



April 2021

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

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

- ◆ Road Renovation- The City Council approved three additional roads for the 2021 construction season: 30th Street, 32nd Street and Pateley Bridge.

The contractor will begin work on all approved projects as soon as Afton’s road weight restrictions are lifted in mid to late April. These projects are estimated to be completed in one month. The expected schedule is shown below. Notices will be sent out to residents impacted by the projects prior to the start of work.

Streets will be temporarily closed in these areas when the contractor is reclaiming the road (residents will be allowed to get to their homes if they are within the construction area, but through traffic will not be allowed). For the safety of the workers, please stay clear of these roads when the contractor is working. Also, weather can impact the schedule.

Road work (in order):

8th Court, from 8th Street to cul-de-sac.
8th Street, from Manning Ave. to 8th Court.
8th Street, 8th Court to 10th Street.

30th Street from the new box culvert to Neal Ave.
32nd Street from Trading Post to cul-de-sac.

42nd Street, from Pasture Ridge Road, east to the cul-de-sac.
Paradox Avenue, 42nd Street to cul-de-sac.
Pasture Ridge Road, 42nd Street, north to cul-de-sac.
Pateley Bridge Ave. from 45th Street to cul-de-sac.

Division Street, Stagecoach Trail to Croixview Ave.

In addition, Washington County will be replacing the culvert under 30th street immediately east of Neal Avenue. 30th street will be closed during that one-day project. This project will start when road weight restrictions are lifted.

- ◆ Valley Creek Trail – renovation of the bridge and culvert located near 14041 Valley Creek Trail was approved at the March council meeting. During this project Valley Creek Trail will be hard closed in the immediate area - no traffic will be allowed through the construction zone. The start and duration of the closure has not been determined. The city will send out notices to residents along Valley Creek Trail alerting them to the road closure.
- ◆ The council has approved additional Sheriff patrols to enforce speed and noise starting mid-April and continuing into the fall. Last summer over 350 stops were made in the city by the additional patrols. Please remember to call the sheriff’s office to report any issues. They want to hear from residents so they are better informed about locations to focus on to curb this growing issue.
- ◆ Commercial Subdivision – The final plat and developer’s agreement were approved for the Afton Business Park located at the intersection of Hudson Road and Manning Ave.

- SAR

CITY MEETINGS

The regular meetings of the Planning Commission, Parks Committee and City Council are being held remotely. Other Volunteer Commissions and Committees are canceled unless otherwise noted. Remote meetings of those committees may be held if timely action is needed and if properly noticed.

April 5, 2021

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

(To be held remotely)

April 21, 2021

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

(To be held remotely)

April 28, 2021

Parks Committee
6:00 P.M.

(To be held remotely)

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

Notes from the Mayor

Spring is in the air, which means we are once again working on ways to provide traffic calming on our busier streets. As in previous years, the city will fund extra patrols and work with the Washington County Sheriff's office on the best ways to achieve our goals. We will be leveraging the resources we already have through our contract with the Sheriff's office with these extra patrols to increase the effectiveness of our program this year.

Excessive speed and vehicle noise are the most common complaints I hear. But I always get asked the question about revenue when this subject comes up, and I want to make it clear that the city does not receive significant revenue from subsequent tickets that might be issued. The old days of "speed trap" towns are long gone, at least here in Washington County. This effort is solely meant to increase safety for our residents and visitors, and to deal with the noise pollution issues residents are experiencing all over the city. To that end, we have increased the funding and the patrols this year. Please get the word out that we will be aggressively enforcing the rules this spring and summer. And call the Sheriff's office if you are having issues in your neighborhood. I know no one wants to call, but the deputies stress that they need to hear from us to make sure they are not missing areas that need to be monitored, or areas where the issue is especially bad that day.

The city received favorable pricing from the contractor on the additional roads I mentioned last month. Those roads have now been added to the work that will be done this summer. Please make sure and take a look at the front cover to see the list and the order they will be completed. Try to avoid those areas when the crews are there. This will help with the safety of the workers and also the speed at which we can get the roads completed.

The council approved several weekend events in the Old Village for this summer. With our bigger events cancelled again this year, our business community will be working with vendors to provide these smaller events that can be managed in a safe way, but also bring some energy back to our commercial district. We hope you can get down to enjoy these events and support our local businesses as they recover from what has been a very hard year. The first event will be in June, more details will be shared when we have them.

-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.

Fire Department Update

Afton is one of five member communities that constitute a joint powers agreement for the Lower St Croix Valley Fire Department (LSCVFD) along with Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, St Mary's Point and St Croix Beach.

The LSCVFD has purchased a new engine as well as a Fire & Rescue Landing Craft.

The annual budget outlines each vehicle and its replacement cost ranging from 10-15 year intervals. The engines cost is \$783,727.00 and the rescue/fire boat is \$110,000.00. The purchases will be made by a combination of financing and cash. The vehicle replacement fund holds \$948,000.00.

While this equipment is expensive, it's essential in the protection of our safety and property along with providing a safe working environment for our firefighters.

Randy P. Nelson
Afton CC Ward 4

Meeting Highlights

March 1, 2021 Planning Commission Meeting

The Commission:

- Held a public hearing for a Minor Subdivision and Variance application at 14726 Afton Blvd.
- Held a public hearing for a Variance application at 3395 St. Croix Trail.
- Held a public hearing for an ordinance amendment regarding shared driveways—Ordinance 02-2021.

March 16, 2021 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- Extended the declaration of local emergency.
- Approved the Minor Subdivision and Variance application at 14726 Afton Blvd.
- Approved the Variance application at 3395 St. Croix Trail.
- Approved Ordinance 02-2021, an ordinance amendment to preserve open space by allowing shared driveways to serve new lots of 20 acres or more.
- Approved additional roads for paving as part of the 2021 pavement improvement project.
- Approved the final plat for the Afton Business Park Subdivision.
- Approved additional patrols for speed enforcement.
- Appointed Julie Zeidel to the Parks Committee.
- Approved the renovation of bridge & culvert on Valley Creek Trail.

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

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 17, 2021

Education Center Third Saturday
 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Free and open to everyone! Explore the Belwin Education Center and its miles of rolling, wooded trails. The Education Center building will be open for check in, directions, and restrooms. Face masks are required to enter the building.

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

METAL & TIRE RECYCLING DAY

Mark your calendars ~ Metal and Tire Recycling Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 15, 2021 at the City Garage, 1675 Stagecoach Trail. 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

New this year residents must unload their own vehicles—city staff will not be able to assist due to COVID precautions. Come prepared to unload.

Face coverings are required during your visit.

- SCRAP METAL includes swing sets, bicycles, metal toys, etc. (NO appliances are allowed.) All fabric, rubber, wood, fluids, and anything else that is *not* metal must be removed.
- TIRES must be off the rims (metal rims can be recycled). Tire size is limited to your ability to lift them. NO large tires such as tractor tires. This is for personal disposal only. NO commercial supplies of tires.)

PLEASE BE AWARE: THE CITY HAS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE NON-RESIDENTS, TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF TIRES, OR REFUSE CERTAIN METAL ITEMS.

Please be patient and cooperate with staff by following their direction in lining up and unloading your metal items and tires.

Brush & Yard Waste

Aggregate Industries has CLOSED the Brush Pit and cancelled Brush Days for 2021.

The following options are available to residents who have brush or yard waste to dispose of.

- Gertens in Denmark Township accepts brush and yard waste for a small fee. Contact:
<https://www.gertens.com/atgertens/yard-waste.htm>
 (651) 458-4412
- This local company will pick up brush from your residence:
 CroixCavating (651) 436-5222
- Washington County operates the Northern Yard Waste Site which is free for residents of Washington County:
 Northern Yard Waste Site
 5527 170th St. N.
 Hugo, MN 55038
 (651) 275-7475



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



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

Valley Library

Washington County Library is currently offering a variety of online programs for residents to enjoy at home! Registration is required so that participants receive the link to join virtually. In addition to featured events, book clubs have transitioned to virtual meetings and storytimes premiere on our Facebook page every Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

Valley Library is open with limited capacity and modified hours.

Contact the library for current hours.

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

**PATRON
AFTON, MN 55001**

The City's website has a new look. Check it out at www.ci.afton.mn.us

You may view this newsletter
IN COLOR
on the city website.



Please recycle this newsletter after use.

Afton honors Earth Day 2021 with Roadside Clean-up

Residents are encouraged to pick up debris from ditches, roadsides and park areas. Coordinate with neighbors along streets or just pick up the trash along your own property frontage. Roadside "finds" and trash should be placed at the nearest street intersection for pickup by Highland Sanitation trucks on your regular trash day: **Tuesday, April 20 or Thursday, April 22.**

You can use your own plastic trash bags to bag your roadside finds. Wear sturdy gloves, long sleeves and tuck pants into socks or waterproof boots to avoid wet feet, getting scratches and attracting ticks. Rakes or long-handled "grabbers" minimize stooping over or having to crawl under bushes.

Recyclable items can be brought back to your home and placed out with your residential recycling can— there is no limit on residential recycling.

Any large items found along the roadsides or in the ditches should be reported to the City Hall at 436-5090.

All participation and efforts in protecting Afton's appearance and environment are greatly appreciated. Thank you!



Hazardous Waste Collection Event

Washington County is partnering with the City of Stillwater to collect household hazardous materials and electronics during a one day collection event on Saturday, May 15. Hazardous materials and electronics will be accepted free-of-charge from all households in Washington County (no businesses).

On-site document shredding will also be available. No more than four boxes per customer will be accepted. Shredding capacity is limited and may be reached before the end of the event.

Stillwater Collection Day for Hazardous Waste
SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021 AT 8 AM – 2 PM
Lily Lake Ice Arena, 1208 Greely St., Stillwater

For more information:
<https://www.co.washington.mn.us/1942/One-Day-Collection-Events>

