



**OCTOBER 2017**

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

**FREE Well Water Testing for Nitrates in November**

Residents are invited to grab a water sample from their faucet next month and get it tested for nitrate! In June, 39 residents participated in water testing, and we would like to see more in order to obtain better coverage throughout the city. If you were sent a sampling kit for the October 2016 and/or the June 2017 sampling rounds, but were unable to take a sample at that time, you can use either one of those kits for sampling this November.

**How to Participate:** Email or phone by October 17, 2017, any one of the four members of the Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee:

Mark Have – [markhave@q.com](mailto:markhave@q.com) or 651-528-2370

Keith Hoffmann – [keithandjudy@centurylink.net](mailto:keithandjudy@centurylink.net) or 651-436-5446

Annie Perkins – [st.croixannie@gmail.com](mailto:st.croixannie@gmail.com)

Susan Winsor – [susanwinsor@mac.com](mailto:susanwinsor@mac.com)



Your name and address are needed so that you can receive in the mail, a sampling kit unless you have an unused one from a previous sampling round. Kits contain a plastic bottle, a sample information form, and sampling instructions. Take your sample on either November 7 or 14, and then bring your fresh sample to City Hall between 7:00 and 9:30 a.m. that day. Volunteers will deliver the samples to Washington County for analysis. Your nitrate result will be sent to you.

As before, this is a voluntary effort. Your participation helps establish a database for the city as well as giving each resident personal information about their water.

Thanks for participating and contributing towards our understanding of the precious resource that we all share.

*The Natural Resources and Ground Water Committee*

**Update on the Internet Project**

Since the last posting I have had many Afton residents contact me with news of getting connected to the new Centurylink (CTL) Internet service in Afton. While most people are selecting the 40Mbps service I have had a few people indicating they are connected at 80Mbps and even fewer at 128Mbps. Keep in mind that the speed CTL can offer has to do with the distance from the DSLAM (junction box) to your home. Typically CTL will want to replace your modem with the newest state of the art modem to maximize your speeds.

The DSLAM at the corner of 40<sup>th</sup> street (Afton Blvd So.) and Trading Post is still being worked on and the expected date for service is October.

Please remember that it is your responsibility to contact CTL to sign up for this new service. Please do not call their 800 number but rather call the CTL Woodbury office at 651-770-2843.

If, after you have connected to the new service and your speeds are less than 10Mbps, contact CTL technical support first and if you do not get the issue resolved email me (Stan Ross) at [ward3@ci.afton.mn.us](mailto:ward3@ci.afton.mn.us).

Stan Ross  
Afton City Council

**CITY MEETINGS**

**October 2, 2017**

Planning Commission Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

**October 3, 2017**

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

**October 17, 2017**

City Council Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

**October 18, 2017**

Heritage Preservation Commission  
5:00 P.M.

**October 25, 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 ~ Road Noise, Frustrations, Ordinance Limitations and Possible Solutions**

This month's regular council meeting was well attended by residents interested in a proposed ordinance they hoped would reduce vehicle noise. The ordinance was defeated. As we later found out, it would not, as originally proposed, have been effective in reducing vehicle noise.

Prior to the council meeting I had sent a copy of the ordinance to the Sheriff but had not at the time of the council meeting received his comments. A subsequent workgroup meeting took place between Stan Ross, myself and the commander in charge of traffic enforcement for the Sheriff's department. The commander had been tasked by the Sheriff with review of this ordinance. That review provided valuable information.

The test procedure contained in the original proposed ordinance was not one that the deputies would have been able to use. It required all engines to have known redlines. Not all do. It called for Sheriff's deputies to order motorcycle riders to rev their engines to 50% of the cycle's rpm redline. We were informed deputies cannot legally require someone to do this. We were also told that deputies cannot single out one vehicle from among two or more for a noise violation because it is impossible to test how much noise a single vehicle in a moving group contributes to the collective noise emission of the group. We were told that a decibel measurement would have to be made while the vehicle was in independent operation by the driver rather than after a stop by the deputy.

The city is currently conducting a study to determine whether a test procedure designed by our workgroup is practical for use by the Sheriff's department. The procedure being tested will require two deputies, two enforcement vehicles and precise test procedures with a high associated cost.

The above information plus testing now underway will inform the council's decision about whether a local Afton ordinance to reduce noise will provide any additional protection beyond that achievable by using the existing state statute.

In the caption of this note I mentioned frustrations and ordinance limitations. Even when a desired objective is universally agreed upon by residents and shared by all members of the council - I am not suggesting either is the case here - the simple solution seems to be to pass a law (i.e. ordinance) to achieve the objective. Would that it was always so simple. Ordinances must be constructed to make enforcement both affordable and possible.

Richard Bend, Mayor

### **Downtown Improvement Project Update**

Curb and gutter has been installed along the northern portion of St. Croix Trail and is planned to be installed along Afton Boulevard by the end of September. Paving in these areas is planned for the first week of October, with sidewalks the following week. Work along the levee is expected to begin the first week of October. The wastewater collection and treatment system is planned to be completed by early October, and the sanitary sewer lift station is expected to be in operation by mid-to-late October. At that time, properties will be able to connect to the new sanitary sewer system.

### **2017 Pavement Management Project Update**

The bulk of the street improvements are complete, and restoration along the streets is progressing. The first lift of pavement has been installed on Oakgreen Circle and Tomahawk Drive. The final lift of pavement is scheduled for September 29.



## September Meeting Highlights

### September 11, 2017 Planning Commission Meeting Highlights

- The Commission held a public hearing for a variance application from Michael and Carolyn Johnson at 771 Indian Trail.
- The Commission reviewed updates for the first several sections of Afton's Comprehensive Plan.

### September 19, 2017 City Council Meeting Highlights

- The Council approved Change Order No. 3 for the Pavement Management Project to Park Construction in the amount of \$62,120.50.
- The Council approved the extension of the sidewalk on St Croix Trail from 36<sup>th</sup> Street to 37<sup>th</sup> Street.
- The Council adopted Resolution 2017-44 issuing a negative declaration regarding the need for an EIS for the proposed Afton Creek Preserve development.
- The Council adopted the 2018 Preliminary Budget and Tax levy.
- The Council set the date and time for the final 2018 Budget and Tax Hearing which will be December 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm.
- The Council approved the purchase of a decibel meter for motor vehicle noise data collection.
- The Council waived the noise ordinance until 11:00 p.m. for a special event at 15106 50<sup>th</sup> St. S. on October 14, 2017.
- The Council approved payment of Pay Voucher No.5 for the Downtown Village Improvement Project from Geislinger and Sons Inc. in the amount of \$694,787.29.
- The Council approved payment of Payment Request No. 6 for the Wastewater Treatment System Project from Ellingson, Inc. in the amount of \$80,651.20
- The Council approved payment of Pay Voucher No. 3 for the Pavement Management Project from Park Construction Co in the amount of \$848,608.22.
- The Council approved a change order request for the deputy's garage facility to provide floor drains and a rough-in for future restroom in the amount of \$2625.00.
- The Council held a closed session regarding the resolution of assessment appeals.

## Belwin Conservancy October Events

### Tuesday, October 17th

#### Sunset Prairie Hike

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 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. *For Belwin members*

### Saturday, October 21

#### Open Third Saturday

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Participate in programs, meet Belwin staff, explore the trails and connect with nature. NEW! One-Hour Guided Experience: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. October topic: Pods and Seeds. Belwin Outdoor Science Education Center, 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton. *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  
October events.

### Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization

The City of Afton is one of ten member communities of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively works to improve the water quality of Lake St. Croix. The MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to the City of Afton to effectively manage water resources. They also partner with the Washington Conservation District to provide design and cost share assistance for voluntary conservation projects on private lands that reduce sediment and phosphorous pollution entering the St. Croix River. If you are considering a conservation project on your property or have any questions about the MSCWMO watershed please contact Mike Isensee, Administrator of the MSCWMO at [misensee@mnwcd.org](mailto:misensee@mnwcd.org) or Annie Perkins, the City of Afton appointed MSCWMO Board Manager at 651-592-3007.



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



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U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
AFTON MN 55001  
PERMIT NO. 15

**Valley Library calendar of events  
for October**

Family Storytime: Valley Library Mondays  
October 2, 9, 16, & 30, 2017, from 10:30 AM -  
11:00 AM. For all children and their families.

WASHINGTON COUNTY LIBRARY  
CLOSED - Stillwater and Bayport open

Wednesday, October 11, 2017 from 8:00 AM -  
1:30 PM All Branches

Washington County Library is closed from 8  
a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for staff training. Stillwater  
Public Library and Bayport Public Library are  
open regular hours.

Regular hours resume for Washington County  
Library at 1:30 p.m.

STEM Saturdays: Raptors of Minnesota  
with the Raptor Center

Saturday, October 14, 2017, from 11:00 AM -  
12:00 PM. Ages 7-14

Presented by the Raptor Center.

STEAM Storytime Monday, October 23,  
2017, from 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

DOG GONE READING with Legacy

Tuesday, October 24, 2017, from 3:30 PM -  
5:30 PM. Children in grades K-7.

Book Club: Valley Library Thursday, October  
26, 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**



**PATRON**  
**AFTON, MN 55001**

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



*Please recycle this  
newsletter after use.*

**Veterans Recognition Dinner**

Hosted by the Yellow Ribbon Alliance Lower St. Croix Valley  
Friday, November 10, 2017 5:00 to 7:00 pm  
Held at St. Francis Catholic Church – Lake St. Croix Beach  
FREE – Dinner & Prizes for Lower St. Croix Valley Veterans, Service Mem-  
bers and Their Families

For more information, please contact Mary at 651-436-8696  
[www.st.croixvalleyyellowribbon.org](http://www.st.croixvalleyyellowribbon.org)

**Prescription Drug “Take Back” Event set for October 28 from 10-2pm**

Drive by and drop off! Bring your old and unused medication to a Prescription Drug “Take Back”  
Event in Lake St Croix Beach or Oakdale on October 28 from 10-2pm.

**Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Hall**

1560 St. Croix Trail S  
Lake St. Croix Beach, MN 55043

**Oakdale Library**

1010 Heron Ave N  
Oakdale, MN 55128



Medications accepted include prescription, over-the-counter and pet medication. You don't even  
have to get out of the car. Free and anonymous.

Can't make it to this event? Drop boxes are also available year-round in Cottage Grove, Forest  
Lake, Stillwater and Woodbury. More info: [www.co.washington.mn.us/meds](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/meds) or call 651-275-7475.