



May 2016

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

**SPRING HAS SPRUNG!! Plant a Butterfly Garden
— beautify your yard & create precious butterfly habitat**



As you're dreaming about this year's gardens and plantings, imagine relaxing in your yard with your kids or grandkids or playing with your pup. Now imagine enjoying beautiful monarch butterflies visiting your yard while you are admiring the blossoms of your labors.

Starting a new native butterfly garden can be easy, but proper preparation will make the garden most successful. Native plants are hardy and survive well in Minnesota's climate, and they also attract pollinators like bees and butterflies. Bees, butterflies and other pollinators are struggling from loss of habitat, disease, parasites and the use of chemical pesticides. **You can help!**

Follow these 5 easy steps:

Step 1: Consider your site and make a plan. Consider sun, water flow and how much maintenance you are willing to do. Pick 3-4 different plants to keep it very simple. Flowering native plants love sun. Great butterfly gardens include milkweed, prairie blazing star and purple coneflowers. Plant Selector Tool link below.

Step 2: Remove and kill any existing vegetation. You don't need any chemicals! You can "solarize" – use black plastic over the site for at least 4-6 weeks and no more than 8 weeks (for persistent weeds).

Step 3: Site preparation. Remove remaining dead vegetation and compost. Lay down landscape fabric (that is porous to rain) or newspaper and cardboard in places not getting plants, then give it a good soaking. Add mulch. Use natural, undyed wood mulch at a depth of 2-3 inches to keep weeds at bay and help plants retain moisture.

Step 4: Pick your plants: Buy native plants! Do not buy plants that are grown with systemic pesticides like neonicotinoid, as this kills bees and butterflies—another reason we are in danger of losing our precious pollinators. Visit these sales or if the sales don't work for your schedule, visit www.bluethumb.org to find a native plant retailer near you.

- Friday, May 6 – Sunday, May 8, Friends School Plant Sale, Minnesota State Fairgrounds Grandstand, Saint Paul
- Saturday, June 4, 9am–3pm, Landscape Revival Native Plant Expo, Community Pavilion Cub Foods, 1201 Larpenteur Ave W, Roseville
- Sunday, June 5, 11am–3pm, Master Gardeners Plant Sale & Diagnostic Clinic, Washington County Fairgrounds 4-H Building, Hwy 5, Lake Elmo

Step 5: Plant! As you begin planting, be sure to loosen up the roots before you place them in the soil. Water thoroughly and deeply after planting. For the first year, new plantings will need about 1" of water per week. In future years, you won't need to water except in cases of significant drought.

Visit: www.bluethumb.org - their Plant Selector Tool will help you choose plants.

Learn more: see butterfly and pollinator gardens at www.pollinatorfriendly.org.

Get information: about native gardens and plant grants available in your area at www.mnwd.org or contact Jenn Radtke: rادتke@mnwcd.org, 651-330-8220 x44.

Wishing you a Bright Spring & Happy Planting!

TIRE & METAL RECYCLING

Saturday, May 21
Afton City Garage
1675 Stagecoach Trail
9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

CITY MEETINGS

May 2, 2016

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

May 17, 2016

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

May 18, 2016

Heritage Preservation Commission
5:00 P.M.

May 18, 2016

Natural Resources & Groundwater
6:30 P.M.

*All meetings are held at City Hall
unless otherwise noted.*

CITY COUNCIL

<u>Mayor:</u>	Richard Bend	436-7684
<u>Ward 1:</u>	Bill Palmquist	308-0569
<u>Ward 2:</u>	Joe Richter	436-1819
<u>Ward 3:</u>	Stan Ross	436-1346
<u>Ward 4:</u>	Randy Nelson	436-2479

CITY HALL

Monday — Friday
9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
651 - 436 - 5090

CITY WEBSITE

www.ci.afton.mn.us

BRUSH PIT — NOW OPEN

(1st Saturday of month—check website)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Animal Control	715-386-7789
Building Inspector	436-6469
Burning Permits	248-5103
Environmental Center	430-6655
Highland Sanitation	458-0043
Hillcrest Animal Hosp	484-7211
LSCV Fire Dept	436-7033
Sheriff's Office	439-9381

EMERGENCY 911

Notes from the Mayor

by Richard Bend

Coffee with the Mayor

In the last two weeks I have been pleased to get an increased number of calls about various City matters. In 2014 I held several coffees expecting the sorts of conversations I have recently been having with residents. Only one or two people came to each of the meetings. I am hopeful that the number of calls I have been receiving lately indicates that I can now entice more residents to share criticisms of, ideas about and visions for Afton. I have therefore scheduled two dates for "Coffee with the Mayor" on Saturday, May 14 at 2:00 pm at the Current, 3291 St. Croix Trail and on Friday, June 3 at 2:00 pm at The Lumberyard Pub, 3121 St. Croix Trail, both in Afton's Historic Village. Please come with your ideas, questions and comments about Afton to this opportunity for an in-depth, interactive discussion with the mayor.

Notice of matters on the Planning Commission and City Council agendas

During recent Council meetings and conversations with residents, a few people have complained that they were unaware of matters coming before the Planning Commission and City Council. The City of course complies with all state and local notice requirements. In addition, the City, its staff and elected officials try to give more notice than required whenever widespread interest in a matter can be expected. As a consequence, using the recent application for a mosque in Afton as an example, staff and officials provided extensive information to the media which resulted in advance TV coverage and articles in the Star Tribune, Woodbury Bulletin and Pioneer Press about Afton's receipt of an application to build a mosque.

Despite the official notices and coverage in the press, it remains the fact that some residents have not known about some matter or would have liked to have known sooner. The answer rests in the hands of residents. If you are concerned about your Afton, check the City's website for pending matters. Make it a habit to calendar the repeating regular dates for the City Council and Planning Commission meetings, check the city website calendar for special meetings and check the meeting agendas and packets for upcoming issues. To ensure that you know where to look for official notice requirements, you may access the MN State Statutes at <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=13d.04>.

Modification of Afton's firearms ordinance

Last month I provided information about Afton and the state and local controls regarding hunting in Afton. In doing background research for that note, I checked state statutes and discovered that our ordinance regulating carrying firearms on another's property was in conflict with a recently adopted state statute restricting municipalities in regulating the discharge of firearms. At the April City Council meeting the Council therefore amended Afton's ordinance. It now requires that written permission from the landowner or tenant to discharge a firearm be carried when an individual is on another's land, rather than having written permission to carry a firearm. Please amend your practice in giving permission to hunters to accommodate this change. This will be helpful to the Sheriff's office on those occasions when they are called upon to enforce Afton's ordinance.



METAL & TIRE RECYCLING DAY

The City has already received several calls about the popular Metal and Tire Recycling Day. It is scheduled:

Saturday, May 2 — at the City Garage
1675 Stagecoach Trail — 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Last year Afton residents brought so much metal to this recycling day that we ran out of space. So this year we are planning to have two containers. So get ready with your metal and tires...Here are some regulations for recyclable items:

- ▶ **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.

This opportunity to recycle tires and metal is one of the City's recycling projects and requires us to report "measurements" in order to receive the \$7,210 in grant funding from Washington County. Staff will be counting the number of cars, the number of tires recycled (for pick up by Mosquito Control), and we'll receive a weight ticket from the recycler for all that metal. **Please be patient and cooperate with staff by following their direction in lining up and unloading your metal items and tires. We are very excited by residents' interest in making this event the most successful year yet!!!**

Planning Commission, April 4

- **Elected Officers** for 2016: Chair-Barbara Ronningen; Vice Chair-Scott Patten; Secretary-Kris Kopitzke.
- **Held a Public Hearing** for the Islamic Society of Woodbury/East Metro application for a Conditional Use Permit for a place of worship at 12585 Hudson Road. The property is located in a Rural Residential zoning district, in which places of worship are allowed uses. The proposed building will be located in the north-central portion of the site, with parking to the west and north of the building. The southern portion of the property will be rented for growing crops; it will continue as an agricultural use. The applicant indicated the site will be used primarily for worship services on Fridays (approximately 200 people); for weekend school, primarily for school age children, on Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.(100 students and teachers); and for social events on weekend evenings (150 to 200 people). The proposed building design includes two minaret-type elements which meet the height allowance for church spires. There will be no loud speakers on the minarets or the exterior of the building. Review of the application showed it meets the City's requirements. Several members of the public made comments.
- **Recommended** approval to the City Council for the Islamic Society of Woodbury/East Metro application for a Conditional Use Permit for a Place of Worship at 12585 Hudson Road, with conditions.
- **Voiced** support for the change from neighborhood commercial to medium density residential for the City of Woodbury Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Stonemill Farms 16th, Project No. 24-2016-00201.
- **Discussed** the Comprehensive Plan Update Process. Indicated that after gathering data and having initial discussions at the May 2016 PC meeting, a joint PC/CC work session should be planned.

City Council Meeting, April 19

- **Heard** public input from several persons regarding the Conditional Use Permit application for an Islamic Center for worship on Hudson Road.
- **Approved** the Conditional Use Permit for an Islamic Center for worship at 12585 Hudson Road with conditions.
- **Heard** a report by the City Engineer on the progress of the archeological studies, the legislation session items being considered and how they might affect project funding, and Washington County's construction timeline for County Road 21.
- **Approved** additional speed enforcement efforts again this spring and summer.
- **Adopted** an amendment to Sec. 14-1, Use of Firearms in the City.
- **Heard** a presentation by Stan Ross, President of the Afton Historical Society on a proposal for maintenance and restoration of Mount Hope Cemetery.
- **Approved** an agreement with the Afton Historical Society for the maintenance and restoration of Mount Hope Cemetery for an annual cost to the city of \$9,000.
- **Received** a model ordinance in the Supplemental Packet regulating the use and maintenance of City-owned cemeteries. Action was tabled until the May meeting.
- **Appointed** Natural Resources & Groundwater Committee member Annie Perkins to the Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization.
- **Appointed** five more volunteers to the Afton Branding Committee, with Council Member Stan Ross acting as liaison: Julia Welter, Raenette Manderfeld-Pung, Darcy Gaspar, Dan Jarvis and Laurel Ross join previously appointed Lucy McAllister, Jeff Brower and Scott Patten.
- **Approved** the hiring of the 2015 seasonal maintenance worker, Todd O'Leary to return for the 2016 season.

MEETING PACKETS AND APPROVED MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE CITY WEBSITE: www.ci.afton.mn.us.

Downtown Improvement Projects Update

- The Phase II investigation of the Mound site is nearly complete, and no tribal artifacts or burial sites have been found. The findings and recommendations of the Phase II investigation will be provided to tribal representatives and the State Historic Preservation Office in a follow-up consultation with them in May.
- Subject to the outcome of the consultation meeting, and based on the timing of the bidding process, the earliest construction could begin would be in August, 2016. The City is currently working with Washington County to review the construction staging plans to determine the project elements that would be constructed in 2016.
- Additional information regarding construction timing and staging will be provided in the June City Newsletter.

Attend a **FREE** landscaping workshop

The East Metro Water Resource Education Program in partnership with Master Gardeners in Washington County invites you to attend a spring landscaping workshop.

Urban Landscape Workshop

Wednesday, May 4, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Vanelli's by the Lake
55 Lake St. S., Forest Lake

Rural Landscape Workshop

Tuesday, May 10, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Carpenter Nature Ctr
12805 St. Croix Trail S., Hastings

Register at: <http://tinyurl.com/2016LandscapeWorkshops>





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



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Valley Branch Library May Events

Preschool Storytime

Mondays, May 2, 9, 16 & 23, 10:30 a.m.
Pre-K & caregivers. Stories, songs and fingerplays help develop literacy skills.



MadLab: Design Your Own Monster!

Wednesday, May 4, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

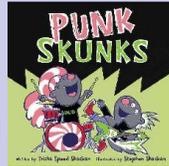
He's alive! Design and create your own monster stuffed animal. Draw with dye transfer crayons and make your drawing into 3D by sewing, stuffing, and embellishing with many kinds of fibers. For kids ages 5-12. Register at the library or call 651-436-5882.



Rockin' Out

Friday, May 6, from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Celebrate Children's Book Week with author/illustrator team Trisha Speed Shaskan and Stephen Shaskan reading their new book "Punk Skunks" and do some rockin' out to fun music! Funded by the Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



STEAM Storytime

Monday, May 23, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Stories, songs, rhymes and special activities incorporating science, technology, engineering, art, and math. A different theme each month; focus is on having fun while learning.



Dog Gone Reading — MEET Legacy & READ!

Tuesday, May 24, from 4 to 6 p.m.

K-7th graders "bone up on reading" again!! Certified therapy dog, Legacy, and its owner are ready for YOU! Sign up for 15-minute reading sessions at the library or call 651-436-5882.



Valley Library Book Club

Thursday, May 26, from 5 to 6 p.m.

The book this month is "A Thread of Grace" by Mary Doria Russell. Read the book, come, and discuss. Open to all.



PATRON
AFTON, MN 55001

View this newsletter
IN COLOR
on the city website.

 Please recycle this
newsletter after use.

Afton Historical Museum

Tuesday, May 10th at 7:00 PM



The Afton Museum and Holler Productions are excited to co-host a discussion with Afton resident

Robin McDowell, winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize.

Robin has been a journalist with the Associated Press for 20 years mostly in Southeast Asia. Her award winning "Seafood from Slaves" series written and reported with three colleagues, resulted in the freeing of more than 2,000 fishing slaves in Indonesia. It also led to dozens of arrests, the seizure of assets worth millions of dollars, and changes in U.S. federal legislation.

During her time in this region, Robin's work focused on important human rights and social injustice issues. She was Bureau Chief in Indonesia, reporting on everything from tsunamis to terrorist attacks. Her reports from Cambodia and Myanmar highlighted the difficulties young democracies face after emerging from military rule, civil strife and horrific human rights abuses. She started a newspaper in Cambodia and has also worked in Thailand.

Seating for the presentation is limited and offered 'first come, first served' with regrets when filled. There will be a \$10 per person fee at the door for the event. Discussion will continue at the Lumberyard Pub afterwards (approximately 8:00 pm) & all are welcome. It will be videotaped and available on Valley Access Cable at a later date.

Holler Productions is an Afton experiment providing interesting conversations around people with a story, and plans to provide video content for Valley Access Cable and on YouTube.