



AUGUST 2018

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

2018 Voting Notices

Primary Election, August 14

VOTE In Person

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

VOTE Absentee

by mail or in person June 29 through August 11.

General Election, November 6

VOTE Absentee

by mail or in person September 21 through November 3.

REGISTER in advance by October 16 to save time
at the polls on General Election Day, November 6.



Important 2018 Afton Elections

Candidate filing for open City Council seats:

July 31 through August 14 at 5:00 p.m.

City Council seats up for 2018 election will be:

- Ward 2 — 4-year term (must reside in Ward 2)
- Ward 3 — 4-year term (must reside in Ward 3)
- 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.

CITY MEETINGS

August 6, 2018

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

August 7, 2018

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

August 15, 2018

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

August 21, 2018

Heritage Preservation Commission
5:00 P.M.

August 22, 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 ~

I remember the house I now live in as it was built and lived in by my grandparents: the ice box converted to a refrigerator by electricity, the ice-house—walls still standing—down the hill toward the lake and the kerosene lamps still on shelves. They were no longer in daily use but were often needed during the frequent power-outages of my childhood. My grandparents had bought a hilly scrap of land the farmer deemed ill-suited for farming. All the surrounding land remained farmland. On adjoining land, I played in barns filled with cattle and helped fill haylofts with bales of hay in the fall. Today all adjacent land is residential, zoned to a five-acre density. We drove to that home from St. Paul through the open farm-land of Woodbury, stopping frequently to look in prairie potholes for water-fowl.

I have now spent more than ten years, first on Afton's planning commission then as Afton's mayor, working to influence Afton's future land use in the direction of slow growth and low density. My generation, like my family's previous generations, will be gone. Afton's land will remain to support future generations. Afton's current comprehensive plan and ordinances encourage development of farmland at less than half the density of Afton land that has previously been developed for residential use. They also encourage freezing these low densities through the use of conservation easements and easements in favor of adjoining land, both of which prohibit future subdivision.

Our land-use planning must adjust with the times, use the regulatory tools available to imprint on the land our core values, and anticipate that tomorrow's threats to the implementation of values will be different than today's.

As I finish what I have decided will be my last term as mayor, I encourage those who volunteer to serve Afton in the future to remember the following: generations past are gone, generations present will be gone, generations of the future will live on land differently than they do today and the land itself will change. We owe it to future generations to realistically plan for resilient, low-density land use that can resist the environmental and demographic threats of the future. Neither attempts to recapture past land use nor inflexible efforts to perpetuate current land-use will succeed. Willingness to work together to discover and utilize constantly newer methods provides the best hope for Afton's rural lifestyle and landscape.

~Richard

Downtown Village Improvement Project Update

The construction of the flood control structure opening in the levee at the end of 33rd Street is planned to be complete by mid-August. This structure, as well as the Kelles Creek culvert headwall, is planned to be painted by late August. The paving of 32nd Street and most of 33rd Street has been completed. Pavement striping along St. Croix Trail is substantially complete. The restoration of the boulevard areas at the north end of St. Croix Trail with sod has been delayed until late August to provide more favorable conditions for the sod to get established.

July Meeting Highlights

July 9, 2018 Planning Commission Meeting

The Commission:

- Held a public hearing for the Friedlander application for minor subdivision, variance and rezoning at 2900 Stagecoach Trail.
- Recommended approval for the Friedlander application for minor subdivision, variance and rezoning at 2900 Stagecoach Trail.

July 17, 2018 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- Approved WSB to perform annual bridge safety inspections.
- Tabled the Friedlander application for minor subdivision, variance and rezoning at 2900 Stagecoach Trail.
- Accepted a park bench donation from Jeanine Campbell.
- Formed a City Dock Maintenance Advisory Group.
- Authorized staff to refer the language in the PLCD ordinance to the Planning Commission for a recommendation regarding an interpretation concerning whether the allowance of additional cul-de sac-length also allows a proportional increase in the number of lots along the cul-de-sac, along with other provisions of the PLCD ordinance.
- Authorized staff to research auto pool covers as alternative to fencing.
- Appointed election judges to serve in 2018 elections.
- Adopted Summary Ordinance 01-2018 for publication of Ordinance 01-2018 ,an ordinance amendment regarding allowed uses, design standards, landscape requirements and exterior storage in the City's Industrial zones.

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

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 18

Partner Event: Youth Adaptive Program 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

In partnership with Woodbury Parks and Rec, students will visit Belwin and explore ponds and streams to discover what is living in these watery habitats. Using nets and buckets, the class will try to capture frogs as well as a variety of insects and other macro invertebrates.

Taught by Jim Rue, licensed special education teacher with more than 18 years of experience at Belwin Outdoor Science.

Information: Belwin Conservancy, 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton.

Limited to 8 participants; must be students entering grades 3–6. \$30/student with adult chaperone.

Use activity/keyword “Belwin” to sign up at: <https://web2.vermontsystems.com/wbwsc/mnwoodburywt.wsc/search.html>,

Saturday, August 18

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

Participate in programs, meet Belwin staff, explore the trails, and connect with nature. Free and open to everyone.

One-Hour Guided Experiences: Depart from the Belwin Outdoor Science Education Center at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. August Experience: Join Chris Smith for What’s the Buzz?, a bumble bee hike to help you learn to capture and identify Minnesota’s bumble bees, and how to submit data to Bumble Bee Watch. Chris is a local wildlife ecologist and bumble bee enthusiast working with the intersection of applied research and environmental policy. Free for members; \$10 for non-members.

Guided Sun Viewing in the Joseph J. Casby Observatory (located next to the Education Center) from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Free for everyone.

Bison Buggy Rides for members: 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. All Belwin members can enjoy free rides on the Bison Buggy on Open Third Saturdays. No reservations needed. Location: Bison Prairie parking lot on Division Street. Rides are first come, first-served, and leave on the half hour. Free for members. If you’re not a Belwin member, you may join the day of the buggy ride. Cash, check and credit card are acceptable forms of payment.

Information: Belwin Conservancy, 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton. Bison Prairie on Division Street, West Lakeland. 651-436-5189, www.belwin.org

Tuesday, August 21

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.

Information:

Belwin’s Creative Center, 795 Indian Trail S., Afton. Free and open to everyone; RSVP requested. 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 August 2018**

Learning with a Naturalist: Wolves

Thursday, August 2; 4:00—4:45

Family Storytime

Mondays: August 6 & 13; 10:30AM—11:00 AM

Block Party

Monday, August 6; 11:15-12:00

Paper Dragons

Tuesday, August 7; 3:00—4:00 PM

Wildlife of the St. Croix Valley

Thursday, August 9, 6:00—7:00 PM

DIY Day

Friday, August 10, All Day

Summer Adventure Wrap-up Party

Saturday, August 11, All Day

STEM Saturdays—Take Apart Party

Saturday, August 18, All Day

Valley Book Club

Thursday, August 23, 5:00—6:00 PM

Dog Gone Reading with Legacy

Tuesday, August 28 from 3:30—5:30 PM

Full Calendar of Events:
www.washcolib.org

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

Campfire programs continue August 11

Washington County Parks continues its summer campfire programs with Leave No Trace at Lake Elmo Park Reserve and the Dodge Nature Center at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park Aug. 11.

Leave No Trace will present “Camping Hacks: Trash Your Trash” at 7:15 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

Dodge Nature Center will present a Washington County Parks campfire program on “The Crow Knows” at 7:15 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park.

Call 651-430-8370 or see
www.co.washington.mn.us/parks

**PATRON
AFTON, MN 55001**

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on the city website.



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newsletter after use.*



FamilyMeans
BETTER IS POSSIBLE

Stillwater Area High School’s **Wellness Center** houses a collaborative resource benefitting young people. School district #834, local health agencies, and donors partner together to offer students convenient, onsite access during the school day for:

- mental health therapy
- chemical health counseling
- nutrition education

As a key partner, last year FamilyMeans’ school-based mental health providers helped students in over 800 sessions at the SAHS Wellness Center.

Your gift allows us to reach more students!

*“I would never have made it these last eight months without this.”
-Stillwater Area High School Wellness Center Student*

Parents and residents are encouraged to learn more or support us

Wellness Center Challenge Grant

FamilyMeans.org
or 651-439-4840