



**June 2022**

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

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

**4th of July Parade**

After a two year shut down due to the Covid pandemic, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade is back and better than ever.

- ◆ The start time for the parade has changed to 1:00.
- ◆ Volunteers are needed. If you would like to volunteer to help please send an email to [info@aftonparade.com](mailto:info@aftonparade.com).
- ◆ New this year – all parade participants will need to pre-register using the signup form at <http://aftonparade.com/>. Go to the “Parade Application” page and fill out and submit the form. Please read the important Parade Rules.

**Public Works**

- ◆ Major road patching will take place on Oakgreen Avenue south of 15<sup>th</sup> street and on 50<sup>th</sup> Street west of Neal to repair asphalt damage that occurred over the winter. These repairs should be completed by the first week of June.
- ◆ The Valley Creek Trail bridge and culvert replacement projects are scheduled for mid to late June. Valley Creek Trail will be closed for a few days during this work.
- ◆ Reminder – If you are having driveway work done, you are required to obtain a “small project permit” at City Hall. The cost is \$25.00. This alerts Public Works to monitor the project for damage to our roads. Road repair is the number one cost for the city.

**Speed Patrols and Noise**

- ◆ You will be seeing more Deputies on Afton’s roads on the weekends, as additional speed patrols start on Memorial Weekend and run until late fall. This has been a very successful program to reduce the level of speeding in Afton. Please respect your neighbors and slow down and keep a lookout for bicyclers and pedestrians.
- ◆ The city is working with the sheriff’s department and our attorneys to find solutions to reduce the level of noise from vehicles throughout the city.

-SAR



**CITY MEETINGS**

**June 6, 2022**

Planning Commission Meeting  
6:30 P.M. (In-Person)

**June 21, 2022**

City Council Meeting  
7:00 P.M. (In-Person)

**June 22, 2022**

Parks Committee Meeting  
6:00 P.M. (In-Person)

**June 27, 2022**

Planning Commission Meeting  
6:30 P.M. (In-Person)

Public Participation Via Zoom Will Continue to be Available for City Council and Planning Commission Meetings.

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](http://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**

## Notes from the Mayor

A few interesting things have happened in Afton over the past month. There has been significant interest in some of the available properties in the Old Village that have been vacant for many years. Offers have been accepted, but sales are still pending, on the Lerk's property and the vacant house at the southwest quadrant of 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and St. Croix Trail, along with the property to its west. The city has met with or spoken to several of the potential new owners and it is my hope that exciting times are ahead in our commercial district. These recent developments are in addition to the good news we have already had over the last year. Both the Lumberyard Pub and Horta Culture (formerly Squire House) have reopened with new investments, and other owners are continuing to work on plans and improvements to their property. Now that we have hopefully moved past the challenges and uncertainties of Covid-19, I think the next few years will see welcome changes and new energy in our historic village.

The city has had several meetings on planned expansion of high speed internet options by two companies. We will provide more information on what may come of that as we know more. But we should have improvements coming in the near future for areas not getting the speeds needed for work and school.

I want to thank Washington County for providing funding to replace our trash cans in the parks with new combined trash and recycling containers. They are good looking and functional and will be a nice enhancement to the parks. This will also allow us to use our existing containers in other areas where we have a need.

Former Planning Commission chair Barbara Ronningen stepped aside from the 3M Settlement Working Group on the PFAS issue last month. The group completed its work on the east metro area drinking water supply plan and will now shift its focus to environmental impacts. I want to thank Barbara for the years of work she has invested in this process representing Afton and all the areas impacted by the PFAS pollution. She was an excellent representative and advocate for our community and brought knowledge and experience to the process which was invaluable.

Lastly, I want to thank Sheriff Starry and his staff for making the time to come to Afton and sit down with the Council to discuss the ongoing issues we have with vehicle speed and noise. We met for over an hour to find ways we can work together to deal with these and other issues we are facing. We have a great partnership with our County Sheriff and I look forward to continuing to build our relationship going forward.

-Bill



### Afton Strawberry Festival

**Sat. June 25, 2022 – 10am – 5pm**  
**Sun. June 26, 2022 – 11am – 4pm**

**Fresh, locally grown strawberries!**  
**Live music Saturday and Sunday**

Local artisans bringing their handmade goods, business expo, food & live music. Activities for everyone!

Visit [exploreafton.com](https://exploreafton.com) for more information

## Meeting Highlights

### May 2, 2022 Planning Commission Meeting

#### The Commission:

- Received a presentation on ground water protection from the Washington Conservation District.
- Held a public hearing for a Variance application for a new house on River Road.
- Held a public hearing for a request for an amendment to a Resolution approving a subdivision at 120 and 502 Stagecoach Trail.
- Held a public hearing for an Ordinance Amendment to clarify the timeline for implementation of a variance.

### May 17, 2022 City Council Meeting

#### The Council:

- Approved an Amendment to a Resolution approving a subdivision at 120 and 502 Stagecoach Trail.
- Approved an Ordinance Amendment to clarify the timeline for implementation of a variance.
- Received an update on the RFP process for legal services.
- Held a closed session to discuss pending litigation.

MEETING PACKETS, VIDEOS AND APPROVED MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE AT:  
[www.ci.afton.mn.us](http://www.ci.afton.mn.us)

## Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

### Women Walking

Friday, June 17 and Saturday, June 18

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Belwin Savanna Center, 795 Indian Trail Afton, MN 55001

\$20

Come and help us celebrate the seasonal changes in the natural world. Vernal Equinox, Summer Solstice, Autumnal Equinox, Winter Solstice, each brings us to a new season, a new place in our annual trip around the sun. We will gather together indoors to share easy, yogic centering exercises and a brief conversation about our theme. We will then move out to the woods and prairies for walking meditations and experiences in the natural world. We will end our time together with light refreshments around the fire. Wear comfortable layers and be prepared for any weather. Led by Lynette Anderson. Open to women over the age of 16. Max of 20 attendees.

**Belwin Conservancy**  
**1553 Stagecoach Trail South**  
**Afton MN 55001**  
**651-436-5189**  
[www.belwin.org](http://www.belwin.org)

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 typically meets once per month, and the committee is discussing a new meeting time.

**Applications are available on the city website or at City Hall.**

## Afton 4th of July Parade

The Parade is back for 2022!

Start time 1:00

Food—Drinks—Music—Trolley Rides

Afton Main Street

Find information at: <http://aftonparade.com/>



# We are here to help.

The WellSpring Project helps people in Washington County, Minnesota be more healthy and resilient at every stage of life.

The WellSpring Project aims to build mental health resilience in Washington County. You can get resources and find ways to be resilient in your life and within your community. Learn more at [WellSpringProjectWC.com](http://WellSpringProjectWC.com)



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

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### **Valley Library**

#### **Rediscover Valley Library**

Valley Library is open! If you haven't been to the library in a while, now is a great time to stop by Lakeland Village (384 St Croix Trail S, Lakeland) to browse new materials, use a computer or meeting room, and participate in free library programs for all ages.

Check the library website for information on reading activities, library programs, and current hours.

#### **Valley Branch Library**

384 St Croix Trail S  
Lakeland, MN 55043  
651-436-5882  
[www.washcolib.org](http://www.washcolib.org)

**PATRON  
AFTON, MN 55001**

**Online payments** are now available for Building Permits and Sewer Payments.

[www.ci.afton.mn.us](http://www.ci.afton.mn.us)

You may view this newsletter

**INCOLOR**  
on the city website.



*Please recycle this  
newsletter after use.*

### **Brush & Yard Waste**

**Aggregate Industries has CLOSED the  
Brush Pit.**

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
- Local tree service companies may pick up brush from your residence for a fee.
- 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, June 4, 2022 at the City Garage, 1675 Stagecoach Trail. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Residents must unload their own vehicles— come prepared to unload.

- **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.*