



MAY 2018

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

“Bringing Home The Gold”



Afton to Celebrate Olympic Gold Medalist Jessie Diggins

Poster making, glitter face painting and commemorative poster signing and ice cream naming included in the lineup of activities.

Afton will welcome hometown hero Jessie Diggins at the Bringing Home the Gold celebration on May 12. We are celebrating Jessie in the same way we would want our own daughter welcomed home,” said Rebecca Nickerson, owner of Selma’s Ice Cream Parlor. The afternoon will be filled with homegrown activities that represent the spirit of the small town of Afton.

Bringing Home the Gold – Jessie Diggins Celebration

**May 12, 2018
Afton Town Square
Noon – 5 pm**

Hosted by: Community of Afton
Comcast

Activities: Cheer Station! Materials will be available to create Jessie Diggins posters. Get your face painted “Glitter” style. Jessie Diggins posters provided for the first 1,000 fans that attend. Welcome her home along main street during a grand entrance. Town Square Park will be filled with music, food & fun as Jessie interacts with fans.

Now until May 10th:

Stop in to Selma’s Parlor and enter your vote to name a specialty flavor being created to honor Jessie Diggins. The winning name will be announced during the programming.



CITY MEETINGS

***City Office Closed May 28 For
Memorial Day***

May 1, 2018

Natural Resources and Groundwater
Committee 5:00 P.M.

May 7, 2018

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

May 15, 2018

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

May 16, 2018

Heritage Preservation Commission
5:00 P.M.

May 23, 2018

Parks Committee
6:00 P.M.

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

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor: Richard Bend 436-7684

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

Mally's Sunshine Kennel 715-246-2467

LSCV Fire Dept 436-7033

Sheriff's Dept 439-9381

EMERGENCY 911

A Letter from the Mayor ~

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (“MPCA”) and the Minnesota Department of Health (“MDH”) did an excellent presentation on PFOA and PFOS contamination of the water table that is effecting some wells in northern Afton. That presentation is now available on the Afton city website by following these tabs: City Government, City Council Meetings, Meeting Videos - CC, 03-28-2018 or directly at <https://vimeo.com/user20503908/review/263913638/e36e83df87>

An interactive map showing areas being sampled by the MPCA can be found at: <http://mpca.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=ff4e56d9b6184ddaa297d1161784a884> My home is just outside the area shown as being sampled. It has just been sampled so the map is very slightly out of date. Both my home and my immediate neighbor’s homes had safe drinking water however a home about a quarter mile from mine required installation of a filtration system by the MDH.

The city council has acted immediately to obtain funding from the 3M settlement to purchase water filtration systems for Afton residents. Additional funding is also being sought to safeguard our drinking water supplies in the future. We will keep you posted on the status of those applications as new information becomes available.

~Richard Bend

Rinta Community Garden

The Rinta Community Garden has several plots still 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 110 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. 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.



County Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Washington County will conduct household hazardous waste collections in county communities during 2018.

Satellite collections bring the services offered at the Washington County Environmental Center closer to residents, making it more convenient and practical for them to recycle and dispose their household hazardous waste and electronics.

Upcoming Events:

- Cottage Grove Public Works Garage
7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 5
8635 W. Point Douglas Road S., Cottage Grove
- Lily Lake Ice Arena
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 19
1208 S. Greeley St. Stillwater

Confidential document shredding will be available at both events.

April Meeting Highlights

April 2, 2018 Planning Commission Meeting

The Commission:

- Held a public hearing for Nicholas Squires variance request at 14641 Afton Blvd. for an accessory building.
- Recommended approval of a variance for Nicholas Squires at 14641 Afton Blvd for an accessory building.
- Reviewed proposed revisions to the Industrial Zone Regulations regarding uses and architectural standards.

April 17, 2018 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- The Council approved the Preliminary Plat for the Afton Creek Preserve Application.
- Approved the Conditional Use Permit for the Afton Creek Preserve Application.
- Approved the City Engineer's proposal to represent the City in the 3M Settlement Working Group process.
- Revised the date for prepayment of downtown village assessments without interest.
- Approved deferral of assessment at 15909 Afton Blvd.
- Proclaimed May 12 "Jessie Diggins Day".
- Approved Afton Historical Museum's Proposal to review property files to identify documents with historic value.
- Accepted the picnic table donation from Sandy Alexander in memory of Richard Balsimo.
- Passed a resolution in support of the "Rediscover Afton Event" scheduled for August 4.

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

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 19, 2018

**Belwin Conservancy presents the 10th Annual Bison Release
FREE and open to everyone!**

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. EcoArt Fest

10:00 a.m. [5K "Run with the Bison" Fun Trail Run](#)

12:00 p.m. Bison Release

Come and welcome a herd of juvenile male bison from [NorthStar Bison](#) to their summer home. This **free community festival** is designed to celebrate the bison's critical role in helping Belwin maintain and improve our restored prairie.

We're excited to announce several **new events** as part of the 10th Annual Bison Release.

A [5K "Run with the Bison" Fun Trail Run](#). Held at 10:00 a.m., prior to the bison release, this family-friendly run is untimed and open to all skill levels. Register now via www.belwin.org. A small registration fee goes to support Belwin's work maintaining the prairies for bison and for you!

An **EcoArt Fest** will run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with artist-led, interactive arts activities for all ages. There will also be performances by [Im-possible Salt](#) and Crow Bellecourt. Visit www.belwin.org or follow us on Facebook (@belwinconservancy) for the most up-to-date list of participating arts organizations and individuals.

Food trucks will be on site offering food and drink for sale. Bison Release festivities will be held rain (or snow!) or shine, so plan accordingly. Bring a chair or picnic blanket. Please consider carpooling!

Bison Release sponsors:

[Pioneer Press/TwinCities.com](#)

[Epic Provisions](#)

[Prairie Restorations, Inc.](#)

Bison Release partners:

[NorthStar Bison](#)

[YMCA of Woodbury](#)

[Western Wisconsin Photo Club](#)

Bison Release volunteers:

[Hyatt Regency Minneapolis](#) and their business

resource groups: [HyPride](#) and [Women@Hyatt](#)

[Boy Scout Troop #817](#)

[Math and Science Academy \(MSA\)](#)

And many other wonderful individuals!

Belwin Outdoor Science Education Center

1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton.

651-436-5189

www.belwin.org

FREE Annual Well Water Testing for Nitrates in June 2018

Afton residents are invited to grab a water sample from their faucet next month and get it tested for nitrate! Last June, 39 residents participated in water testing. We would like to see more widespread participation in order to obtain better coverage throughout the city. This time instead of having a Washington County contract lab analyze for nitrate, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture will be at city hall on **June 20th 2018 from 5:00-8:00 pm** with their nitrate analyzer. This will allow you to get your nitrate result while you wait.

Details on sampling method is as follows:

Obtain a water sample as close as possible to where the water enters into the house and before any water softener. Suggested sites are outside spigots without a hose, and lower basement faucets. Open a cold-water faucet and let it run for about five minutes so that a representative sample from the aquifer can be collected. Rinse a clean plastic or glass bottle at least three times with the sample water and then collect your sample and label with name address and date. Bring your fresh sample to city hall; at least 8 oz is needed for analysis. Volunteers will be at city hall to record names, addresses, and nitrate results.

The Afton Natural Resources and Ground Water Committee





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



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**Valley Library calendar of events
for April 2018**

*Library CLOSED Monday, May 28 for
Memorial Day*

Special Power-Up Storytime

Monday, May 7, 10:30—11:00

Join us for a special Power-Up storytime to celebrate Chomp the carrot's fifth birthday. We will have stories, games, prizes and a chance to have your picture taken with Comp!

Family Storytime

Monday, May 14, 10:30AM—11:00 AM

STEM Saturdays

Saturday, May 19, from 12:30 PM—1:30 PM.
Ages 5-13

Dog Gone Reading with Legacy

Tuesday, May 22 from 3:30—5:30 PM

Full Calendar of Events:
www.washcolib.org

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

**FIRE DEPARTMENT PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**

The Lower St Croix Valley Fire Department's annual spring pancake breakfast fundraiser will be held the first Sunday in May—May 6th, 2018 from 8:00am to Noon. Please stop in and enjoy all you can eat pancakes and visit with the men and women who unselfishly serve our communities. A free will donation would graciously be accepted at the door. Also bring a food item for the local food shelves as well. This is our right of passage to SPRING - I think this year, it is safe to say that we are ALL looking forward to it!

Regards,
Fire Chief Jim Stanley

**PATRON
AFTON, MN 55001**

You may view this newsletter

IN COLOR
on the city website.



*Please recycle this
newsletter after use.*

METAL & TIRE RECYCLING DAY

Mark your calendars ~ Metal and Tire Recycling Day. It is scheduled for **Saturday, June 2nd** 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.

**Downtown Village Property
Owners:**

You will be receiving a letter regarding an extension of the timeline for prepayment of assessments without interest.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT PFC'S AND YOUR WATER?

The video of the public information meeting with the MN Department of Health is posted on the City's website. Click tabs: City Government / City Council / Meeting Videos.

www.ci.afton.mn.us

You also may contact the MN Pollution Control Agency with your questions via email at: pfcinfo.pca@state.mn.us.