



June 2016

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

Survey Monkey WANTS YOU!!

Afton's newly formed Branding Committee is seeking your input on "What does Afton mean to me?"

They want to hear from residents, former residents, friends, visitors or fans of Afton!

By taking a few moments to tell us what Afton means to you, you will help our community define itself for future prosperity and well-being for all.

Please go to: www.WhatDoesAftonMeanToMe.com and take the survey or contact the committee by sending an email to: branding@ci.afton.mn.us.



FREE Explore Your Parks Day

Washington County offers residents FREE ADMISSION to "Explore Your Parks Day" on Saturday, June 4, so come and bike, hike, fish, run, swim, read, view wildlife, visit playgrounds and so much more!

Free nature programs and outdoor recreation demonstrations are scheduled for the parks. To see a listing of programs, go to the Washington County website, Parks and Open Spaces, then Programs and Events, and finally, Explore Your Parks Day.



Afton Road Signs being replaced — City selling old signs

Strawberry Hill Rd S 16000 Afton staff recommended and the City Council approved at their May 17 meeting that the old street signs in Afton that are being replaced with the new retroreflectivity and size standard could be sold to the public for \$25.00 apiece. Many people saw the item in the St. Paul Pioneer Press article by Mary Divine on May 18, however, City Hall staff are reserving sign requests from residents ahead of the general public.

The City will replace street signs (a federal mandate) over several years, for budget purposes. A list of the street signs available this year is posted to the city website; unfortunately, past signs such as Trading Post Trail were recycled as scrap metal. Check the website for names of available street signs and bring your money in to City Hall to pick up the signs you'd like. Please note, intersection signs will be \$50 for the two.

CITY MEETINGS

June 1 & 22, 2016

Afton Branding Committee Meeting
7:00 P.M.

June 6, 2016

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

June 15, 2016

Heritage Preservation Commission
5:00 P.M.

June 15, 2016

Natural Resources & Groundwater
6:30 P.M.

June 21, 2016

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

All meetings are held at City Hall unless otherwise noted.

CITY COUNCIL

<u>Mayor:</u>	Richard Bend	436-7684
<u>Ward 1:</u>	Bill Palmquist	308-0569
<u>Ward 2:</u>	Joe Richter	436-1819
<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

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

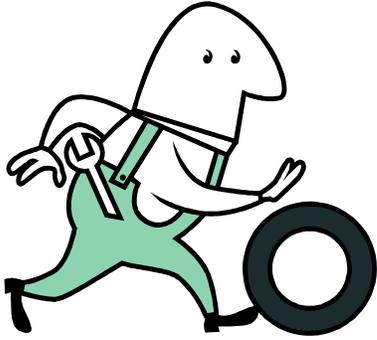
BRUSH PIT — NOW OPEN

(1st Saturday of month—check website)

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 Office	439-9381

EMERGENCY 911

Afton's Metal & Tire Recycling a Success



On Saturday, May 21st, A WEALTH of scrap metal and tires were brought to the City Garage on Stagecoach Trail for the sixth annual recycling grant project.

But the day's real joy came from repeated trips by a few individuals who used the opportunity to do some major clean up to their properties!

In fact, John Jordan will receive, for his record-breaking four trips, a \$25 Certificate, to be used at one of Afton's participating businesses—I'm guessing **Selma's Ice Cream Parlour**—judging by how his eyes lit up when I told him!

Metal: The City provided two dumpsters this year to collect scrap metal—and residents filled both dumpsters completely! The City collects the weight tickets as part of its measurement requirements for the grant program, plus we receive a check for the amount of metal turned in!

Tires: Some participants wanted to know what the "limiting factors" were for



the tire size that could be recycled. Well, we got the answer from the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District who picks up the tires. They informed that they can only take tires less than 50 pounds...so that is why tractor and semi tires cannot be recycled at this event. We were extremely happy, however, to be able to remove more than 300 mosquito breeding grounds from our city! Good job, y'all!

The cost of staffing the City Garage for

Sheriff's Monthly Report

Addresses missing

Deputy Sullivan reported that emergency vehicles have had difficulty finding several addresses in the last month due to address numbers missing from mailboxes. He asked that residents check to make sure their address is readable (minimum 4" high with contrasting background) and put the address on BOTH SIDES of the mailbox. Also, your DRIVEWAY needs to indicate your address as well; this is especially important for neighborhoods with a "bank" of mailboxes.



Criminal Behavior

The city septic property has had many break-ins as well as trespassers in the last month. Deputies have secured the building and put other surveillance and security measures in place; they will also be patrolling more frequently.



Please join the conversation

Coffee with the Mayor



Friday, June 3, 2:00 pm
The Lumberyard Pub
3121 St. Croix Trail.

this event comes out of the annual \$7,000 Recycling Grant funds we receive from Washington County. But...

our resident participation in the event IS PRICELESS!

Belwin Events

June 11: Bison Release — 11 am

Come and welcome the bison back for another summer at Belwin Conservancy! Do family-friendly activities, learn about bison and the prairie, visit food trucks. All parking for the bison release will be at the Lucy Winton Bell Athletic Fields, 15601 Hudson Road.

June 18: Sounds of the Solstice — 11 am

The third Saturday of every month members of Belwin are invited to walk the trails at the Education Center (1553 Stagecoach Trail) or participate in a special event. This year's summer artist in residence, Steve Heitzeg, will lead a sound walk at Belwin from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Learn how to start a listening journal or sound diary, and hear and see Heitzeg's conceptual ecoscores composed in honor of nature. Cold drinks provided; please bring lunch.

Belwin membership starts at only \$1.00. You may join on the 18th!

Important Election Notices

Primary Election, August 9

Absentee Voting

by mail or in person June 24 through August 8.

Register in advance by July 19 to save time at the polls on Primary Election Day, August 9.

General Election, November 8

Absentee Voting

by mail or in person September 23 through November 7.

Register in advance by October 18 to save time at the polls on General Election Day, November 8.



2016 Afton Elections

Candidates for City Council file at City Hall:

August 2 through August 16 at 5:00 p.m.

City Council seats up for 2016 election will be:

Ward 1 — 4-year term

Ward 4 — 4-year term

Mayor — 2-year term (at-large)

The city website tab "Election and Voting Information" has the Ward Boundary map. City Council candidates file for candidacy at City Hall during normal business hours. The filing fee is \$2.00. All City Council seats are non-partisan.

Planning Commission, May 2

- **Held a Public Hearing** for Chaim Teitelbaum Minor Subdivision, 15511 Afton Hills Dr, to subdivide the existing 15-acre parcel into three 5-acre parcels accessing Afton Hills Drive. The westerly parcel has an existing home; 2 new parcels to be to the east. Each of the three parcels met minimum requirements, except Parcel C, which has an existing driveway traversing the middle of the parcel giving access to the abutting parcel to the south. Commissioners were unclear as to required separation between driveways or whether a shared driveway for Parcel C requires a variance. Definitive ordinance sections were unable to be located in the meeting.
- **Continued** the Chaim Teitelbaum Minor Subdivision application 15511 Afton Hills Dr to the June 6 meeting to give time to gather information about the driveways.
- **Held a Public Hearing** for Brown Trout LLC Variance, 15311 Putnam Boulevard, and Minor Subdivision at 15311 Putnam Boulevard and 2573 Stagecoach Trail. In 2008 the City closed Putnam to traffic, due to unsafe conditions at the sharp curve. At that time, 2573 Stagecoach Trail and 15311 Putnam were owned by the same person and they used the driveway off of Stagecoach Trail to access the Putnam property. Since that time, both properties were purchased by Brown Trout LLC and existing houses on both parcels were removed. The variance application seeks to resolve the loss of access onto Putnam by allowing access to the 15311 parcel from Stagecoach Trail through an easement on 2573 Stagecoach Trail. Lot line boundary changes will enable a new house at 15311 to meet side yard setbacks. Drainage and utility dedication and scenic easements of slopes 18% or greater are required. Information on driveway separation, shared driveways and cutting a parcel in half with a driveway easement were issues. Commissioners commented that no variance or subdivision would be required if the applicant simply combined the two parcels to have one driveway access to their new home.
- **Continued** the Brown Trout LLC variance at 15311 Putnam Boulevard and minor subdivision at 15311 Putnam Boulevard and 2573 Stagecoach Trail in order to gather information about the driveway access and for the applicant to consider the option of combining the parcels, and thereby not requiring a variance or subdivision.
- **Discussed** the Comprehensive Plan. Identified items to update in the following sections: Background, Environmental Resources Plan, and Housing and Land Use Plan.

City Council Meeting, May 17

- **Approved** proposal from WSB to complete a boundary survey of the Mount Hope Cemetery property at a cost not to exceed \$3,578. Motion carried 3-1-1 (Nay-Richter; Abstain-Ross, due to being President of the Afton Historical Museum which has entered into an agreement with the city to do maintenance and restoration of this pioneer cemetery.)
- **Authorized** the City Engineer to apply to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority for a loan from the Clean Water Revolving Fund for Afton's Downtown Village Improvement Projects.
- **Adopted** the 2015 Audit Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015.
- **Directed** staff to prepare the necessary resolution to declare and sign Cemetery Road as a minimum maintenance road and to direct staff to develop an agreement with all parcel owners, including the City, for maintenance.
- **Denied**, except to the extent of the previous action, the petition before the Council to have the City take over responsibility for the upgrade and maintenance of 34th Street (Cemetery Road).
- **Authorized** crack filling and seal coating projects on Pately Bridge and 32nd Street from the 2016 street improvement projects list.
- **Tabled** action on the remaining 2016 Street Improvement Projects List to the June City Council meeting, when legislative funding for the Downtown Improvements should be known.
- **Approved** that the City/Zoning Administrator may use discretion in using the services of a planning consultant for the review of minor subdivisions and other land use applications in addition to major subdivision applications up to a maximum of \$3,000 per year.
- **Authorized** renewing the agreement with Washington County for assessment services with the new rolling renewal clause.
- **Approved** the proposal from Lakeland Heating and Air Conditioning for the replacement of the furnace and air conditioner serving the upper level of City Hall at a cost not to exceed \$6,400.
- **Appointed** Roger Bowman to the Planning Commission.
- **Amended** the Solar Energy Systems ordinance to add community solar energy systems and solar farms as conditional uses in the Industrial Districts in Section 12-134, Use Table.
- **Adopted** Ordinance 06-2016 regulating the use and maintenance of City-owned Cemeteries to be placed into Chapter 16 of the Afton City Code.
- **Approved** the sale of replaced street signs for \$25.00 per sign; \$50 per intersection sign.

Downtown Improvement Projects Update



The findings and recommendations of the Phase II investigation of the Mound site in the downtown village area were presented to tribal representatives and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in a follow-up consultation with them on May 20.

The information addressed the concerns of the tribal representatives, and SHPO was in overall agreement with the report's recommendations. Based on the positive results of the consultation meeting, there is still the potential to begin construction in August of 2016.

Additional information on the construction timing and staging will be provided in the July City Newsletter.

4TH OF JULY Afton Parade — Schooner Band Seeks Musicians

Afton area musicians are invited to help celebrate the 224th birthday of our nation and the return of the Afton 4th of July Schooner Band. Ride along on the wagon and play Sousa-type marches with our flags waving.

Band rehearsals will be June 21, 29 & 30th from 7-9pm at the Afton Historical Museum, 3165 St. Croix Trail S.



For more information or to request music to practice in advance of rehearsals, contact band organizer Julie Stenberg Zeidel, email juliestenbergzeidel@comcast.net, or call 651-436-3074. Or contact the Afton Museum at 436-3500 or info@aftonhistoricalmuseum.com.





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



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Valley Branch Library Regular June Events

Preschool Storytime

Mondays, June 6, 13, 20 & 27,
10:30 to 11:00 a.m.



Pre-K & caregivers. Stories, songs and fingerplays help develop literacy skills.

Dog Gone Reading — Read to Legacy

Tuesday, June 28, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Bone up on reading! Certified therapy dog, Legacy, is ready for YOU! Sign up for 15-minute reading sessions at the library or call 436-5882.



Valley Library Book Club

Thursday, June 23, from 5 to 6 p.m.

The book this month is "The Life We Bury" by Allen Eskens. Read the book, come, and discuss. Open to all.



PATRON AFTON, MN 55001

View this newsletter
IN COLOR
on the city website.



Please recycle this
newsletter after use.

 **YOUR
LIBRARY**

Valley Branch Library June Special Events

* Register at Valley Library or call 436-5882.

Dazzling Dave National Yo-Yo Master Saturday, June 4, 11 a.m. to noon — All ages. Yo-Yo Master, Dazzling Dave, demonstrates amazing whirling tricks and tips.

Nursery Rhyme Olympics Wednesday, June 8, 3:30 to 5 p.m. — Ages 3-8. Nursery rhymes come to life with Olympic-style games: Jack Be Nimble Hurdles, Jack and Jill Pail Toss, and the Humpty Dumpty Puzzle Challenge. Participate to receive a medal.

Lego Mania! Friday, June 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Ages 6 and up. Explore your imagination at this open Lego build-a-thon.

Sew Banana! Sew Minions! * Tuesday, June 14, 2:30 to 4 p.m. — Ages 6-12; limit 15. Bello! Make minion finger puppets of your own to take home.

Animals Make Music * Saturday, June 18, 11 to 11:45 a.m. — To age 5; limit 20. MacPhail Center for Music's music specialists has hands-on musical play activities.

Kitchen Science * Monday, June 20, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. — Ages 6-12; limit 15. Local author and "Kitchen Pantry Scientist" Liz Heinecke, explores with hands-on science experiments and talks about science blunders that have led to important discoveries.

The World of Eric Carle Friday, June 24, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. — Ages 3-8. Paint, create, make your own "very hungry caterpillar" using Eric Carle story inspiration!

STEAM Storytime Monday, June 27, from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Stories, songs and special activities using science, technology, engineering, art and math.

DIY Day at the Library: Sharpie Art Wednesday, June 29, All Day — Ages 7-17. Stop in any time during the day to enjoy a fun, self-directed craft. Bring your own t-shirt, bandana, hat, etc. We will also provide bandanas.

Zentangle Art * Thursday, June 30, from 3 to 4 p.m. — Ages 8-12; limit 12. Learn five steps to creating Zentangle-inspired designs. Make one to take home.

City of Afton Seeks Part-time Video Recorder

Afton is seeking a person to video record its Planning Commission and City Council meetings, which are held the 1st Monday and the 3rd Tuesday of each month.



Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. City Council meetings are generally three+ hours long and Planning Commission meetings are generally 2 hours long.

If you possess skills with video equipment and have an interest in this position, please complete an Employment Application (under City Government on the city website) or call City Hall, 651-436-5090 for more information.