



MAY 2017

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

Shop Local ~ With construction underway, local businesses need our support!

It is an exciting time in the Old Village, Afton's only commercial district. This spring and summer we are making crucial investments to protect water quality and help our historic district remain a vital destination for residents and tourists alike. But, with construction comes road closures and extra challenges for our local businesses. Facing the inevitable downturn in business that construction brings, our local businesses need our support now more than ever. I hope you will join me in making a special effort this summer to shop local.

With spring in the air, we are fortunate to have our own garden shop right here in town. We also have several great restaurants for lunch, dinner, or happy hour. How about ice cream and a stroll through one of our shops? Or getting pampered at the salon? I think you get the idea.

So this summer, come on down and see how the construction is progressing. And stick around for a while. I hope to see you around town.
-Bill Palmquist

METAL & TIRE RECYCLING DAY

Mark your calendars ~ Metal and Tire Recycling Day. It is scheduled for Saturday, May 20th at the City Garage, 1675 Stagecoach Trail. 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- 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.

PUBLIC INVITED TO CELEBRATE 150TH

ANNIVERSARY OF WASHINGTON CTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE - JUNE 3



Washington County invites the public to a celebration of 150 years since the groundbreaking of the county's Historic Courthouse, 100th anniversary of the Soldiers and Sailors Civil War Monument, and special dedication of its 2017 Time Capsule.

The 150th Anniversary Celebration will be 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 3, at the Historic Courthouse, 101 W. Pine St. in Stillwater. There will be a time capsule ceremony, live music, carriage rides, Civil War reenactors, \$1 hot dogs, old-fashioned candy, picnicking on the lawn and a Civil War exhibit grand opening. The public is invited to enjoy a picnic on the Washington County Historic Courthouse lawn.

During the event, the 150th Anniversary Time Capsule will be dedicated with items representing Washington County. The items in the Time Capsule will give future generations a glimpse of what life is like in Washington County. The information will represent Washington County in 2017 and ensure a legacy for years to come.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Steve Hart at 651-430-8243 or email steven.hart@co.washington.mn.us.

CITY MEETINGS

May 1, 2017

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

May 2, 2017

Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee
6:30

May 17, 2017

Heritage Preservation Commission
5:00 P.M.

May 16, 2017

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

May 31, 2017

Parks Committee
(Will be cancelled if no agenda items.)
6:00 P.M.

All meetings are held at City Hall unless otherwise noted.

CITY COUNCIL

- Mayor: Richard Bend 436-7727
- Ward 1: Bill Palmquist 308-0569
- Ward 2: Joe Richter 436-1819
- Ward 3: Stan Ross 436-1346
- Ward 4: 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

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 Dept 439-9381

EMERGENCY 911

A Letter from the Mayor ~

At Afton's assessment hearing on April 26th, where the Council unanimously approved the assessment roll, I was approached by a wonderful new resident who had visited Afton as a child and met her husband in the Old Village. She and her husband love Afton so much for its quiet charm and peaceful environment that they bought their house here. Interestingly, she then commented that her friends who are real estate brokers say never buy property in Afton because of its reputation... Oh? Really? I asked how she liked Woodbury and she commented "it's too crowded". Of course Afton isn't for everyone, certainly not for those who want to buy, subdivide and not live here. It is for those who want to buy a large parcel close to the City for its silvan charm, to keep horses or to watch wildlife. For these people and those of us who live here for those reasons, it has a wonderful reputation!

OPEN Planning Commission Seat — Applications on the city website or at City Hall

The Planning Commission studies and makes recommendations to the City Council concerning land use in the city. They review applications for conditional use permits, rezoning, variances and subdivisions, and hold public hearings as required by state statute.

Members serve 3-year terms and they meet the first Monday of each month, except holidays.

FREE Well water testing for NITRATES --- THIS SPRING

You probably remember that Afton residents were invited last fall to have their drinking water analyzed for nitrates. Thanks to all of you who participated. A report describing what the data show is on the Afton website. However, last fall's testing was only half of our plan. To complete our objectives, we are again inviting residents to avail themselves to another sampling opportunity on June 13 or 20. The reason for testing our groundwater in June is to see what seasonal effects there might be on nitrate concentrations.

This is an excellent opportunity for residents, who participated in last fall's sampling, to compare their October 2016 nitrate concentration with one in June 2017. If you didn't participate last fall, you are still invited to participate in the upcoming June sampling.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Email or phone by May 24, 2017, any one of the four members of the Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee:

Mark Have – markhave@q.com or 651-528-2370;

Keith Hoffmann – keithandjudy@centurylink.net or 651-436-5446

Annie Perkins – st.croixannie@gmail.com;

Susan Winsor – susanwinsor@mac.com

Your name and address are needed so that you can receive in the mail, a sampling kit that consists of a plastic bottle or bag, a sample information form, and sampling instructions. Take your sample on either June 13 or 20, and then bring your fresh sample to City Hall between 7:00 and 9:30 a.m. that day. Volunteers will deliver the samples to Washington County for analysis. Your nitrate result will be sent to you.

HELPFUL SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: It is not required, but it is helpful for future data analysis if you can provide information, including such things as well depth, construction date, casing material, casing diameter, aquifer, and distance from septic and/or drain field. Also, the township section-number in which you live is helpful.

This is a voluntary effort, and resident participation provides Afton with valuable information on the quality of our **invaluable water resource**.

- Afton Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee

April 3, 2017 Planning Commission Meeting Highlights

- The Planning Commission approved the Junker/Naugle minor subdivision for a lot line rearrangement at 1171 Manning Avenue
- The Planning Commission discussed the role of the Commission and training opportunities for the Commissioners
- The Planning Commission recommended rescheduling the July 3 Planning Commission meeting to July 10, due to the July 4 holiday
- The Planning Commission recommended denial of the adoption of Ordinance 02-2017, an ordinance amendment to delete “storage, enclosed or screened principal use” from the list of allowed uses in the IIA and IIB zoning districts, on a vote of 4-3
- The Planning Commission discussed the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan

April 18, 2017 City Council Meeting Highlights

- The Council approved scheduling the annual Tire and Metal Recycling Day on Saturday, May 20.
- The Council approved the layout for the Mn/DOT safety improvement project on Highway 95/Manning Avenue from County Road 18/Bailey Road to 70th Street
- The Council approved the Junker/Naugle application for minor subdivision for a lot line rearrangement at 1171 Manning, and also approved transfer of ownership of the City owned right-of-way adjacent to 1171 Manning with the reservation of a public easement for road and utility purposes
- The Council approved Ordinance 02-2017 eliminating Storage Enclosed and Screened Principal Use as an allowed use in the Industrial zones
- The Council directed staff to meet with the Washington County Economic Development Director to obtain advice about types of uses for the Industrial zones that would fit Afton’s rural character and Industrial zone goals
- The Council awarded a contract for the 2017 Pavement Management Project to Park Construction Company in the amount of \$2,225,894.34
- The Council approved a bond sale in the amount of \$3,500,000 to finance the 2017 Pavement Management Project and additional street improvements
- The Council approved payment request No. 1 to Ellingson, Inc. for the Wastewater Treatment System Project in the amount of \$25,362.63
- The Council approved the expenditure of \$3,850 for the fabrication of a culvert extension to prevent a culvert on Indian Trail from being plugged by beaver activity
- The Council approved a price quote from Tri County for regrading and erosion control on the cartway off Afton Boulevard in the amount of \$5,000
- The Council approved a revision of the regular City meeting schedule to reschedule the July 3 Planning Commission meeting to July 10
- The Council approved pay adjustments for City staff in the amount of 2.5% for 2017
- The Council approved the hiring of two seasonal maintenance workers at the pay rate of \$11.00 per hour
- The Council approved a proposal from Get Connected Tech for a security/surveillance system for the wastewater treatment system site in the amount of \$5,464
- The Council scheduled a work session and a Special Council meeting for Monday, April 24 at 5:00 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. respectively
- The Council approved supporting an application to the County for a driveway access permit from 15991 Upper 34th Street to St. Croix Trail if the driveway can meet all City regulations

Washington County would like to encourage residents to sign up for the electronic newsletter for the downtown project. Afton residents may receive periodic electronic updates on progress on the various construction projects in downtown Afton. Go to the Washington County website at www.co.washington.mn.us, and see the “Notify Me” button on the left. Click that, and then choose “Downtown Afton – St. Croix Trail” and follow the instructions to sign up. Residents will receive weekly updates on the progress of the downtown project. Residents may also follow Washington County transportation projects on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/washingtoncountymntransportation/

- Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Manager, Washington County (651-430-6026)



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



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PERMIT NO. 15

Valley Library calendar of events for May

Valley Branch Library
380 St. Croix Trail South
Lakeland, MN 55043
651-436-5882

**LIBRARY CLOSED MONDAY,
MAY 29, IN OBSERVANCE OF
MEMORIAL DAY**



Featured Events

Pete the Cat Book Party
Monday, May 1, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

We invite you to join us for a special celebration in honor of Children's Book Week. Join everyone's favorite groovy cat for stories, games, and activities that show "It's all good!"

Sing Play Learn With MacPhail: Wheels Make Music
Monday, May 22, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

Join the MacPhail Center for Music's early childhood specialists to explore the magic of music and play! Through hands-on musical play activities, families will experience music's impact on learning and reading readiness. We sing, rhyme, read, move and create! For ages birth to 5 and caregivers. Register online, at the library, or call 651-436-5882.

Valley Library Book Club

Thursday, May 25, from 5 to 5:55 p.m.

The group that gathers will discuss the book "The Flood Girls" by Richard Fifield. Visit Valley Library to pick up a copy of the book. Just read the book, come, and discuss. Open to all.

Children's Events

Family Storytime

Mondays, May 8 & 15, from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Join us for stories, songs, finger plays, and more to encourage the development of early literacy skills. For all children and their families.

STEM Saturday

Saturday, May 20, from 11 a.m. to noon

Explore STEM through hands-on activities and creative projects! Each month the library will have an activity focused on science, technology, engineering, and/or math. Registration not required.



Dog Gone Reading

Tuesday, May 23, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Children in grades K-7 may practice reading aloud to a certified therapy dog and its owner/trainer. Reading sessions are 15 minutes in length. Sign up at Info Desk or call 651-436-5882.

**PATRON
AFTON, MN 55001**

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



*Please recycle this
newsletter after use.*

Saturday, May 20:

Bison Release: 11:00 a.m. open, 12:00 p.m. release.

Not Open Third Saturday. Bison Observation Platform.

Park at Lucy Winton Bell Athletic Fields, 15601 Hudson Road, West Lakeland.

Open to the public.

<http://www.belwin.org/events/219/>

Sunday, May 14:

Mother's Day Bird Hike: 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

In partnership with Tropical Wings. Meet at Belwin Conservancy office, 1553 Stagecoach Trail S. Open to the public. Level of difficulty: Difficult.

<http://www.belwin.org/events/216/>

Protect clean water!

Rain washes anything that's on streets and other paved surfaces down the storm drains and into lakes and rivers.



Leaves and grass
Keep them off sidewalks and streets.



Dirt
Keep soil covered with plants and mulch, especially near sidewalks and driveways.



Dog poop
Pick up after your pet and put it in the trash.



Trash
Seal your trash bags and keep litter out of the street.



Salt
Always shovel before you salt, and remember: it only works when it's above 15 degrees and you only need a little. For colder temperatures, use sand or kitty litter.



Motor oil
Keep your car tuned up so fluids don't leak on the street. Take used motor oil to a neighborhood drop-off site.



adopt-a-drain.org