



**February 2022**

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

**City of Afton Dashboard**  
**A Summary of Current Happenings**

**Go! Jessie Go!**

Many of you know that Afton's Jessie Diggins will be competing again in the Winter Olympics Cross Country Skiing competition, this time held in Beijing China. The exact races Jessie will be competing in have not been established as of this writing but she will likely be racing in most. The race names and dates are listed below, and race times are confirmed for Central Standard Time. The races will be live streamed on Peacock TV for Peacock Premium subscribers. NBC may carry the races live but that has not been confirmed. Let's all cheer on Jessie from the other side of the world in beautiful Afton!

2022 Olympic Winter Games Cross Country Ski Schedule



**Saturday, Feb. 5**

Women's 15k Skiathlon 1:45 a.m.

**Tuesday, Feb. 8**

Men and Women's Freestyle Sprint Heats begin at 4:30 a.m.

**Thursday, Feb. 10**

Women's 10k Classic 1:00 a.m.

**Saturday, Feb 12**

Women's 4x5k Relay 1:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, Feb. 16**

Men and Women's Classic Team Sprint Finals begin at 5:00 a.m.

**Sunday, Feb. 20**

Women's 30k Freestyle Mass Start 12:30 a.m.

-SAR

**The City Office is Closed**

**Monday, February 21**  
*In observance of Presidents Day*

**CITY MEETINGS**

**February 7, 2022**

Planning Commission Meeting  
7:00 PM (In-Person)

**February 15, 2022**

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

**February 23, 2022**

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

Public Participation Via Zoom Will Continue to be Available for City Council and Planning Commission Meetings.

Information on how to join the meetings will be posted on the City website along with the agenda and meeting packet.

**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 612-720-6478  
**Ward 4:** Randy Nelson 651-436-2479

**CITY HALL**

651-436-5090

**CITY WEBSITE**

**[www.ci.afton.mn.us](http://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**

**Blood Drive**

Memorial Lutheran Church of Afton is hosting a Blood Drive on Tuesday, March 1 from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Register at: [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)  
Or call 1-800-733-2767

Memorial Lutheran Church  
15730 So Afton Blvd  
Afton, MN 55001



**American  
Red Cross**

## Notes from the Mayor

Restoration work really got going last month at the city property on St. Croix Trail near Valley Creek that is part of the larger open space project done in partnership with Belwin and Washington County. Funding for the project is from the Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Grant Program. That CPL grant is being administered by Belwin to remove invasive species and restore the environment. This includes portions of a burr oak savanna, prairie, and wetlands. If you drive down St. Croix Trail you can already start to see the results. As work continues the area is still closed to the public, but look for updates this summer on when the trails will be available to view this beautiful and diverse area. A big thank you to Katie and Justin and all the Belwin staff for all the help securing this grant, and the time and expertise to get this restoration started. It already looks great!

I failed to mention last month that at the end of last year, the Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD) was named Watershed District of the Year by the Department of Natural Resources. Most of Afton is located in the Valley Branch district. The DNR made note in the award of how VBWD district dealt with the 15 inches of rain that fell over a three-week period at the end of 2020 when many of the landlocked lakes in the district were already at flood stage. The rain resulted in a very serious issue with no easy solutions. Their work and innovative solutions continued throughout 2021 by both the board and staff. VBWD is a great partner to our city and this is a well-deserved recognition.

For the first time in several years the five cities here in the lower St. Croix area will meet the end of January. I look forward to working together on issues that impact all of us and am sure it will be a great discussion. I will provide an update on what issues and processes come out of the meeting next month.

-Bill

### Have an Interest in Historical Architecture?

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

The HPC/DR meets to review projects based on the City's Heritage Preservation Design Guidelines 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.

### Yellow Ribbon Alliance Lower St. Croix Valley

The Yellow Ribbon Alliance of the Lower St. Croix Valley is looking for volunteers to represent the City of Afton. After being proclaimed a Yellow Ribbon network on August 23, 2011, the Yellow Ribbon Alliance Lower St. Croix Valley continues its mission of supporting communities, servicemembers, veterans and military families. It is a network that prides itself in trust, follow through and commitment. The Yellow Ribbon Alliance Lower St. Croix Valley is comprised of five communities bordering the St. Croix River in Washington County, MN. The communities are Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, Lake St. Croix Beach, St. Mary's Point and Afton.

The Yellow Ribbon Alliance Lower St. Croix Valley is an all-volunteer network and is a federally designated 501c3 nonprofit organization. All donations given to the Alliance are tax deductible. Donations that are given and funds that are raised by the Alliance support military members, service members, and their families.

For more information please visit:  
<https://5cityyellowribbon.com>



## Meeting Highlights

### January 3, 2022 Planning Commission Meeting

#### The Commission:

- Held a public hearing for a minor subdivision application for a lot line rearrangement at 13852 30<sup>th</sup> St. The commission recommended approval.
- Held a public hearing for a Conditional Use Permit application for a Short Term Rental license at 3602 St Croix Trail. The commission recommended approval.
- Held a discussion on possible groundwater supply protection/conservation measures.
- Approved the 2022 meeting schedule.

### January 18, 2022 City Council Meeting

#### The Council:

- Approved an application for a minor subdivision for a lot line rearrangement at 13852 30<sup>th</sup> St.
- Approved an application for a Conditional Use Permit application for a Short Term Rental license at 3602 St Croix Trail.
- Approved the 2022 Meeting schedule.
- Approved annual committee appointments for City Council members.
- Designated the official depository, newspaper, signatories, city engineer and city attorney.
- Appointed election judges for 2022.
- Accepted the proposal from Oberloh and Oberloh, LTD for auditing services for fiscal years 2021, 2022 and 2023.

MEETING PACKETS, VIDEOS AND APPROVED MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE AT:  
[www.ci.afton.mn.us](http://www.ci.afton.mn.us)

## Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

**Saturday, February 5  
5:00 –7:00 PM**

### Midwinter Family Fun

View the stars and moon with Minnesota Astronomical Society members, meet a raptor from Carpenter Nature Center, and enjoy guided night hikes and a campfire with s'mores. Belwin's Education Center will be open for hot chocolate and bathrooms only. The Joseph J. Casby Observatory will be open (weather permitting) with limits to the number of people in the observatory at one time. \$10 per car. Pay as you drive in. No RSVP required.

**Saturday, February 12  
4:30—6:30 PM**

### Winter Twilight Hike with Lynette Anderson

Witness the mystical time between day and night with a Twilight Hike at the Belwin Conservancy Education Center. Led by Belwin Naturalist Lynette Anderson, you will begin with a short introduction indoors, then head out to experience this magical time of day. Dress in layers for the weather. Bring water and binoculars if you have them. Register via Saint Paul Public Schools Community Education.

**Belwin Conservancy  
1553 Stagecoach Trail South  
Afton MN 55001  
651-436-5189  
[www.belwin.org](http://www.belwin.org)**

## 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.





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

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
AFTON MN 55001  
PERMIT NO. 15

## Valley Library

### Rediscover Valley Library

Valley Library is open! If you haven't been to the library in a while, now is a great time to stop by Lakeland Village (384 St Croix Trail S, Lakeland) to browse new materials, use a computer or meeting room, and participate in free library programs for all ages.

### Library Hours

Visit the library on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Masks are currently required for all visitors over the age of two, regardless of vaccination status.

### Upcoming Events

Family Storytimes are available every Monday at 10:30 a.m. Develop early literacy skills with stories, songs, fingerplays, and more! For children of all ages and their families.

Valley Book Club meets in person on the fourth Thursday of each month from 5-6 p.m. to discuss a selected title. This book club is free and open to all.

A variety of Take and Make Activities are available for free each month. Visit the library to pick up all the supplies you need to complete a fun craft at home.

Learn more about all Valley Library programs at WashCoLib.org/Events.

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](http://www.washcolib.org)



**PATRON**  
**AFTON, MN 55001**

You may view this newsletter

**IN COLOR**  
on the city website.



*Please recycle this  
newsletter after use.*

## New County Food Scraps (Organics) Drop-off Site

In partnership with the City of Mahtomedi, Washington County has opened a new food scraps drop-off site for use by all county residents. The self-serve drop-off site is located behind the Mahtomedi Fire Department building at 800 Stillwater Road and is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Learn more about food scraps recycling:

<https://www.co.washington.mn.us/foodscraps>



## Sand/Salt Available for Residents

The City provides a sand/salt mixture for Afton residents to use to control ice on driveways. Please fill buckets only - no skid loaders - **This service is not for commercial use.**

The mixture is at the city garage located at 1675 Stagecoach Trail. **New this year—the mixture is located inside of the yellow storage bin on the right side of the building as marked.**