



**AUGUST 2017**

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

### **CenturyLink Broadband Update**

I have received several emails from residents that have just been connected to Afton's upgraded Internet. So far connection speeds are ranging from 10 mbps to 128 mbps. Remember that CenturyLink has agreed to provide a minimum speed of 10 mbps and your speed will be affected by the distance from your home to the DSLAM junction box. Shown below is a press release from CenturyLink listing a phone number you must call to get connected. Do not call their 800 customer service number. If you have a question for me, email me (Stan Ross) at [ward3@ci.afton.mn.us](mailto:ward3@ci.afton.mn.us).

From CenturyLink Government Affairs Representative:

Work continues on the CenturyLink broadband build out in Afton. Four of the six nodes, serving more than 350 households, are complete and residents in these areas are able to get speeds up to 100Mbps. Residents in these upgraded areas will receive direct mail information and our door to door teams will be in Afton later this summer connecting with residents on our improved service availability.

For residents located on Trading Post north of 40<sup>th</sup> street and those on Afton Boulevard between Trading Post and Afton Boulevard Court those nodes are currently under construction and, once complete, will require the additional steps to complete. Those residents will be notified of this migration process starting in early fall.

We appreciate your patience as we move through this improvement to residents' phone and internet experience. For questions about availability or to order service please call or visit the Woodbury CenturyLink Retail Store or visit CenturyLink online:

1605 Queens Dr #104,  
Woodbury, MN 55125  
**651-770-2843**

[Woodburyretail@centurylink.com](mailto:Woodburyretail@centurylink.com)  
[www.centurylink.com](http://www.centurylink.com)

### **Downtown Improvement Project Update**

The contractor is planning to begin the reconstruction of the segment of St. Croix Trail from 32<sup>nd</sup> Street to 30<sup>th</sup> Street either late the week of July 24 or early the week of July 31. This will involve the closure of this segment of St. Croix Trail to through traffic, including the St. Croix Trail/Afton Boulevard intersection. A local detour will be put in place using 30<sup>th</sup> Street and Pike Street on the east side of St. Croix Trail and Perrot and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street on the west side to provide access to the downtown area.

To view current project information and sign up for weekly construction updates visit the project website: [www.co.washington.mn.us/AftonCR21](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/AftonCR21)

### **CITY MEETINGS**

**August 1, 2017**

Natural Resources and Groundwater  
Committee  
5:00 P.M.

**August 7, 2017**

Planning Commission Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

**August 15, 2017**

City Council Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

**August 16, 2017**

Heritage Preservation Commission  
5:00 P.M.

**August 23, 2017**

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](http://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

Hillcrest Animal Hosp 484-7211

LSCV Fire Dept 436-7033

Sheriff's Dept 439-9381

**EMERGENCY 911**

## A Letter from the Mayor ~ Rural or Rural by Design

A naturally occurring modern rural landscape is filled with large farms. Rural communities close to metropolitan centers do not occur naturally. Eastern Afton when I was growing up had small farms in the east, large farms in the west. Afton was farm country. The families of many of my fellow Afton-Lakeland Elementary classmates have sold their farms to owners who don't farm them. We still have owner operated farms in Afton however the numbers are declining.

Farms provide jobs, support families and preserve our prized rural atmosphere. Support for our farmers is important for all of Afton and whenever farm use ends, it is wise to replace it with uses that are valued in the marketplace and compatible with Afton's open space and farming heritage.

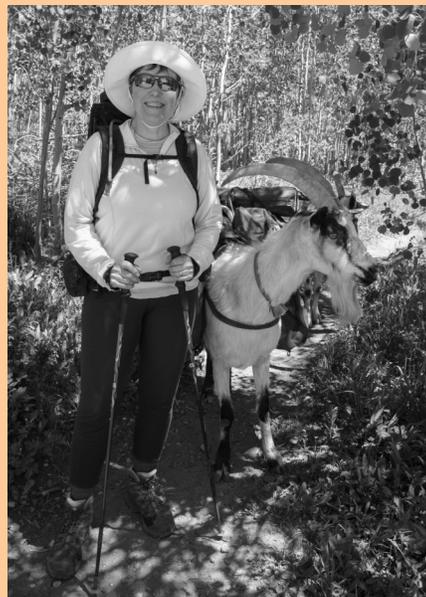
The hobbies of many existing residents provide a key to an economically valued replacement use: hobby farm activities. Many Afton residents have one or more of the following: gardens, cattle, sheep, goats, lamas, alpacas, chickens or dogs. Many of these uses require additional space for feed storage, tractors and livestock housing. Space also buffers neighbors from each other's odd hobbies and buffers domestic animal land use from neighbors who want habitat for wildlife, privacy and solitude. Space, that essential component of every rural environment, and the uses that require it, is key to a continued rural-by-design environment near a large metropolitan area.

In my family's case, our Afton land has over the decades housed multiple gardens, quail, pheasants, partridge, homing pigeons, dogs, horses, ponies, goats, closely watched wood duck houses and other environmental enhancements designed to support wildlife.

A recent New York Times article focused on the increasing movement by retirees toward communities where small green acre farms are encouraged. We need to ensure that new residents are attracted to Afton's unique rural land use opportunities and must continue making those choices available if our rural environment is to continue. I am in the category of retirees mentioned in the Times article and have not lost my boyhood enjoyment of the choices Afton provides.

Carol and my most recent additions to our menagerie are three pack goats, added following our recent pack goat trip in Wyoming. Below are a couple of photos showing the Afton lifestyle extended to Wyoming. If you have only one garden, one domestic animal, one vista preserved for wildlife, one favorite walk, you know the value of our carefully protected low density and diverse land use options.

Richard Bend, Mayor



### 2017 Pavement Management Project Update

The contractor plans to complete the final lift of asphalt (wear course) on all roads that have been paved with the base course by late August. Oakgreen Circle, Oakgreen Avenue and Tomahawk Drive are planned to be reclaimed and paved in September, with the wear course to be completed by late September.

## July Meeting Highlights

### July 10, 2017 Planning Commission Meeting Highlights

- The Commission discussed the process for updating Afton's Comprehensive Plan. Representatives from the Met Council provided information on the resources available to provide assistance.

### July 18, 2017 City Council Meeting Highlights

- The Council approved payment of Pay Voucher No. 3 from Geislinger and Sons, Inc. for the Downtown Improvement Project in the amount of \$1,407,010.94.
- The Council approved payment of Pay Request No. 4 from Ellingson Inc. for the Wastewater Treatment System Project in the amount of \$636,326.02.
- The Council approved payment of Pay Voucher No.1 from Park Construction for the Pavement Management Project in the amount of \$917,255.26.
- The Council passed Resolution 2017-41 for flood hazard mitigation grant funding.
- The Council scheduled a Special City Council Meeting for July 24.
- The Council discussed holding two work sessions to be scheduled in August and early September to review and discuss the 2018 budget.

## Washington County News

### Newport Transit Station will soon offer two additional transit services

#### Limited Route 365 service rerouted

Beginning Aug. 21, three selected Route 365 trips to Minneapolis during peak commute times will be rerouted. A recent survey of Route 365 riders asked if they would use the Newport Transit Station if the facility was served by Route 365. As a result of this survey, limited Route 365 service will use this facility.

- Three morning trips from Cottage Grove Park & Ride will be rescheduled to serve the Newport Transit Station, and will be timed to arrive in downtown Minneapolis for 7:30, 8, and 8:30 a.m. work starts.
- Three afternoon trips from downtown Minneapolis will be rescheduled to serve the Newport Transit Station and will be timed for a 4, 4:30, and 5 p.m. work end.
- Trips to Newport Transit Station will also serve both the Cottage Grove and Lower Afton Park & Ride locations
- Other schedule times may be adjusted as part of this service change.

New Route 365 schedules with service to the Newport Transit Station will be available in early August and can be viewed at [metrotransit.org](http://metrotransit.org).

#### Newport Transit Station to be 2017 State Fair park-and-ride

After last year's success, the Newport Transit Station will be offering express service to the Minnesota State Fair again this year. Fairgoers may park at the transit station and ride roundtrip to the fairgrounds for a small fare. Details regarding service frequency and hours of operation will be announced closer to the start of the State Fair.

## Belwin Conservancy August Events

### Tuesday, August 15

**Sunset Prairie Hike: 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Learn about the changing prairie at this monthly series hosted by Belwin Naturalist Lynette Anderson. Meet at Stagecoach Prairies parking lot on 11th Street in Afton.

### Saturday, August 19

**Open Third Saturday: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Trails open 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Belwin Outdoor Science Education Center, 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton. Enjoy bison buggy rides from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., and view the sun at the J.J. Casby Observatory from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with experienced Minnesota Astronomical Society members.

### Saturday, August 19

**Guided Trout Fishing for Families on Valley Creek: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Join experienced fly fisherman Jim Rue for a two-hour workshop covering the basics of fly fishing. Workshop is for adults and youth ages 12 and older. All minors must be accompanied by an adult.

**Events for Belwin members. Not a member? Join online prior to the event to support our programs and enjoy everything we have to offer.**

**[www.belwin.org](http://www.belwin.org)  
651-436-5189**

**Visit [www.belwin.org/events](http://www.belwin.org/events) for a listing of all August events.**



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



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AFTON MN 55001  
PERMIT NO. 15

**Valley Library calendar of events for August**

*Featured Events*

**Aliens Attack!**

Thursday, August 10, from 3 to 4 p.m. Ages 7-14

**Final Bookawocky Blast**

Saturday, August 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All ages

**STEM Saturday: Solar Science**

Saturday, August 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All ages

**Solar Eclipse Viewing Party**

Monday, August 21, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. All ages. Join us for a special solar eclipse viewing party.

**A Stitch-in-Time**

Wednesday, August 30, from noon to 2 p.m.  
Work with artist Anne Sawyer-Aitch and learn the art of embroidery, including French knots, chain stitch, and backstitch.

*Computer & Technology Class*

**Computer Basics**

Wednesday, August 23, from 3 to 5 p.m.

*Children's Events*

**LEGO Mania**

Thursday, August 3, from 3 to 5 p.m. Ages 5 and up. Younger siblings welcome with a parent

**Family Storytime**

Mondays, August 7, 14, 21, from 10:30 to 11 a.m.  
For all children and their families

**Kindergarten Here I Come!**

Monday, August 21, from 11:30 a.m. to noon. Ages 4-6

**Dog Gone Reading with Legacy**

Saturday, August 26, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Children in grades K-7

**STEAM Storytime**

Monday, August 28, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

*Teen Event*

**DIY Day at the Library**

Wednesday, August 9, from 2 to 6 p.m. Ages 7-17

*Book Club*

**Valley Library Book Club**

Thursday, August 24, from 5 to 5:55 p.m. Open to all

**Valley Branch Library**  
380 St. Croix Trail South  
Lakeland, MN 55043  
651-436-5882

**PATRON  
AFTON, MN 55001**

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



*Please recycle this  
newsletter after use.*

**FIRE DEPARTMENT  
NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**

At the Lower St Croix Valley Fire Department, we provide quality training based on real world experience and always consider it an honor and privilege to work with the citizens we serve. We provide a variety of training programs to meet the community's needs. If you are interested in learning more or would like to fill out an application, please contact 651-436-7033 and leave your name and email address and we will send out more information as well as an employment application package for becoming a member. There's nothing else in the world like being a Fire-fighter/EMT. It is the best job in the world!

Greg Michel  
Lower St Croix Valley FD  
612-865-0529  
[gregmichel@spartanpromo.com](mailto:gregmichel@spartanpromo.com)