



SEPTEMBER 2017

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

Thanks to All Who Participated in Our June Nitrate Testing!

The June nitrate results are in! Thirty nine residents submitted samples. All but three had concentrations below the recommended limit of 10 milligrams per liter of NO₃-N. If you are confused about the reporting units, don't feel alone. The symbol NO₃-N stands for "nitrate as nitrogen" which means this is a test for nitrate but the concentration units are reported as nitrogen. This is the common way of expressing nitrate results. The three samples that were equal to or above the limit, were in areas where relatively more agricultural activity takes place. Higher nitrates in agricultural areas are not uncommon, and unless you were born six months ago, don't worry. The limit for nitrates is mainly meant for pregnant women and infants younger than six months.

Another sampling round is being planned for this fall - probably in November; look for details in your newsletter. If you haven't participated in our nitrate testing before, you're invited to do so. A few residents signed up for the June as well as the October 2016 sampling, but for some reason, did not get their samples collected; you can keep your unused sampling kit and use it for the November sampling. Hope to see many familiar and new faces in November! Thanks for participating!

The Natural Resources and Ground Water Committee

CITY MEETINGS

CITY OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, September 4, 2017

In Observance of Labor Day

September 5, 2017

Natural Resources and Groundwater

Committee

6:00 P.M.

September 11, 2017

Planning Commission Meeting

7:00 P.M.

September 19, 2017

City Council Meeting

7:00 P.M.

September 20, 2017

Heritage Preservation Commission

5:00 P.M.

September 27, 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

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

Downtown Improvement Project Update



The northern portion of St. Croix Trail will be subcut and brought up to grade by the first week of September. Curb and gutter, sidewalks and pavement will be installed closely thereafter. Work along the levee is expected to begin after Labor Day. This will include installation of underground utilities and upgrading of the levee. The wastewater collection and treatment system is planned to be completed and in operation by October 1. At that time, properties will be able to connect to the new system.

2017 Pavement Management Project Update

The bulk of the street improvements are complete, and restoration along the streets is progressing. Additional work on Pasture Ridge Road and 45th Street is planned to begin the last week in August. The reclamation of Oakgreen Circle and Tomahawk Drive is planned to begin by mid-September.

A Letter from the Mayor ~ Play it again in a different key

As my father said a few days ago, ongoing continuity and change are important to a life well lived, but the balance between the two is critical. At 97 and still getting out on a tractor, he knows a thing or two about how to keep going. We were a bit doubtful about his need to buy a new garden tractor last week, but then again, he has gotten a lot of use out of the new farm tractor he bought at 90.

For a city, as for an individual, balanced change is the route to vitality. Especially in the case of a city, change is vital to avoid helter-skelter development. Core values must guide evolution. Large farm tractors may devolve toward garden tractors, but the theme carried forward gives resonance to the present.

Richard Bend, Mayor

Guided fitness hikes continue in Washington County parks, next one Sept. 7

Gather friends to explore the Washington County Parks trail system with guided fitness hikes in 2017. The one-hour hikes involve a warm-up and fitness challenges along the way. Lake Elmo Park Reserve hikes are 9 to 10 a.m. Thursdays. Meet at the Nordic Center. Lake Elmo Park Reserve hikes for 2017 are:

- Sept. 7; Sept. 21
- Oct. 3 (a Tuesday Night Hike 6-7 p.m.); Oct. 5; Oct. 17 (a Tuesday Night Hike 6-7 p.m.); Oct. 19
- Nov. 2; Nov. 16; Nov. 30
- Dec. 7

For questions, call 651-430-8370 or email at parks@co.washington.mn.us.

These programs are free with a Washington County Parks vehicle permit (\$7/day or \$30/annual, with the exception of the Free Tuesday hikes.



Be the change you wish to see in your community: Become a Master Water Steward

Apply now to begin classes in the fall

Are you looking for a meaningful way to get involved in your community? Want to help protect the St. Croix River, and local lakes, streams and wetlands? The Washington Conservation District received a grant to develop a Master Water Stewards program in Washington County in partnership with the Freshwater Society. With these funds, we are training 20 citizen stewards to work directly with local watershed organizations on projects to protect and improve water resources in our area. The Master Water Stewards program offers you the opportunity to learn more about local water management, make new friends, and make a difference in your community.

Master Water Stewards will receive 50 hours of training, beginning in Oct. of 2017, through a combination of on-line instruction, in-person small-group meetings, and hands-on, outdoor activities. Topics will include basic hydrology and storm-water management, water policy, strategies for engaging your friends and neighbors, and landscaping practices to reduce runoff pollution. Stewards also complete capstone projects in their communities – raingardens, shoreline plantings, and rural lands projects – with support from their watershed organizations (grant funds are available for these projects). After becoming certified, Master Water Stewards continue to provide 25 hours per year of volunteer support to their watershed organizations.

If you are interested in learning more about the program, contact Angie Hong (angie.hong@mnwcd.org or 651-330-8220 x.35) or apply on-line at <https://masterwaterstewards.org/>.

August Meeting Highlights

August 7, 2017 Planning Commission Meeting Highlights

- The Commission reviewed and provided comment on two proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments for the City of Woodbury.
- The Commission discussed updates for Afton's Comprehensive Plan along with a general timeline.

August 15, 2017 City Council Meeting Highlights

- The Council took public comments regarding excessive noise and speed on Afton's roadways.
- The Council authorized staff to send comments to the City of Woodbury on their proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments noting the City's concerns about the impact of increased water consumption on the aquifer, and its impact on Valley Creek.
- The Council authorized staff to work with Tri-County to plant trees along 37th Street by Kathy Bolton-Iverson's property.
- The Council approved payment of Pay Voucher No. 4 for the Downtown Village Improvement Project from Geislinger and sons Inc. in the amount of \$851,496.77.
- The Council approved payment of Payment Request No. 5 from Ellingson, Inc. for the Wastewater Treatment System Project in the amount of \$145,193.72.
- The Council approved payment of Pay Voucher No. 2 for the 2017 Pavement Management Project from Park Construction Co. in the amount of \$271,819.09.
- The Council approved Jim Cox's Architectural Fee in the amount of \$4,800 plus expenses.
- The Council accepted a donation of \$1,200 for a park bench from Judy Louis and Linda Hanner in memory of their parents Elton ("Blackie") and Amy Hancock.
- The Council authorized staff to expand current rules for burying power lines in subdivisions to include any new or moved lines in the city.

Household Medication Disposal

Old and unused medicines in a home can pose a risk for accidental poisoning, theft, and drug abuse. Medication put in the trash or flushed can pollute water, and harm fish and wildlife. You can help. Bring unwanted medication to a drop box for secure storage and disposal by a licensed incinerator.

Prescription, over-the-counter, and pet medications are accepted.

For more information on medications and how to prepare them for disposal

www.co.washington.mn.us/meds



Drop Box Locations

Open: Mon-Fri (8am—4:30pm)

Cottage Grove Washington County Service Center - 13000 Ravine Parkway South, Cottage Grove, MN 55106

Forest Lake Washington County Service Center and Library - 1995 Forest Lake Road North, Forest Lake, MN 55025

Stillwater Law Enforcement Center - 15015 62nd Street North, Stillwater, MN 55082

Woodbury Woodbury Service Center - 2150 Radio Drive, Woodbury, MN 55125

Belwin Conservancy September Events

Tuesday, September 12

Sunset Prairie Hike:

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

For Belwin members

Wednesday, September

13

Night in Nature:

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Open to everyone

Saturday, September 16

Early Morning Bird Hike:

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

For Belwin members

Saturday, September 16

Open Third Saturday:

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

For Belwin members

Saturday, September 16

Invasive Species Workshop:

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Open to everyone

Saturday, September 16

Guided Trout Fishing for Families on Valley Creek:

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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

651-436-5189

Visit

www.belwin.org/events

for a listing of all
September events.



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



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PERMIT NO. 15

Valley Library calendar of events for September

THE LIBRARY IS CLOSED MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY

Family Storytime: Valley Library Mondays
September 11 & 18, 2017, from 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM. For all children and their families.

Family Stories into Memoir: Write Your Life Wednesday, September 13, 2017, from 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

STEM Saturdays at Valley : 4-H Lego Coding Saturday, September 16, 2017, from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Ages 7-14.

Fall Container Gardens Saturday, September 16, 2017, from 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Collage Art Wednesday, September 20, 2017, from 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM.

STEAM Storytime Monday, September 25, 2017, from 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

DOG GONE READING with Legacy Tuesday, September 26, 2017, from 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM. Children in grades K-7.

Book Club: Valley Library Thursday, September 28, 2017 from 5:00 PM - 5:55 PM. Open to all.

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

**KID'S ARE
BACK IN SCHOOL**



PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY!

**PATRON
AFTON, MN 55001**

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



*Please recycle this
newsletter after use.*

Document Shredding at the Environmental Center 2017

Wednesdays (8am – 4:30): September 6 & November 8

**Washington County Environmental Center
4039 Cottage Grove Drive, Woodbury**

- Bring your personal and confidential papers to be shredded on-site by Shred Right.
- The event is free and open to residents and businesses. Bring up to 6 boxes for shredding, weighing no more than 30 lbs each.

Household Hazardous Waste, Electronics and Shredding

One-Day Remote Collection Events for Fall 2017

Open to households only, no businesses

Forest Lake - Saturday September 9, 8am – 2pm

19955 Forest Rd N

Forest Lake - Saturday September 16, 8am – 2pm

19955 Forest Rd N

Hugo - Saturday October 14, 8am – 12 pm

Hugo Public Works, 6900 137th St N

- Paper shredding will be offered at all remote events. No more than 4 boxes per customer will be accepted. Shredding capacity is limited by the size of the truck and may be reached before the end of the event.