



NOVEMBER 2017

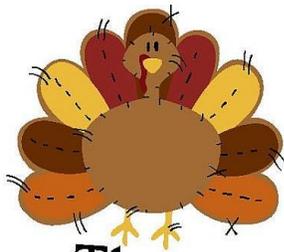
3033 St. Croix Trail South
P.O. Box 219
Afton, MN 55001

Help Improve the City of Afton!

The Afton Branding Committee has been working with Augsburg University to assist in the place branding and marketing strategies for the City of Afton. The overarching goal of the branding strategy is to have a unified message that will contribute to increases in community pride, commercial and economic activity, tourism and broader awareness of the city's desirability.

Please take a few minutes to complete a quick 5-minute survey. The results of this survey are confidential and will only be used as input into the development of a place branding strategy for the City of Afton. Answer the following questions based on your personal experience as a resident, business owner or time spent as a visitor. If you have never been to Afton, please answer questions based on your perception of the city.

The survey can be found at: <https://goo.gl/UAYFUe>
or on the cities website at: <http://www.ci.afton.mn.us/>



Happy Thanksgiving

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 Members and Their Families

For more information, please contact Mary at 651-436-8696

www.st.croixvalleyyellowribbon.org

CITY OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, November 10, 2017
Thursday, November 23, 2017
Friday, November 24, 2017

CITY MEETINGS

November 6, 2017

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

November 7, 2017

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

November 15, 2017

Heritage Preservation Commission
5:00 P.M.

November 21, 2017

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

November 29, 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

A Letter from the Mayor ~ Much Progress Made During Busy Construction Season

Between the Downtown Village Improvement Project and the 2017 Pavement Management Project, as well as the garage and office facility for the Sheriff's Deputies next to City Hall, it has been a busy and productive construction season. Many thanks go out to the residents and business owners who have persevered through the difficulties of construction with patience and grace. Thanks also go out to the contractors who have progressed through the projects in a timely and safe manner to limit the construction impacts to both businesses and residents.

Downtown Village Improvement Project

Based on the huge turnouts for Afton's three main community events during this season of construction, it is expected that the reconstruction of St. Croix Trail to create an attractive and walkable main street will be a catalyst for even greater success for the downtown businesses. The levee upgrade will also eliminate restrictions on improvements to properties that are currently in the flood plain. While the improvements to St. Croix Trail, as well as to the local downtown roads, are most noticeable, the sanitary sewer, storm sewer and levee improvements will provide important benefits to the water quality of the St. Croix River as well as improved flood control.

2017 Pavement Management Project

What was initially planned as an attempt to take a small bite out of the huge need for street improvements throughout Afton's rural area became a project that addressed almost every street that needed substantial improvements. This was in response to the strong desires of Afton residents, and was due to both a commitment to provide the necessary resources and a very favorable bid price. The project resulted in improving the seventeen miles of streets that were most in need of improvement, and puts the City into a position to fund future street improvement needs without large levy increases.

Deputies Facility

Thanks to \$100,000 of funding from the Washington County Sheriff's Department, the City is building a small Sheriff's Deputies substation next to City Hall that also includes a garage for Public Works equipment. The Deputies substation will provide a garage and an office to serve as the base of operations for the Deputies who patrol the Afton and Lower St. Croix Valley area. The facility, which is a great example of intergovernmental cooperation, will encourage and facilitate strengthened communication and relationships between the Deputies and the City.

Richard Bend, Mayor

Downtown Improvement Project Update

St. Croix Trail is now reopened to traffic. The sidewalks along the northern portion of St. Croix Trail are planned to be completed by October 27. The final wear course of pavement is planned to be completed for St. Croix Trail and the local streets by November 3. The installation of the decorative street lights along St. Croix Trail is planned to begin on October 30. Work along the levee, including the installation of sanitary sewer lines, is planned to begin on October 25. The sanitary sewer lift station is expected to be in operation in early November. At that time, properties will be able to connect to the new sanitary sewer system.

2017 Pavement Management Project Update

All paving has been completed and only a small number of restoration items remain.



October Meeting Highlights

October 2, 2017 Planning Commission Meeting Highlights

- The Commission held a public hearing for a variance application from Kevin Murphy for a minor subdivision at 4969 Neal Ave.
- The Commission held a public hearing for the Will Carlson PLCD Preliminary Plat, Rezoning and Conditional Use Permit application.

October 17, 2017 City Council Meeting Highlights

- The Council approved a Minor Subdivision Application for Kevin Murphy at 4969 Neal Ave.
- The Council took public comments on the Will Carlson PLCD Preliminary Plat, Rezoning and Conditional Use Permit applications.
- The Council authorized the City Engineer to do the required annual bridge inspections.
- The Council approved price quote from Top Notch for cleaning and televising the River Road sanitary sewer lines in the amount of \$14864.00.
- The Council established a monthly sanitary sewer user fee.
- The Council approved purchase of a new snow blower for City public works use.
- The Council approved hiring Michael Pofahl to prepare the 2017 audit report.
- The Council approved hiring Thomas Paul for a part-time janitorial services and seasonal Public Works maintenance.
- The Council approved pay Voucher No. 6 from Geislinger and Sons Inc. for the Downtown Improvement Project in the amount of \$981,263.02.
- The Council approved Pay Voucher No. 4 from park Construction for the 2017 Pavement Management Project in the amount of \$465,770.04
- The Council approved Pay Request No 76 from Ellingson Inc. for the Wastewater Treatment System in the amount of \$26,346.78.
- The Council approved payment of invoices from Blondo Consulting

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Saturday, November 18th

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 Experiences at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. November topic: Pods and Seeds. Free for members, \$10 for non-members

Wednesday, December 20

Winter Solstice Bonfire

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.,

Short program at 7:45

p.m.

Celebrate the Winter Solstice at Belwin with a roaring bonfire, singing and dance, warm cider, cookies, and night hikes to usher in the return of the light. Bring your family and friends to this event, and don't forget a mug for cider and a flashlight. RSVP via www.belwin.org or contact Belwin Program Manager Susan Haugh: 651-436-5189 x11, susan.haugh@belwin.org. Location: Belwin Outdoor Science Lower Classroom, 1553 Stagecoach Trail S. Open to everyone. Suggested donation: \$5 per car.

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

Cooperative Weed Management Grant

The Washington Conservation District received a BWSR Clean Water Fund grant to help landowners manage noxious invasive weeds. The goal of this grant is to protect native plant communities that can be taken over by noxious invasive weeds by working with organizations and landowners in Washington County. Noxious invasive weeds can harm the environment and some are dangerous to people and animals.

The five invasive species that have been included in the grant are (in order of priority):

1. Grecian Foxglove
2. Oriental Bittersweet
3. Garlic Mustard
4. Buckthorn
5. Japanese Knotweed

Phase I: In 2016, we will be focusing on project development and outreach to identify areas of greatest need and interested landowners.

Phase II: In 2017 and 2018, we will begin funding control efforts in high priority areas.

For Questions: Tara Kline tkline@mnwcd.org or call 651-330-8220 x.28

www.mnwcd.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 November 2017**

LIBRARY CLOSED:

NOVEMBER 10 (Veterans' Day)
NOVEMBER 23 & 24 (Thanksgiving)

Continuing Computer Skills Class

Wednesday, November 1, 1:00—3:00 PM

Four Panel Painting

Saturday, November 4, 12:00 - 1:30 PM
Ages 6-14

Sing, Play, Learn with MacPhail : Colors,
Feelings, Music

Monday, November 6, 10:30 - 11:15 AM
Ages birth - 5

Family Storytime: Valley Library

Mondays November 13 & 20, from 10:30 AM -
11:00 AM. For all children and their families.

STEM Saturdays

Saturday, November 18, from 11:00 AM - 12:00
PM. Ages 7-14

STEAM Storytime

Monday, November 27, from 10:30 AM - 11:30
AM

DOG GONE READING with Legacy

Tuesday, November 28, from 3:30 PM - 5:30
PM. Children in grades K-7.

Book Club: Valley Library

Thursday, November 30 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.*

Document Shredding Event at the Environmental Center

Wednesday, November 8, 2017 (8am – 4:30)

Washington County Environmental Center

4039 Cottage Grove Drive, Woodbury 651-275-7475

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

If you have household hazardous waste, electronics, or recyclables that you need to get rid of, you can bring them to Washington County's Environmental Center in Woodbury. It is as easy as driving through and dropping it off.

FREE Product Room

Look for items such as latex and oil paints, household cleaners, automotive supplies, and much more. Products are available for eligible residents only (see above).

4039 Cottage Grove Drive, Woodbury

Environmental Center Hours: Tuesdays 11am – 7pm Thursdays 8am – 4:30pm

Fridays 8am – 4:30pm Saturdays 8am – 2pm

Closed on 4th of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day & New Year's Day.

