



June 2024

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

City of Afton Dashboard
A Summary of Current Happenings

- ◆ Prescription Drug disposal. Do not flush your unused prescription drugs. Drop them off at a Washington County Service (License) Center in either Stillwater, Woodbury, Cottage Grove or the Washington County Sheriff's building main lobby (651-439-9381). You can drop of prescription pills, creams and gels, no needles or EpiPens.
- ◆ Besides Buckthorn, another invasive plant growing in Afton is Wild Parsnip. You should remove this plant from your property by:
 - 1.) Mowing- this would be flat mowing to cut the flower stalks off.
 - 2.) Hand-pulling or digging to remove the tap root
 - 3.) Spraying- with a selective broadleaf herbicide that targets parsnip. This would be a spot-spray herbicide application.
- ◆ A reminder for those of you within the service area of the city's sanitary sewer system (generally in the Old Village area) that all properties must be connected to the system by the end of the calendar year.
- ◆ The council approved a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Belwin to enable the various activities across the Belwin properties to be documented and recognized broadly as a Nature Center use.

-SAR

CITY MEETINGS
June 19, 2024 City Office Closed for Juneteenth

June 3, 2024
Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 PM

June 4, 2024
Natural Resources & Groundwater Committee Meeting
5:00 PM

June 12, 2024
Heritage Preservation Commission
6:00 PM

June 18, 2024
City Council Meeting
7:00 PM

June 26, 2024
Parks Committee
6:00 PM

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

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



Afton Strawberry Festival
Sat. June 22, 2024 – 10am – 5pm
Sun. June 23, 2024 – 10am – 4pm
Fresh, locally grown strawberries!
Live music Saturday and Sunday
Afton Town Square Park

Visit exploreafton.com for more information

City of Afton is Hiring
Seasonal Part-Time Public Works Maintenance

Starting pay rate: \$16.47 – 17.78 per hour, depending on level of experience.
Work Schedule: Approximately 15-20 hours per week; Some weekend hours.
Duties: Responsible for general public works and parks maintenance, as well as cleaning and routine maintenance of all City buildings.
Qualifications: Experience operating lawn tractors and weed whips. Must possess a valid driver's license with satisfactory driving record. Must be 17 years of age or older and able to frequently lift/move 50 pounds.

An application is available at the City Hall or online at www.ci.afton.mn.us

Notes from the Mayor

The road work on Interstate 94 has caused quite a few issues here with congestion and speed on our local roads. Drivers are cutting through Afton to avoid the long backups on I94 and finding congestion here as well. Council Member Ross and city staff have been working with MnDOT on ways to help alleviate as much of this congestion as possible. Changes are being made to the construction zone lane layouts and signage that I think will help mitigate at least some of these issues.

At its May meeting, the council approved adding an Agriculture Resource page to our website listing all of the farm stands, CSA's (Community Supported Agriculture) and cottage food locations in the City. This was a recommendation from our Agriculture Preservation Committee and has been brought up to me by residents as well. This resource will allow us to see where and when we can get fresh produce and other products close to home while supporting our neighbors. Look for the new page on our website early this summer. If you would like to be included in the list, please contact city staff.

I am happy to report that Afton was awarded a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office to purchase 10 bronze plaques to mark the Old Village Historic properties and locations. A big thank you to the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) for all their work to make this happen. As part of this grant, the HPC is updating the Old Village Walking Tour which will be put online and accessed by QR codes posted throughout the Old Village. Volunteers for the Washington County History Spot project offered to include the Afton Old Village Walking Tour on the History Spot website free of charge which will be accessed by the QR codes. The HPC is very grateful for their technical expertise in creating the website and including Afton. Window clings and metal signs will display the Afton Old Village Walking Tour QR codes. This is a very exciting project and additional historic tours of other sites in the City will hopefully be added. Commission member Kate Thomas has taken the lead on this and her hard work, and that of all the commission members, will be a benefit to all of us as well as visitors to the City. Thank you Kate!

-Bill

Parks Committee Green Scene

Homegrown National Park Event

Thank you to Memorial Lutheran Church for hosting a wonderful Earth Day event featuring Doug Tallamy's "What's the Rush" video from Homegrown National Park! Over 60 attendees of all ages learned about planting native species to help regenerate biodiversity. If you missed it, you can watch "What's the Rush" and download keystone native planting guides at HNPark.org.

Adjust Your Lighting for Wildlife

The Parks Committee requests that residents and businesses review and limit their outdoor lighting. Unshielded or upward-pointing lights can negatively impact birds, especially during migration. These lights disrupt the predator-prey cycle and breeding, particularly for amphibians, resulting in a loss of biodiversity. Additionally, switching to yellow bulbs can significantly reduce insect loss.



Afton Museum Speaker Series

3165 St. Croix Trail S, Afton,
MN 55001

Don Jones, Valley Author, Historian & Sailor

Presents 18 Days: Racing Across the Atlantic

Thursday June 13, 2024

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Light refreshments served

Free event, Museum donations appreciated

RSVP by June 10: 651-436-3500 or

linda@aftonhistoricalmuseum.com

For information on giving a presentation, contact Leslie Thomas at leslie@aftonhistoricalmuseum.com

Spot mowing and spraying for noxious weeds to begin June 17

Washington County staff will be spot mowing and spraying for noxious weeds along the more than 220 miles of rural roadsides June 17 through July 29, and again in October.

This is being done to help comply with Minnesota State Noxious Weed law administered by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Mowing will be used to prevent seed set and the following herbicides will be used to spray mowed area: Escort XP, Milestone VM, and Tordon.

Property owners who do not want their roadside sprayed or mowed and are willing to take responsibility for controlling and eradicating noxious weeds on the adjacent roadside, may visit the Washington County North Shop at 11660 Myeron Rd. in Stillwater Township to obtain signage, or call 651-430-4300. Be prepared to provide an address, the nearest cross street, and a description of where Do Not Spray signs will be located.

Meeting Highlights

May 6, 2024 Planning Commission Meeting

The Commission:

- Held a Public Hearing for the Belwin Conservancy Conditional Use Permit to document and recognize their activities as a nature center use.
- Held a Public Hearing for a Variance for an attached garage at 12671 10th St S.

May 21, 2024 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- Approved the Belwin Conservancy Conditional Use Permit to document and recognize their activities as a nature center use.
- Approved a landscaping plan for Town Square Park and authorized the Parks Committee to obtain price quotes for fence and bench removal and landscaping.
- Approved the addition of an Agricultural Resources page to the City website.
- Approved expansion of the levee natural vegetation planting project.

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

Afton Museum Announcement

The Afton Historical Museum is looking for residents from the St. Croix River valley and surrounding area to **participate in formal focus groups to help guide the museum's future.**

The workshops will be held in mid-September. The focus group will include lunch at the Afton House and a \$200 stipend will be paid to each participant.

Attendees must come ready to brainstorm about what exhibits and programs they would like to see at the museum and what would encourage them to visit regularly.

We will follow up with more information in future city newsletters, our [web site](https://aftonhistoricalmuseum.com) (<https://aftonhistoricalmuseum.com>) and on our Facebook page.

Any questions please email us at info@aftonhistoricalmuseum.com.

Consider Serving as an Election Judge in 2024

Afton is seeking citizens to serve as election judges. Election judges are temporary, paid employees of local election officials trained to handle all aspects of voting at the polling place. Serving as an election judge is a chance to learn about elections, and is a great service to our community.

More information and an application form are located at:
<https://www.ci.afton.mn.us/elections>

2024 Free Well Water Testing for Nitrates and Coliforms

If you received a test kit, remember to collect a fresh sample of well water and drop it off at City Hall on **June 11th or June 18th between 7:00 and 9:30 AM.**

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Morning Wetland Hike

Saturday, June 1, 2024

8:00 am – 10:00 am

Belwin Education Site, Hilltop Classroom 1553 Stagecoach Trail S. Sliding Scale Cost: \$24, 32, 36

For the Love of Bluebirds

Saturday, June 15th 2024

10:00 am - 12:00 pm Belwin Education Site, Hilltop Classroom 1553 Stagecoach Trail S Sliding Scale Cost: \$10, \$18 or \$25 / Family

Women Walking

Saturday, June 15th, 2024

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Savanna Center

795 Indian Trail, Afton MN 55001

Sliding Scale Cost: \$20, \$35 or \$50 / Person

MN Mushrooms: To Know Them is to Love Them

Saturday, June 22, 2024

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm Belwin Education Site, Hilltop Classroom 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Sliding Scale Cost: \$22, 28, 31 / Person Presented in partnership with Saint Paul Community Education

Bison at Belwin - A Closer Look at an Iconic Animal

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Bison Prairie, Observation Platform 15551 Division St, Afton, MN 55001 Sliding Scale Cost: \$46, \$59, or \$65 Presented in partnership with Saint Paul Community Education

Townie Tuesday at Lift Bridge Brewery Tuesday, July 9, 2024

5:00 - 9:00 pm

Stillwater Lift Bridge Brewing Co.

1900 Tower Dr W, Stillwater, MN 55082

Prairie Restoration 101

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Belwin Conservancy, Stagecoach Prairie 825 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton, MN, 55001 Sliding Scale Cost: \$22, \$28, or \$31

Nature Memories Open House with Family Means

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

10:00 am – 1:00 pm Belwin Education Site 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton, MN, 55001 Cost: FREE

For details and registration contact:

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

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

Valley Library Events & Important Dates

The library will be closed on Wednesday June 19 for Juneteenth

Did you know Washington County Library will have a booth at the 2024 Afton Strawberry Festival? Make sure to stop by for stickers, swag, and a fun family activity...and say "hi" to your favorite Valley Library staff.

June 1 – August 17 Washington County Library celebrates you! Kids, Teens, and Adults can participate in our Summer Reading program all summer long. Enjoy your summer, tell us all about it, and win prizes!

Wednesday June 12th @ 12:00 Roe Family Singers Join us for a **Summer Reading Kick-off party!** The Roe Family Singers will headline the day with a special concert. Enjoy original music and contemporary takes on old-time, traditional, and bluegrass tunes mixed into one roiling and rollicking river of fresh yet familiar American music. We will also be celebrating all day with fun, special activities for all ages.

For Adults:

Saturday June 15th 10:30-1:30pm Make a Sami inspired 8 Strand Chevron bracelet.

Saturday June 22nd 10:00-12:00 **AND**
Tuesday June 25th 2:00-4:00pm Let's Make Stuff: Pressed Flower Lantern

Saturday June 22nd 2:00-3:30pm Visible Mending Sampler at the RH Stafford branch in Woodbury.

The Valley Library Book Club meets 5:00-6:00pm on the 4th Thursday of every month. The title selection for the **Thursday June 27th** meeting is "Deacon King Kong" by James McBride.

For Kids:

Every Monday 10:30-11:00 AM Family Story time

Monday, June 17 10:30-11:00AM Super Storytime

Saturday, June 8th 11:00-12:30 Summer **STEM: Boat Building**

Tuesday, June 25th @ 3:00 **Bill the Juggler**

For complete information and to register for

programs contact:

Valley Library 651-436-5882
www.washcolib.org

PATRON
AFTON, MN 55001

Online payments are now available for city permits & fees including Building Permits and Sewer Payments,
www.ci.afton.mn.us



Please recycle this newsletter after use.



Yellow Ribbon Alliance
Lower St Croix Valley

SAVE THE DATE!
Field of Bands
Washington County
Fairgrounds
September 21, 2024

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Afton 4th of July Parade
Thursday, July 4, 2024
Start time 1:00
Food—Drinks—Music—Trolley Rides
Afton Main Street
Find information at:
<http://aftonparade.com/>

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Recycle Better
NO! Small Plastic Items

Don't place small plastic items - like straws, plastic utensils or loose caps in the recycling cart. They fall through the recycling facility sorting equipment and get trashed instead.



MN Recycling Education Committee