



JUNE 2018

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

FREE Annual Well Water Testing for Nitrates

Afton residents are invited to grab a water sample from their faucet this 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 **Wednesday, June 20th, 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 are 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

QUESTIONS ABOUT PFC's?

As noted in the May newsletter, the video of the public information meeting held on March 28th with the MN Dept of Health is posted on the City's website - www.ci.afton.mn.us. Click tabs: City Government/City Council/Meeting Videos.

If you have questions, you may email virginia.yingling@state.mn.us at the MN Dept of Health or call 651-201-4930.

Another information source is the MN Pollution Control Agency. Their email is pfcinfo.pca@state.mn.us or call 651-757-2686.

JOIN THE AFTON 4th of JULY PARADE SCHOONER BAND—2018!

Afton area musicians are invited to help celebrate the 242nd birthday of our nation with the Afton 4th of July Schooner Band at 12:30 noon. Ride along on the wagon and play Sousa type marches with our flags waving.

Rehearsals are scheduled at 7 pm at the Afton Historical Museum in downtown Afton, 3165 St. Croix Trail S. Thursday and Saturday June 28, 30; and Monday, July 2. Attend one or more, check out your music early if desired.

For further information or to sign up, contact band organizer Lucy McAllister: Email: lucymcallister5@gmail.com Or phone and leave a message at 651-436-5150.

See www.aftonparade.com for more information.

CITY MEETINGS

June 4, 2018

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

June 5, 2018

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

June 19, 2018

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

June 20, 2018

Heritage Preservation Commission
5:00 P.M.

June 27, 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 ~

This is a month of lists: accomplishments and checklist items to be completed.

DSL Project: Speeds throughout most of Afton are now available at 10 MB down and 1 MG with the exception of a portion of Valley Creek. We are in negotiations with Century Link to resolve their current refusal to provide the contractually stated coverage in that area at the guaranteed total contract price.

Old Village project: The Old Village improvement project is substantially complete with many residences connected to the flawlessly functioning treatment facility. The automatic pumping station has been draining the land side of the levy during the spring rise of the St. Croix and also preventing surface water buildup on the land side of the levy during recent heavy rains. Old Village roads are completed with the exception of final lifts on streets that will carry the equipment necessary to install the stop-log opening in the levy which can't be completed until the river drops further. Also remaining is some right of way work, landscaping and a few punch list items.

2017 road paving project: This project has provided smooth roads throughout Afton. A detailed inventory and infrastructure maintenance plan is now in place insuring reduced, predictable and timely road and bridge maintenance costs if followed by future councils.

New city garage: The garage is now built and in use, along with the Sherriff's department annex, the whole building having been constructed as a joint project between the City of Afton and Washington County. Only painting and minor interior work remains to be done.

City financing: Afton's bonding costs have been reduced through refinancing and low interest state agency funding of the old village project at what appears to have been near the bottom of the interest rate cycle. Provided future city council's refrain from excess spending and stick to the new long-term public infrastructure plan, Afton is on a path to being debt-free and operating on a pay-as-you-go basis in 9 years.

Paperless Office: Scanning of city's paper files is progressing rapidly and staff now has functioning software to mine the received digital files efficiently for records.

While a list of the past achievements is gratifying, the work is never done, the present is where we live and insure continuous efficiency we must plan for future accomplishments. The council is currently working on 2018 Goals. My thanks to Staff, the Council, our vendors and residents for supporting our city. It has enabled the city to make significant progress in safeguarding our environment, providing residents more efficient infrastructure and beautifying the city.

Richard

Brush Pit Information

Aggregate Industries—Lakeland Plant, located west of The Bungalow across St. Croix Trail.

The Brush Day Schedule for the 2018 Season at Lakeland is as follows:

- April 28th
- May 19th
- June 16th
- July 21st
- August 18th
- September 15th

DUE TO SCHEDULING, THE DATES HAVE CHANGED TO THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH.

HOURS OF DUMPING ARE: 8 am - 10:50 am (THE GATE WILL BE SHUT AND LOCKED AT 11 AM).

Aggregate Industries only accepts brush.

Those who bring brush onto the site will need to stay in their vehicles, except when dumping at the designated dump site.

Valley Branch Watershed District partners with local homeowners to protect Kelle's Creek

Money is still available for homeowners within the Kelle's Creek sub-watershed as part of the Kelle's Creek Septic System Cost-Share Program. Contact the VBWD for more information at : www.vbwd.org.

Want to get involved in city decisions?

The Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC) is in need of additional members. The NRGC focuses on issues of environmental stewardship. Committee members attend area and regional meetings, particularly concerning the quality and quantity of water and other resources important to Afton. These issues are brought back to City Council with recommendations on actions. The Committee meets the first Tuesday of every month. **Applications are available on the city website or at City Hall.**

May Meeting Highlights

May 7, 2018 Planning Commission Meeting

The Commission:

- Recommended approval of the variance for Tom Hinz at 4787 Manning Ave to relocate the driveway.
- Recommended approval of the Ray Pruban minor subdivision application at 2158 Oakgreen.
- Reviewed proposed revisions to the Industrial Zone Regulations regarding uses and architectural standards.

May 15, 2018 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- Approved an extension of an interim ordinance placing a temporary moratorium on zoning applications for certain use classification in the city.
- Approved Nicholas Squires Variance Application at 14641 Afton Blvd.
- Approved Tom Hinz's Variance Application at 4787 Manning Ave.
- Approved Ray Pruban's Minor Subdivision Application at 2158 Oakgreen Ave.
- Approved additional speed/noise patrol during the summer months
- Approved seasonal staff hires

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

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Wednesday, June 6th, 2018

Frog Walk; 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Free for Belwin members, fee for non-members

Saturday, June 16th, 2018

Early Morning Bird Hike; 7:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m.

Free for Belwin members, fee for non-members.

Open Third Saturday; 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Free & open to everyone.

Bison Buggy Rides for Members; 1:00—2:30 p.m.

Members Only

Tuesday, June 19

Sunset Prairie Hike; 6:30 pm.—8:30 p.m.

Free & open to everyone.

For Information & To RSVP for events:

Belwin Conservancy
 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton.
 651-436-5189

www.belwin.org

Veterans Memorial Committee seeks Afton members

Did you know Lake St. Croix Beach has a Veterans Memorial Park? It includes the cities of Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, St. Mary's Point and Afton. It's located at 1919 Quebec Ave., the site of the old LSCB City Hall. The purpose of the memorial is to provide a place of remembrance and reflection to honor all of those who have served or are serving our country in the military.

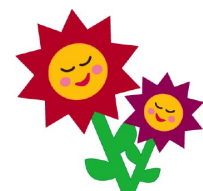
This memorial is supported through nonprofit donations. The four cities recently formed a Veterans Memorial Advisory Committee to oversee the memorial park and make suggestions for its betterment. If you are interested in serving on the committee or would like to make a donation contact: Terry Hirte 651-470-6349 or Blastin@comcast.net.

Downtown Village Improvement Project Update

Final repair and clean-up items for the project are being completed. The sod in the boulevards that did not survive the winter will be replaced with either sod or seed with hydromulch. The construction of the opening in the levee, and the related stoplog structure, at the end of 33rd Street will begin as soon as the river level drops below the level of excavation required for the foundation of the stoplog structure, which should occur in the next week or two. The final lift of pavement on 33rd Street and 32nd Street east of St. Croix Trail will be completed after the stoplog structure is constructed, to avoid the new pavement being damaged by the stoplog construction equipment that needs to use 33rd Street.

New Date for Downtown Village Project Assessment Prepayment Without Interest

The City Council has approved a new deadline date for prepayment of assessments related to the Downtown Village Project. The new prepayment date is July 1, 2018. The property owners who were assessed for the Downtown Village Project will be receiving a letter with information regarding the new date and the process for making the prepayment.





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



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

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

Family Storytime

Mondays: June 4 & 11, 10:30AM—11:00 AM

St. Croix Valley History with Don Jones

Thursday, June 7, 6:00 pm—7:00 pm

Summer Kick-Off RAD Zoo

Saturday, June 9, 2018

Be a 4-H Scientist : Polymers

Wednesday, June 13, 3:00—4:00 PM

DIY Day: Button Making

Friday, June 15, all day

Froggy Book Party

Monday, June 18, 10:30—11:30 AM

Mixed Nuts! Kids Comedy

Wednesday, June 20, 4:00—5:00 PM

Valley Book Club

Thursday, June 21, 5:00—6:00 PM

STEAM Storytime: Dino Dig

Monday, June 25 10:30—11:30 AM

Storytime with the Midnight Ball Princess

Tuesday, June 26, 4:00—5:00 PM

Dog Gone Reading with Legacy

Tuesday, June 26 from 3:30—5:30 PM

Teen Spa-tacular!

Friday, June 29 2:00—3:00 PM

Full Calendar of Events:
www.washcolib.org

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

**PATRON
AFTON, MN 55001**

You may view this newsletter

IN COLOR
on the city website.



*Please recycle this
newsletter after use.*

Sophia's Law - Carbon Monoxide Law for Boaters (Sophia's Law takes effect May 1, 2018)

Sophia's Law is named for seven-year-old Sophia Baechler, who died from carbon monoxide poisoning while boating on Lake Minnetonka. Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas that can be toxic even in very small quantities since its effects are cumulative over time. Whether inside, outside, underway or anchored, passengers of many types of boats with a motor can quickly become victims of CO poisoning. A quick inspection every time you operate your boat can save a life, carbon monoxide poisonings are preventable.

Motorboats, regardless of fuel type, with an enclosed accommodation compartment must be equipped with a functioning marine CO detector system installed according to the manufacturer's instructions. Per the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) standard A-24<<http://abycinc.org/?page=standards>> Carbon Monoxide Detection Systems, July 2015, detectors must be located to monitor the atmosphere in the main cabin and each sleeping area. Carbon monoxide detectors manufactured prior to 2012 should be replaced. All gasoline-powered motorboats with any enclosed occupancy compartment must display three CO poisoning warning stickers as directed by law. These updates must be complete by May 1, 2018 for lawful operation. Three carbon monoxide warning stickers and an informational brochure have been mailed to MN registered boats 19 feet and greater. Minnesota is the first state to require CO detectors in motorboats. Together we can lead our nation in reducing CO poisoning accidents while boating.

St Croix River No-Wake History

In 1986 the St. Croix high water no-wake rules were implemented to apply to the 52 mile river stretch from the dam at Taylor's Falls to Prescott. The measures were put in place to help protect boaters from flood related hazards such as floating debris and river currents. They also help minimize damage to shorelines, levees, and islands which are more vulnerable to damage from wakes during high water events. The rule requires that watercraft operate at slow, no-wake speeds, river wide, once the river reaches 683.0 feet MSL (Mean Sea Level) as measured at the gauge at Stillwater. Failure to comply may result in a citation from law enforcement patrols on the water. Once the river levels drop below 683.0 feet, the restrictions are lifted but boaters are always cautioned that there continues to be hazards and shoreline erosion potential.

Have a fun and SAFE boating season!

Fire Chief Jim Stanley
Lower St Croix Valley Fire Department

**METAL & TIRE RECYCLING
DAY**

Metal and Tire Recycling Day is scheduled for **Saturday, June 2nd** at the City Garage, 1675 Stagecoach Trail. **9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**