



**July 2024**

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

**Afton 4th of July Parade Grand Marshal**

**Mary Divine**

The Afton Parade Committee is excited to announce this year's Grand Marshal is Mary Divine, longtime reporter for the St. Paul Pioneer Press covering Afton, Washington County and the St. Croix River Valley. Mary also has spent time covering the State Capitol and has won numerous journalism awards, including the Premack Award and the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists' Page One Award. Prior to joining the Pioneer Press in 1998, she worked for the Rochester, Minn., Post-Bulletin and at the St. Joseph, Mo., News-Press. Her work has appeared in a number of magazines, including MPLS/ST.PAUL Magazine, Twin Cities Business Monthly and Minnesota Magazine. She is a graduate of Carleton College and lives in St. Paul with her husband, Greg Myers, and their three children, Henry, Frances and Fred.



Please join us all at the parade to see Mary and enjoy the parade and celebration!

**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/>

**4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Schooner Band**

Musicians of all ages 5th grade and up are invited to rehearse and perform Sousa type band marches while aboard the Afton Schooner Band Wagon in the annual Afton 4th of July Parade!

Attend one or more of the rehearsals on June 27, July 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Afton Historical Museum. Music is available in advance if requested.

Contact Dr. Lucy McAllister, Afton Schooner Band Organizer, at [lucymcallister5@gmail.com](mailto:lucymcallister5@gmail.com) or 651 436-5150.

**CITY MEETINGS**

July 4, 2024 City Office Closed for Independence Day

**July 1, 2024**

Planning Commission Meeting  
**CANCELED**

**July 8, 2024**

Parks Committee  
6:00 PM

**July 10, 2024**

Heritage Preservation Commission  
6:00 PM

**July 16, 2024**

City Council Meeting  
7:00 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**

- Mayor: Bill Palmquist 651-308-0569
- Ward 1: Annie Perkins 651-592-3007
- Ward 2: Lucia Wroblewski 651-436-3982
- Ward 3: Stan Ross 612-720-6478
- Ward 4: 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

In 2012, the city was able to work with the University of Minnesota College of Design's Metropolitan Design Center to create a long-term plan for Town Square Park. It is hard to believe so many years have passed since it was presented in 2013. The report is available on the city's website, just search for Park Plan and look for the one dated 2012. The plan includes a deep look into not just the park but the broader area and ecosystem and contains interesting information about the geography and wildlife native to Afton. During the downtown renovation project some of the Design Center's ideas were incorporated when the roads were redone and stormwater improvements were added. These included stormwater controls on the western edge of the park, as well as pervious parking along the park edges.

At its May meeting, the city council approved further park improvements brought forward by the Park Committee. These aim to provide more defined edges for the eastern park boundary which was central to the original plan. The old metal fencing and backstop will be removed and replaced with landscaping based on a detailed planting plan that will not only define and beautify that park boundary, but will also provide separation from the road for anyone using that area. Since the ball field was not practical for baseball and was no longer being used for organized T-ball, the plan includes the removal of at least some of the metal fencing that dominates the park. But home base will be kept and redone for those wanting to teach young people the basics and for pick-up games.

The first phase of the park improvements will include the area from the current historic park sign south to the restrooms. The final southern part will be done after the committee has explored options related to the fencing and surface of the basketball court. Look for work to start after the last of the summer events are held in the park.

A lot of hard work was done by the Park Committee back in 2012 and it is great to see our current committee continue and expand on that work. Thank you to all that were involved then and now. These improvements are paid for by park dedication fees received from developers and are restricted to park projects. No general tax levy funds are being used.

-Bill

### County School Supply Swap

Washington County is collecting used school supplies for a school supply swap in August. Donations should be gently used items that students would normally discard at the end of the school year.

Donation drop-off sites include the Environmental Center, Washington County Libraries, and Public Health & Environment office locations. Find a full list at [WashCoRecycles.com/Reuse](http://WashCoRecycles.com/Reuse).

#### ACCEPTED ITEMS

- Pencils/pens/markers/crayons
- Notebooks
- Lined or graphing paper
- Calculators (working)
- Rulers/protractors/compasses
- Scissors
- Erasers
- Glue sticks
- Watercolor paints
- Pencil cases
- Pencil sharpeners
- Backpacks (working zippers, no rips/tears/stains)
- 3-ring binders (1-inch only)
- Pocket folders



**School supply swap event is on Wednesday, August 7, 4 - 6 p.m. at the Environmental Center.**

## Meeting Highlights

### June 3, 2024 Planning Commission Meeting

#### **The Commission:**

- Held a Public Hearing for a Variance application at 14252 15th St S for setbacks for an accessory structure.
- Held a Public Hearing for an Ordinance amending the Home Occupation Ordinance to allow retail sales of food prepared under the state Cottage Food law.

### June 18, 2024 City Council Meeting

#### **The Council:**

- Approved a Variance application at 14252 15th St S for setbacks for an accessory structure.
- Approved an Ordinance amending the Home Occupation Ordinance to allow retail sales of food prepared under the state Cottage Food law.
- Approved a Simple Subdivision for a lot line rearrangement at 12671 10th St. S.
- Approved renewal of the Xcel Energy Electric & Natural Gas franchise agreements.
- Approved the Parks Committee landscaping plan for Town Square Park and the price quotes for fence and bench removal and landscaping.

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

### 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

### MUSICIANS TAKE TO THE TREES AT BELWIN THIS AUGUST

*Belwin's Two-Day Live Music Event will be ticketed this year*

Belwin Conservancy is excited to host Music in the Trees, a two-day outdoor event showcasing a diverse group of instrumentalists and vocalists, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 17, and Sunday, August 18, in and among the red pines near Belwin's Hilltop Classroom (Belwin Education Site, 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton).

First held in 2019, Music in the Trees has been gradually growing in popularity. This year, for the first time, Belwin is asking guests to purchase tickets beforehand to help with the flow of attendees. To buy tickets, go to [belwin.org/events](http://belwin.org/events). Tickets will be available on a sliding scale for \$10, \$20, or \$35 per car

For details and registration contact:

**Belwin Conservancy**

**1553 Stagecoach Trail South**

**Afton MN 55001**

**651-436-5189**

[www.belwin.org](http://www.belwin.org)

## Afton Museum Speaker Series

3165 St. Croix Trail S, Afton, MN 55001



### Dr. Kate Thomas, Historian

Presents *The First 70 Years: A History of the Valley Creek Women's Club in Afton*

**Thursday, September 19, 2024**

**6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Light refreshments served

Free event, Museum donations appreciated

**RSVP by September 16:** 651-436-3500 or  
[linda@aftonhistoricalmuseum.com](mailto:linda@aftonhistoricalmuseum.com)

For information on giving a presentation, contact  
 Leslie Thomas at [leslie@aftonhistoricalmuseum.com](mailto:leslie@aftonhistoricalmuseum.com)



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

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

**Valley Library Events & Important Dates**

*The library will be closed on Thursday July 4 for Independence Day.*

**Did you know** Washington County Library celebrates our patrons all summer long? Our Summer Activity program runs until August 17. Kids, Teens, and Adults can participate by telling us how you spent your summer. So, go out, enjoy your summer, tell us all about it, and win prizes! Use the Search term "summer" at washcolib.org for more information.

Washington County is collecting gently used school supplies for a swap in August. The Valley Library will accept your donations through August 2. Go to washcorecycles.com/reuse for the list of accepted items.

The Valley Library Art Cart is available whenever the library is open. We provide the supplies and you provide the creativity!

**For Adults:**

**Saturday July 13th** 10:30-12:30pm Paint a Summer Bouquet with teaching artist, Karen Chan.

The Valley Library Book Club meets 5:00-6:00pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month. The title selection for the **Thursday July 25th** meeting is "French Braid" by Anne Tyler.

**For Kids:**

**Every Monday 10:30-11:00 am** Storytime  
Join us at 10:30 a.m. on Mondays for Storytime at Valley Library. This storytime is for children of all ages and their caregivers.

**Super Storytime on July 15th** 10:30-11:30 – Storytime plus a fun craft activity.

**Monday, July 1st and July 15<sup>th</sup>** 1:00-2:30  
**Brick Buddies**

**Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>** 10:30-11:30 **Paw Patrol Party**  
**Wednesday July 10<sup>th</sup>** 1:30-2:30 **Dog Man Party**

**Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>** 3:00-6:00 **From Sheep to Scarf: A Hands On Fiber Experience**

**Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>** 4:00 **Snake Discovery – Snake, Rattle and Roll!**

**Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>** 11:30-12:30 **Summer STEM: The Miniest Mini Golf**

**Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup>** 2:30-3:30 **Tween and Teen Craft Camp Ages 10+**

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](http://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**

**MEDICAL WASTE**

SHARPS AND NEEDLES

**NEVER IN YOUR CART!**



SHARPS AND NEEDLES CAN HARM RECYCLING FACILITY WORKERS. TAKE THESE MATERIALS TO YOUR LOCAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY (HHW).

MINNESOTA RECYCLING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

