



May 2021

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

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

- ◆ The 2021 Road Project will start on May 3rd with a projected completion by the end of June. The city will be sending out letters to neighbors near the road work as a reminder. You can sign up to get email alerts about the road work by sending an email request to Jeff Pearson, Project Manager at JPearson@wsbeng.com or Stan Ross at ward3@ci.afton.mn.us.
- ◆ Washington County will be replacing the culvert under 30th street immediately east of Neal Avenue. 30th street will be closed for 1 day at this location during the project, which is currently scheduled for April 26th.
- ◆ Oakgreen Avenue south of 15th street has several asphalt blowouts from winter damage. These areas will be dug out to allow for substrate and asphalt replacement. Work is scheduled to be done the week of April 26th.
- ◆ A new “hammerhead” street termination will be installed at the south end of Croixview the week of April 26th to provide a turn-around for emergency vehicles, snow plows and trash haulers. This project will have little effect on traffic.
- ◆ The additional speed enforcement patrols have started throughout the City of Afton. A substantial number of tickets have already been issued. Unfortunately, we still have lots of speeding in Afton with some vehicles traveling as much as 30 mph over the posted limit. Please slow down.
- ◆ While you are out walking, if you notice cars or motorcycles obviously speeding or driving recklessly, the Sheriff encourages you to call 911. Your call will be routed to the non-emergency group so the deputies can be alerted and the issue can be logged. If you can get a photo of the vehicle and license plate, all the better.
- ◆ A Conditional Use Permit (CUP) has been approved by the council for a medical supply company located in the Afton Business Park Subdivision located in the south-east quadrant of Hudson Road and Manning Avenue.
- ◆ The final Plat for the three-lot St. Joseph Pines subdivision located at 680 Neal Avenue was approved by the council.
- ◆ A resolution was passed in support of a joint effort between Washington County and Afton to create a safe critter crossing area at the underpass where Valley Creek flows under Co. Rd. 18 just north of the village. The underpass is presently covered with large rip rap which often forces critters to cross over the road and interact with vehicles, which is very dangerous for the wildlife.

- SAR

CITY MEETINGS

**City Office CLOSED May 31
In Observance of Memorial Day**

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.

May 3, 2021

**Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.**

(To be held remotely)

May 18, 2021

**City Council Meeting
7:00 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

**Spring is here and so is planting season!
Please be alert, slow down, and share
the road with farm
equipment.**



Notes from the Mayor

At the April meeting, the council received an update on the final test of the new streaming technology being installed at city hall as well as other health and safety improvements. These enhancements will enable us to move forward with a hybrid model for city meetings where we will have both in-person and remote ways to participate. I believe that well after the pandemic is behind us we will continue to use this format as it allows greater access and ensures everyone can be involved in our local government. The council hopes to be back in person in City Hall soon.

A liquor license was approved for the Lumberyard Pub. The new owners appeared at the meeting and filled us in on their plans for interior expansion and a new menu. They plan to reopen the restaurant May 1. As the weather improves, I hope you will visit them, and all our businesses in the Old Village. Summer is vital to the success of our small businesses, and together we can help them begin to recover from what has been a hard year.

We also approved a conditional use permit for one of the first new businesses to go into the industrial park along Hudson Road. It is a medical supply company that is making a substantial investment in our community. I believe we will see several more applications in the coming months. Although we do not have a large industrial area, and have no plans to change that, seeing that investment and the tax base that comes with it is great and a real positive for our city.

I was saddened to learn last week of the passing of Walter Mondale. Afton has always had a special relationship with the St. Croix River, and Mr. Mondale's work to get the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act passed in 1968 helped to protect and preserve it. He also had a history in our small community before and after he was elected as U.S. Senator and Vice President. He always used to say we will not lose the beauty and the wildness of the river in one fell swoop, rather it could disappear "a nick and a cut at a time." I hope we can all take up a bit of the work he leaves behind to continue the environmental protection issues he championed.

-Bill

National PFAS Research Study to Include Washington County Cities

What is this study about?

- This study focuses on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).
- PFAS are sometimes called forever chemicals because they are human-made compounds that do not easily break down in the environment or human body.
- The purpose of this study is to understand where PFAS are in private well water in the United States. The goal of the study is to create nation-wide models that will make interactive maps that predict where well water is likely to contain PFAS.
- The study is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- This is a 3-year study.
- In year 1, a citizen science campaign will be conducted to test private wells in four communities in the United States. Three of these communities, including Washington County, Minnesota, have documented exposure to PFAS.
- In years 2 and 3, the results of private well tests will be used to make national maps that predict where PFAS are.
- In year 3, informational tools will be designed to help citizens and public health agencies in areas affected by PFAS.

The study involves free, innovative PFAS water testing for private well owners

Are you a private well owner in Afton? You may be eligible for a free, innovative water test for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Researchers from Indiana University and RTI International, a non-profit research organization, seek private well owners to join their grant-funded research study. The purpose of the study is to understand where PFAS are in well water in the United States. Participants will receive a free, mail-out test kit along with instructions on how to collect water samples for an expanded set of PFAS contaminants. After sample collection, participants will use a prepaid mailing label to return the test kit to RTI's Laboratory in Durham, NC. Participants will receive contaminant results in a clear manner. Later this spring, researchers may mail study information to you, but you may still be eligible even if you do not receive mailed materials.

To learn more, please visit our website at www.cleanwaterforUSkids.org/foreverchemicals or call +1-855-997-3184.

Meeting Highlights

April 5, 2021 Planning Commission Meeting

The Commission:

- Held a public hearing for a Conditional Use Permit for a medical supply building at Lot 3 of the Afton Business Park Subdivision at Hudson Road and Manning Avenue.
- Reviewed landscape buffer requirements in the Industrial Zone.

April 20, 2021 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- Extended the declaration of local emergency.
- Approved the Conditional Use Permit application for a medical supply industrial building at Lot 3 of the Afton Business Park.
- Reviewed landscape buffer requirements in the Industrial Zone.
- Approved the Final Plat and Developer's Agreement for the three-lot St. Joseph Pines Subdivision at 680 Neal.
- Approved the 2021 liquor license for the Lumberyard Pub.
- Approved a resolution supporting a safe critter crossing at Co. Rd 18 and Valley Creek.
- Approved the replenishment of safety wood chips for the Town Square Park play equipment area.

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

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>

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Early Morning Bird Hike
 7:30 a.m.—9:30 a.m.

In partnership with Saint Paul Public Schools Community Education, take an early morning bird hike at Belwin's Education Center. Find details and register online at <https://stpaul.ce.eleyo.com/course/11365/spring-2021-adult/early-morning-bird-hike>

Saturday, May 15, 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.

Thursday, May 27, 2021

Spring Blood Drive
 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Are you looking for a way to help our community? Donate blood! We're hosting a Blood Drive at Belwin's Education Center on Thursday, May 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. To locate Belwin's event and sign up, use the Blood Drive search, enter Belwin's ZIP code (55001) and select your preferred time and donation type (Blood or Power Red).

Saturday, May 29, 2021

Summer Saturdays at the Education Center
 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Memorial Day Weekend – Labor Day Weekend Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Venture through woodland, prairie and wetlands on 4 miles of trails at the Belwin Education Center. Face masks are required to enter the building, which will be open for check in, directions and restrooms.

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



PRSR STD
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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.

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) 302-2219
- 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

METAL & TIRE RECYCLING DAY

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.

