



July 2022

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

City of Afton Dashboard
A Summary of Current Happenings

Free drinking water testing:

- ◆ The Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC) is once again providing free drinking water testing to Afton residents. Sign up by July 11th by calling City Hall (651-436-5090) or emailing jyoho@ci.afton.mn.us. Containers for taking water samples will be provided and must be returned to City Hall on either July 19th or 26th between 7:30AM and 9:00AM. Sample should be fresh and kept cool. Results will be sent to you.
- ◆ Please consider becoming a member of the NRGC committee and help with this important work.

4th of July Parade:

- ◆ The parade start time is 1:00.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Parade lineup is in the Afton Marina parking lot. Please – no parking inside the marina.
- ◆ St. Croix Trail in the Old Village will be closed from 12:45 p.m. until the parade is finished, and will be posted for no parking for the day.

Public Works:

- ◆ The Valley Creek Trail bridge and culvert replacement is complete. The surface will be paved and guard rails installed soon.
- ◆ New speed limits were approved for Division Street (45mph) and Croixview Avenue (25mph). New speed limit signs will be posted. Speed limits on Trading Post Trail were reviewed and will remain as currently posted.
- ◆ Crack filling of approximately 10 miles of roads was approved and will commence soon.
- ◆ On July 5, Washington County will be working on St. Croix Trail South between 80th Street and 80th Street/St. Croix Trail Lane. Although this is not in Afton, if you are heading south be aware that the road will be closed for approximately three weeks between 80th Street and 80th Street/St. Croix Trail Lane.

Illegal Tire Dumping:

- ◆ Recently, City surveillance cameras caught two individuals in the act of illegally dumping a large number of old, used tires onto City property at the City's garage on Stagecoach. The City is preparing to pursue criminal charges in this matter.
- ◆ Tire disposal is a highly regulated area of state and federal law. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's rules on the matter are very strict and actively enforced. Moreover, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District informs us that abandoned tires are the #1 habitat for a number of dangerous mosquito species.

-SAR



CITY MEETINGS

City Hall CLOSED July 4

July 19, 2022

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

July 27, 2022

Parks Committee Meeting
6:00 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

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

The Fourth of July parade is back! Having missed it for the last two years it really makes me realize how much fun it is to see the population of our city quadruple for a day as people come from all over to celebrate. The parade starts at 1PM this year (not noon), so please note the change. Also, make sure to tell any friends or family coming to get there early since the road will be closed ahead of the start. The later time enables some of the entertainment the parade committee has arranged to get set. I know the committee has been working really hard to ensure this will be a great day for everyone after the recent hiatus, so I hope to see you all there.

In other news, the Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee will once again offer free well water testing for nitrates in July. More details are located in the newsletter. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity. After doing this annually for many years, we were forced to take a break during the pandemic. I am happy to see it back on the calendar and thank the members of the committee for their hard work to make this happen. Beyond the useful information on the condition of your well, the historical data they have been collecting is a valuable indicator of the health of the aquifer over time in our area. We are lucky to have this program, and the information it provides.

The Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee also has openings for new members. If you have the time to help, please consider joining. Our city runs on volunteers and serving on this and our other committees can be rewarding and a great way to meet your neighbors.

Speaking of other committees, under a plan put together by the Park Committee, the restoration of the prairie areas of Meadow Ridge Park continue to move forward. A successful burn was completed in May, and the professionals have begun the work to prepare for seeding either this fall or next spring. Watch for more on this project when the committee is able to share more information on what they have accomplished and how you can view the progress.

The grant applications for the expansion of broadband service to underserved areas have been submitted to Washington County. I am confident we will obtain the funding and get those projects moving ahead yet this year. We will update the website and newsletter when we have more information.

Washington County will start the master planning process for the Middle St. Croix Valley Regional Trail which will run from the Old Village in Afton to the St. Croix Boom Site in Stillwater. This is exciting news and that trail will connect to other regional trails as well as parks. We will update everyone on the planning as we learn more. With our portion of the trail being complete and recently redone, I do not see much changing here, however the future connections will be a great addition to the valley.

I hope you have a great time celebrating Independence Day. We have much to be thankful for in the freedoms and liberties we have in this country. Having endured the pandemic and its disruptions, it feels especially appropriate to celebrate our freedoms this year. As we celebrate, I would just ask that you be respectful of neighbors who might struggle with PTSD or other stress issues, or have pets or horses that are impacted by fireworks. We all expect and plan for fireworks as we celebrate on July 4, but in the days and weeks before and after, it can have an impact that none of us would want for people dealing with those issues.

-Bill

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/>

Meeting Highlights

June 6, 2022 Planning Commission Meeting

The Commission:

- Held a public hearing for a Conditional Use Permit at 1745 Neal Avenue to amend the Planned Agricultural Unit Development (PAUD) subdivision.
- Held a public hearing for a Conditional Use Permit at 2167 Oakgreen Avenue for a nature center with a mountain biking / hiking trail.

June 21, 2022 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- The application for a Conditional Use Permit at 1745 Neal Avenue to amend the Planned Agricultural Unit Development (PAUD) subdivision was referred back to the Planning Commission for further review based on additional information obtained.
- The application for a Conditional Use Permit at 2167 Oakgreen Avenue for a nature center with a mountain biking / hiking trail was approved with numerous conditions. The trail will be open to the public at no cost. However, access will require advance registration and the number of bikers allowed at one time and on a daily basis will be limited.

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

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Family Means Nature Memories Open House

Tuesday, July 26
10:00 am—1:00 pm

4Ground Opening: David Sprecher

Sunday, July 31
2:00—4:00 pm

Belwin Conservancy
1553 Stagecoach Trail South
Afton MN 55001
651-436-5189
www.belwin.org

FREE Water Testing This Month For Nitrates And Total Coliform Bacteria

Afton residents are invited to have their drinking water analyzed for nitrates and total coliform bacteria. July 19 or 26 are the dates available for residents to collect a sample of their water and bring it to City Hall.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Phone or email City Hall at 651-436-5090 or jjyoho@ci.afton.mn.us. Deadline for signing up is July 11.

Your name and address are needed so that you can receive in the mail, a sampling kit that consists of a bottle, a sample information form, and sampling instructions. Collect your sample on either July 19 or 26, and then bring your fresh sample to City Hall between 7:00 and 9:30 a.m. that day. Volunteers will deliver the samples to the Department of Public Health and Environment for analysis. Your nitrate and total coliform results will be mailed to you.

HELPFUL SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ACCOMPANYING YOUR SAMPLE: It is not required, but it is helpful for future data analysis if you can provide information such as well depth, construction date, casing material, casing diameter, aquifer, and distance from septic and/or drainfield. Also, the section number where you live is helpful.

This is a voluntary effort. Your participation provides Afton with valuable information on the quality of our invaluable water resource. – *Afton Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee*

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.**



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

PRSRT STD
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 AFTON MN 55001
 PERMIT NO. 15

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

**PATRON
 AFTON, MN 55001**

Online payments are now available for Building Permits and Sewer Payments.
www.ci.afton.mn.us

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

 *Please recycle this newsletter after use.*

Spot mowing, spraying for noxious weeds to begin June 15

Washington County staff will be spot mowing and spraying for noxious weeds in the more than 220 miles of rural roadsides June 15 through July 30, 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 Liberate.

Property owners who do not want their roadside sprayed or mowed, and who 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 Road 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.

LOWER ST CROIX VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The LSCVFD along with it's members would like to offer a great big THANK YOU to members of our community who recently attended our Pancake Breakfast restart after three previous breakfast cancellations. Due to the generosity displayed by the great people we humbly serve, we were able to donate over 700 lbs of food to Valley Out Reach for the food shelves which are critical especially during these trying times.

We would also like to point out that 2022 marks our 50 year anniversary as the Lower St Croix Valley Fire Department. In 1972, the five cities of Afton, Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, Lake St Croix Beach and St Mary's Point formed the fire district to merge resources and personnel. We are very proud of our tradition and history and recognize each and every member that has served in one capacity or another to support our missions and goals.

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 Jim Stanley
 Fire Chief