



**July 2019**

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

**2019 Grand Marshals**

The Afton Parade Committee is very happy to announce Brad and Shelly Holz of Afton as the Grand Marshals for the 2019 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Brad and Shelly have two daughters, Brook age 8 and Nina age 11. They moved to Afton in 2003 from Woodbury to build their dream home, establish roots and raise their family.



Brad and Shelly met at Woodbury High School and both graduated from St. Cloud State University. Brad was an IT executive for 18 years and Shelly has a successful real estate business. Recently, Brad joined Shelly and team at The Holz Group, Keller Williams Premier Realty.

Both are avid outdoors people, typically in the winter found skiing at Afton Alps, ice fishing or hiking. In the summer they enjoy boating on the St. Croix River, which was the attraction for their move to Afton, and canoeing in the Boundary Waters with their girls.

Shelly and Brad are supporters of the community and surrounding area by volunteering at many functions. They sponsor the Holiday Tree Lighting event held every December in Afton, support the local hockey rink, assist in coaching kids' soccer and softball teams, and support the Afton Lakeland School. Shelly is Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Afton Area Business Association. This spring you could find Brad volunteering at Windmill Marina during the spring flood.

Come to the parade at 12:30 and wave to Brad and Shelly and then stop at Town Square Park to eat, drink and cheer them on as they are knighted by the Winter Carnival crew.

For more information on the parade contact me or visit our web site: <http://aftonparade.com/>

**Stan Ross Chairman,  
Afton Parade Committee**

**Afton 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Schooner Band 2019**

Area musicians are invited to help celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with the Afton 4th of July Parade Schooner Band and ride along on a wagon playing Sousa type marches with flags waving. The Parade begins at 12:30 noon and proceeds down St. Croix Trail from the north to the south end of Afton Village and returns to the beginning point, providing band members opportunity to view the parade as well as perform.

Attend one or more band rehearsals at 7 pm on July 1, 2 and 3, Monday through Wednesday, at the Afton Historical Museum in downtown Afton, 3165 St. Croix Trail S., Afton, MN. Musicians may check out music early, and will participate in deciding the dress for the Parade.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, band members will meet at the Museum at 10:30 am for warm up before decorating the band wagon and boarding with their chairs and music racks for the parade. The wagon will then be pulled into position for the parade.

For further information or to request music to practice in advance of rehearsals, leave a message at 651-436-5150 for band organizer Lucy McAllister.

This will be Afton's 44th consecutive year of celebrating the 4th of July with a parade and community celebration since Afton's "1975 Dress-rehearsal Parade" in preparation of Afton's 1976 Bicentennial 4th of July Celebration.

**CITY MEETINGS**

**City Hall Closed July 4 & 5**

**July 1, 2019**

Planning Commission Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

**July 2, 2019**

Natural Resources & Groundwater  
5:30 P.M.

**July 16, 2019**

City Council Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

**July 17, 2019**

Heritage Preservation Commission  
5:00 P.M.

**July 24, 2019**

Parks Committee  
6:00 P.M.

*All meetings are held at City Hall  
unless otherwise noted.*

**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**

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**

## Notes from the Mayor

### Renewable Energy, Awards, and Community Volunteers

At a work session in June, Novel Energy Solutions updated the city on their leased solar garden being installed on MnDOT's land along Hudson Road. Novel also presented our options to secure a portion of the renewable energy that will be generated at the site. We were able to sign up for shares equal to our current electricity use, and also to account for the expected increase in demand when the city's wastewater treatment site is being fully utilized over the next few years. Being able to offset the increased energy requirements created by the lift stations and water treatment infrastructure with clean, renewable energy makes a good environmental project that much better. Best of all, there is no cost for this, and the city will even get a discounted rate for the electricity used. Look for updates in the coming months on ways residents and local businesses can also participate.

On Thursday, June 27, Afton was awarded a *City of Excellence* award from the League of Minnesota Cities at their annual conference in Duluth. This award for the downtown project recognized the collaboration required between agencies, and the environmental, economic, and historic preservation benefits the project produced. Councilmember Ross and Administrator Moore were able to attend the event and accepted the award. The League made an excellent short video about Afton and the project that was shown that night. As soon as we can get a link to it we will have it up on our website.

When I got up early on the morning of June 14, all the flags were up in honor of Flag Day. I know this is something Windmill Marina has done for us for years and am reminded how lucky we are to live in a community where neighbors and businesses volunteer their time to help make Afton the best place to live in the metro area. It was a great way to start the day. Thank you Windmill Marina!

It's hard to believe, but the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade is right around the corner. Hope you can come down and enjoy the celebration.

~Bill

### ROAD CONSTRUCTION County Highway 21 (Stagecoach Trail S.)



Washington County will be replacing the culvert on CSAH 21 (Stagecoach Trail S.) at Valley Branch Creek. Construction is anticipated to begin on July 8 through August 2, 2019. The overall goal of the project is to replace the deteriorated culvert, improve the driving surface, and add shoulders to enhance safety.

The road will be completely closed north of 15th Street during this period. During this time, traffic will be routed around the construction area via detour. The official detour route consists of St. Croix Trail and Hudson Road.

For project updates see:

<https://www.washington.mn.us/stagecoachtrail>



### Happenings at the Afton Historical Museum

Join Afton neighbors who are exploring ways to reduce waste, maximize recycling, and reduce their environmental footprint at this free talk July 20.

Journey to Zero Waste - Come learn about reducing waste in your lifestyle!

Speaker: Kristina Mattson, Co-founder of Zero Waste Saint Paul

Date: Saturday, July 20 Time: 10 am to noon  
Location: Afton Historical Museum, 3165 St. Croix Trail S., Afton

## June Meeting Highlights

### June 3, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting

#### *The Commission:*

- Reviewed the amendment to Article IX, Sewer, of the Afton City Code—Ordinance 02-2019.
- Reviewed elements of the PLCD Ordinance language.

### June 18, 2019 City Council Meeting

#### *The Council:*

- Approved an ordinance amending Article IX Sewer of Chapter 12 Land Use—Ordinance 02-2019
- Received an update from the City Engineer on the Afton Creek Preserve Construction.
- Approved the solar garden subscription agreement with Novel Energy Solutions.
- Approved improvements to the Town Square Park playground equipment.
- Approved Ordinance Amendment 03-2019 regarding Vacant Building Registration.
- Approved the 60th Street Maintenance Agreement with Denmark Township.
- Approved hiring Bret Christianson as the contracted videographer.
- Approved purchase of bollards for the trail along the levee.

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

## INVASIVE PLANTS AND NOXIOUS WEEDS

Invasive species are those plants and animals that crowd out other species. "Weeds" are commonly explained as being plants growing where they aren't wanted. Sometimes, a species meets both conditions. The Washington Conservation District is interested in control of invasive species because of their potential to affect ecological relationships and ecosystem function, economic value of ecosystems, and human health.

The State of Minnesota has 11 plants named as Noxious Weeds. Some, like poison ivy, are health hazards to humans. Others, such as purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, and thistles threaten both natural and agricultural environmental stability. Under State Statute and regulated by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, these plants must be controlled or eradicated by landowners. Other invasive plants, such as common and glossy buckthorn, are controlled through restrictions on the propagation and sale of these plants. Responsibility for enforcing the regulations falls on local municipalities, and is often addressed on a local level through nuisance ordinances.

Invasive animals and some plants that extend beyond individual properties, such as Eurasian water milfoil, zebra mussels, and gypsy moths are still prohibited through Statute but managed through other means including education and incentives. It is unlawful (a misdemeanor) to possess, import, purchase, transport, or introduce these species except under a permit for disposal, control, research, or education.

The links listed below will also direct you to information about invasive species and weeds. The WCD can help with identification of an unknown plant - email a photo or drop off a sample at the office. As financial assistance grants become available, WCD may be able to provide additional assistance. The WCD also has a "weed wrench" available to county residents to uproot buckthorn or other woody plants. Contact the WCD at 651-330-8220 to check on its availability.

<http://www.mnwcd.org/invasive-plants>

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/weedcontrol>

## Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Tuesday, July 16th, 2019

### **Twilight Hike at Belwin Creative Center**

Free and open to everyone! Come and experience the magic of Belwin's Oak Savanna restoration, one of the largest in the state. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
 Location: Belwin's Creative Center  
 795 Indian Trail S.

Saturday, July 20th, 2019

### **Family Day**

Free for members, \$10/family for non-members. Announcing new programming for families on Third Saturdays in the summer. Families, please join us for a special day of programming at Belwin! Naturalists, scientists, educators and others will lead kid-friendly excursions departing from the Belwin Education Center.

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: Education Center  
 1553 Stagecoach Trail South

### **Bison Buggy Rides for Members**

Members Only. Non-members may join at this event. All Belwin members can enjoy free rides on the Bison Buggy on Open Third Saturdays. This is your best chance to see the amazing creatures — watch and photograph them from the comfort and safety of our custom vehicle, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Bison Observation Platform  
 Division Street

**Belwin Conservancy**

651-436-5189

[www.belwin.org](http://www.belwin.org)

## Spot mowing, spraying for noxious weeds to begin June 24

Washington County staff will begin spot mowing and spraying for noxious weeds in the more than 220 miles of rural roadsides June 24 through July 22, and again in October. This is being done to help comply with Minnesota State Noxious Weed law (Minnesota Statute 18.75) administered by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Property owners who not want their roadside sprayed or mowed, and are willing to take responsibility for controlling and eradicating noxious weeds on the adjacent roadside, may visit the Washington County North Shop at 11660 Myron Road in Stillwater Township to obtain signage, or call 651-430-4300. Be prepared to provide an address, the nearest cross street, and a description of where "Do Not Spray" signs will be located.



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



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### Valley Library

**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**

City of Afton

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**IN COLOR**  
on the city website.



*Please recycle this  
newsletter after use.*

## Recycling - a reminder of what gets recycled

**Please keep recycling the following:**

### Plastic and aluminum/tin

- Clean #1-#7 plastic bottles, tubs and containers, landscape edging, plastic toys (Except Styrofoam)
- Plastic retail bags. Please consolidate into a single bag
- Aluminum cans
- Aluminum foil (clean only)
- Steel (tin) cans
- Rinsed motor oil bottles
- Empty aerosol cans (no caps)
- Scrap metal, pot and pans with handles removed (household quantities)

### Glass

- Glass bottles and jars of any color (please avoid breaking glass; remove and recycle metal lids)

### Paper

- Office paper (including computer, copier, plain fax paper, pastel colored paper (please, NO wrapping paper, neon
- Junk mail (please open your mail to remove any promotional stickers, credit cards, membership cards, or other non-paper items) or other bright paper)
- Newspapers and newspaper inserts (NO PLASTIC BAGS)
- Magazines and catalogs
- Shredded Paper (enclosed in sealed paper bag) [www.ShreddedPaperTape.com](http://www.ShreddedPaperTape.com)

### Cardboard and paperboard

- Corrugated cardboard (please remove all materials, packing and other items inside boxes, no need to break-down packing boxes)
- Brown paper grocery bags
- Pizza boxes (please clean food particles and grease from box)
- Paperboard (cereal, cake, beer, soda, snack and chip boxes, clothing boxes, frozen food boxes)

