



OCTOBER 2018

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

2018 General Election Information

Voters can vote now by absentee ballot in the General Election by mail or in person at any of the locations below:

- Cottage Grove Service Center, 13000 Ravine Parkway S., Cottage Grove
- Headwaters Service Center, 19955 Forest Road N, Forest Lake
- Washington County Government Center, 14949 62nd St N., Stillwater
- Woodbury Service Center, 2150 Radio Drive, Woodbury
- Oakdale City Hall, Hadley Room, 1584 Hadley Ave N

Hours:

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 3, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Monday, November 5, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

To request an absentee ballot online, or to register to vote online, visit the Washington County Elections site at: <https://www.co.washington.mn.us/667/Elections>

The General Election is on November 6, 2018

Voting Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Afton's Polling Place for Elections on Election Day is:
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
East Entrance - Gymnasium
14107 Hudson Road S
Afton, MN 55001

Candidates for City Office

City Council Ward 2 — 4 year term

Jennifer Backes
Kuchen Hale
Lucia Wroblewski

City Council Ward 3 — 4 year term

Peg Nolz
Stan Ross

Mayor — 2 year term

Scott Anderson
Bill Palmquist
Joe Richter
Steven Wittl

CITY MEETINGS

October 1, 2018

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

October 2, 2018

Natural Resources and Groundwater
Committee 5:00 P.M

October 16, 2018

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

October 17, 2018

Heritage Preservation Commission
5:00 P.M.

October 24, 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 436-2238

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

**The League of Women Voters will host a
City Candidate Forum**

Saturday, October 27 from 1:00 pm — 3:00 pm
At Afton City Hall

1:00 City Council Candidates

2:00 Mayor Candidates

A Letter from the Mayor ~

In the coming year Afton will be reviewing our Preservation and Land Conservation Development (PLCD) ordinance. As with all our subdivision ordinances, the PLCD ordinance controls actions which increase the density of homes in an area as a result of the development.

There is one big difference in a development under the PLCD ordinance that distinguishes it from one under other ordinances – specifically, a PLCD development results in permanent lower density which cannot later be changed: our PLCD ordinance requires that half the land in the development be in a conservation easement (which cannot be undone by a change in our ordinances) and also requires that the residential parcels have restraints prohibiting further sub-division.

By contrast, when a non-PLCD subdivision is used, the existing density will remain only if our ordinances are not changed and the Met Council does not impose a change in our permitted densities. If such changes occur, the parcels could be further sub-divided, thereby increasing density beyond what is currently allowed.

Neighbors are less inclined to object (or perhaps even notice) when a non-PLCD subdivision occurs because only a few houses may be involved – even though density could be greatly increased in the future. On the other hand, where a PLCD development occurs, with multiple houses on a large tract, there is a tendency to object, because the impact is more obvious when the change occurs at one time. In effect, the size of PLCD development, which will have the effect of protecting permanently a **larger** tract of open space, makes it more likely to cause upset.

This tendency to ignore the lack of long-term protection of agricultural open space can result, at some time in the future, in greatly increased density in places where there could instead be permanently protected open spaces.

Allowing smaller PLCD developments could confer the same long term protection that the current large PLCD provides while avoiding the construction of a larger number of homes in one area.

~Richard

Want to get involved in CITY DECISIONS?

The **Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC)** is in need of additional members. The NRGC focuses on issues of environmental stewardship. Committee members attend area and regional meetings, particularly concerning the quality and quantity of water and other resources important to Afton. These issues are brought back to City Council with recommendations on actions. The Committee meets the first Tuesday of every month. **Applications are available on the city website or at City Hall.**

The **Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC)** is in need of additional members. The HPC reviews projects and designs to ensure they meet the City's Design Standards for the Old Village. Meetings are the third Wednesday of every month or as needed. **Applications are available on the city website or at City Hall.**



September Meeting Highlights

September 10, 2018 Planning Commission Meeting

The Commission:

- Held a public hearing for Eric and Kaya Cook and Ken and Linda Johnson for minor subdivision for a lot line rearrangement at 3787 St. Croix Trail.
- Held a public hearing for an application by Ken & Linda Johnson for a variance at 3752 River Rd.
- Held a public hearing for an application by Joe Bush for an amended Conditional Use Permit.
- Held a public hearing for an application by Roger Mireau at 12225 Hudson Rd.
- Recommended the City Council approve an ordinance amendment to allow a pool auto cover so long as it remains in good repair, to be used as an alternative to the current requirement of fencing to completely enclose swimming pools in the RR and AG zones.

September 18, 2018 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- Approved the Lower St. Croix Fire District request for a pension benefit increase.
- Approved Ruth Friedlander's application for a minor subdivision variance and rezoning at 2900 Stagecoach Trail.
- Approved the application by Eric and Kaya Cook and Ken and Linda Johnson for minor subdivision for a lot line rearrangement at 3787 St. Croix Trail.
- Approved the application by Ken & Linda Johnson for a variance at 3752 River Rd.
- Approved the application by Roger Mireau at 12225 Hudson Rd.
- Approved the ordinance amendment to allow a pool auto cover to be used as an alternative to the current requirement of fencing.
- Approved the application by Nathan Landucci for a simple subdivision to create a private driveway easement over the parcel on Neal Avenue.
- Approved a noise ordinance waiver for Jon Kroeschel for a fundraising event at 15106 50th St.
- Approved an ordinance requiring the use of compostable or recyclable single-use food service ware by food service businesses.

MEETING PACKETS, VIDEOS AND APPROVED MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE AT:

www.ci.afton.mn.us

Keep Your Pets Leashed!

The City of Afton has a leash requirement. Animals must be on a leash unless they are under strict voice command, except that they are required to be on a leash in areas of public parks or on public lands.

Sec. 6-2. Restraint.

No owner shall permit his animal to be at large in this City, but shall keep such animal under restraint at all times. animals shall be prohibited in areas of public parks or upon public lands unless leashed at all times.



REMINDER: The Aggregate Industries brush pit is now closed for the season.

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 20

Open Third Saturday

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Participate in programs, meet Belwin staff, explore the trails, and connect with nature. One-Hour Guided Experiences at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. departing from the Education Center. October topic: The last of the Migrants. Come for a hike to look for signs of fall and late season migrating birds. **Free and open to everyone; Guided Experiences \$10 for non-members.**

For Information & To RSVP for events:

Belwin Conservancy

1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton

651-436-5189

www.belwin.org

Celebrate fall at Washington County Parks events Oct. 18, 19

Courthouse by Candlelight will be the evening of Thursday, Oct. 18, with tours at 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Washington County Historic Courthouse in Stillwater. Join the group for a unique experience walking the halls of the Historic Courthouse by candlelight. Explore areas typically closed to the public, including the basement, sheriff's residence, and 1900s county jail. Learn the history behind the historic site and listen to fun, slightly spooky stories along the way.

Tours are recommended for those ages 16 years of age and older. All minors must be accompanied by an adult. There will be dim lighting, low-hanging objects, and uneven terrain. Due to the nature of the tour, it is not handicapped accessible. The cost is \$10 per person, and advance reservation are required at www.co.washington.mn.us/parks. The Historic Courthouse is at the corner of Third and Pine streets in Stillwater.

Scary Stories will be presented 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 19, at the Lake Elmo Park Reserve. The group will meet at the Nordic Center, and then enjoy the sights and sounds of autumn while sitting around a campfire with a few not-so-scary stories with Dwight Wilcox. Apple cider and s'mores will be provided. Lit hiking trails will be open until 9:30 p.m. The cost is free with a vehicle permit, \$7 daily, \$30 annually; no reservations required.



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 October 2018

**Library Closed Wednesday, October 10
for Staff Training**

Spotlight On... Genealogy

Perhaps the most interesting story you'll ever encounter branches from your own family tree. Genealogy, or the study of exploring your family history, opens up a world of information specific to you as the researcher. Washington County Library has tools, events, and materials to help you explore more about your ancestors. From programs that help you crack into [Genealogy 101](#) with confidence, to using the [Ancestry.com Library Edition](#),* to materials that [help you in your search](#) or [fill in the historical gaps](#), you can find what you need to learn more about the family who came before you with Washington County Library. (And there's no DNA testing necessary!)

*Available for use in Washington County Library locations

Featured Events

Stranger Things Escape Room

Friday, Oct. 5 from 3 to 5:15 p.m.
Registration is required! Limited spots are available.

1918: A Year in Stories

Thursday, Oct. 11 from 6 to 7 p.m.
From the Great War overseas to Influenza at home along with the rise of the Temperance Movement and Women's Suffrage, 1918 was a monumental year whose impact is still felt a century later. Join us at Valley Library for an overview of the year according to the White Bear Press, presented by the White Bear Lake Historical Society. No registration required.

STEM Saturdays

Saturday, October 13; 10:00 AM—2:00 PM

Smart Travel: Home Safe Home

Thursday, Oct. 18 from 6 to 7 p.m.
Keep your home safe while you're away! The Washington County Sheriff's Office will share professional tips on how to protect your home, including locks, alarms, landscape design, vacation check requests and more. Find more programs at WashCoLib.link/SmartTravel.

Full Calendar of Events:
www.washcolib.org

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.*

Bee Kind

Bees of all kinds are responsible for one third of the food we eat. Most people are familiar with the European honeybee that lives in hives. But have you met the native mason bee? Did you know that an individual mason bee is a better pollinator than a honeybee? They can pollinate when it is too cool or breezy for honeybees. Don't worry about being hurt by a mason bee. Mason bees don't sting unless abused, because they have no honey to defend. The population of all honeybees has been declining and is still on a steady downward trend. You can help by providing homes and bee boxes for solitary bees like the mason bee.



materials:
4"x4"x6" oak block
4"x1"x7" oak block
miter saw
plexiglass
parchment paper
3/8"x6" drill bit
black Gorilla Tape
pencil
screws
nails

Start by drilling 9 3/8" holes into the 4x4x6. Make the holes in a 3x3 grid 1 inch apart measured from the center. Then miter a 15 degree cut on the top of the 4x4x6. Nail the 4x1x7 onto the top of the 4x4x6 avoiding holes to make it flush with the back. Next cut a square out of the plexiglass that is the same size as the new back including the 4x1x7. Wrap the plexiglass in Gorilla Tape and screw that into the back of the house making it flush. Next wrap a circular pencil in parchment paper then slide it in the holes and take out just the pencil leaving the parchment paper in the holes.

