunteering to serve!

The council unanimously passed an ordinance sent to us by the Park Committee reaffirming our commitment to pollinators and encouraging the city to create pollinator-friendly habitats. We should all do what we can on our own properties to help address declining populations of these vital components of the ecosystem.

Our feathered friends are beginning to return. The Baltimore Orioles will be arriving soon, as will the hummingbirds. Also, morel mushroom season is approaching. If only I liked to eat them as much as I like to look for them. All the more for my foraging partners. Enjoy the spring.

~Bill

### Several Plots Available: Rinta Community Garden

Time for gardeners to get their hands dirty! The Rinta Community Garden has several plots still 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).

## Community Events

### The Afton-Lakeland Elementary School Playgrounds are Getting a Makeover!

The Afton-Lakeland PTA is excited to announce the kickoff of our playgrounds remodeling project! Over the 2019 and 2020 summers, both the north and south playgrounds at our school will receive an overhaul. This will:

- Update equipment
- Leverage district funds for resurfacing
- Increase safety
- Expand kindergarten playground
- Invest in a community asset

Please visit [www.aftonlakelandpta.com](http://www.aftonlakelandpta.com) for further information on the project.

### Interfaith Event

Eastern Twin Cities Islamic Center (formerly known as Islamic Society of Woodbury/East Metro) will be hosting an interfaith iftar (opening of fast in the month of Ramadan) in collaboration with Minnesota Council of Churches at its new facility on 12585 Hudson Rd S, Afton on Tue May 21st starting at 7 PM and would like to invite all Afton residents to join us for this event. Come and join us for an iftar meal, take a tour of the center and enjoy the company of others in the community. The event is free and informal but requires registration at <http://bit.ly/TakingHeartRegister>

## April Meeting Highlights

### April 1, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting

#### The Commission:

- Held a public hearing for the Gary Swanson application for minor subdivision and variance at 5550 Neal Ave S.
- Reviewed elements of the PLCD Ordinance language.

### April 16, 2019 City Council Meeting

#### The Council:

- Approved the Gary Swanson application for minor subdivision and variance at 5550 Neal Ave S.
- Approved road coring for improvements in 2020
- Discussed drainage improvements at Town Square Park.
- Approved purchase of a mower for public works use.
- Approved removal of trees at Rinta community garden.
- Reviewed draft language regarding discharge of firearms.
- Approved contribution for eco friendly designed light pole banners.
- Re-appointed James Langan and Roger Bowman to the Planning Commission.
- Appointed Grant Jenson to the Parks Committee.
- Appointed Cole Cernohous to seasonal maintenance employee position.
- Requested the Sheriff add extra patrols for speed enforcement over Memorial Day weekend.

MEETING PACKETS, VIDEOS AND APPROVED MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE AT:  
[www.ci.afton.mn.us](http://www.ci.afton.mn.us)

## REMINDER

### FREE Water Testing This Spring for Nitrates and Total Coliform Bacteria



Afton residents are invited to have their drinking water analyzed for nitrates and total coliform bacteria. June 11 or 18 /2019 are the dates available for residents to take a sample of their water and bring it to City Hall.

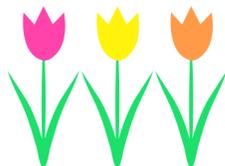
**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** Phone or email City Hall at 651-436-5090 or [jyoho@ci.afton.mn.us](mailto:jyoho@ci.afton.mn.us). **Deadline for signing up is May 24, 2019!**

Your name and address are needed so that you can receive in the mail, a sampling kit that consists of a bottle, a sample information form, and sampling instructions. Take your sample on either June 11 or 18, and then bring your fresh sample to City Hall between 7:00 and 9:30 a.m. that day. Volunteers will deliver the samples to Washington County for analysis. Your nitrate and total coliform bacteria results will be sent to you.

**HELPFUL SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ACCOMPANYING YOUR SAMPLE:** It is not required, but it is helpful for future data analysis if you can provide information such as well depth, construction date, casing material, casing diameter, aquifer, and distance from septic and/or drain field. Also, the section number where you live is very helpful.

This is a voluntary effort, and resident participation provides Afton with valuable information on the quality of our **invaluable water resource**.

- Afton Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee



## Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

### Tuesday, May 7, 2019

**Frog Walk at Bulrush Slough** 8:00 p.m.-9:30p.m.  
 Enjoy the auditory magic of a spring evening at Belwin Conservancy's Bulrush Slough as we look and listen for chorus frogs, spring peepers and wood frogs. Space is limited to 15 participants.

**Information:** Free for members, \$10 for non-members. Belwin Conservancy Main Office, 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton. RSVP by May 7.

### Sunday, May 12, 2019

**Mother's Day Bird Hike** 6:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
 In partnership with [Tropical Wings](http://TropicalWings.com), we are holding our annual Mother's Day Bird Hike. Join Belwin Interpretive Naturalist Lynette Anderson as we listen and watch for migratory birds returning home or passing through.

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

### Saturday, May 18, 2019

**Belwin Bison Festival** 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
 Welcome a herd of juvenile male bison from NorthStar Bison to Belwin. This free community festival celebrates bison's critical role in helping Belwin maintain and improve our restored prairie. The 2019 Belwin Bison Festival includes:

- Bison release
- 5k "Run With The Bison" fun trail run (registration available via [belwin.org](http://belwin.org))
- Interactive eco-arts featuring artists Tom Bierlein, Mischa Kegan and Teri Power
- Live music: Red Eye Ruby
- Machinery Petting Zoo
- Food trucks

The festival will be held rain (or snow!) or shine, so plan accordingly. Bring a chair or picnic blanket. Please consider carpooling.

**Information:** Free and open to everyone. Entrance fee for 5k fun run.

Belwin Conservancy's Lucy Winton Bell Athletic Fields, 15601 Hudson Road, West Lakeland

### Tuesday, May 21, 2019

**Twilight Hike at the Creative Center**  
 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Come and experience early spring sights and sounds at Belwin Conservancy's beautifully restored oak savanna and prairie.

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

### Saturday, May 25, 2019

**Education Center Summer Saturdays Begin**  
 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Explore Belwin's Education Center and its miles of rolling wooded, prairie and wetland trails. Guided Experiences will be held on the third Saturday of the month at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. In June and July, special programming for families with young children will be offered.

**Information:** No fee to independently explore the Education Center and trails. Guided Experiences: Free for members, \$10/family for non-members. Belwin Conservancy Education Center, 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton

**Belwin Conservancy**  
 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 May 2019**

All Washington County Library branches will be closed on Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day.

**Let's Make Stuff: Paper Quilling**

**Saturday, May 4 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.**  
This month at Valley Library we'll learn to quill paper. This surprisingly easy technique of paper curling can be used to create complex and beautiful pieces. Please register online, at Valley Library, or by calling 651-436-5882.

**Power Up Story Time with Chomp**

**Monday, May 6 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.**  
Join us at Valley Library for a special story time with Chomp the Giant Carrot from PowerUp as we read books, sing songs and learn about healthy food and exercise. PowerUp is a community-wide initiative to make it easy and fun for kids and families to eat better and move more in the St. Croix Valley area. No registration required.

**STEM Saturdays: All Things Electric**

**Saturday, May 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
Explore three stations of electric fun as we play and experiment with LED Throwies, Squishy Circuits and LittleBits at Valley Library! 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.*

City of Afton

Find us on Facebook!



**Aggregate Industries Brush  
Days Schedule  
2019**

**Saturdays**

**8:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.**

**(Gate locked at 11:00 a.m.)**

April 27

May 18

June 15

July 20

August 17

September 14

October 12

**NO construction lumber  
BRUSH ONLY!**

Please stay in your vehicle while on-site, except for in the dump area to facilitate removal of brush from your vehicle or trailer.

*Located off St. Croix Trail, north of I-94 across from  
the Bungalow*

**Middle St. Croix Watershed Updates**

The City of Afton is one of ten member communities in the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively work to protect and improve water quality in Lake St. Croix. MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to the City of Afton to effectively manage water resources, and works in partnership with the Washington Conservation District to help private landowners install voluntary conservation projects that keep sediment and phosphorous out of the St. Croix River.

In 2018, MSCWMO helped member communities to install six new voluntary conservation projects and implement stormwater management rules for 18 development and redevelopment projects. Together, these efforts will stop 73.5lb lbs of phosphorus from flowing into the St. Croix River each year, which is the equivalent of 36,750lbs of algae in the water!

To learn more about the MSCWMO or get help for a conservation project on your land, contact:  
Mike Isensee, MSCWMO Administrator: [misensee@mnwcd.org](mailto:misensee@mnwcd.org); or  
Annie Perkins, City of Afton appointed MSCWMO Board Manager: 651-592-3007.