



June 2020

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19) City Hall Procedures

Due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) City Hall remains closed to the public; essential city services will continue.

City Hall staff are working remotely and will check voicemail and email regularly. Please use the drop box outside of City Hall to deliver any permit applications, payments and documents. These can also be mailed.

Staff Contact Information:

Ron Moorse, City Administrator: 651-436-8957
administrator@ci.afton.mn.us

Ken Johnson, Public Works: 651-436-5090, ext #102
publicworks@ci.afton.mn.us

Duane Stensland, Building Inspector: 651-436-6469
dstensland@comcast.net

Julie Yoho, City Clerk: 651-436-5090, ext #101
jyoho@ci.afton.mn.us

COVID-19 City Council Meeting Process Changes

The City Council meetings are being held virtually. This means that rather than Council members, staff and the public meeting in the Council Chambers, each of these groups participate via phone and/or on-line via the internet. Our priority remains to make the City Council meetings and the Council's actions as transparent as possible and provide residents the means to provide comments and input regarding all items on the meeting agendas, while protecting public health. Information on how to join the meeting will be posted on the City website along with the agenda and meeting packet.

METAL & TIRE RECYCLING DAY - CANCELED

The city Metal and Tire Recycling Day scheduled for Saturday, June 6, 2020 has been CANCELED.

CANCELED!

We are sorry to announce the 2020 Afton Strawberry Festival and the 4th Of July Parade & Celebration will not take place this year.

CITY MEETINGS

All meetings of volunteer Commissions and Committees are CANCELED for June

June 16, 2020

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Please see the adjacent article regarding COVID-19 City Council Meeting Process Changes, and watch for more information on the City website and the City Facebook.

CITY COUNCIL

- Mayor: Bill Palmquist 651-308-0569
- 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

651-436-5090

CITY WEBSITE

www.ci.afton.mn.us

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- Animal Control 715-220-1332
- Building Inspector 651-436-6469
- Burning Permits 651-248-5103
- Environmental Center 651-275-7475
- Highland Sanitation 651-458-0043
- Otter Lake Animal Care 651-426-8871
- Fire Dept 651-436-7033
- Sheriff's Dept 651-439-9381

EMERGENCY 911

Notes from the Mayor

Graduation season is a bit different this year for our Afton high school seniors. But that does not diminish the great accomplishment the class of 2020 has made. Although there might not be a formal ceremony, the Afton City Council would like to acknowledge all the time and work that these students have put in to reach this milestone. We hope we got everyone! If not let please let me know.

On behalf of our whole community, congratulations! We wish you success, fulfillment, and happiness as you set off on new adventures!

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Ethan Badger | Ty Hawkins |
| Ethan Barclay | Dustin Knighton |
| Haakon Bjork | Anthony Koslowski |
| Mari Bohacek | Jack Ostrander |
| Tomas Bumgardner | Josephine Ramirez |
| Dylen Doroff | Elise Riniker |
| Andrew Edwards | Ely Runk |
| Estelle Fearing | Julia Snyder |
| Michael Finch | Patrick Steury |
| Emma Finch | Javon Taschuk |
| Tyson Fredkove | Elise Truman |
| Ben Gjerde | Sophia Weiss |
| Molly Graber | Colin Welch |
| Jack Haley | Sarah Zimmerman |

At our last meeting, the council passed a resolution declaring July 1, 2020, the **Dr. Joel Jensen Health Care Provider Appreciation Day**. Dr. Jensen is a long-time Afton resident who has worked in the Valley providing medical care and emergency care for decades. He has also volunteered in various parts of the world where there was a need for modern medical assistance. As he has recently retired, we wanted to acknowledge all he has done for the community. During this time of pandemic, he is the perfect person to represent all the medical providers in Afton who are working so hard to keep us healthy. On July 1, please join me in recognizing the contributions Dr. Jensen has made to our community, and thank all those men and women in Afton, and the whole Valley, who are on the front lines dealing with this health crisis.

We continue to get complaints about vehicle speed and noise throughout the city. Again this year, we have budgeted funds to have extra patrols out on some early spring and summer weekends. We have received some positive feedback from the last round of these patrols, but please let me or your council person know if you are being impacted by speed or noise issues, and if you support our continued use of extra patrols to try to curb the problem.

Hope everyone had a nice Memorial Day weekend, and are enjoying the warm weather.

-Bill

Aggregate Industries Brush Days Schedule 2020

DUE TO THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS (COVID 19) ALL BRUSH DAYS AT THE LAKE LAND PLANT HAVE BEEN CANCELLED PERMANENTLY OR UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

THE SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC AND OUR WORK-FORCE ARE AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES TOP PRIORITY.

Free Meals & Food Shelf Items

The Eastern Twin Cities Islamic Center (ETCIC) will be providing FREE curbside Meal and Food shelf items on Wednesday's from 5:30 - 6:30 PM. This will be in partnership with Loaves and Fishes.

Based on the demand, there may be an increase the number of days and/or timing. This service will be provided entirely outside of the facility in a safe manner based on social distancing guidelines.

Details on this program are at <https://www.facebook.com/etcic>. The FREE service is open to all - irrespective of faith and religious beliefs. <http://www.etcic.org>

May Meeting Highlights

The May 4, 2020 Planning Commission Meeting was canceled

May 19, 2020 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- Extended the declaration of local emergency.
- Accepted the 2019 Audit report.
- Held a public hearing for a minor subdivision and variance at 2318 St. Croix Tr.
- Approved the application for minor subdivision and variance at 2318 St. Croix Tr.
- Approved temporary surface repairs for 30th St.
- Received an update on Afton Creek Preserve construction.
- Approved purchase of safety equipment for election judges and the polling place.
- Proclaimed July 1, 2020 as Dr. Joel Jenson Health Care Provider Appreciation Day.

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

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

No public events are currently scheduled.
Check the website and social media for updates.

Belwin Conservancy
1553 Stagecoach Trail South
Afton MN 55001
651-436-5189
www.belwin.org

Mosquito Control activity beginning

Metropolitan Mosquito Control District trucks and helicopters will be out in neighborhoods and parks and with more people at home, they may be more visible this year.

SAINT PAUL - Warmer weather means that mosquito season is quickly approaching and the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) will be out conducting surveillance and treatment activities to reduce the risk of disease and annoyance in an environmentally-sensitive manner.

Each year the field staff at MMCD monitors and treats wetlands that breed mosquitoes with a fleet of trucks and helicopters. The difference in 2020 is that due to the Minnesota "Stay-at-Home" order and other precautions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, more people may be home to notice MMCD activities in local neighborhoods and parks.

At times MMCD employees may need to cross private property for access to check and treat areas for mosquito larvae. Mosquito control staff will be practicing social distancing, wearing masks when near people, and working individually as often as possible. MMCD management asks the community to please stay at least 6 feet away from field staff and ensure children and pets are kept at a distance. If you have questions about mosquito control activities or concerns about an employee, please call the MMCD front desk at (651) 645-9149 or visit MMCD.org.

Some of the activities that MMCD may be doing in your community include:

- Wetland surveillance - determining if ponds or swamps have mosquito larvae present.
- Catchbasin surveillance - pulling off grates and inspecting neighborhood catch basins to determine if mosquito larvae are present.
- Ground larval treatments - applying control materials to a wetland with a hand spreader or backpack.
- Helicopter larval treatments - applying control materials to a wetland via helicopter.
- Catchbasin treatments - applying control materials to neighborhood catchbasins.
- Setting or collecting traps - surveillance helps MMCD determine where and what types of mosquitoes are active.

The control materials and methods used by MMCD are regularly tested for safety and only applied when surveillance indicates they would be effective. They are designed specifically to target mosquito larvae or adults with minimal impacts on non-target insects. The control materials are not harmful to people, pets, or wildlife. For a complete list of control materials used, please visit MMCD.org.

The Metropolitan Mosquito Control District appreciates your support during this unprecedented time. For information about how MMCD is adapting to take COVID-19 precautions or for tips on how to reduce mosquitoes near your home, please visit MMCD.org.





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



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

Valley Library June 2020

**CLOSED. Modified services are available during reduced hours:
Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Visit the website, WashCoLib.org, for the latest library information.

www.washcolib.org
Valley Branch Library, 384 St. Croix Trail
South, Lakeland, MN 55043
651-436-5882

**PATRON
AFTON, MN 55001**

City of Afton
Find us on Facebook!



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



*Please recycle this
newsletter after use.*

DNR Completes Afton State Park Parking Lot off 50th Street - No Parking on 50th Street

To address safety issues in the area of the 50th Street pedestrian entrance to Afton State Park, the DNR has constructed a new parking area as part of a second official entrance to the park. In working with the DNR regarding these vehicle and pedestrian safety concerns, the City agreed to install “No Parking” signs on both sides of 50th Street in the area of the park. The signs were installed in late April. The pedestrian access to the park remains open. Like the main state park entrance, all vehicles must display a valid state park sticker to utilize the new parking area off of 50th Street.

WASHINGTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER RESUMES DROP-OFF SERVICE

We are pleased to share that the Washington County Environmental Center has resumed drop-off service for household hazardous waste, recycling, and food scraps. The Free Product Room remains closed at this time.

To ensure the health and safety of staff and customers, we are making the following changes to our drop-off procedures:

COVID-19 DROP-OFF PROCEDURES

These new procedures may result in longer wait times. Thank you for your patience.

- Please stay in your vehicle. No exceptions.
- Waste must be in your trunk, rear of SUV, or cargo bed. Do not put waste in the passenger area. If we cannot unload your waste without significant entry into cabin of the vehicle you will be asked to drive to the front parking lot and reorganize the items before returning to the line.
- Keep items you do not want us to take separate from items you are dropping off.
- Please provide your zip code to the attendant through a cracked window. No driver's license is required.
- Please wear a face covering during drop-off. Staff are wearing face coverings for your protection.
- Any items left behind are items not accepted.

New! Food Scraps (organics) drop-off is now self-serve. The dumpsters will be located in the front parking lot and available for self-serve drop-off during normal operating hours. Please stay at least 6 feet away from other customers during drop-off. Replacement bags are provided. To ensure there are enough bags for everyone, please only take the number of bags you drop off. Self-serve drop-off is also available at the Northern Yard Waste Site located at 5527 170th St. N. Hugo, MN 55038.

www.co.washington.mn.us/604/Environmental-Center

651-275-7475