



JULY 2017

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

Afton's 4th of July Parade

Rebecca and Paul Nickerson – This Year's Grand Marshals

The Afton Museum and Afton Parade Committee are happy to announce this year's parade Grand Marshals, Paul and Rebecca Nickerson, owners of Selma's Ice Cream Parlor. Rebecca is 1 of 13 siblings raised on a cattle ranch in Timber Lake, South Dakota where she actively took part in the ranch chores including branding! She graduated from the School of Mines in Rapid City, South Dakota as a Mechanical Engineer in 1992. Rebecca went on to work for Boeing Aerospace in Seattle and later to Goodrich Aerospace in Jamestown, North Dakota as Director of Engineering for 15 years. Paul grew up in Sarles, North Dakota just north of Devil's Lake. He was active in his family's business as well. Paul also graduated from the School of Mines in Rapid City in 1986 as a Chemical Engineer and worked at EcoLab for 3 years.



In 2010 they discovered Selma's for sale in Afton and knew they had to make it theirs. After renovating the building over the winter they opened in 2011 to a very grateful community where they employ about 15 kids, along with 6 of their own, during the year. All the Nickerson's are community oriented and are generously supportive of all the events that take place in the Village.

Come to Afton on the 4th of July to meet and greet our new Grand Marshals in Town Square Park following the parade.



Downtown Improvement Project

To view current project information and sign up for weekly construction updates visit the project website: www.co.washington.mn.us/AftonCR21

Click "construction photos" at bottom of page to view the time lapse construction camera downtown.



CITY MEETINGS

CITY OFFICE CLOSED JULY 3-4 For Independence Day

July 10, 2017

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

July 11, 2017

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

July 18, 2017

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

July 19, 2017

Heritage Preservation Commission
5:00 P.M.

July 26, 2017

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
- Hillcrest Animal Hosp 484-7211
- LSCV Fire Dept 436-7033
- Sheriff's Dept 439-9381

EMERGENCY 911

A Letter from the Mayor ~ Improvements, Savings and Costs

By now all of you have seen the improvements Afton is making to dilapidated roads and in the Old Village, substandard sanitary sewer treatment and inadequate flood protection. Residents may be unfamiliar with the whole process that has generated these improvements and the significant savings achieved by the timing of our improvements.

Over a year ago I prepared a power-point presentation for the Council with regard to roads outside the Old Village. It contained a summary of the existing road capital improvement plan (outdated), a comparison of Afton's tax levy and tax base in comparison with other Minnesota cities (respectively low and high), an analysis of existing bonding rates (at historical lows), a summary of municipal construction trends nationally (the number of municipal projects was down and contractors were scrambling for work) and the increase in maintenance costs that would result from continued failure to maintain roads.

Following this presentation Stan Ross prepared a superb spreadsheet for which city staff provided updated road data and the Council went to work with our engineer's assistance generating the plan for improving roads outside the Old Village that is now in progress.

As a result of this careful planning the interest rate for the bonds financing roads outside the Old Village came in extremely low at 1.93%. The initial bids for the road construction and other related costs came in 28% under our engineer's projection, saving us nearly \$1 million over projected costs, and this enabled us to upgrade substantially more roads with existing funds than was originally planned.

All of you can be proud of the competent teamwork that your Council has demonstrated in administering the long running Old Village project and in initiating and administering the recent road improvement projects.

Richard Bend, Mayor

New City Clerk, Julie Yoho, joins City Staff

The City recently welcomed Julie Yoho as the new City Clerk. Julie brings experience in local and state government from her years working at the White Bear Lake Conservation District and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.



Town Square Park Restroom Project Update

I am sure many of you have had the opportunity to use the Afton Town Square Park restroom facilities particularly if you have children. Calling them restroom facilities may be a stretch, as they are really just pit toilets buried at the back of the park and not very accessible. The Parks Committee identified this as an opportunity to upgrade several years back and have been working hard the past two years to make a significant upgrade with a new restroom building. As some of you may know, there is an Afton Parks Fund made up of fees provided by developers when developments occur in the City. These funds can only be used on capital projects for the parks. When the village road and sewer project was in the design phases, the Parks Committee decided to recommend a portion of the available Parks funds be allocated to a new Town Square Park restroom building. As the road and sewer project evolved, so did the restroom building design. In December of 2016, the City Council was presented the plans and budget for the park and approved the project. We have now finalized design, bid the project and are poised to kick off construction after the 4th of July, with a scheduled completion this fall.

How can you help be a part of this and other park projects? Do you want to make a long lasting impact on this park project or others? Now is your chance. To help cut costs on the project, we are soliciting in-kind donations to the project. These include items such as park benches and a bulletin board. To help further defray the costs of the project, we will also be providing some in-kind labor, such as painting. If you are interested in participating in making a donation of an item or your time, please contact Ron Moorse at the City and we will be sure to get back in touch with you.

June 5, 2017 Planning Commission Meeting Highlights

- The Commission approved the Schneider variance application at 3968 River Road for three season porch construction in the location of the existing deck above the garage.
- The Commission held a public hearing and discussed the Will Carlson Afton Creek Preserve Sketch Plan for a Preservation and Land Conservation Development (PLCD).

June 20, 2017 City Council Meeting Highlights

- The Council passed Resolution 2017-34 approving the Schneider variance application to construct a three-season porch at 3968 River Road.
- The Council took comments and discussed the Will Carlson Afton Creek Preserve Sketch Plan for a Preservation and Land Conservation Development (PLCD).
- The Council approved the expenditure of \$12,000 for an easement extension through December 31, 2017 for the Gehrke parcel.
- The Council approved the expenditure of \$12,800 for the pavement management project to cover remobilization expenses.
- The Council approved payment of Pay Voucher No. 2 from Geislinger and Sons Inc. for the Downtown Village Improvement Project in the amount of \$1,514,463.83.
- The Council approved payment of Pay Request No. 3 from Ellingson Inc. for the Wastewater Treatment System Project in the amount of \$664,498.97.
- The Council approved additional engineering expenses not to exceed \$3,000 for the Indian Trail culvert extension, including a sediment and erosion control plan.
- The Council passed Resolution 2017-36 approving plans and specifications and authorizing advertisement for bids for the Garage/Deputy Office facility adjacent to City Hall.
- The Council passed Resolution 2017-35 adopting a credit card policy and authorizing staff to move forward with an application to obtain the US Bank MasterCard Community Card.
- The Council approved waiving the park reservation fee of \$25 per day for John Schultz to conduct his free exercise class in Town Square Park.
- The Council approved paving a public parking area in the 30th Street right-of-way near Mudslinger Pottery.
- The Council passed resolution 2017-37 authorizing the City to submit a Point Source Implementation Grant Application to the MN Public Facilities Authority (PFA) and to authorize city officials to execute a grant agreement for the wastewater treatment system.
- The Council approved purchase of a laptop for staff use.

Special Events at Washington County Parks

Target archery practice for all skill level at Lake Elmo Park Reserve starts July 10

Target Archery Practice for Beginners to Advanced 6 to 7 p.m. Mondays, July 10, 17, and 24 at Lake Elmo Park Reserve. The cost is \$39 per person, and includes all three lesson dates and all equipment provided. Drop-ins are welcome too, for \$15 per person, with all equipment provided or bring your own. All vehicles must have a valid parks permit, which is \$7 daily or \$30 annually. The program is for those ages 8 years and older, and minors must be accompanied by an adult.

Outdoor yoga continues summer season at Lake Elmo Park Reserve through Aug. 17

6-7 p.m. Thursdays through Aug. 17 at the South Picnic Shelter at the Lake Elmo Park Reserve. Open to all levels. Registration is required for Outdoor Yoga; each class is \$7 per person, or a discount season pass is available for \$75 per person. Vehicle permits are also required, which are \$7 daily or \$30 annually, which is not included in the individual class or season pass price.

Call the Lake Elmo Park Reserve Contact Station for information at 651-430-8370 or see the Washington County website at www.co.washington.mn.us to register online.

Belwin Conservancy July Events

Tuesday, July 11

Sunset Prairie Hike: 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Learn about the changing prairie at this monthly series hosted by Belwin Naturalist Lynette Anderson. Meet at Stagecoach Prairies parking lot on 11th Street in Afton. 651-436-5189, www.belwin.org. For Belwin members. Not a member? Join online prior to the event to support our programs and enjoy everything we have to offer.

Saturday, July 15

Open Third Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Trails open 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Belwin Outdoor Science Education Center, 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton. Take a guided prairie hike at 11:00 a.m., enjoy bison buggy rides from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., and view the sun at the J.J. Casby Observatory from 11:00 a.m. to noon with experienced Minnesota Astronomical Society members. 651-436-5189, www.belwin.org. For Belwin members. Not a member? Join online prior to the event to support our programs and enjoy everything we have to offer.

Visit

www.belwin.org/events for a listing of all July events.



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



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**LIBRARY CLOSED TUESDAY JULY 4 IN
OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE
DAY**

Valley Library calendar of events for July

Featured Events

Space Cadet Camp Thursday, July 6, from 3 to 4 p.m. Ages 5-12

STEM Saturday: Atmosphere & Beyond – NASA Workshop Saturday, July 15, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Ages 5-12

Abracadabra! The Magic of Reading Magic Show Tuesday, July 18, from 3 to 4 p.m. All ages

Captain Underpants Book Party Thursday, July 20, from 3 to 4 p.m. Ages 5-12

STEAM Storytime: Dino Dig Monday, July 24, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Ages 3-8

Children's Events

Family Storytime Mondays, July 3, 10, 17, from 10:30 to 11 a.m. All ages

Block Party Monday, July 10, from 11 a.m. to noon. Ages birth to 6

Dog Gone Reading Saturday, July 22, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. grades K-7

Balloon Powered Cars With 4-H Tuesday, July 25, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Preschool Dance Party Monday, July 31, from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Ages 2-7

Teen Event

DIY Day at the Library Wednesday, July 12, from 2 to 6 p.m. Ages 7-17

Book Club

Valley Library Book Club Thursday, July 27, from 5 to 5:55 p.m. Open to all

**PATRON
AFTON, MN 55001**

You may view this newsletter
IN COLOR
on the city website.



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newsletter after use.*

*Join St. Croix Family Resource Center &
Jacob Wetterling Resource Center*

Building Community Event: Personal Safety in Today's World

All community members are invited to attend presentations about personal safety by speakers from Jacob Wetterling Resource Center.

Monday July 31, 2017: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

St. Paul Lutheran Church

609 5th St. S

Stillwater MN 55082

(use 4th Street Entrance)

For more information call 651-231-7807 or email office@stcroixfrc.org



FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE

The Lower St Croix Valley Fire Department wishes to extend an open invitation to the public for all to attend and help recognize the 40 year career of retiring Chief Kris Peterson on Wednesday, July 12, 2017 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm at the Lower St Croix Valley Fire Hall at 1560 St Croix Trail South in Lake St Croix Beach. There will be a short presentation at 6:00pm. Please help us thank Kris for his years of commitment and dedication to our community!