



October 2019

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

2019 Water Sampling Program

In June 2019, residents were given the opportunity to have their drinking water tested for nitrates and coliform bacteria. Eighty-eight residents participated. The recommended drinking water limit for nitrate is 10 mg/L (milligrams/liter). Coliform are reported as absent or present. A negative result, indicating the absence of coliform bacteria, is preferred.

Nitrate results showed a range from 15 to <0.05 mg/L, with the higher numbers occurring in the western part of Afton and the lower numbers occurring in the eastern and southern parts.

Twelve of the 88 wells showed coliform present, but none of the 12 wells showed the type of coliform that would indicate sewage contamination. Nevertheless, using a bleach solution to disinfect a well that shows the presence of coliform is recommended. It appears that there is not a correlation between the 12 wells with coliform present and nitrate concentration.

Chemical and biological well testing data is the best way in understanding the health of our valuable water resource. As a side note, we are planning to do another sampling in 2020. So those who participated in 2019, we hope to see you again along with new participants. Thank you all for your interest and support of this ongoing water-quality testing program.

Natural Resources & Groundwater Committee

Update Regarding Litigation with the Afton Marina and Yacht Club

On September 9, 2019, Judge Juanita C. Freeman, of the Washington County District Court, issued an Order that denied a motion for summary judgment brought by Afton Marina & Yacht Club, Inc. This lawsuit arose from the denial by the Afton City Council on June 19, 2018, of a Conditional Use Permit applied for by Afton Marina for the operation of a restaurant on its property. The City Council approved the Conditional Use Permit, but conditioned approval on access to the property being provided via Afton Marina’s existing driveway to 31st Street, not 32nd Street as requested by Afton Marina. The City Council imposed that condition based on its conclusion that access from 32nd Street “would pose a public hazard as a result of increased traffic, vehicular, pedestrian, and by bicycle at an already congested intersection.”

In its Petition for a Writ of Mandamus, Afton Marina contended that the 2018 CUP Application must be deemed granted by operation of law as originally submitted, with access from 32nd Street, because Minnesota Statutes section 15.99 does not allow the City to impose a condition different from the application. Afton Marina also requested court action concerning the recording of certain deeds, the recording of a 1982 Agreement between the City and Windmill Marina, and an application for a driveway permit.

The Court denied relief on all of the claims of Afton Marina, finding that the deeds had already been recorded, that Afton Marina had not supplied any legal support for the necessity of recording the 1982 Agreement, that factual issues existed concerning Afton Marina’s waiver of the driveway permit application, and that Afton Marina had not applied for an amendment to its marina Conditional Use Permit for either the driveway or the restaurant. The Court also rejected Afton Marina’s argument that state law required approval of the restaurant CUP without conditions as novel, unsupported by case law or statutory law, and that Afton Marina’s interpretation “would render the statute incoherent.”

While a trial has been scheduled for January 21, 2020, to deal with any remaining issues, the City has scheduled its own summary judgment motion to be heard on October 25, 2019, and will ask for dismissal of the case.

CITY MEETINGS

October 1, 2019

Natural Resources & Groundwater
5:30 P.M.

October 7, 2019

Planning Commission Meeting
CANCELLED

October 15, 2019

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

October 16, 2019

Heritage Preservation Commission
5:00 P.M.

October 23, 2019

Parks Committee
6:00 P.M.

*All meetings are held at City Hall
unless otherwise noted.*

CITY COUNCIL

- Mayor: Bill Palmquist 651-308-0569
- Ward 1: Annie Perkins 651-592-3007
- Ward 2: Lucia Wroblewski 651-436-3982
- Ward 3: Stan Ross 651-436-1346
- Ward 4: Randy Nelson 651-436-2479

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 651-436-6469
- Burning Permits 651-248-5103
- Environmental Center 651-275-7475
- Highland Sanitation 651-458-0043
- Mally’s Sunshine Kennel 715-246-2467
- LSCV Fire Dept 651-436-7033
- Sheriff’s Dept 651-439-9381

EMERGENCY 911

Notes from the Mayor

At its September meeting the city council approved a Park Committee plan to use some of the available park dedication funds to plant a pollinator demonstration garden along the bike trail north and east of city hall. Park dedication funds are not from the general levy. They are funds payed by developers to be used for park projects. The timing could not be better since the Minnesota Pollinator Alliance just recognized Afton as a pollinator-friendly city. This garden will be a prairie, a pollinator garden, and a “bee lawn.” This project is being installed by volunteers and work has already begun so stop down and see the first stage, and track its progress over the next few years.

In early September at their national meeting in Seattle, the American Public Works Association presented our city engineers with the Project of the Year award for small cities in the historical preservation category. Congratulations WSB and Associates!

I also attended another milestone celebration as the Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD) celebrated their 50th year of helping our community protect and preserve its water resources. They are a great partner. Congratulations VBWD!

The city council approved a preliminary budget at the September meeting. We are nearing the end of the larger road funding increases that began several years ago as a way to move to a pay-as-you-go infrastructure funding plan. Once that process is complete, we should be in excellent shape to keep our roads well maintained in perpetuity. Unfortunately, the city is also in the midst of two lawsuits with uncertain costs so the budgeting process can be a challenge. However, I think our preliminary budget has us well positioned to maintain services and handle any litigation expenses. It is my hope these lawsuits will both be resolved quickly and do not prove to be a burden to our tax-paying residents. The budget hearing will be in December when the final budget and levy will be approved.

I was saddened to learn of the passing of Richard Meacock in early September. A long-time Afton resident, Richard was co-owner of Squire House Gardens, a well-respected teacher, and an accomplished artist. He will be missed.

Hope you are able to get out and enjoy the fall colors.

-Bill

Household Prescription Drug “Take Back” Event set for October 26, 10am-2pm

Bring your old and unused medications to a Household Prescription Drug “Take Back” collection in Landfall and Scandia on Saturday, October 26 from 10-2pm.

Landfall Community Center 10-2pm

2 Fourth Avenue
Landfall, MN 55128

Scandia Community Center 10-2pm

14727 209th Street N.
Scandia, MN 55073

Medications accepted include prescription, over-the-counter and pet medication. Free and anonymous.

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



Trick or Treat Trail

OCTOBER 26th, 2019

Afton's Annual Halloween Celebration

Afton's main street will be crawling with ghosts, goblins, princesses and super heroes Saturday, October 26th from 11 am to 2 pm for the seventh annual Afton Trick or Treat Trail. Children can collect treats at over 15 businesses along St. Croix Trail, from The Lumberyard Pub to Selma's. Stop at the Afton House Inn for a special craft project and Afton Museum for pumpkin decorating and face painting. Don't miss "Scream For Ice Cream" contests at Selma's, costume judging at The Lumberyard Pub and the photo booth!
<http://exploreafton.com/>

September Meeting Highlights

September 9, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting

The Commission:

- Held a public hearing for the James Koktavy application for a Variance at 16508 Swede Hill Drive for an accessory building.
- Reviewed elements of the PLCD Ordinance language.

September 17, 2019 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- Received an update from the Great Rivers Confluence group.
- Received an update about the Lower St. Croix Veterans Memorial Park.
- Approved an application for a Variance from James Koktavy at 16508 Swede Hill drive for an accessory building.
- Approved installation of rip rap on the levee.
- Approved the Park Committee's plan for a pollinator demonstration garden to the north and east of city hall.
- Approved the 2020 Preliminary Budget and Tax Levy.
- Approved proposal from Blondo Consulting to provide Historic Designation consulting services.
- Approved John Kroschel's request for a noise ordinance waiver for a fundraising event at 15106 50th St.

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

www.ci.afton.mn.us

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Tuesday, October 1st, 2019

Morning Bird Hike at Belwin Creative Center

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Open to everyone! Free for member; \$10 for non-members. Spend a morning hiking and searching for fall bird migrants. Space is limited to 12 participants.

Saturday, October 5th, 2019

Morning Bird Hike at Belwin Creative Center

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Open to everyone! Free for member; \$10 for non-members. Spend a morning hiking and searching for fall bird migrants. Space is limited to 12 participants.

Saturday, October 19th, 2019

Education Center Third Saturday

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

Open to everyone! Explore the Belwin Education Center and its miles of rolling, wooded trails.

Guided Experiences at 11:00 a.m. and at 1:00 p.m. October topic: Seed Collection.

Join naturalist Lynette Anderson in search of seeds.

Free to independently explore the Education Center and trails. Guided Experiences: Free for members, \$10/family for non-members.

Belwin Conservancy
1553 Stagecoach Trail South
Afton MN 55001
651-436-5189
www.belwin.org



Program delves into history of bicycling at Historic Courthouse Oct. 10

Cyclomania: The History of Bicycles & Bicycling will be 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10, at the Washington County Historic Courthouse in Stillwater.

From its origins as a substitute for horse-powered transport in the early 1800s, the bicycle has become perhaps the most ubiquitous human-powered vehicle in the modern world. This is a discussion of 200 years of bicycle history and the people, events, and organizations that influenced its progress along the way, with special emphasis on the history of bicycling in Minnesota.

Presented in conjunction with the current exhibition, "Spokes & Folks: The Evolution of Bicycles and Trails in Washington County," assistant curator and researcher Christian Bjornson will use artifacts, images, and historic bicycles from the exhibit to bring alive the story of this important machine.

Christian Bjornson holds a masters of arts in history from Norwich University. He was an assistant curator and researcher on the "Spokes & Folks" exhibition, and is an employee of the Washington County Historic Courthouse. A resident of Washington County, he also serves as a historical interpreter for the Minnesota Historical Society.

The event is free to attend; donations will be accepted. Call 651-275-7075 or e-mail historiccourthouse@co.washington.mn.us for more information.

The Historic Courthouse is at the intersection of Pine and Third streets in Stillwater.

Part-Time Maintenance Worker Wanted

City of Afton, Part-time Maintenance Position

Approximately 15-20 hours per week; \$15/hr. General public works and parks maintenance, as well as cleaning and routine maintenance of the Afton City Hall. Requires experience operating lawn tractors, chainsaws and weed-whips. Must be a high school graduate or equivalent and possess a valid driver's license with satisfactory driving record. Must be 18 years of age or older and able to lift/move 30 pounds. Position changes to City Hall maintenance only, over the winter at two hours per week. An application is available at the City Hall or online at www.ci.afton.mn.us For consideration drop off, mail, fax or email completed application to: City of Afton, Attn: Ron Moore, 3033 St. Croix Trail S., P.O. Box 219, Afton, MN 55001, Fax: 651-436-1453, Email: administrator@ci.afton.mn.us. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.



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



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Valley Library Featured Events for October 2019

Closed Wednesday, October 23 for an all staff training day.

Intro to 3D Printing

Wednesday, October 2 from 5 p.m to 6 p.m.

Drop by Valley Library to learn the basics of how to work with 3D printers and see a 3D printer in action. We will showcase a variety of ways that 3D printing is being used in prototyping, medicine, education, and more. No registration required.

STEM Saturdays: Radical Robots

Saturday, October 5 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Explore the world of robots at Valley Library. Operate different robots that use a variety of sensory devices, such as infrared, sound or light detection. Operate a robot with six legs or one with wheels and command a robot to play soccer. Try out a robotic arm and build your own Mechano-Hand to take home. For ages 6-12. Please register.

Family Storytime

Monday, October 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Monday, October 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Monday, October 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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

Join us at Valley Library for stories, songs, fingerplays and more to encourage the development of early literacy skills. This storytime is for all children and their families. No registration required.

Playful Parenting PlayLab

Saturday, October 12 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Learn improvisational theater skills as a family at Valley Library. Play games with us and practice skills like listening, being in the moment, accepting, and communicating clearly with confidence. For families with children ages 3-8. Please register.

Valley Book Club

Thursday, October 24 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

This group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at Valley Library. Everyone welcome. Just read the book, come and discuss. The book this month is Call of the Canyon by Zane Grey. Books are available at the Valley Information Desk.

There's an App for That

Saturday, October 26 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

So many apps, so little time. Discover which apps should be loaded on your smartphone or tablet to improve productivity, plus how to use and organize them in this adult class at Valley Library. Bring your smart phone or tablet. Android users are welcome and will learn concepts applicable to their devices, but this class focuses on Apple devices. Please register.

**To Register and for 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.*

Five City Veterans Memorial

The Lower St. Croix Valley Veterans Memorial Park is a joint partnership with the cities of Afton, Lake St. Croix Beach, Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, and St. Mary's Point. It is located at 1919 Quebec Ave. South, Lake St. Croix Beach.

The Lower St. Croix Valley Veterans Memorial is a 501(c)3 public charity. All funds raised go directly to the Memorial and are tax deductible.

The Battle Field Cross was unveiled on Veterans Day in November 2018. The statue is made up of a soldier's belongings. The Rifle is thrust in the ground signifying that the soldier died in battle, fighting to the end. The boots carry a soldier through the fight for freedom and are placed at the base of the rifle. They are worn and dirty to remind us of that final march. Dog Tags are worn by every service member and are imprinted with information about the individual soldier. The dog tags are hung from the rifle so that the name of the fallen will never be forgotten. The Helmet is placed on top of the rifle representing what that person stood for and that the battle is over. This Battle Cross Bronze monument is a powerful way to honor and remember the tremendous sacrifice of our American soldiers.

In addition to the statue, a new walkway, 5-point star and additional veterans bricks are on display in new stanchions.

The purpose of this memorial is to provide a place of remembrance and reflection to honor all of those who have served or are serving our country in the military. Please visit the Lower St. Croix Valley Veterans Memorial website www.lscvvm.com.

