

While in private practice I converted our office's document storage and workflow to a paperless system. This lowered costs, increased efficiency, speeded up workflow and automated error avoidance. The City Council has authorized conversion of the City office to a paperless system. We will now have high speed internet connections for all residents, improved city office functioning and life in an idyllic rural environment. We in Afton are truly blessed!

Important Voting Notices

Primary Election, August 9

VOTE In Person

7:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m., Shepherd of the Valley

VOTE Absentee

by mail or in person June 24 through August 8.

General Election, November 8

VOTE Absentee

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.



Important 2016 Afton Elections

Candidate filing for open City Council seats:

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

City Council seats up for 2016 election will be:

- Ward 1 — 4-year term (must reside in Ward 1)
- Ward 4 — 4-year term (must reside in Ward 4)
- Mayor — 2-year term (at-large; Afton resident)

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

Washington County Briefs

County seeks additional funding for septic system retrofits

Washington County will request funds from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to support the work of the Clean Water Legacy Act in protecting groundwater and surface water from impacts resulting from the improper design and/or operation of Sub-surface Treatment Systems (SSTS) in order to continue to improve septic systems in the county. A local funding match from Afton is not required for the grant.

The county's application for Subsurface Sewage Treatment System grants of \$61,100, consists of \$40,000 for low-income fix-up grants, \$18,600 for SSTS base grants, and \$2,500 for incentive grants for the county's property transfer compliance inspection requirement for 2017.

Since 2013, the county has awarded 12 low-income fix-up grants, totaling \$59,248. Twenty-two loans have been awarded to homeowners since 2014, totaling \$404,276.

If you are a homeowner who feels you

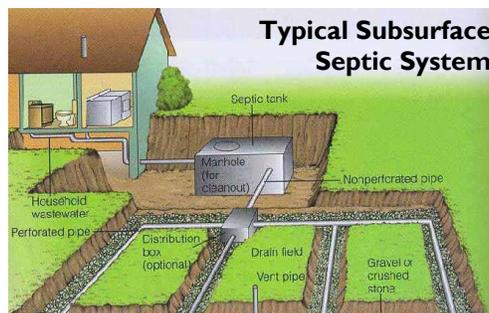
NEW groundwater EXHIBIT at the Washington County Fair

See how groundwater behaves, and learn more about conserving it at the Washington County Fair, August 3-7.

Visit the two new interactive table top displays that show how groundwater works at the Washington Conservation District booth in Building A.

Bring your questions and pick up related handouts on conservation practices. You can also sign up for a FREE conservation site visit if your property has erosion problems.

would qualify for one of the fix-up loans, please contact the Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment at 651-430-6655.



County wraps up work, payments on Stagecoach Trail

The Washington County Board of Commissioners reviewed the final work on the 2015 pavement preservation project on 7.4 miles of Stagecoach Trail, which included road work done in West Lakeland Township, Afton and Denmark Township, much of which is designated as a Natural Preservation Route.

The project replaced the pavement and drainage along the route. The roadway also had limited shoulders. The deteriorated road required a full-depth reclamation to make the road structurally sound. The poor condition of the base of the roadbed required extra work and materials, making the final cost of the roadway a 12% increase over the original contract.

The pavement preservation project was paid for with state aid.

Lake Elmo Park Reserve Swim Pond reopens August 1st after major renovation.

Planning Commission, July 11

- **Heard** Mike Isensee from the Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization (MSCWMO) inform of their adoption of Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS). Watersheds across the Metro Area are adopting MIDS so that consistent standards are being used across communities.
- **Recommended** approval of the Meisner variance to current setbacks at 1520 Stagecoach Trail to construct a handicapped accessible bathroom addition as the only building solution to the 100-year-old legal non-conforming home structure.
- **Recommended** denial for a zoning code amendment by Localized LLC to add a Non-Profit Park use into the City Code. The location of such a proposed use is 2167 Oakgreen Avenue and the two adjacent parcels. Commissioners felt Afton’s ordinances already have similar uses in Afton ordinances and that this could be accomplished as a “recreation area” or “nature center.”
- **Discussed** considering an ordinance excluding man-made steep slopes from regulations for disturbing slopes greater than 18%. Commissioners felt steep slopes, whether man-made or natural, deserved protection and preservation and preferred narrowing the scope of the exemption.
- **Discussed** adding increased vegetative screening requirements to the Subdivision Ordinance. Commissioners felt this encroached on private property rights and felt that vegetative screening is not the main factor that gives Afton its rural character. Rather, they felt that large lot sizes afford Afton its rural character.

City Council Meeting, July 19

- **Approved** the Minor Subdivision for Chaim Teitelbaum at 15511 Afton Hills Drive, but deleted the condition encouraging a shared driveway for Parcel C, as “private streets” aka, shared driveways, are not allowed by ordinance.
- **Denied** the application for a Minor Subdivision for Brown Trout LLC at 15311 Putnam and 2573 Stagecoach Trail, noting that subdivisions increasing non-conformities are not allowed. The Putnam property does not have frontage on an improved public road. The two parcels are to be combined per ordinance requirements and that the City will consider them as combined in relation to any City actions related to the parcels.
- **Approved** the Roger Meissner variance to construct a handicapped accessible bathroom addition as the only option to meet this disabled veteran’s needs.
- **Denied** Localized LLC ordinance amendment to add a Non-Profit Park use into the City Code as Afton has “recreation area” and “nature center” uses in the ordinances that the proposed property owner could apply for as a conditional use.
- **Approved** purchasing Laserfiche, a paperless office and workflow management software, to aid city staff in efficient records management, process tracking and office workflow.
- **Approved** eleven properties for Local Historic Designation for which Afton’s Heritage Preservation Commission has been working diligently for the past year with a consultant, paid by grant funds, to complete. The City Council is scheduled to approve two more next month. The Commission is looking for additional properties of a historical nature to nominate for historical designation.
- **Directed** staff to prepare an ordinance “opting out” of the new state Temporary Health Care Dwelling Statute language, due to the fact that Afton has similar ordinance language which accommodates such uses.

MEETING PACKETS & APPROVED MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE AT: www.ci.afton.mn.us.

Downtown Improvement Projects Update

Afton is planning to begin construction on the Downtown



Improvement Projects in September. A meeting will be held with the contractor in early August to determine the specific elements of the project that will be completed this fall. A public information meeting is being planned for late August or early September to share the construction timeline plan and answer questions about the project.

The City’s Engineer, WSB & Associates, will work with local businesses during roadway reconstruction in downtown Afton, as the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a contract with the company for business liaison services. The services include individual business meetings, construction updates, telephone calls, news releases, coordination with elected officials, open house meetings, development of website materials, and exhibits for project staging and scheduling.

Belwin Conservancy Events – Saturday, August 20

All activities are free for members. If you are not a member, please consider becoming one and join us on Saturday, August 20th. Visit Belwin.org for more information.

Belwin Trails—Open 3rd Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

All members are invited to come out and walk the trails at Belwin—including those at the Education Center, 1553 Stagecoach Trail South, Afton, MN.

Bison Buggy Rides

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (*First Come, First Serve*)
Bison Observation Area: Division St. S.

During summer Open Third Saturdays (June, July, August, September)—all members are invited to take a short ride on the Bison Buggy. They will begin on the half hour (last ride at 2:30 p.m.) Limited to four spaces per family.





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



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FREE CONCERT—Town Square Park, August 6, 2:00—4:30 p.m.

Emergence Brass Band will play a concert between 2:00 and 4:30 p.m. Saturday, August 6, 2016, in Afton's Town Square Park. The band has played at Como Park, The Amsterdam Bar and Grill, Jazz Central, as well as local festivals.

The concert is in celebration of long-time residents, the Zeidels, who are celebrating their 20th, 55th, and 60th birthdays, as well as a 25th wedding anniversary. The band plays a mix of jazz originals and rock, pop, and jazz covers.

Come enjoy the FREE CONCERT & help them celebrate!

**PATRON
AFTON, MN 55001**

View this newsletter
IN COLOR
on the city website.



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newsletter after use.*

**Valley Branch Library
August Events**



Toddler Drive-In, Monday, August 1, from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Kids will decorate a box to look like a car and then watch a short children's movie. Preschool.

DIY Day at the Library, Wednesday, August 3, All Day

Enjoy a fun, self-directed craft. August's activity: Make Your Own Bookmark. All supplies provided. Ages 7-17.

Block Party, Friday, August 5, from 10 a.m. to noon

Playing with blocks: Come to this block party - library style! Ages birth to 6.

Blues for Kids, Saturday, August 6, from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Participants get a free harmonica. Listen to and learn how to play the blues! Ages 8-12. Funded by Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (Legacy). Registration required.

Preschool Storytime, Mondays, from 10:30 to 11 a.m., August 8, 15, 29

For children preschool through kindergarten age and their caregivers. Stories, songs, rhymes and more to encourage the development of early literacy skills. Siblings welcome.

Kindergarten Here I Come! Monday, August 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Starting Kindergarten in the fall? Join us for stories, songs and crafts about the adventures of starting school.

STEAM Storytime, Monday, August 22, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Stories, songs, rhymes and special activities incorporating science, technology, engineering, art and math, offering fun while learning. August theme is Rainbow Magic.

Dog Gone Reading with Legacy, Tuesday, August 23, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Children in grades kindergarten through seventh practice reading aloud to a certified therapy dog and its owner/trainer. Sign up for a 15 minute reading session.

Valley Library Book Club, Thursday, August 25, from 5 to 6 p.m.

This month's book selection is "The Martian" by Andy Weir. Just read the book, come and discuss. Open to all.