



November 2021

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

City of Afton Dashboard

A Summary of Current Happenings

- ◆ Outside Consultant - A Request For Proposal (RFP) seeking an outside consultant to process the city's zoning related applications was approved by the council. Land use applications and questions are at an all-time high.
- ◆ Zoning Fees – the council has increased all fees related to zoning and land use applications to reflect the average fees charged in similar cities. Also, all consultant fees for land use applications will be passed through to the applicant.
- ◆ Flood Map - Council approved the Letter Of Map Revision (LOMR) from FEMA removing the area of the Old Village now protected by the upgraded flood levee from FEMA's highest flood hazard designation. After nearly two and a half years of working with the Army Corps and FEMA, this process will be finalized on November 18th.
- ◆ Trash / Recycling Hauler – the city is working on selecting a trash and recycling hauler for the next five year period. As you know we have a single hauler policy which is in place to reduce the wear and tear on our roads and limit the number of days trash cans are "on display".
- ◆ Restricted Roadways – an ordinance amendment was approved allowing the city to designate selected local roadways as "restricted use" in instances where it finds the interest of public safety requires such a restriction. In a follow-up action the council designated Odell Avenue as restricted, specifically to prohibit construction vehicles on this road.

SAR

CITY MEETINGS

November 1, 2021

Planning Commission Meeting
CANCELED

November 16, 2021

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M. (In-Person)

November 24, 2021

Parks Committee Meeting
6:00 P.M. (In-Person)

Public Participation Via Zoom Will Continue to be Available for City Council Meetings. Information on how to join the meetings will be posted on the City website along with the agenda and meeting packet.

CITY COUNCIL

<u>Mayor:</u>	Bill Palmquist	651-308-0569
<u>Ward 1:</u>	Annie Perkins	651-592-3007
<u>Ward 2:</u>	Lucia Wroblewski	651-436-3982
<u>Ward 3:</u>	Stan Ross	612-720-6478
<u>Ward 4:</u>	Randy Nelson	651-436-2479

CITY HALL

651-436-5090

CITY WEBSITE

www.ci.afton.mn.us

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Animal Control	715-220-1332
Building Inspector	651-436-6469
Burning Permits	651-248-5103
Environmental Center	651-275-7475
Highland Sanitation	651-458-0043
Otter Lake Animal Care	651-426-8871
Fire Dept	651-436-7033
Sheriff's Dept	651-439-9381

EMERGENCY 911

Special Election November 2, 2021 Independent School District No. 834

Stillwater Area Public Schools

The Stillwater School District is holding a special election this fall. The district has two questions on this fall's ballot - one to replace an expiring levy and another to fund classroom technology.

Early voting started Sept. 17 and runs through Monday, Nov. 1. You can vote early by mail or in-person. Polls will also be open on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Contact Washington County Elections for information on early and absentee voting. <https://www.co.washington.mn.us/670/Absentee-Voting> or 651-430-6175.

The polling location for Afton residents on Election Day is Shepherd of the Valley, 14107 Hudson Rd S. Polling hours are 7 am to 8 pm. on November 2, 2021.

You must reside in the Stillwater Area Public School District boundaries to vote in the special election. Learn more at mnavotes.org

Notes from the Mayor

At our October meeting, the council approved an ordinance allowing farm kitchens as an accessory use for our existing farms. This will enable our farmers to produce value-added products, such as preserves and salsas, with the food grown on the farm. The farm kitchen use has a limited size and scope, but we hope it is one more tool available to help keep agriculture successful in Afton. To that end, our recently formed Agricultural Preservation Committee will meet for the first time in November and I am looking forward to learning more from them about how communities like ours around the state and region are working to preserve agriculture and to hear their ideas on actions we can take to meet that goal.

At the end of September, Nathan Shaw stepped down from the Park Committee after serving on that board for many years. Thank you Nathan for all the time and effort you put into serving the community. Your thoughtful discourse and creative ideas will be missed. In October, the council appointed two new members to the Parks Committee. Thank you Joseph Novik and Jane Tar for volunteering to serve!

I want to extend my profound thanks to David Little and all the staff at Windmill Marina for coming to the aid of a man who had a medical emergency while walking on our levee trail last month. The young man collapsed, and David rushed to his aid and performed CPR until medical help arrived. I am not sure how this story ended, but I know these quick actions gave this young man his best chance for surviving this scary event. Thank you David and all the staff at Windmill Marina for your quick actions that day, for knowing how to help and for being willing to do so.

-Bill

November 24, 2021

Parks Committee Meeting Update

6:00 P.M. (In-Person)

The Parks Committee is currently working on projects related to pollinator gardens, habitat restoration, and bike trail mapping.

Want to get involved in CITY DECISIONS?

Do you have an interest in architecture, historic buildings and preserving Afton's heritage? **The Heritage Preservation / Design Review Commission** is looking for members with an architectural background.

The HPC/DR meets to review projects to ensure they meet the City's Design Standards for the Old Village. Meetings are monthly or as needed.

Applications are available on the city website, or by calling City Hall at 651-436-5090.

Budget and Tax Hearing

*All are Invited to Attend Afton's 2022 Budget and
Tax Hearing*

7:00 pm, Tuesday, December 21, 2021

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

**The 2022 Proposed Budget is available at
City Hall or on the City's website at:**

www.ci.afton.mn.us

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

Meeting Highlights

October 4, 2021 Planning Commission Meeting

The Commission:

- Held a public hearing for a Conditional Use Permit for a Cooperative Warehousing use in the Afton Business Park.
- Held a public hearing for a Variance application at 4242 River Rd.
- Held a public hearing for an amendment to the Zoning code to allow a Farm Kitchen as an accessory use.
- Held a public hearing for the Floodplain Ordinance Amendment to reflect the approval of a Letter of Map Revision by FEMA .

October 19, 2021 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- Approved a Conditional Use Permit for a Cooperative Warehousing use in the Afton Business Park.
- Approved a Variance application at 4242 River Rd.
- Approved an amendment to the Zoning code to allow a Farm Kitchen as an accessory use.
- Approved the Floodplain Ordinance Amendment to reflect the approval of a Letter of Map Revision by FEMA .
- Approved an update to the City Fee Schedule.
- Approved an ordinance amendment regarding the designation of restricted roadways.
- Designated Odell Avenue as a restricted roadway.

MEETING PACKETS, VIDEOS AND APPROVED MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE AT:
www.ci.afton.mn.us

Winter Snow Reminders

- ◆ The City's snow plow contractor hits the streets on a one-inch snowfall; however, if icy or slippery conditions exist, they may be sent out to also sand/salt hills and intersections.
- ◆ Keep garbage containers off the street until the plow has come through.
- ◆ Plowing snow onto or across a city street is illegal; violations are a misdemeanor and civil penalties may apply.
- ◆ Please slow down and drive for the conditions of the road, especially on Afton's curvy roads and hills.
- ◆ Be patient. We try to get around to all "Primary" routes within 24 hours; "Secondary" roads within 48 hours.
- ◆
- ◆ The City will clean the main sidewalk in town along St. Croix Trail. The other sidewalks are to be cleared by the property or business owner.
- ◆ If your road has not been plowed or dangerous conditions exist, please call us at City Hall 651-436-5090 so we can get it the attention it deserves.

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 4

Hiking into the Night

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Belwin's Education Center, 1553 Stagecoach Trail S.

Join us for an exploration into the other half of day, when darkness envelops our world. We will begin inside with a brief overview of winter night life at Belwin and then head out to witness the beauty of the dark. We will end our evening with light refreshments around a fire. Come dressed in layers for any weather. RSVP required. \$20 per family. Open to ages 12 and older (youth must be accompanied by an adult).

belwin.org/event/hiking-into-the-night/

Friday, December 17 and Saturday, December 18

Women Walking

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Belwin's Education Center, 1553 Stagecoach Trail S.

Join us to celebrate the seasonal changes in the natural world. Vernal Equinox, Summer Solstice, Autumnal Equinox, Winter Solstice — each brings us to a new season, a new place in our annual trip around the sun. We will gather indoors for a welcome and some easy centering exercises. We will then move out to the woods and prairies for walking meditations and experiences in the natural world. We will end our time together with light refreshments around the fire. Wear comfortable layers and be prepared for any weather. RSVP required. \$20 per person. Open to all women ages 16 and older (permission from a guardian is required for those under 18 years of age). belwin.org/event/women-walking

Monday, December 20

Winter Solstice Bonfire

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Belwin's Lucy Winton Bell Athletic Fields, 15601 Hudson Road N.

Join us at a new location for this year's Solstice Bonfire! We'll have a warming tent, hot cider and cookies, night hikes, and more. Plus, Iki-dowin Youth Theater storytellers will perform at 7:00 p.m.

\$10 per car. belwin.org/event/winter-solstice-bonfire/

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



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

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Valley Library

Find Events, Activities, and Storytimes at Valley Library

Valley Library is offering a variety of indoor, outdoor, and virtual programs for all ages! Masks are currently required in county buildings for all vaccinated and unvaccinated visitors over the age of two. Find updates about the library's COVID-19 response at WashCoLib.org/Covid19.

Check the library website for information on reading activities, library programs, and current hours.

Valley Branch Library

384 St Croix Trail S
Lakeland, MN 55043
651-436-5882
www.washcolib.org

PATRON
AFTON, MN 55001

You may view this newsletter

IN COLOR
on the city website.



Please recycle this newsletter after use.

Veterans Recognition Dinner



Friday, November 12, 2021

5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Curbside Pickup

At The Church of St. Francis of Assisi
Lake Saint Croix Beach

FREE Dinner for Lower St. Croix Valley Veterans, Service Members and their Families

Thank you for your service

Donations from: YRALSCV volunteers and businesses from the Lower St. Croix Valley area and adjoining communities.

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

When: Tuesday, November 16 from 9:00 am to Noon

By: Bill Becker Fire & Safety

Cost: Varies and is paid directly to Vendor



Hosted by:

