



November 2019

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

Veterans Recognition Dinner

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

At the Church of St. Francis of Assisi
Lake St. Croix Beach



Free Dinner & Prizes for Lower St. Croix Valley
Veterans, Service Members and their Families

Hosted by: Yellow Ribbon Alliance Lower St. Croix Valley

CITY OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, November 11, 2019
Thursday, November 28, 2019
Friday, November 29, 2019

CITY MEETINGS

November 4, 2019

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

November 5, 2019

Natural Resources & Groundwater
5:30 P.M.

November 19, 2019

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

November 20, 2019

Heritage Preservation Commission
5:00 P.M.

November 27, 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

Don't forget Daylight Savings!

"Fall back" one hour on November 3



New Invasive Plant Discovered in Washington County, Threatens Monarchs

University of Minnesota Extension is raising public awareness about black swallow-wort, an invasive plant that has been newly detected in Washington County, in North Oakdale. The plant has also been discovered in Minneapolis.

Black swallow-wort is on the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's noxious weed eradicate list. The plant presents a problem for monarch butterflies and threatens natural areas. Because the plant is in the milkweed family, monarchs will lay their eggs on it. When the larvae emerge, they can't survive on the plant and thus die. Angela Gupta, a University of Minnesota Extension educator in forestry and natural resources, says "We think we have very little of it in the state, so eradication is possible if it's found and reported quickly."

Black swallow-wort grows in full sun and light shade in a dense mat. The plants have opposite leaves on twining green stems and can grow to a height of six feet. It has dark purple star-shaped flowers. The plants have short underground rhizomes, but mostly propagate by seed. Seeds disperse from pointed pods in late summer.

For more information, photos, and to report any black swallow-wort you see, go to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's "Arrest the Pest" web site at <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/arrest-pest> (or google "Arrest the Pest" to find the web site), then search on **black swallow wort**.

—Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee

Notes from the Mayor

On October 22 I attended the open house for the 3M PFAS settlement process. I will also be meeting with the assistant commissioners from the MPCA and the DNR on October 31 for a more focused discussion on this issue in Afton. We are nearing the end of the year-long process to analyze the pollution issues and recommend solutions. The preliminary summary will be announced in December. Public comment will take place in January/February.

At the presentation I spoke with one of the professionals from the Minnesota Department of Health about the current understanding of how the plume is flowing. This was the same scientist who came to Afton and presented on the issue earlier this year. She is a very impressive public servant and the state is lucky to have her working on this issue. Some of the news was good for Afton. She indicated that it appears unlikely the southern part of Afton will have significant impacts. However, in the north we are seeing more well advisories, and that area of impact is still being defined. We also discussed the potentially negative effects of a floodwater and stormwater control project constructed many years ago (the 1007 project) that appears to be allowing the contaminated water to flow east toward the St. Croix River and into our community. As a city we will be advocating for options to deal with those pollution issues within that system and attempt to stop the flow of contaminants into Afton and neighboring cities.

We will continue to focus on our comprehensive plan and our city's defined development goals as they relate to dealing with those properties where wells have tested positive. This means utilizing local whole-house filtration systems. During the 3M settlement process there have been discussions about running rural water lines to homes and using a central, municipal, water supply to deal with this issue. That solution might be perfect for some communities, but our city council has agreed that solution would not be right for Afton. Any time large scale infrastructure projects like these are installed, no matter how good the intentions, pressure to develop soon follows. Our comprehensive plan clearly calls for limiting this type of pressure and to maintain our rural character and open spaces. We will keep you updated as this process moves forward.

Fall will quickly turn to winter this month. If you have been slow to get your yard clean-up done there is good news. Many horticulturists are now suggesting leaving this year's garden plants uncut, and not removing all the fallen leaves, as they can provide food for birds and shelter to insects and native bees over the winter. So if you can, let it all stay where it is. And next spring, do the same thing. Most plant leaves and stems will be decomposed and augment the soil by the middle of the spring.

Hope you are having a good fall, and you are able to celebrate Thanksgiving with friends and family.

-Bill

County Board accepts donations for benches along trail

The Washington County Board of Commissioners accepted the donation of five benches along the St. Croix Multi-Use County Trail on October 8.

Five benches, with memorial plaques, are placed along the St. Croix Multi-Use Trail, and were provided by the St. Croix Valley Community Foundation. They are valued at \$17,000.

The 4.1-mile St. Croix Multi-Use Trail was reconstructed in 2017 from 30th Street in Afton to the Interstate 94 bridge over the St. Croix River to replace the trail surface, and add concrete pedestrian ramps and trail signing. In addition, the railing was replaced on the bridge over Valley Creek.

In 2017, the Lower St. Croix Valley Community Foundation inquired about the installation of benches with memorial plaques along the St. Croix Trail. The county developed a process for providing benches through donations. The donation includes installation of a concrete bench pad, bench, and memorial plaque.

The Lower St. Croix Valley Community Foundation donation includes the five benches and maintenance of the bench sites for five years, one each in Lakeland, Afton, St. Mary's Point, Lake St. Croix Beach, and Lakeland Shores. During the five-year period, the county will maintain the bench sites, including repair and replacement of the benches and plaque. After five years, the county has the option to dispose, replace, or relocate the benches based on its needs at that time.

October Meeting Highlights

October 7, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting

The October Planning Commission meeting was cancelled due to lack of agenda items.

October 15, 2019 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- Approved payment of Pay Voucher No. 22 to Geislinger & Sons for the Downtown Village Improvement Project.
- Approved a proposal from Capra Utilities to install a gravity waste line stub for two properties on River Road.
- Approved an application for a Simple Subdivision from Belwin Conservancy at 947 Indian Trail.
- Approved base road improvements on 60th St between Trading Post Trail and Neal, and between Neal and Manning.
- Approved final payment to CenturyLink for the High Speed Internet project.
- Approved contract with Companion Animal Control and Otter Lake Animal Care Center for animal control and impound services.
- Approved removal of a tree on Mount Hope Road.

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

www.ci.afton.mn.us

Budget and Tax Hearing

All are Invited to Attend Afton's 2020 Budget and Tax Hearing

7:00 pm, Tuesday, December 17, 2019

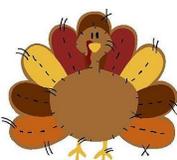
Afton City Council Chambers
3033 St Croix Trail South
Afton, MN 55001

The hearing is an opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide feedback regarding the proposed budget.

**The 2020 Proposed Budget is available at
City Hall or on the City's website at:**

www.ci.afton.mn.us

(Click the top tab: "City Finance Information")



Happy Thanksgiving

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Friday, November 8, 2019

Statewide Star Party

7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Join Belwin Conservancy, the Minnesota Astronomical Society, and others at the Joseph J. Casby Observatory for one of more than 30 Statewide Star Parties presented by the Bell Museum. Continue to celebrate the Apollo 50th anniversary, the moon, and beyond. Hot drinks and cookies will be provided inside the Education Center.

Information:

Free and open to everyone.

Belwin Conservancy Education Center, 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton

Saturday, November 16, 2019

Education Center Third Saturday

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Explore the Belwin Education Center and its miles of rolling, wooded trails. Hour-long Guided Experience at 10:00 a.m. and again at 1:00 p.m. November topic: Join Naturalist Jim Rue as he takes us on a journey to discover winter survival strategies for humans and animals.

Information:

Free to independently explore the Education Center and trails.

Guided Experience: Free for members, \$10/ family for non-members.

Belwin Conservancy Education Center, 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton

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

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 Moose, 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
November 2019**

Closed November 11 & 28—29

Yoga Storytime

Tuesday, Nov. 5 from 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Join us at the Valley Library for some stories and stretches! Yoga poses such as Tree, Dog, Cat, and Butterfly will accompany books, music, and other fun activities. Bringing your own yoga mat or towel is highly encouraged. This event is open for all ages. No registration required.

STEM Saturdays: Balloon Powered Cars

Saturday, Nov. 9 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

How far will your car go? Use everyday items to build a balloon-powered car and test new ways to make the car go further. Test your new car by participating in our race challenge at the end of the program. This program is for ages 6-12. Please register online at WashCoLib.org/Events, at Valley Library, or by calling 651-436-5882.

Experience Dementia in a New Way

Thursday, Nov. 14 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Use virtual reality to experience dementia for yourself and step into the shoes of someone living with memory loss. Learn about community resources for patients and their caregivers, including the Library's new Memory Minder activity kits. This program is presented by Jenny West from FamilyMeans in collaboration with Stillwater Area ACT on Alzheimer's. No registration required.

Pajama Storytime

Tuesday, Nov. 26 from 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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

To Register and for Full Calendar of Events:

www.washcolib.org
Valley Branch Library
380 St. Croix Trail South
Lakeland, MN 55043

**PATRON
AFTON, MN 55001**

You may view this newsletter

IN COLOR
on the city website.



*Please recycle this
newsletter after use.*

**Washington County will have confidential paper shredding at
Environmental Center Nov. 6**

Washington County will conduct confidential document shredding at the county's Environmental Center 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6.

The Environmental Center is at 4039 Cottage Grove Drive in Woodbury and provides residents with a free and convenient disposal option for household hazardous waste, electronics, and recyclables all year round.

The Environmental Center is open Tuesday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The center accepts household hazardous waste, electronics, and recyclables. The center also has a Free Product Room, in which residents may browse the shelves and take home previously-owned products such as paint, stain, automotive supplies, household cleaners, and other products. All items taken to the Environmental Center are inspected to determine if they are usable products.

Annual Fire Extinguisher Recharging / Recertification

According to state fire code all commercial business need to have there fire extinguisher re-certified annually. The fire department has arranged for this service at our station. Homeowners are also welcome.

Who: Commercial and Residential

Where: Lower St Croix Valley Fire Department

1560 St. Croix Tr. S.
Lakeland, Minnesota 55043
(651) 436-7033

Enter via Back Parking Lot NW Door

When: Wednesday, Nov 20 from 9:00 am to Noon

By: Bill Becker Fire & Safety

Cost: Varies and is paid directly to Vendor

City of Afton
Find us on Facebook!

