



JULY 2018

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

Afton's 4th of July Parade & Celebration

This Year's Grand Marshall, Randy Meier!



The Afton Museum and Afton Parade Committee are happy to announce this year's parade Grand Marshal, Randy Meier. Randy has been a mainstay on Twin Cities TV for some time now. You see him on FOX 9, Sunday through Thursday, anchoring FOX 9 News @ 5:30, 6 and FOX 9's 10 @ 10. He's married to his college sweetheart and they have five...count 'em, FIVE wonderful daughters who are all young women now succeeding out in the world. With the fledglings all out of the nest, Randy and his wife have more free time on their hands lately. They spend it enjoying any outdoor activity, including time at their cabin and traveling. Randy brings his big dog Rocky to FOX 9 for the occasional visit which makes everyone's day. But did we mention he has a pet goose?

It's that time of year! The very popular Afton 4th of July Parade and Celebration is just around the corner. Here are a few items of interest for this year's parade.

New Starting Time! 12:30 this year. This will give you more time to enjoy the food and drink from our local restaurants and food vendors in Town Square Park.

Don't miss the **River City Rhythm Drum and Bugle Corps** performing in the parade.

Free offsite parking and shuttle bus will run from Lakeland Plaza to Afton City Hall starting at 10:0 and ending at 3:00. The shuttle bus will take a break during the parade.

Trolleys will transport you up and down the Village free of charge from Afton City Hall to River road.

Shuttle Bus will patrol the Coulee Road (Co. Rd. 21) looking for passengers making that long walk from their parking spot. The bus will run from 45th street to River Road. Then pick up the Trolley to your favorite viewing spot.

And **more Shuttles** – this one looping from Afton Blvd. Court to the Museum picking up passengers parked along Afton Blvd. Once again, when you arrive in the Village pick up a ride on the Trolley.

After the parade come to Town Square Park to enjoy Food / Beer / Music / Entertainment.

Keep in mind – the roads in and out of the Village will closed from 12:15 til approximately 2:00.

CITY MEETINGS

CITY OFFICE CLOSED JULY 4

July 9, 2018

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

July 10, 2018

Natural Resources and Groundwater
Committee 6:00 P.M.

July 17, 2018

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

July 18, 2018

Heritage Preservation Commission
5:00 P.M.

July 25, 2018

Parks Committee
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
Mally's Sunshine Kennel 715-246-2467
LSCV Fire Dept 436-7033
Sheriff's Dept 439-9381

EMERGENCY 911

A Letter from the Mayor ~

Don't rescue baby animals. This time of year, people find fawns, baby rabbits, birds and small mammals that appear abandoned or to have lost their mothers. Do not try to save them by picking them up, taking them home or delivering them to an animal rescue center. There are several reasons for this. Many animals leave their young hidden for extended periods while they feed. Rabbits, for example, nurse their young once a day. This helps to reduce scent trails to the young that could be followed by predators.

Rather than being abandoned many young are instead parked in a location where their mother can find them when humans have left the area. By removing them or handling them you increase the likelihood that they will not survive.

The young of many bird species appear injured when they first leave the nest because they hop on the ground and flutter inefficiently to low branches. They are not injured but rather are doing the avian equivalent of a baby crawling. Stop, don't rescue, and instead pay attention to the often-present alarm calls of parents attempting to lure you away from their young. Heed them and leave.

Finally, there is a systemic reason for not rescuing baby animals. I'll use a species whose individual deaths most of us aren't concerned about to avoid the appearance of being heartless: mice. The common white footed field mouse common in Afton has an average mortality rate of 50% every 29 days. Predators are the most common cause of death. The hawks you enjoy seeing, the owls and coyotes you enjoy hearing, the weasels, mink and shrews you seldom see, all rely on the excess population. The same process is occurring with fawns, rabbits, squirrels and opossums.

Natural systems rely on food chains and the excess young born each year keep predatory and scavenger species alive. Included in the list are insects in both adult and larval stages that also rely on mammal and bird mortality. Without mortality built into the system, the prey species among our wild neighbors would overrun us and all the predators would die.

In summary, the young animal you attempt to save probably doesn't need saving and is probably more apt to die if you rescue it than if you leave it alone. If it does die, its death will support the lives of other animals whose survival would have been threatened by your attempted good deed.

There are some things you can do to save young animals. Don't erect a woven wire (sheep and goat) fence if you don't have livestock that require it. Woven wire-wire fence on property next to my parent's breaks the legs of deer every year. The most recent occurred last week, requiring my mother's call to the sheriff who euthanized a fawn whose leg was tangled in the fence, broken and almost completely severed.

Do pick up small stunned birds who hit your windows, particularly in the winter, and keep them in a closed cardboard box for about an hour. Most will recover if kept in the dark and warm for this short period, often allowing some wonderful photographs before flying off after being placed on a tree limb.

~Richard

Downtown Village Improvement Project Update

The contractor has begun work related to the construction of the stoplog structure opening in the levee at the end of 33rd Street. The stoplog structure will enable pedestrians to walk out to the City docks and will enable a view of the river from 33rd Street. The stoplog structure is planned to be complete in about 5 weeks. The concrete crosswalks have been installed on St. Croix Trail. All of the sewer service lines to serve the properties on Pennington Avenue have now been installed. Boulevard restoration is on-going. The hydroseeding of the boulevards along St. Croix Trail is being delayed until after the 4th of July Parade so the seeding does not get trampled by the parade-goers. Most of the trees in the downtown landscaping project have been installed.

June Meeting Highlights

June 4, 2018 Planning Commission Meeting

The Commission:

- Held a public hearing for the Afton Marina & Yacht club Conditional Use Permit for a Restaurant.
- Held a public hearing on an ordinance amendment regarding allowed uses, design standards, landscape requirements and exterior storage in the City's industrial zones.
- Recommended approval of the ordinance amendment with changes discussed.

June 19, 2018 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- Approved an application for a Conditional Use Permit for a restaurant from Afton Marina and Yacht Club with conditions.
- Approved Ordinance 01-2018 Amendment regarding allowed uses, design standards, landscape requirements and exterior storage in the City's Industrial zones.
- Approved patching repairs to 50th Street.
- Approved a liquor license for the Boatyard Grill Restaurant.
- Approved painting of City Hall.
- Approved Pay Vouchers for Park Construction, Geislinger & Sons, and Great Northern Landscapes Inc.

MEETING PACKETS, VIDEOS AND APPROVED MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE AT:

www.ci.afton.mn.us

The Veterans Memorial

Did you know Lake St. Croix Beach has a Veterans Memorial Park? It includes the cities of Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, St. Mary's Point and Afton. It's located at 1919 Quebec Ave., the site of the old LSCB City Hall. The purpose of the memorial is to provide a place of remembrance and reflection to honor all of those who have served or are serving our country in the military.

On August 23, 2011 Lake St Croix Beach and the other four cities in the St Croix Valley were officially declared Yellow Ribbon cities. The Yellow Ribbon Alliance Lower St Croix Valley (YRALSCV) is our local extension of the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon network which is a comprehensive program that creates awareness for the purpose of connecting service members and their families with community support, training, services and resources.

If you or someone you know is/was a resident of the Lower St. Croix Valley and served in any branch of the service, you can purchase a brick in their name for the memorial. The cost is only \$25, it is the cost of the brick and the engraving only. Contact Terry Hirte 651-470-6349 or Blastin@comcast.net for information on ordering a brick for yourself or a loved one.

This memorial is supported through nonprofit donations. The four cities recently formed a Veterans Memorial Advisory Committee to oversee the memorial park and make suggestions for its betterment. "Little" Freedom Gas Station has a "jar" out and collects donations specifically for the memorial. Recently \$62 was given to LSCB to be used for the park. We are grateful and proud of all our veteran's past and present.

~Used with permission of JP Armstrong

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Tuesday, July 17

Sunset Prairie Hike

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Come and hunt for signs of the season at the Belwin Creative Center located at 795 Indian Trail S. in Afton. This inspiring site is only open for special programming at this time. Join us as we make our way through one of the largest Oak Savanna restorations in the state. Hiking is moderately challenging. 651-436-5189, www.belwin.org. Belwin's Creative Center, 795 Indian Trail S., Afton. Free and open to everyone. RSVP required, space limited to 12 participants.

Saturday, July 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. July topic: Prairie Colors. See, smell, touch what's blooming in the summer prairie. 651-436-5189, www.belwin.org. Belwin Outdoor Science Education Center, 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton. Free and open to everyone; Guided Experiences \$10 for non-members.

Saturday, July 21

Bison Buggy Rides for Members

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

These half-hour rides are an educational and fun way to learn more about the interdependent relationship between bison and prairie. First come, first served. 651-436-5189, www.belwin.org. Bison Prairie on Division Street, West Lakeland. Members only.

For Information & To RSVP for events:

Belwin Conservancy

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



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**Valley Library calendar of events
for July 2018**

Closed July 4

Family Storytime

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

Game & Puzzle Day

Friday, July 6, All Day

Exciting Experiments with Washington County 4-H

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Geology of the St Croix Valley

Thursday, July 12, 6:00—7:00 PM

Seed Art

Tuesday, July 17, 4:00-5:00 PM

DIY Day

Friday, July 20, All Day

STEM Saturdays—LEGO Build

Saturday, July 21, All Day

STEAM Storytime: Driving in Tape Town

Monday, July 23, 10:30—11:15 AM

Jason Huneke's Juggling Show

Wednesday, July 25, 4:00—5:00 PM

Family Stories into Memoir—Write Your Life

Wednesday, July 25, 5:00—6:00 PM

Valley Book Club

Thursday, July 26, 5:00—6:00 PM

Dog Gone Reading with Legacy

Tuesday, June 26 from 3:30—5:30 PM

Harry Potter Escape Room

Friday, July 27, 4:00—4:45PM

Full Calendar of Events:
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

INCOLOR
on the city website.



*Please recycle this
newsletter after use.*

**Washington County will have confidential paper shredding at
Environmental Center July 11**

Washington County will conduct confidential document shredding at the county's Environmental Center 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 11.

The Environmental Center is at 4039 Cottage Grove Drive in Woodbury and 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 9 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.

**Campfire programs continue with Bugs, Reptiles & Amphibians
July 14**

Washington County Parks continues its summer campfire programs with Bruce the Bug Guy at Lake Elmo Park Reserve and Carpenter Nature Center at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park July 14.

Bruce the Bug Guy will present "Bugs" at 7:15 p.m. Saturday, July 14, at Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

Carpenter Nature Center will present a Washington County Parks campfire program on "Reptiles & Amphibians" at 7:15 p.m. Saturday, July 14, at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park.

The programs are free with the park entry fee, \$7 daily or \$30 annually.
See www.co.washington.mn.us/parks for additional information on these and other programs.