



March 2020

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

**Jessie Diggins brings World Cup to the Twin Cities
March 14 - 17**

The World Cup Cross Country ski race is coming to Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis this month! This will be the first World Cup Cross Country ski race in Minnesota since 1985, and the first one in the USA in 19 years.

The Fastenal Parallel 45 winter festival on Saturday and Sunday, March 14th and 15th will feature youth and citizen events and activities. Jessie Diggins will race in the World Cup Sprint race on Tuesday, March 17. The racing will begin at 2:15 pm with qualifying rounds. The elimination heats begin at 4:15 with the finals ending at 6:30 p.m. The top Cross Country skiers in the world will be racing; this is the final sprint race of the World Cup season, where the Crystal Globe will be awarded to the best male and female sprinters over the entire season.

Reserved seating is sold out but general admission is still open at a cost of \$25 per person. With general admission you can walk the course interior and take in the race at your favorite spot. There will be food carts, beverages, and activities throughout the day.

Check out the promotional commercial filmed last summer here in Afton at <https://www.facebook.com/mnworldcup/videos/720127868491680/>.

Please show your support for Jessie by attending with your Afton spirit and cow bells! For more information on this event, and to order tickets, use this link: <https://www.loppet.org/events/parallel45/>

Stan Ross
Ward 3 City Council

CITY MEETINGS

March 2, 2020

Natural Resources & Groundwater
5:30 P.M.

March 2, 2020

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

March 17, 2020

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

March 18, 2020

Heritage Preservation Commission
5:00 P.M.

March 25, 2020

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 715-220-1332
- 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

Don't forget Daylight Savings!
"Spring forward" one hour on March 8th



Presidential Nominating Primary

Information on the Presidential Nominating Primary can be found at: www.mnvotes.org.

The Presidential Nominating Primary is on March 3, 2020.

Afton's Polling Place for Elections on Election Day is:
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
East Entrance - Gymnasium
14107 Hudson Road S
Afton, MN 55001

Voting Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Notes from the Mayor

Mark your calendars for the first World Cup series cross country ski race ever to be held in Minnesota. Afton's own Jessie Diggins was instrumental in bringing racing back to not only Minnesota, but also to the United States. The last race in the U.S. was back in 2001. This race will take place March 17 at Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis. It is part of the Fastenal Parallel 45 Winter Festival, March 14-17, 2020. Hope you can attend and support all of Jessie's work to bring racing home to Minnesota.

The Park Committee is looking to expand its work on pollinator plantings on park land around the city. If you have ideas on good locations in any of the public lands the city owns, or ideas on how best to support the efforts to get good habit in place, let us know. They will also be continuing to work on the demonstration plantings around City Hall with signs going up, and the second stage of the work beginning in the spring. Stop by and see the progress once the warm weather arrives. The Park Committee hopes this demonstration garden will help educate and inspire all of us to do some of this work on our own properties.

At our February meeting, Kim Meyers was appointed to the Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee. Thank you, Kim! We still have openings on this and the Park Committee if you are interested in getting involved and helping guide our city on issues related to water quality, open space preservation, and enhancing our parks and open spaces.

With taps going in for maple syrup in a week or two, spring can't be far behind. If you want to put out bluebird houses it is time to think about that as they will begin to arrive mid-March. In a great success story, I read an article that by some estimates the population of bald eagles in the Sr. Croix River Valley is at its peak sustainable level. This is such good news. They were so rare when I was young. I am thrilled to see them soaring all over our city.

The primary is March 3. Voting will once again take place at Sheppard of the Valley Church. Please get out and vote!

-Bill

Getting Ready for Spring: Rinta Community Garden

Spring will be here soon; time for gardeners to get their hands dirty. The Rinta Community Garden has 20 plots available to residents of the Lower St. Croix Valley.

There is no charge for using a plot. Gardeners are asked not to use pesticides and to use organic fertilizers. There is no well water at the site, but 2 rain barrels collecting runoff from a small shed will hold 250 gallons of water for irrigation when necessary. The installation of a high fence has thwarted hungry deer.

If you are interested in a garden plot at Rinta, contact Afton City Hall or go to the Afton website for an application (Located under "Parks, Park Reservations & Special Events"). Complete and return it to Afton City Hall, 3033 St. Croix Trail, P.O. Box 219, Afton, MN 55001.

If you have additional questions, contact Barbara Ronningen at bjronningen@yahoo.com.

Homeless or couch-hopping youth need to know there is help!

If you know a young person between 13-24 years of age that could use help finding safe housing, employment, or education, call or text the Youth Connections Drop-In Centers (YCDC) located in Stillwater and Cottage Grove (612)-475-4055.

YCDC is a program of the St. Croix Family Resource Center www.stcroixfrc.org



February Meeting Highlights

February 3, 2020 Planning Commission Meeting

The Commission:

- Held a public hearing for a variance at 15740 Upper 34th St. for a detached garage.
- Held a public hearing for a minor subdivision and variance at 120 and 502 Stagecoach Trail.
- Held a public hearing for a variance at 14186 Valley Creek Trail.
- Elected officers to serve for 2020.

February 18, 2020 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- Approved a variance application at 15740 Upper 34th Street for a detached garage.
- Approved a variance application at 120 and 502 Stagecoach Trail for a minor subdivision.
- Approved a bid by Geislinger & Sons for the River Road Sanitary Sewer project.
- Reviewed request from Afton Creek Developer regarding escrow account charges.
- Adopted Resolution 2020-15 identifying the high priority of the preservation of open space along Valley Creek, including the property at 2398 St. Croix Trail.
- Adopted Ordinance 02-2020, an interim ordinance establishing a moratorium on permits for non-residential and non-agricultural principal structures in the Ag, AP and RR zones.
- Approved Kim Meyers application to serve on the Natural Resources & Groundwater Committee.
- Approved installation of LED lighting in the Public Works Shop.

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

www.ci.afton.mn.us

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 weedwhips. 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 Moorse, 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.

APRIL TOUR OF AFTON'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

The Natural Resources and Groundwater committee invites you to an April 30th tour of the new wastewater treatment facility that treats wastewater generated by Afton's Old Village. The design engineer and the site operator will be onsite to give you an inside look at the site operations. You'll see the path wastewater takes through the facility to its eventual return to groundwater. You'll learn how the wastewater is treated by treatment tanks, a gravel filter, and other components before its dispersal to the soil. You'll see firsthand how the water is treated to reduce wastewater constituents, in particular nitrogen, to drinking water standards. The complex engineering of the site makes this an especially interesting and fun tour.

Thursday, April 30
5:30-6:30 PM
2318 St. Croix Trail S., Afton

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Outside Voices Series

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

On March 5, **Dr. Hatice Bilgic Lim**, a former MCAD professor and current scientist at Medtronic, will share stories of her unique career path, which has incorporated nature and education at every stage. **Jerry Allan**, a Belwin Conservancy board member and professor at the Minneapolis College of Art & Design (MCAD), has followed a likewise distinguishing path. Join us for an inspiring conversation between these colleagues and friends, and learn about the next renewable technology that is going to save the world!

Information:

\$10/suggested donation. RSVP requested.

Friday & Saturday, March 13 & 14, 2020

Women Walking

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Come and 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 begin indoors with centering exercises and easy yoga, then move into the woods and prairies for walking meditations and experiences in the natural world. We will end our time with provided light drinks and snacks.

Wear comfortable layers and be prepared for any weather.

Additional Women Walking events in 2020:

- June 19 and 20: At the Belwin Creative Center, 795 Indian Trail S.
- September 18 and 19: At the Belwin Creative Center, 795 Indian Trail S.
- December 11 and 12: At the Belwin Education Center, 1553 Stagecoach Trail

Information:

\$10/person. RSVP required. 20 person max.

Saturday, March 21, 2020

Education Center Third Saturday

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Explore the Belwin Education Center and its miles of rolling, wooded trails. Lynette Anderson, Belwin's Interpretive Naturalist, will be in the Education Center building to greet you, answer your questions, and suggest hikes. Depending on trail conditions, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing may be possible. Bring your own gear. Hot cocoa and tea provided.

Information:

Free and open to everyone.

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 March 2020

Featured Events

Three Object Art Challenge

Tuesday, Mar. 3 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

What can you create at Valley Library? With three randomly selected objects, design your next masterpiece. For ages 6-12. All materials will be provided. Please register online at WashCoLib.org/Events, at Valley Library, or by calling 651-436-5882.

STEM Saturdays: Bruce the Bug Guy

Saturday, Mar. 7 from 11 to 12:00 p.m.

Join us at the Valley Library for a creepily good time with Dr. Bruce Giebink as he presents a hands-on, up-close program about insects and related arthropods with live critters. Ages 6-12. No registration required.

Contraption Club - Coding Electronic Gizmos

Monday, Mar. 9 from 4 to 5:00 p.m.

Join the Contraption Club at Valley Library and build your own contraptions and inventions! Every month we will be learning a new design skill such as soldering, coding, sketching, and more. For ages 8-13. Please register online at WashCoLib.org/Events, at Valley Library, or by calling.

Valley Talks: Sharon Day of the Indigenous Peoples Task Force

Wednesday, Mar. 11 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

In this Valley Talks we will be joined by Sharon Day, Executive Director of the Indigenous Peoples Task Force. Sharon will be showing her short film on the St. Croix River as well as leading participants through an activity. Please register online at WashCoLib.org/Events, at Valley Library, or by calling 651-436-5882.

Teen VR & Gaming

Monday, Mar. 23 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Teens can join us at Valley Library to play VR games, retro video games such as Atari and Nintendo, or just hang out! This event is for ages 11-17. No registration required.

Origami

Tuesday, Mar. 24 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The word origami comes from the Japanese oru (to fold) and kami (paper). Join us to create forms from the simplest to most complex folds with these titles from our digital collections. This program is for all ages. Please register online at WashCoLib.org/Events, at Valley Library, or by calling.

April Fools!

Tuesday, Mar. 31 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Come celebrate this silly holiday at Valley Library. Learn some great pranks to trick your friends and family! Plus, make a fake drink spill to take home. For ages 6-12. Please register online at WashCoLib.org/Events, at Valley Library, or by calling.

www.washcolib.org

**Valley Branch Library, 384 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.*

Dog Owners Responsibility

Residents are reminded that Section 6.2 of the city code does not permit dogs to run loose within the city boundaries.

No owner shall permit his dog to be at large in this City, but shall keep such dog under restraint at all times. Dogs shall be prohibited in areas of public parks or upon public lands unless leashed at all times.

Restraint means a dog is on the premises of the dog's owner; obedient to that person's command when off the premises; within a private motor vehicle or controlled by a leash. A dog on the property of another without the consent of such property owner is at large and not under restraint.

Please take precautions to restrain your dogs and keep them safe!